

The Curse of the Third Eye by Lionora

Chapter 7: Operation Beehive

It was a beautiful sunny day in Planet Arus. Like many days before, Princess Allura woke up in a good mood. It had been three weeks since the last attack of Doom and her hopes were that King Zarkon would desist on trying to conquer her planet. She knew that there was still a possibility that Doom was gathering strength, but still, this was the first time that so many weeks had passed between attacks. There was so much work to do with the reconstruction of Arus. Even though she felt overwhelmed sometimes, she knew she was lucky to have Coran helping her to deal with the planet's affairs.

Sometimes she wished that she could enjoy herself like a normal teenage girl having fun and meeting different people. But her sense of responsibility towards following her late father's legacy made her desist of those crazy ideas. Besides, Nanny wouldn't let her go out that much. That's why she found that flying blue lion gave her certain liberty and that, was probably the most rebellious thing that she could ever do. Well, there were still the boys of the Voltron Force. Keith and Lance were both cute but Keith was just too serious and Lance was just too loose. But she still liked them both. If any of them would give her a hint she would probably give them a chance of flirting. If she was a little bit heavier she could match with Hunk and Pidge was just too young for her. But still, she liked to have some fun with them. She knew that she was beautiful and that she caught the guy's attention.

She often wondered which one of the guys would dare to kiss her first. Then, maybe they were too shy or they would think that she wouldn't let them try to kiss her because she was royalty and they weren't. She often daydreamed about a charming prince who would take her away and make her feel like those heroines in those steamy hot romance novels that she started reading without Nanny's knowledge. She

found out about them through the intergalactic net that Pidge helped her connect to. If Nanny ever knew what those novels included, Allura would be grounded until she was forty. But Allura was no nun and didn't want to be either, she could dare use a bikini and feel sexy whenever she wanted. If Nanny wasn't so damn nosy she would do a lot of things she wasn't suppose to do by Nanny's standards.

But today, Coran gave her a little break from her duties, and she was going to a little market that some of the peasants in town had established. There she would see some of her subjects and get a little bit distracted even if Nanny didn't want her to go. She would go with any of the guys who wanted to accompany her.

Just after breakfast, she talked to the guys to see which one would go with her to the market. Lance and Hunk were the volunteers; Keith decided that he would stay in order to be prepared if anything happened and Pidge had some computer thing to do. After Nanny started bitching (yeah, Allura would swear in her mind) about her going to the town and being with guys alone, she just stared at Nanny and imagined a cow mowing. Then Allura peacefully faked a smile and bid her farewell while she animatedly walked between Hunk and Lance out of the castle and towards the town.

While they were walking and not far away from the castle, Hunk looked at the sky and noticed little black dots in the sky.

"Hey guys, look at that..." Hunk said pointing up to what he was seeing.

Allura put a hand to her brow to block the sun and said: "Yeah, I wonder what that could be..."

Lance added: "I think we should go back to the castle, maybe it's another attack..."

"You're right....let's go" Hunk added.

"Aww, what a bummer..." thought Allura.

When they reached castle control, Coran and Keith were a little bit agitated. They had never seen so many fighters against them before. Usually when Yurak attacked he wouldn't use so many ships. The reason for this is that Yurak relied too much in those robeasts. This was the first time that so many single fighters were launched against them. But the worst part was that they seemed to be coming from many directions at once.

While the ships were already very close to the castle and almost starting to attack, Keith gave the order to launch the lions. While the lions were being launched the castle of Lions was already on heavy attack from one group of fighters lead by Commander Cossack. But when each lion tried to reach the castle too many single fighters were attacking incessantly each lion. Being the single fighters much smaller, they could be maneuvered much easier and faster than the lions.

Inside the castle, Coran was growing more worried by the minute. This attack couldn't be lead by Commander Yurak. This was not his style. This was just too aggressive and calculated. He never did this before. He voiced his preoccupation to Keith who was just starting to fight the elusive little ships. But Keith, told Coran not to worry, that they would defeat this enemy because they had done it before many times. But Coran wasn't so sure.

The fighters would hit the lions in what were considered their weak spots and would evade the lion's weapons as best as they could. The fighters were hitting on every cannon at the lions sides or at their paws. Maneuvering was very difficult for the lions because of the quantity of the fighters, there were just too many and they moved so fast. And even when they would destroy some ships, more ships would appear that would make them more confused.

The castle was loosing cannons in the process and Coran was pleading the lions for help, but each lion was very much engaged trying to fly and defend themselves that it was impossible to reach the castle. Even black lion, which was the strongest one of the quintet, was having difficulty with dealing with so many fighters at once. They were being attack from every angle possible at the same time.

Prince Lotor was watching anxiously and barking orders from the imperial flagship just above Arus's atmosphere. He only wanted this attack to be over as soon as possible. He would order when the fleets of fighters were to attack and send reinforcements whenever necessary. His focus was making sure that there were no loose ends and absolutely no time for the lions to form Voltron.

The first lion to go down was the blue one because obviously the pilot was more inexperienced. Princess Allura's lion was hit in it's front paws suffering serious damage in her landing gear. She was hit unconscious when her lion hit the ground and another fleet of fighters secured and incapacitated the lion so it would not be able to be airborne again and until the other lions were grounded. The green lion was next to fall, before the yellow lion which was seriously hit on it's right side. Each lion that fell was secured and incapacitated by a fleet of fighters.

The castle was almost out of cannon's when Coran radioed Keith about seriously considering to

surrender. Keith did not want to surrender, even with the recognition that there was absolutely no possibility of forming Voltron now that blue, green and yellow lions were grounded and incapacitated. He would go down fighting. But Coran told him that the lives of the princess and his other pilots were being jeopardized if he decided to continue fighting.

Red and black lions were the only ones airborne when the castle received an incoming message from the Doom's flagship that they should surrender immediately or the grounded lions with their pilots inside would be destroyed.

Coran, Keith and Lance argued while still being heavily attacked, but admitted that there was no other choice for them but to surrender. Princess Allura, Pidge and Hunk's lives depended on it. So Coran sent a message to the flagship in which they admitted defeat and that they would surrender as to avoid the losses of lives.

At the flagship, Prince Lotor smirked satisfied while he ordered the fighters to escort the still airborne lions to land and to capture the pilots of all of the lions. The commanding bridge of the ship was cheering of their victory over Arus and Voltron, at last. The castle had to open its doors to the invaders. Guards were everywhere with express orders to capture and secure all personnel inside. Commander Cossack presided the capture of the castle while the officers in charge of the attacks to the lions would capture the pilots and secure and transport them to the castle until next orders from the Prince of Doom.

Coran, Nanny, the servants, the guards and the Voltron Force were all heavily guarded by Commander Cossack and his guards inside the castle control. The Voltron Force including the now conscious Princess

were tied up with their hands to their backs kneeling down on the floor in front of the rest of the personnel.

Commander Cossack used the controls to communicate with the flagship where Prince Lotor was awaiting news.

"Your highness, the castle of Lions has been secured. The Voltron Force has surrendered and we await your presence in the castle's control room. Operation Beehive has been a success" Commander Cossack said. Sounds of cheer could be heard in the other line and then Prince Lotor said:

"Acknowledged, I'll be landing there shortly..."

"Yes, your highness."

As they were using their own drule language, neither Coran or the other members of the castle couldn't understand what had been said. So Coran, who was very perceptive, asked Commander Cossack if Commander Yurak had been in charge of the attack. Cossack responded coldly in human language:

"Commander Yurak is deceased. You have been conquered by Your Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Doom, and he will land shortly to decide all your fates human."

At the announcement of Yurak's death and being conquered by the Prince of Doom, Coran, Nanny and the Voltron Force looked at each other quizzically. They have never heard that Doom had a prince at all. They had seen King Zarkon's evil & ugliness and thought that his son would share the same terrible

features besides he already showed with this unmerciful attack that he had to be as evil as his father or worse.

Princess Allura was still a little sore from the fall. She wondered what was going to happen to her planet now that this darn prince had conquered it. She would probably be killed for she was the sole heir of the Arusian crown or maybe she would be made a slave or locked up in a dungeon. She saw her short life go by before her eyes and felt sad for her people, her parents, her friends and decided that if she had to die at least she fought until the end. She would not cry, she would be brave and accept her fate, her father would have been proud. Then suddenly she felt peace.