

Ch1

Summary:

What if Yellowfang wasn't forced to be a medicine cat? What if Brokenstar wasn't evil? What if Shadowclan was just a normal clan? This book is an Au exploring these questions. There are many changes and the main character is an abused kittypet by the name of Black Cat. Renamed Nightpaw, he is on a journey of trying to fit in and get used to clan life. There is darkness surrounding the clans though. Can he save his newfound home?

Notes:

(See the end of the work for [notes](#).)

Chapter 1: Prologue

Despite the chilly air of leaf-bare, Yellowfang feels so warm as she looks down at her kits who were just born. Her ears twitch as she hears Raggedpelt outside, padding nervously as Sagewhisker checks her kits. It was touch and go for both mollies as they were weaker than the tom. She thought one of them was born stillborn but it was because she couldn't breathe. After Sagewhisker saved them, she shook her head, about to say that she threw her gift away when Raggedpelt's head shoved through the entrance of the nursery.

"How are they?" His whiskers twitched nervously as he saw them.

"Yes they are fine. The mollies need to be watched but they are fine for now. Don't stay too long as Lizardstripe needs her sleep." Sagewhisker nodded at them both as she left.

Raggedpelt slowly padded to her, touching her nose as he sat near her, looking down at their kits.

"Did you give them names?" He whispers as his eyes glow with love for her and the kits.

Yellowfang gave a tired purr as her tail pointed to the cream and grey molly. "Hopekit. The pale ginger molly is named Wishkit. And the tom is Brokenkit."

The kits were busy feeding as she named them.

"Too bad you were rejected by Starclan to be a medicine cat. Then you wouldn't have to deal with this pain." Lizardstripe mutters as she looks down at her own kits. The brown molly was up to make sure her kits stay out of Yellowfang and Sagewhisker way.

"I wouldn't trade this for the world." Yellowfang snarls as she looks up at her mate. Raggedpelt left to tell the clan the news as Yellowfang fell asleep.

It has been six moons and she watches with pride as her kits become apprentices. She also noticed that Runningkit became a medicine cat apprentice and she felt satisfied that she didn't have to give up being a warrior due to her hyper empathy powers. She smoothed out her fur as she remembered her trip to the moonstone when Sagewhisker asked her to become her apprentice due to it. She'd nearly done it too if it wasn't for Silverflame, **her grandmother who now walks with Starclan** saying she knew in her heart that she was a warrior, rejecting her from becoming a medicine cat apprentice. After the rejection, Sagewhisker was disappointed but understood. When they returned, she revealed her power to the clan. Cedarstar and the clan offer to help her learn how to block it. It took many moons but now she hardly feels it when someone gets hurt. She watched Brokenpaw closely as he was a bit of a troublemaker but knew nightpelt could handle him.

She looked over at Sagewhisker, smiling as she saw her teaching Runningpaw the herbs. Yes this feels right. She can teach her kits to stay on the right path as she went out to hunt with Raggedpelt by her side. After a successful hunt, she returned to see her kits talking to the other apprentices. They were joking around, talking about the territory they saw. She dropped her prey on the prey pile as she watched Brokenpaw get along with the others. He is more impulsive and arrogant than his siblings but hopes that Nightpelt can mold him to be more patient and humble.

"Yellowfang, I can see that you still worry over Brokenpaw. There is a reason why I gave him Nightpelt as a mentor, he needs lessons in patience and selflessness." Cedarstar sat beside her, also watching the apprentices.

"There is more to being a warrior than fighting and I hope he will learn that." She said with a twitch of her whiskers as she took a squirrel to eat. Raggedpelt called her over to eat with him and Cloudpelt.

Cedarstar said nothing as he went to his den. Only time will tell what kind of cat Brokenpaw will be.

Seasons passed and yellowfang watched her kits grow up into impressive warriors. She yelled out their names loudly. Hopepaw became Hopeheart, Wishpaw became Wishflame and Brokenpaw became Brokentail. She realizes she had nothing to worry about as Brokenpaw refused to be named warrior so early saying he wants to earn it on his own and not because his father is now leader. He also checks in on his old mentor, who retired to the elder's den after training him. She was on a border patrol and only learnt why his attitude changed after the danger had passed. Nightpelt had saved Brokenpaw's life from Marmalade, a rogue who lived in twolegplace. Brokenpaw teased him, causing the mess and Nightpelt saved him along with Blackfoot and Flintfang. That one fight showed him the true meaning of being a warrior and when he asked Nightpelt why he risked his life, he told him it's what clanmates do. He realized how dumb he had been after seeing Nightpelt's pelt covered in cobwebs and struggling to breathe. That's when she heard him say that he didn't want any help becoming a warrior. He wants to do it on his own and not because of his relations. She has never been prouder. He even agreed with Nightpelt against being a warrior too soon.

Yellowfang looked up at her beautiful son, as it had been moons since he became leader. He was a great deputy and knew he would be a great leader. "We did good, Raggedstar." She mumbled as she glanced up at silverpelt after watching the clan call out his name.

Many moons later

It was raining heavily as a ginger brown and black tom hid under a monster to keep dry. His ear twitched as his companions joined him. Without a word, they ran to the monster den where others had gathered. He grinned as he saw the word about this meeting and that they had no idea. Shaking off the rain, he ran to jump on top of a sleeping monster so others could see him.

"What is this about Snipe?" A dark brown tom growled as he moved away from the new arrivals. The others stop talking as he looks over the crowd to make sure the ones that were close to *him* weren't here.

"I know you are wondering about why I called this meeting. Also I understand you are wary about being here due to *him* not knowing, but we are all tired! Tired of being afraid! Tired of getting nothing but scraps while he and the ones close to him get fed! Why are we still in Twolegplace?! There is a whole forest out there with so much prey and shelter. Only because

he is too scared to attack the clans. They are just groups of cats like us." He looked down at a white queen who was close to kitting.

"Aren't you afraid that once those kits no longer need you that you will be forced to leave? Or worse?" He saw fear flash in her eyes and knew he was right.

"You bring up good points. Why should we suffer just because *he* is leader? I can lead as well as he does. But what do you suggest about the clans? There are a lot of them and we are so few." A yellow brown tabby tom with a lazy eye asks.

"If you don't want to get involved, leave now! Tell no one what happened here. We will keep being with him until plans are made." Snipe watch as a few cats left. The white queen stayed along with many others. Jumping down, he talked to them. Saying they need to just watch the clans, learn about them and then chase out the weakest. All they know is the clan names. There is ShadowClan, ThunderClan, WindClan and RiverClan. As he listened to the others, he had a smug grin.

Soon Scourge, your days of ruling are over.

Allegience

Summary:

All the cats in the clans.

Notes:

Since I read Exile from Shadowclan, I decided to make a new allegiance that adds more apprentices since Shadowclan doesn't have many apprentices, especially molly apprentices. Also I read Leopardstar's Honor and saw the new WindClan allegiance in Onestar's Confession. Wolfstep is still alive though wasn't mentioned til Moonrise. Changed some names since Mistyfoot, Stonefur and Mosskit survived and are in Riverclan. Bluestar did tell Thunderclan their names so Oakheart and Greypool changed them to Rainkit, Shellkit, and Willowkit.

Also both Snowkit and Mistlekit are born at the start of this story.

ShadowClan

Leader: Brokenstar- long haired dark brown tabby tom with a bent tail and orange eyes

Deputy: Blackfoot- Large white tom with huge jet black paws and amber eyes. Has black rimmed ears.

Medicine cat: Runningnose-small grey and white tom with patchy, grizzled and ungroomed fur. and amber eyes

Warriors (Toms and Mollies without kits)

Yellowfang-Old dark grey molly with a broad flattened face and orange eyes. Has long matted fur

Rowanberry-Cream and brown molly with amber eyes

Scorchwind-Ginger tabby tom with green eyes

Wolfstep-Long furred, fluffy dark grey tabby tom with a white front paw and tail tip. Has green eyes

Tangleburr-Grey and brown molly

Russetfur-Sleek dark ginger tabby molly with dark green eyes

Boulder- Big skinny pale grey tom with a ragged left ear, nicked right ear and blue eyes

Apprentice, Wetpaw

Clawface- heavily built, scrawny battle scarred brown tom with a right nicked ear, white leaf shape spot on chest and yellow eyes

Apprentice, Littlepaw

Flintfang-Grey tom with thick fur on paws and amber eyes

Darkflower-Black molly with blue eyes

Whitethroat-Small black tom with white chest and paws. Has yellow eyes(Father to Wishflame's kits)

Hopeheart-Cream and grey molly

Fernshade-Slender tortoiseshell molly with yellow eyes

Deerfoot-Long legged brown tom

Swampcloud-White tom with dark green eyes

Newtspeck-Black and ginger tabby molly with yellow eyes

Tallpoppy-Long legged light brown tabby molly

Applefur-Mottled brown molly with pale green eyes

Badgerfang-Black and white tom with face stripes like a badger

Mintshade-Small grey tom with yellow eyes

Marigoldfur-Small tortoiseshell molly with orange eyes

Ratscar-Dark brown tom with long scar across his back with green eyes and a patchy tail.(Father to Dawncloud's kits)

Cinderfur-Scarred thin grey tom with orange eyes

Stumpytail-Brown tom with darker stripes and a short stumpy tail

Apprentice, Brownpaw

Blossomsky-White molly with blue eyes

Volewhisper-Tiny light brown tom with yellow eyes and a scarred left hind leg

Mossclaw-Big brown and white tom with very pale blue eyes

Apprentices (More than six moons old, training to be Warriors)

Littlepaw- Very small thin brown tabby tom with dark stripes, light brown tail with bright blue eyes

Brownpaw-Big brown tom with orange eyes

Wetpaw-Grey tabby tom

Nightpaw-thin small black tom with white heart shape spot on forehead, white muzzle, white paws, white spots on back and white tail tip with yellow eyes

Queens (Mollies expecting or nursing kits)

Dawncloud-Small pale ginger tabby molly with blue eyes. (Mother to Nousekit, a small dark brown molly with blue eyes, and Gingerkit, a orange and brown tabby molly with green eyes)

Wishflame-Pale ginger tabby with yellow eyes(mother to Turtlekit, a black and orange tortoiseshell molly with blue eyes and Gullkit, a black and white molly with white paws. has orange eyes)

Brightflower-Orange tabby molly with flattened face(oldest nursing queen)

Elders (Former Warriors and Queens now retired)

Crowtail-Sleek long legged small black tabby molly with green eyes

Ashfur-Thin long bodied grey tom with green eyes

Archeye-Grey tabby tom with black stripes, patchy fur and a thick stripe over left eye. Has green eyes

Nightpelt-Small lean and battered black tom with a long tail, short glossy pelt with nicked ears and green yellow eyes

Hollyflower-Sleek long legged dark grey and white molly with green eyes

ThunderClan

Leader: Bluestar-Pale blue grey molly tinged with silver around the muzzle, a long scar on shoulder that parts the fur across them.

Deputy: Redtail-Dark tortoiseshell tom with distinctive ginger tail and amber eyes

Apprentice, Dustpaw

Medicine Cat: Spottedleaf-Dark tortoiseshell and white molly with distinctive dappled coat and amber eyes

Warriors

Lionheart- Pale golden tabby tom with thick fur like a lion's mane and green eyes(Father to Frostfur's kits)

Apprentice, Greypaw

Tigerclaw-Big dark brown tabby tom with unusually long front claws. Right ear is split in a V shape near the top, has a scar across his muzzle and pale amber eyes

Apprentice, Ravenpaw

Whitestorm- Big white tom with tufted ears and yellow eyes

Apprentice, Sandpaw

Darkstripe-Sleek black and grey tabby tom with yellow eyes

Longtail-Pale brown tabby tom with dark black stripes and pale blue eyes

Runningwind-Swift brown tabby tom with green eyes

Willowpelt-Very pale silver grey molly with unusual blue eyes

Mousefur-Small dusky brown molly with amber eyes

Apprentices

Dustpaw-Dark brown tom with amber eyes

Sandpaw-Pale ginger molly with barely visible stripes of darker fur and forest green eyes

Ravenpaw-Small skinny black tom with a tiny white dash on chest and white tip tail. Has green eyes

Greypaw-Long haired dark grey tom with dark stripe on back. has yellow eyes

Firepaw-Bright flame colored tom with emerald green eyes

Queens

Frostfur-White molly with dark sky blue eyes and sleek soft fur(Mother to Cinderkit, Smoky dark grey molly with pale blue eyes, Brightkit, White molly with ginger patches and blue eyes, Thornkit, Golden brown tabby tom with pale blue eyes and Brackenkit, long legged golden brown tabby tom with amber eyes)

Brindleface-Pale grey tabby molly with darker flecks and green eyes (close to kitting)

Goldenflower-Sleek, small,pale ginger tabby molly with small nick in one ear and yellow eyes.(Mother to Swiftkit, small black and white tom with pale amber eyes, Lynxkit, ginger with black patches tom with yellow eyes)

Speckletail-Pale golden tabby molly with amber eyes. Oldest nursery queen (Mother to Snowkit, deaf white tom with pale blue eyes and Mistlekit, dark tabby molly)

Elders

One-Eye - Pale grey molly with one yellow eye. Oldest cat in ThunderClan. Virtually blind and deaf.

Halfail-Dark brown tabby tom with patchy fur and part of his tail missing. Has yellow eyes

Dappleail-Dappled tortoiseshell and white molly with white patches and amber eyes

Rosetail-Grey tabby molly with bushy pinkish-orange tail

Smalleail-Grey tom with very small ears. Has a nick in one ear and amber eyes (Father to Speckleail's kits)

Patchpelt-Small black and white tom with smooth fur and amber eyes (Father to Goldenflower's kits.)

WindClan

Leader: Tallstar-Black and white tom with a very long tail and amber eyes

Deputy: Deadfoot-Small lean black tom with an unusable twisted left forepaw(Father to Ashfoot's kit)

Medicine Cat: Barkface-Dark brown tom with a short tail, a greying muzzle and yellow eyes

Warriors (Moor Runners)

Mudclaw-Wiry mottled dark brown tabby tom with amber eyes

Apprentice, Webpaw

Tornear-Wiry grey tabby tom with blue eyes

Apprentice, Runningpaw

Onewhisker-Small and lean, mottled pale brown tabby tom with amber eyes

Apprentice, Whitepaw

Stagleap-Dark brown tom with amber eyes(Wrenflight's mate)

Sorrelshine-Grey and brown molly

Larksplash-Tortoiseshell and white molly

Aspenfall-Lithe grey and white tom with long legs, wiry tail and sleek fur

Wrenflight-Brown molly (Stagleap's mate)

Cloudburrow-Lithe, pale grey tom with sleek fur, long legs and a wiry tail(Father to Morningflower's kits)

Brushspark-Sturdy ginger tom

Tunnelers

Pigeonflight-Dark grey tom with white patches

Darkfoot-Blue grey tom with darker paws, paler chest and belly, a white muzzle and yellow eyes

Apprentice, Robinpaw

Rushtail-Light creamy brown tom

Mistmouse-Light brown tabby molly

Crowfur-Black tom

Oatwhisker-Creamy brown tabby tom

Flytail-Snowy white tom

Rabbitear-Pale brown molly with fluffy white belly and yellow eyes

Bristlebark-Black tom

Apprentices

Webpaw-Wiry dark grey tabby tom with orange eyes

Runningpaw-Light grey tabby molly

Whitepaw-Small white molly

Robinpaw-Light brown molly with blue eyes

Queens

Ashfoot-Broad faced grey molly with blue eyes(Mother to Eaglekit, a grey tom)

Morningflower-Tortoiseshell molly with amber eyes(Close to kitting)

Flowerstorm-Sleek furred brown and white tabby molly

Elders

Meadowslip-Pale grey molly

Hareflight-Light brown tom

Redclaw-Small dark ginger tom

Ryestalk-Gray tabby molly with soft fur and amber eyes

Hickorynose-Brown tom

Plumclaw-Small dark grey molly

Riverclan

Leader: Crookedstar-Huge light brown tabby tom with green eyes and a twisted jaw

Deputy: Oakheart-Thick and sleek furred dark reddish brown tom with amber eyes.

Medicine Cat: Mudfur-Lean and lithe, thick furred long hair light brown tom with a pale belly. Has golden eyes

Warriors

Dawnbright-Ginger and white molly

Mallowtail-Tortoiseshell tabby and white molly

Rippleclaw-Sleek, grizzled black and silver tom

Timberfur-Big burly, greying dark brown tom with sleek fur

Owlfur-Sleek furred, brown and white tom with a white splashed muzzle and small head

Softwing-Small lithe snowy white molly with tabby patches

Cedarpelt-Greying, stout, large mottled brown tabby tom with a short tail

Piketooth-Skinny greying dark brown tabby tom with a narrow face and protruding canine teeth

Beetlenose-Broad shouldered tom with crow black fur

Voleclaw-Grey tom

Petaldust-Tortoiseshell molly

Echomist-Glossy, long haired pale grey molly. Fur is tipped with white. Giving her a soft cloudy appearance

Mudthorn-Brown tom with black ears

Grasswhisker-Brown tabby molly

Frogleap-Muscular grey tom with a striped tail, broad head and amber eyes

Skyheart-Pale brown tabby molly with green eyes and torn ears

Reedtail-Pale grey tabby tom that has a long stiff tail. Tail is darker, thin and straight like a reed

Sedgecreek-Brown tabby molly with a long tail

Ottersplash-Sleek, pale ginger molly with white patches and a torn ear

Lakeshine-Mottled long haired grey and white molly

Shimmerpelt-Night black molly with a glossy pelt

Vixenleap-Black molly

Mossbelt-Lithe tortoiseshell and white molly with blue eyes and soft white chest fur

Emberdawn-Dark ginger molly(Willowstep's mate)

Leopardfur-Sleek fur dappled golden tabby molly with amber eyes. Has unusual dark golden spots on her pelt with a long winding tail

Blackclaw-Lean muscular smoky black tom. Has a torn ear tip and orange eyes

Apprentice, Heavypaw

Shellstream-Long legged thick furred pale grey blue tom with battle scarred ears, one is shredded. Has blue eyes(Father to Greenflower's kits)

Apprentice, Shadepaw

Loudbelly-Dark brown tom with blue eyes

Apprentice, Silverpaw

Silverstream-Sleek slender silver and black tabby molly with bright blue eyes

Whiteclaw-Muscular dark brown tom with snowy white paws and amber eyes

Rainfall-lithe pale blue grey molly with thick sleek fur and a plummy tail. Has ice blue eyes

Willowstep-Pale grey and white molly with sleek fur. Has bright blue eyes(Emberdawn's mate)

Apprentices

Heavypaw-Big and thickset brown tabby tom with yellow eyes

Shadepaw-Very dark grey molly

Silverpaw-Small silver tom

Queens

Greenflower-Plump, brown striped molly with white splash under chin, one white hind paw and green eyes(close to kitting)

Elders

Tanglewhisker-Long haired, tabby tom with a thick knotted pelt,wide greying back, grizzled paws and left ragged ear

Birdsong-Tabby and white molly with a white belly, ginger patches around her grey flecked muzzle and amber eyes

Fallowtail-Light brown molly with soft fur and blue eyes

Graypool-Thin grey molly with patchy fur and a scarred muzzle

Cats outside the Clans

Barley-Black and white tom with blue eyes

Barry- A Black and white tom with green eyes

Charlie- A pure black tom with yellow eyes. Wears a blue collar and is Nightpaw's brother

BloodClan (Not a real clan, they are vicious rogues in Twolegplace)

Leader: Scourge-Smaller than average black tom with one white paw. Has ice blue eyes, a torn left ear and glossy fur. Wears a purple collar studded with teeth and claws from dogs and cats. His claws are reinforced with dogs' teeth.

Deputy: Bone-Massive black and white tom with green eyes. Has a battle scarred pelt with a scar between his eyes. Wears a blue collar studded with teeth from dogs and claws from cats.

Brick-Ginger tom with a patch of fur missing on his upper back.

Gremlin-Patchy black, white tortoiseshell molly with green eyes

Minty-Light grey molly with light blue eyes. Has lighter colored chest, stomach and muzzle

Pounce-Yellow brown tabby tom with a lazy eye and a lower canine sticking out his mouth. Paler spot on his chest and amber eyes

Claw-Dark brown tom with long claws

Fury-Long furred tabby molly with one eye and scars across her muzzle and shoulders. Wears a green studded tooth collar

Snag-Huge thick furred, ginger tabby tom with amber eyes

Willie-Brown tabby tom with a lighter muzzle and green eyes

Tess-Blue grey molly with a white chest, stomach and tail tip. White raindrop shaped marking on forehead and light green eyes

Snapper-Long furred brown, black, and white tom with yellow eyes. Has three scars across his chest and two on top of head. Has nicks on ears

Scraps-Patchy black, white tortoiseshell tom with a black tooth studded collar. His has fewer teeth than the others

Snake-Black and white tom with a blue tooth studded collar. Has an underbite, torn left ear and blue eyes

Ice-Black and white tom with a white tooth studded collar. Both ears are torn and blue eyes

Snipe-Ginger brown and black tom with a lighter brown underside and muzzle. Has a black tooth and claws studded collar. Has light orange eyes and torn ears.

Ch3

Chapter 3: Chapter 1: Escape

Summary:

Here we meet Black Cat, see his life before joining the clans

The tom kit saw the bird in front of him, so close he could taste it. Suddenly he let out an alarmed yowl when rough hands grabbed him. Before he could react he felt darkness covering him. His fur bushed out as he became fully aware. His claws pierced the soft walls as he felt motion but he was still blinded. He could hear his twolegs and realized what a fool he had been falling asleep on the chair. He heard the cruelty in their voices as he felt like last night's meal was going to escape his throat.

Where was the mother twoleg? He wondered as the motion finally stopped. Feeling dizzy, he tried to run outside but couldn't find the exit. The cruel twolegs kits opened the end (**soft wall?covering?**) and he rushed out, straight into a wall. His paws didn't feel like they belonged to him as he lay there, listening to their cruel laughter as he blacked out. *I need to escape this place* was his final thought. The next time he opened his eyes, he could hear the mother twoleg yelling at the kits. He quickly ran to his only safe spot in the house, under the stairs where he could see the front door. Due to his fur, he could hide in the shadows as long as he closed his eyes. Clawing the floor impatiently, he waited for his moment with his tail lashing. He knows their pattern well. The older kit will stomp out of the house and he only has a moment to run out.

He could feel his muscles tensing as he waited. The time seemed to slow down as the door opened. Without missing a beat, he ran as fast as he could towards the door. He felt the twoleg's paw brush his back fur but it was too late. Using everything he had, he ran to a nearby bush, knowing that twolegs couldn't reach him here. His ears twitched as he heard footsteps coming close to the bush. He held his breath till they seemed to give up and move away. He knew if the mother wasn't there, the kits would kick the bush to scare him out. Peace enveloped him as for the first time in his life, he felt safe and free. Looking out, he saw the large pine forest in the distance, wondering what was in there. He waited to hear the door close before coming out of the bush. He walked to the house next door, wondering if Barry was outside and he could grab some food.

"Thought I heard some noise out here." A mew interrupted him as he jumped on the fence. Looking down, he saw Barry laying down in a patch of sunlight, opening one eye staring at him.

"Sorry did I mess up your nap? Maybe I should keep my escape quiet." He mew back sarcastically. He jumped down into his yard, sitting in front of him.

"The answer is no." Barry let out a yawn as he stretched and sat up. He began to clean himself.

No? What does he mean by no. He hadn't asked a question yet. His tail began to lash before he got his emotions under control.

"Every time you escape, you come to me for food. Because of you they give me less food! So no." Barry was cleaning his ear as he looked at him.

"Sorry about that, but this time is different. I'm not going back, I'm getting out of here. Tired of the kits playing with me like I'm a toy. Maybe I can stay with you?" He said with a pleading look.

"We already tried that once and your kits snuck in during the day to get you. My twoleg kits still have nightmares of that day. You made too much of a mess. Besides, you always go back after disappearing for two or three days." Barry scoffed as he turned to go inside.

"Fine. I'll prove you wrong. Just you wait till I come back from the pine forest." His fur was bristling as his tail lashed.

"The forest? Are you crazy?! There are wild cats who eat other cats alive in there." Barry stopped and turned around, staring at him in shock.

"That's foolish. Cats don't eat other cats. But I'm sure it's not that bad, I'm going to go and find out." He had a smug smile as he jumped on the fence.

"Nice to know you Black Cat!" Barry yowled out. He twitched an ear before leaping back down to the other side. He can do this. Living on his own, even getting his own food. After all, he is six moons old. Looking at the pine forest, he started to get a sense of danger as he walked towards it.

The wind began to blow towards him and he smelt many cat scents close to him. Putting his nose on the ground, he saw it was like a border. So is he safe if he doesn't cross the border? Looking back, he saw Barry on the fence watching him, his green eyes narrowed. He knew what he was thinking, all that talk and he can't even cross the border. He quickly stepped over it, giving a small purr to himself when nothing happened. His stomach growled and he looked over at Barry, waiting for him to go back into his yard before walking to his brother's house. Charlie will feed him. He went back over the border, keeping an eye out for those wild cats. *Good thing his brother lives around the corner from him*, he thought as he jumped into the yard. Besides, it was still sunhigh so he might go when it's night and those wild cats would be sleeping. Wild cats are still cats so they have to sleep.

"Charlie!" Are you home?" He yowled at the door. Sometimes his brother is gone, saying he is exploring the twolegplace. His twolegs usually leave the cat door open so he probably won't mind if he goes in and eats some food. He looked around, perking his ears to hear anything from the other side of the door. After a few minutes, he went through the cat door, heading straight to the food bowl. Before he could reach it, a yowl sounded as a weight landed on his back. He quickly rolled over to dislodge the weight, hissing loudly. He faced his attacker, being surprised it was his brother.

"Black Cat? you should know better than to come in without me knowing. I'm sorry." Charlie mewed as he calmed down, licking his chest in embarrassment.

"Charlie. What is wrong? You never just straight up attack before." His heart was beating fast as he sat down, smoothing down his fur. Looking at his brother, he saw that it looked like he got in some fights. His fur was torn and he had old wounds on his back. *No wonder he seems so jumpy*. His movements were wary, like he was expecting an attack to happen. *But he is in his house*. Houses are supposed to be safe.

He got up and rubbed his fur against his brother's side and wrapped his tail around him until he felt his fur finally smoothing down. He knew that he couldn't force him to tell him what's wrong, so he led him to his cat bed. Maybe there is something to those wild cat rumors than he thought.

"Here Charlie. Just go to sleep and I'll be right by your side." He looked worriedly at him since he hadn't spoken.

"Thanks Black Cat, just been a crazy night. You can have some food if there is anything left. Just need to rest." Charlie murmured before closing his eyes.

He looked down at him, wondering what exactly was going on. He went back to the food bowl, letting out a sigh at the one pellet that was left. *Well it is better than nothing*, he thought as he ate it. Heading back, he curled up beside Charlie, knowing he needed to ask questions of (know more about) these wild cats.

He slowly woke up, looking around before remembering he was at his brother's house. Charlie was still sleeping peacefully. He gave him a lick, whispering goodbye before leaving the house. He ran to the pine forest, crossing the border before he stopped, looking back at the fence. He could hear the mother twoleg calling for him, shaking the food dish. *Not this time, I'm not going back*. He is leaving and maybe they will do better for the next cat. He quickly ran far from there before he could change his mind, passing by many trees until he was deep into the forest. Looking up, he smiled as he saw the full moon. At least there is light enough to see, he thought to himself before starting to walk. His whiskers twitched anxiously as he heard an owl call and frogs croaking.

His ears perked as he heard soft pawsteps coming towards him from the dark path ahead. He raised his hackles, letting out a hiss as the wild cat appeared. It's a dark ginger molly that had a mouse in her mouth. She put it down as she glanced at him with her dark green eyes. A real wild cat, he thought as his fur began to bristle.

Ch4

Chapter 4: Chapter 2: Shadowclan?

Summary:

Black Cat meet his first wild cats

The molly stared at him as he let out a small hiss. No way is he going to die without fighting back. His eyes widened as he saw her whiskers twitching in amusement. Does she find this funny? Yes he is way smaller than her but he can do damage. He fought other cats before during his escapes.

"You are trespassing in Shadowclan territory kit. Go back home before I leave you a few scars to remember me by." The molly mew calmly.

He saw it wasn't an idle threat as her muscles ripple under her fur. Whoever she is, she was trained to fight. Since she wasn't going to attack and wasn't finding him threatening, he sat down, wrapping his tail around his paws (**curiosity overtaking his fear**).

"What is Shadowclan? Who are you?" He asked as she also sat down.

"You are a curious kittypet. My name is Russetfur. I am a warrior of Shadowclan, one of four clans that live around here. You don't have a collar yet you reek of twolegs. Now go back home." Russetfur grabbed her mouse before turning to leave.

"Wait! What's a kittypet? And did your cats fight a pure black cat with yellow eyes wearing a blue collar?" He mewed out as he quickly got up.

She didn't answer as she ran further into the forest. No, he is not going to let her get away. He strained his ears to catch her pawsteps as he ran after her. The chase only took a few minutes but he was getting tired. Seeing the tip of her tail, he tried to pounce on her but the ground was wet, the mud sticking between his toes. *Do these cats have web paws?* He thought as he let out

a mew as he struggled to get out of the mud. It seemed like he was sinking every time he struggled, the mud was now up to his stomach. He let out a yowl as he felt teeth in his scruff, lifting him free of the mud. This is it. Guess he was wrong. Cats do eat other cats. He closed his eyes only opening them when his paws landed on dry land. He began to lay down as he was exhausted from running and struggling.

"Russetfur, why is there a kit out here? What clan does this kit belong to?" A brown tom said as he sniffed him over.

"No clan Deerfoot. He's a kittypet that followed me. Was wondering if he could keep up. He did good if he made it to the marsh." Russetfur's eyes had a glint in them that made him nervous. The whole chase was a test? No wonder he could only see her tail disappearing no matter how fast he ran.

"Need to have Runningnose look at him, he seems exhausted. Brokenstar isn't going to like this though." Deerfoot mew softly as he looked at him.

He was quiet as Deerfoot grabbed his scruff again, carrying him as Russetfur picked up the prey he had. Despite his exhaustion he kept his eyes open to try to memorize the way. They stopped in front of a thorn tunnel where a ginger tom was standing guard.

"Russetfur, Deerfoot. Thought you were going for prey. What is this?" The tom demanded as he blocked their way.

"An injured kit, Scorchwind. Going to wait till Runningnose comes back from the gathering to look him over." Russetfur mewed despite the prey in her mouth.

"Fine. Clean the mud from his fur so Runningnose can be quick about it." He grumbled as he moved out of the way.

Black Cat let out an impressive hiss as Deerfoot carried him past. Scorchwind looked at the kit in approval, seeing how despite his exhaustion, he had a fighting spirit.

Russetfur put down the prey in the middle of a stone circle while Deerfoot let him down on ferns outside a den that smelt of herbs.

"Stay there and rest for now. Welcome to ShadowClan camp." Deerfoot murmured to him as he looked around at the cats coming out of nearby dens. He left to get moss and dip it in a nearby stream.

There are so many cats, he thought as he felt wet moss on his fur, cleaning off the mud. His ears flick warily as he saw two mollies coming towards him. One was brown and cream and the other was pure black.

"Relax kit, your fear scent is giving you away. Rowanberry, Darkflower. This kit is a kittypet that Russetfur found near the twolegplace border. Got stuck in the marsh and was sinking til I pulled him out." Deerfoot growled as he finished cleaning the mud.

"So what's your name kit?" Darkflower mewed softly as she sat down.

"Why should we know the name of a kit that's just going to leave soon? Soft kittypet will just go home in the morning, bet he wants to go home right now." Rowanberry mewed with a twitch of her whiskers.

"I'm not soft." He winced as his voice came out in a small mew. He tried to stand up but his legs were shaking and Deerfoot put a paw on him to keep him down. He let out a small hiss before he laid back down.

"Don't tease the kit otherwise he won't rest." Deerfoot said as he gave a small grin at the kit's spirit.

"My name is Black Cat. That's what the twolegs kits call me." He raised his head as he heard loud meows coming close to the camp. He perked his ears towards the tunnel as he heard Scorchwind explaining what happened.

"Did you see how I impressed those fish faces?" A young voice said.

"Two clans changing deputies at the same time? Wonder what RiverClan and ThunderClan are up to." A deep growl said.

"Did you hear that ThunderClan let a kittypet join them?" An elderly mew sounded.

"What's that scent over by Russetfur and Deerfoot?" Another elderly mew said.

He saw Deerfoot and Russetfur sit next to him as he sat up. The two mollies left, going to the prey pile. Russetfur nodded in approval as he clawed the ground anxiously. Soon he saw a stream of cats coming towards him. In the lead was a dark brown tabby with a bent tail. These cats are definitely not kittypets and his tail twitched as he saw battle scars on most of them. His eyes gleamed as he looked them over, hoping he could join them. From what he could see, they are strong, fast, and caring. Otherwise Deerfoot would have left him drowning in the mud. Russetfur would have just attacked instead of warning him away. But now the brown tom is glaring down at him with a white tom with black paws on his right side. Now he only hoped he could leave with his fur intact.

Ch5 Finished 7/14

Chapter 5: Chapter 3: Nightpaw

Summary:

Black Cat meets the leaders and becomes an apprentice

Black Cat met the orange eyes glaring down at him, with his ears flattening warily since the tom hadn't said a word yet. It was like he was peeling back his fur to see the cat underneath. He didn't know what the tom was waiting for but he finally glanced at the cats beside him.

"Explain." His voice was a deep growl as he looked back at him. Black Cat's fur was bristling as he glared back.

"This is Black Cat, Brokenstar. Met him close to the twolegplace border while hunting with Deerfoot. He was in our forest and I warned him away. Since he is a kittypet, I thought by just leaving he would head back home. That wasn't the case and he chased me, having questions. He got stuck in the marsh and was sinking in the mud right before Deerfoot pulled him out. Seeing how tired he was, I made the choice to bring him here so Runningnose could look him over." Russetfur mew was firm as she brushed her tail on Black Cat's side. Letting him know that it was going to be ok.

A small grey and white tom pushed past the white tom when he heard his name. The white tom let out a small hiss as he got close to Black Cat. His eyes widened as he took in his shakiness. These names are spot on, black cat thought as he saw the dried snot on the cat's nose.

"Blackfoot. Get ready for the apprentices ceremony while I chat with my senior warriors. Let Runningnose do what he does best, we aren't cruel." Brokenstar turned around while Blackfoot headed to the nursery. The rest of the cats began to sit near the big boulder that the other rock was leaning against. Black Cat saw how organized everyone was and he watched everything with interest. Runningnose went into the den smelling of herbs as two queens with four kits between them came out with Blackfoot.

His ear twitched as he heard whispers about him, but that was to be expected. He is a stranger and an intruder after all. Russetfur saw his interest and began to explain what was happening. She pointed out that Runningnose is their medicine cat and he went into the medicine den to grab him herbs. Deerfoot glanced at her with disapproval in his eyes as he turned to watch the proceedings. Brokenstar was in a corner near the oak tree with five other cats, Scorchwind was among them. There were three young cats sitting near a cave. Soon Runningnose came back holding a leaf wrap. He put the wrap in front of him, telling him to eat the herbs to gain his energy back. He did so, nearly gagging at the bad taste. Runningnose's whiskers twitched as he checked him over once again, nodding when he couldn't find any other wounds.

Brokenstar finished his meeting and his tail twitched anxiously as he wondered what it meant for him. The leader jumped up on the boulder, looking down at the clan gathered beneath him.

"At tonight's gathering, I'm sure you all heard that both Thunderclan and Riverclan have new deputies. Leopardfur and Lionheart are the new deputies. At least Shadowclan isn't weak in battle to lose important members of our clan, but that isn't the only news. Windclan warned us about a badger they had seen heading into our territory due to them chasing it. I thank Tallstar for the warning and I want patrols to keep an eye out. We smelled it near the burnt sycamore on the way back, so mentors keep your apprentices away from that area. I'm sure you are all aware of our visitor. I decided to give this kit a chance since he has shown promise. If he wants it of course. Who wouldn't want to be a Shadowclan cat?" At this, indignant mutterings erupted among the clan.

"Brokenstar with all respect, he's a kittypet! Send him home to his twolegs otherwise he'll just be a burden. " A white tom called out.

"Maybe he can't be a warrior. Probably has no fighting skills due to lazing around all the time." A dark brown tom muttered.

Russetfur was whispering their names into Black Cat's ears. Ratscar and Swampcloud were the loudest among the others.

Brokenstar's eyes narrowed at them before he let out a loud yowl to quiet the clan. He was clawing the moss beneath his paws as his tail lashed.

"Do you think I'm weak?" His voice was a deadly whisper. Both Ratscar and Swampcloud's ears flattened as they looked away from him.

"No. We meant no disrespect." They quickly muttered.

Black Cat is filled with admiration for Brokenstar, seeing how quickly he gained control of the clan. What a leader. He'd be proud to be part of the clan with a leader like that. Russetfur whispered to him that Brokenstar has kittypet blood through his father, the past leader Raggedstar. He still saw glares but he didn't care, Brokenstar is proof that anyone can be in Shadowclan and be respected.

"I do want to join Shadowclan! Since so many think of me as lazy and weak, I will fight. I don't want you all to think I'm not going to be helpful." He got up, running to the front of the rock, looking at the cats that surrounded him. His eyes gleaming as he slid his claws out in anticipation, his tail lashing, showing others that he was sincere. He remembered how he would play fight with Charlie and he often complained he was too rough. Now he can use what he knows to prove himself, if they even let him.

"Very well. This kit's name will now be Nightkit. Since you are so eager to prove yourself, choose your opponent. No claws as we don't want serious injuries, this is only a spar after all." Brokenstar meowed, his tone filled with approval.

Without a word, the rest of the cats moved so there was only room for two cats to fight. Even though he wasn't as fit as the others, at least he got some of his energy back. Besides, it's not like he was going to win. He just needed to show that he wasn't a pushover. He knew this much as he walked to the clearing. This also must be a test, to see if he uses his brain in fights since he now had to choose his opponent. Not the ones he knows as that would be too obvious. Not Swampcloud or Ratscar either as they might accidentally kill him though he really wanted to choose them to shut them up. He stared at all the cats around him, noticing how most seem to be expecting him to pick them. He saw Scorchwind with Darkflower sitting together with their tails twinning, watching him closely. Seeing a small light brown tom, he was going to choose him til he saw the scars on his hind leg.

He wasn't expecting this to be so hard. That's when he remembered the cats that were sitting in front of the cave. They all seem healthy and not as old as the others. They were all close to the front. A brown tom, a grey tom and the smallest tom that seem to be equal to him.

"Him." He whipped his tail to point to the small one. The tom walked out from the crowd, fur bristling as he gave a nod.

"Name is Littlepaw, seems you have a good head on your shoulders. Only a mouse brain would choose to fight a cat twice their size." His blue eyes shimmered with emotion as he started pacing around him.

"Nice to meet you, Littlepaw. Thank you for this spar." He kept his eyes on him before leaping to him, Letting out a yowl, his ears flattened and his eyes turned to slits.

Littlepaw grinned as he rolled onto his back, his paws outstretched to catch him. His eyes widened as he was pinned quickly. He used his back legs to push him off, being surprised at how heavy he was. He panted a bit before standing on his hind legs, letting out another yowl as he batted at Littlepaw, aiming at whatever he could reach. He knew he was doing good when he heard the reactions from the crowd. It seemed his earlier tiredness wasn't a problem since he felt only exhilaration as the fight continued. Littlepaw dodged and tripped him up, pinning him again. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't kick him off again. He spat furiously before Brokenstar called the end of the match.

Littlepaw let him up, giving him another nod before walking back to his spot. He shook the dirt from his pelt, hearing how he won some of them over. He heard that he could be a great fighter if he was trained. Also that he had determination and how even when pinned he didn't give up. He felt pride envelop him as he cleaned himself, making sure his fur was smooth.

"Well well. We could use a spitfire like you. Do we all agree to give Nightkit a chance?" Brokenstar asked as he jumped down from the boulder. The clan nodded as four cats walked up to stand beside him.

"Now it's time for the moment we've been waiting for." He mew as he beckoned to the cats at the nursery.

"Finally!" A small voice piped up before her mother shushed her. A few chuckles sounded as they watched the outspoken tortoiseshell walking fast to the front of the crowd. She was followed by a black and white molly who was walking calmly with her head held high.

"Turtlekit. You have reached the age of six moons and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name you will be known as Turtlepaw. Your mentor will be Mossclaw. I hope Mossclaw will pass down all he knows to you." Brokenstar said as a big brown and white tom walked towards her.

"Mossclaw, you are ready to take on an apprentice. You've received excellent training from me and you have shown yourself to be fair and determined. You will be the mentor of Turtlepaw and I expect you to pass all you know to her." Turtlepaw reached up to touch Mossclaw's nose before moving to the side for the others.

Soon Gullpaw was apprenticed to Fernshade, Mousepaw to Applefur, and Gingerpaw to Hopeheart. Nightkit watched, wondering which cat would be his mentor. There were so many cats. That is when Brokenstar motioned for him to come up. He shook off his worries as he walked forward with confidence. He will be the best apprentice to whoever gets him. He stood in front of Brokenstar, glancing worriedly at him before another cat came out of the crowd.

"Nightkit. You have reached the age of six moons and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name you will be known as Nightpaw. Your mentor will be Badgerfang. I hope Badgerfang will pass down all he knows to you." Nightpaw glanced at Badgerfang, seeing how he looks like his namesake. He is a black and white tom with face stripes that look like a badger.

"Badgerfang, you are ready to take on an apprentice. You have received excellent training from Flintfang, and you have shown yourself to be loyal and honorable. You will be the mentor of Nightpaw and I expect you to pass all you know to him." Since he watched the others, he already knew what to do next.

"I promise to do my best." He whispered as they touched noses.

"That's all I will ask of you." He replied.

Turtlepaw! Gullpaw! Mousepaw! Gingerpaw! Nightpaw!" The clan roared their names into the sky.

He was now part of the clan. He noticed that not everyone was calling his name and knew that was to be expected. Soon the clan went to their dens as he looked over at Badgerfang.

"Get some sleep, Nightpaw. Training will begin tomorrow at sunhigh. Don't be late." Badgerfang murmured as he pointed to the cave he saw before.

The other apprentices were already there, scraping together their nests before curling over to go to sleep. He saw Littlepaw motion to him so he went to him, seeing a nest made from moss and pine needles next to him.

"Here you go. It's more comfortable than you would think. Goodnight." Littlepaw yawned as he fell into the nearby nest. He looked around at the other apprentices, seeing that beside him was also Gullpaw on the other side. He softly walked past Turtlepaw, not knowing she was watching him curl up into the nest. He couldn't wait to see what the next day would bring.

Ch6 Finished 7/14

Chapter 6: Chapter 4: First Day

Summary:

Nightpaw's first day in his new clan.

Chapter Text

He opened his eyes to darkness, wondering exactly where he was. The last thing he remembered was falling asleep in his nest. He started to walk around when he heard a pained mew coming from behind him. His fur bristling as he turned around and saw his brother laying on his side in a pool of blood. He tried to speak but realized his voice was gone. Rushing to his side, he heard his brother asking him if he forgot him already. *Of course not*, he mouthed the words. His brother got up, beginning to poke him over and over again with his paw.

"Nightpaw! Wake up!" Brownpaw's mew woke him from his nightmare. It was his paw that was poking him. He quickly jumped up, with his fur brushing out. Brownpaw's eyes widened at his fear scent before he calmed down.

It was just a nightmare. Nightpaw looked around and saw that Gullpaw, Turtlepaw and Mousepaw were still sleeping. The other nests are empty. He quickly groomed himself as Brownpaw told him that Badgerfang was waiting for him. Thanking him, he rushed out the den, nearly running into Ratscar.

"Watch it Kittypet!" He snarled before whipping his tail across Nightpaw's face. Nightpaw's claws slid out as he let out a hiss, arching his back. Brownpaw knocked him aside to stop him from attacking. Ratscar gave a smug smile, seeing his reaction.

"We don't attack our clanmates!" He softly hissed before Ratscar walked away, heading to the pale ginger queen that he saw last night. Ratscar sat next to her, whispering in her ear, their tails twining as he did so. Nightpaw knew he shouldn't let Ratscar get to him but he gets under his fur so easily. This is bad for a second impression. He took deep breaths to calm down, something he learnt when he was in his old home. The twoleg kits just wanted a reaction and when he didn't react, they left him alone faster. He must remember this for dealing with Ratscar.

Nodding at Brownpaw, thanking him for stopping him. He looked around, hoping Badgerfang didn't see that display. He winced as he saw Badgerfang's amber eyes narrow on him. His fur bristled as he sharply flicked his tail at him. Brownpaw left him to go to Stumpytail and they left the camp together. Nightpaw quickly padded over to him, knowing he messed up. As he sat down, he saw that Badgerfang wasn't the only one that saw him lose his temper. He was sitting with the other mentors and the tom with the scarred hind leg.

"What was that?" Badgerfang's tone is grim, making him realize just how big he messed up. Maybe they are going to realize it's useless to teach him and just toss him out the clan. Maybe the ones who were against his joining were right. It's not like they didn't see Ratscar's action but of course he was the one in trouble. They didn't get that the tail slap in the face is a huge disrespect in the twolegplace. The only action was to fight it out and make the other submit. It was what he did to Barry and now they were friends.

"Ratscar slapped my face with his tail so I just wanted to leave a mark. Would have made me feel better." He said in a small growl.

"That's the problem! You need to control your temper." Badgerfang started when Hopeheart interrupted him.

"What made you think that clawing a warrior just for a tail slap was ok?" She asks as she stares at him. That's when he realized that she at least was trying to understand.

"In Twolegplace, when a cat slaps your face with their tail, it is a sign of disrespect. Talking will lead you nowhere so the only choice is to fight it out and make them submit. If you win, you become good friends but if you lose...well you can't step near their place ever again. That and the fact you lose respect. All a cat has to do is get the cat that beat you to force you away. I realize that this isn't Twolegplace so I guess you are kicking me out now. Just show me the way and I will be on my way." He saw the mentors' eyes widen when he finished speaking.

"We don't kick cats out just for one mistake. Ratscar has always been a bad tempered cat. But he is good to have on your side in battles. My name is Volewhisper. Welcome to Shadowclan. You can ask about my leg. It is ok." Volewhisper gave a friendly flick with his tail.

"What Volewhisper said is correct. When you stay with us long enough, you will understand. Just don't do it again. Anyway, you already met Fernshade, Hopeheart, Applefur, and Mossclaw. The molly next to Ratscar is Dawncloud. Unlike Ratscar, she is kind yet stern." Badgerfang began to show him around the camp and just finished when the other apprentices got up.

"Why are you still here?" Turtlepaw asks when she saw him grabbing a frog from the prey plie.

"Turtlepaw! Be nice to your clanmate." Mossclaw said, shocked at how rude she was being.

"But he's not part of Shadowclan. He's a kittypet pretending to be one of us. It's not like he grew up here." Turtlepaw argued as she grabbed a mouse while the other apprentices looked at her in shock.

"Turtlepaw! It's not his fault he was born in the Twolegplace. You've never been this rude before. Forgive my sister. She is still mad because you overshadowed our apprentice ceremony." Gulpaw gave her a look of disgust as she got a lizard before walking fast so she couldn't walk with her. She gave him a shy smile as his fur was bristling.

"I can defend myself." He grumbled as he tore a leg from the frog. Looking at the others, he saw Mousepaw and Gingerpaw sitting with Turtlepaw. Which means the only friend he has is Gulpaw.

Seeing her looking downcast gave him a feeling of guilt so he apologized while laying his fur flat. He didn't respond and just decided to ignore Turtlepaw. He wasn't a picky eater so he enjoyed the rubbery texture as he finished the frog. He watched as Ratscar rubbed cheeks with both Mousepaw and Gingerpaw, *so that answers why they agree with Turtlepaw*. Dawncloud also chatted with them, telling them to listen to their mentors and to be nice. He saw Gulpaw get up to run over to a black tom with a white chest and paws, purring as he talked to her. Another molly went up to Turtlepaw, purring as she told her not to be rude to her mentor. He overheard her saying, "Yes Wishflame, I will make you and Whitethroat proud."

While watching them with their family, he began to wonder about his brother. He hoped Charlie was ok. He was a bit suspicious of Gulpaw but considering she was the only one who was giving him a chance, he decided to give her a chance.

"Ok now let's explore the territory. Turtlepaw, since you've been so rude, we are going to explore by ourselves until you learn to be nice." Mossclaw said sternly as they walked towards the thorn tunnel.

"So I don't have to be around the kittypet? Sounds good to me. Can Mousepaw and Gingerpaw come?" She asks with a bounce in her step.

"No. So you are going to be alone." Mossclaw said as he led her away from the others.

"Alone?" For once, Nightpaw could hear a bit of panic in her voice. *Seems she can't stand being alone.* After seeing them walk away in the opposite direction, he started to breathe easier. As if a weight was lifted from his shoulders.

"Nightpaw, you're blocking the entrance, come on." Gingerpaw called out as she saw him standing there. He ran to catch up to the others as they began to walk through the forest. He loved how the sun filtered through the trees, giving it a mysterious feeling to it. Badgerfang was standing next to him, watching his expression light up at the scenery around them.

"So you can smile." Badgerfang teased as Nightpaw quickly stopped. His tail tip twitching as they walked behind the others. He knew Badgerfang meant well but showing emotions always got him into trouble before. His ear flicked as he heard the others ask questions and their mentors answer. Looking down, he could see the paw prints made from the clan cats so he knew this must be a normal path that they use a lot.

As they walked, the trees began to thin out, replaced by bushes and reeds with feathery tops that rattled together in the breeze. The ground began to become marshy and wet. He jumped back to dry ground, shaking the mud from his paws. He wasn't going to get stuck in the mud again. A tail brushed his flank, and he knew Badgerfang was showing him the way so he wouldn't get stuck again.

"Not all of the marsh is as deep as the part you fell into. It was night and you didn't know our territory so of course you couldn't see clearly." Badgerfang reassured him as they walked. Nightpaw's fur was bushed out and he knew he was going to get teased later but he didn't care. They didn't know what it felt like, thinking you were going to die and struggling did nothing to help. He was powerless, a feeling he came to hate. He panted heavily as he sat next to Mousepaw as the mentors stopped them at the end of the marsh. Mousepaw rolled her eyes as she moved so a tail length was between them.

"We catch frogs here. Does anyone know the best way to catch frogs?" Applefur asks as everyone sat down.

"Jump on them?" Gullpaw asks. Nightpaw took deep breaths to calm down so he could listen and learn.

"We swipe them with our claws." Gingerpaw said as she gave a swipe with her left paw.

"We pierce their legs so they can't hop?" Nightpaw asks as he looked at the others.

"I agree with Gullpaw." Mousepaw mew as they wait for the answer.

"You are only half right. We do jump on them and all the other stuff but you are missing the key component. Teamwork. What good is jumping on a frog if they can just head back into the marsh. You need to learn how to work together, one to pounce and the other to stop it from going back. We will work on that later." Hopeheart meowed as she led the way.

They walked through a belt of pine trees when she raised her tail to stop them. Nightpaw's ears perk forward til he caught what she heard. His eyes widened as he heard a familiar yowl. That was Charlie! He shot off towards the yowling sound, not listening when he heard Badgerfang and the others calling him back. He didn't notice the trees growing more sparse and reddish. He knew he made it back to the Twolegplace when he saw the houses and fences that surrounded each den. That's when he saw his brother surrounded by three cats, two of which were wearing spiked collars and clawing at him. He lunged at the black and white tortoiseshell tom, landing on his back, clawing him good.

"Scraps!" A ginger tabby tom yelled as he aimed a claw at Nightpaw. Nightpaw jumped off, landing next to Charlie. Spitting furiously, his fur bush out to try to scare them. He didn't take his eyes off of them since he was now surrounded as well. He noticed the other cat, who was a molly with only one eye.

"Snag, Scraps, let's show them what happens when they cross Bloodclan." The molly said with hatred in her eye. They raise their claws to strike when the rest of the patrol attack them from behind.

Nightpaw watched as Hopeheart swiped at the molly, reaching down to bite her leg hard. The molly clawed her flank before running away. Nightpaw jumped on Scraps again, distracting him while Badgerfang aimed a back kick on him. Jumping off, he clawed his side, doing as much as he could. Scraps managed to tear his left ear tip before running away.

"This isn't over you forest cats!" Snag growled as he slowly backed away. Nightpaw was going to attack again when Badgerfang stopped him with his front paw.

"Leave. You aren't welcome here." Applefur hissed as Snag finally ran after his companions.

He quickly knelt beside Charlie, licking the blood from his pelt.

"Charlie. Brother please wake up. I'm here." Nightpaw mewed softly as he looked him over. There were numerous wounds, so many deep cuts that it took him a moment to see that he was still breathing.

"I will go and get Runningnose." Fernshade mewed as she quickly left. Applefur ran to a nearby log to grab cobwebs. She placed them on the cuts, watching carefully to see if the bleeding stopped. She also put some on his ear but he didn't even notice.

Nightpaw wasn't blind to her effort, making sure to say thank you before keeping his eyes locked on his brother. His ear perked up when he heard running coming towards them. He didn't know how long he kneeled there, watching his breathing but it seemed like seconds before Runningnose came up to them.

"Seems Fernshade wasn't exaggerating. These look like wounds from a badger instead of cats. I will do my best to save him, Nightpaw." Runningnose mewed as he placed down a couple of leaf wraps that seemed to have herbs in them.

Gingerpaw put her tail around his shoulder to lead him away so Runningnose could work. Seems like she no longer felt any animosity towards him so he let her lead him to where the others were sitting.

He explained how he was his brother and he didn't know the cats who attacked him. He didn't even know that Charlie was having trouble with Bloodclan. He hoped for his brother to live so he could say goodbye. Badgerfang told him that he understood his reaction but not to do that ever again. Surprising everyone, Gingerpaw and Mousepaw spoke up in his defense, saying he couldn't let his brother die. And how brave he was to jump in there when he was clearly outnumbered. Gulpaw joined in, saying that was what Shadowclan would do. We don't stand back to watch cats kill one another.

Runningnose came towards them, saying to not get too mad at Nightpaw, for he saved his brother's life. Nightpaw saw a glimmer of respect in Runningnose's eyes as he checked his ear.

"Well you won't win any beauty contest but it's going to heal in time." He joked as he went back to the camp. The other mentors told their apprentices it was time to head back to camp, knowing that Nightpaw wanted to talk to his brother alone.

They said their goodbyes, friendlier than when they started and he went back to his brother. Charlie's eyes were open though a bit pained but he still smiled when he saw Nightpaw. Badgerfang waited a bit away to give them privacy.

"Thanks Black Cat. I would be dead if it wasn't for you." He mewed softly.

"My name is Nightpaw now. I'm part of Shadowclan as an apprentice. I won't be able to come back since I live with them now, so this is goodbye. Don't worry about me. Just stay inside until you are healed. Charlie please do this for me. No more exploring." He brushed his tail on his brother's flank, being careful not to touch the wounds.

"This was supposed to be my last day exploring. My Twolegs are taking me to the vet tomorrow. Goodbye Black...Nightpaw. Claw a few of those cats for me. I know I'm going to be as lazy as Barry when I come back." Charlie purred as he slowly got up. Nightpaw helped him over the fence, purring as he watched him go inside for the last time. He let out a loud meow before heading back to Badgerfang.

"It's ok if you want to stay. No one is going to blame you. Being part of Shadowclan is a harsh yet rewarding life." Badgerfang mew as they walked back, seeing him look back at Charlie's house.

"I made my choice. And hey, now I fit in with my new battle scar. Sorry that we couldn't explore the rest of the territory." He said as he glanced at him.

"It's fine. Besides, this was an interesting day. After we get our wounds looked at, I can teach you some battle techniques, it seems you are going to need them the way you jump into fights." Badgerfang flicked his whiskers in amusement as he saw Nightpaw smiling with his chest puffed out.

Ch7 Finished 7/15

Chapter 7: Chapter 5: First Catch

Summary:

Nightpaw is still learning.

Chapter Text

As Nightpaw and Badgerfang padded through the forest, Badgerfang stopped as he scented some prey. Nightpaw stopped beside him, looking curious.

"Here is your first hunting lesson. What do you scent?" He mewed in a whisper. Nightpaw opened his mouth to drag scents over his scent glands. The scent of mouse was a fox length away. His ears pricked up as he heard the mouse eating a seed. His tail began to swish on the ground.

"Good. Now keep your tail still and raise it a bit so it's not brushing the ground and creep forward." Badgerfang put a paw on Nightpaw's swishing tail. Nightpaw nodded as he let his tail go. He watched as Nightpaw began to crept towards the mouse.

Nightpaw can see the mouse now. He kept going until he stepped on a stick, the noise alerting the mouse. He tried to chase after it but missed it when it went under the roots of a nearby tree. Nightpaw let out a frustrated growl before heading back to Badgerfang. He nearly had it, and could feel its tail when it dived into the roots.

"Did good for your first try. Now you know to keep focus on the ground. Next you need to look, scent, and listen. Remember, everyone misses a catch once in a while, even me. Now try again." Badgerfang said as he led him to a bush that they hid under. Suddenly the mouse that Nightpaw chased before climbed out and sat on the tree root. Nightpaw's eyes narrowed as he focused on it. Badgerfang whispered to stay downwind from it and use the bush for cover. He nodded as he crept backwards, keeping the bush between him and the mouse. He watched as the mouse left the root, sniffing around. He walked, being mindful of the sticks and leaves on the ground until he was blocking the mouse's hole. He checked the breeze to make sure he was still downwind, then lunged with both claws out, throwing the mouse into the air to stun it before giving it a killing bite.

"Well done. Now we give thanks to Starclan for the prey. Starclan is our ancestors who watch over us. Come, I will explain it on the way." Badgerfang mewed as he got out of the bush.

Nightpaw grabbed his fresh kill as he listened to Badgerfang explain the warrior code, Starclan and Silverpelt. The sun was low in the sky as they reached the thorn tunnel. Heading inside, Badgerfang told him to put it on the fresh kill pile and then to grab something to eat.

Nightpaw saw the other apprentices sitting near the apprentice den talking to each other. His eyes narrowed as he saw Turtlepaw with the others. Sensing his stare, she turned around to see who was watching her. He quickly dropped his glance when he dropped the mouse on the pile. He twitched his whiskers when he saw Ratscar coming towards him. Ratscar stopped in front of him. *Remember to not react to anything he says*, Nightpaw thinks as he stares at him.

"Is what Fernshade says true? Did you really jump in the middle of three rogues to save a kittypet? Your brother?" His voice was low, like he was uncomfortable with what he was saying.

"Yes. I can't help where I spent my first six moons but I'm not going to be ashamed of it." Nightpaw felt like his paws were glued to the ground as he waited for Ratscar's response. Even now he could see Ratscar's surprise in his eyes and bristling fur. Before long Ratscar gave a small sigh as his fur lay flat.

"It seems I judged you too harshly. Who knew that kittypets can have warrior blood. I will be keeping a close eye on your training. Good work on the catch as well." Ratscar gave a polite nod as he grabbed Nightpaw's mouse and a black bird. Nightpaw's tail curled up as he felt happy that he got Ratscar's approval. He grabbed a frog and headed to the apprentices. Littlepaw was in the middle of telling them about the borders.

"So there I was with Clawface, Yellowfang, and Tallpoppy checking the Thunderclan border. We were remarking the border when I saw Darkstripe, Dustpaw and Mousefur. Darkstripe is Dustpaw's new mentor. Darkstripe tries to start a fight but Yellowfang is too smart for it. She has a tongue as sharp as claws. So we waited for them to make the first move as Yellowfang called him Dirtstripe. Darkstripe nearly got run over on the thunderpath if Mousefur hadn't pulled him back. Thunderclan cats aren't too bright. We waited for them to leave first, which they did. The

Windclan border wasn't as exciting since nothing happens there." Littlepaw purred as he recounted the tale.

Nightpaw sat between Wetpaw and Gulpaw, as he listened to the other apprentices. Wetpaw told them about shadow training. Nightpaw ears perked as he talked about hiding in the shadow of a tree and how to use it to ambush your enemy. To other cats, it's like you vanish and then reappear out of nowhere. It's an advanced battle tactic.

"Hey what happened to your ear, Nightpaw?" Brownpaw asks as Nightpaw was busy eating the frog.

"Oh you didn't hear? On our patrol we ran into three rogues and he jumped into the middle to protect a kittypet. Then we found out that kittypet is his brother! After the fight Badgerfang and Hopeheart sent them running back to their place. Fernshade stopped the rest of us from jumping in. He was so brave." Gulpaw excitedly mewed.

"Sounds like he is dumb to me. Surprised he only got out with a torn ear." Turtlepaw scoffed as she glared at him.

"What is your problem with me? Bet even if I fought all of those rogues you still would have a complaint. What is it you want?" Nightpaw let out a hiss as he felt the anger in him rise. Would she always look at him like he's beneath her? His tail lashed as he dug his claws into the frog. He angrily tore off another piece while he glared at her.

"Just admit that you don't really belong here. We don't need kittypets in our clan!" Turtlepaw growled with a tail lash of her own.

"Does this mean we don't belong here, Turtlepaw? Our mother is Wishflame and she is Brokenstar's sister. Which means like him we have Kittypet blood in us." Gulpaw mewed softly.

"What? No! I don't know!" She stuttered as she quickly left, heading into the den. Nightpaw's eyes widened as he realized that her hatred must be because looking at him reminds her of her bloodline.

"I will go to her. She's usually not like this, really." Gullpaw left as well. Nightpaw cleared his throat before asking about medicine cats. He just wanted the awkward silence to end.

"Medicine cats are our healers. They have a knowledge of herbs to help heal our battle wounds and they speak to Starclan. Every half moon they go to the Moonstone, which is easier for us cuz we don't have to cross any other clan's territory. It is a meeting for medicine cats only. No one but them knows what happens at the meeting. Also unlike warriors, they don't fight. They care for all cats, no matter what clan they are from." Littlepaw's voice held a tone of awe as he explained.

Nightpaw saw his expression, thinking about how important medicine cats really are. There was so much to remember. He finished eating, seeing Blackfoot coming towards them. Wondering what the deputy wanted with them, his ear twitched as he listened to the chatter between Mousepaw, Brownpaw and Gingerpaw.

"Nightpaw, Brokenstar wants to see you in his den. I assume you should at least know where that is at." Blackfoot's voice was gruff as his tail pointed to the oak tree's roots.

"Now?" Nightpaw asks. "Now if you can find the time." Blackfoot replied as he watched Nightpaw hurry to the den.

"For the rest of you, take care of the elders. Where are Turtlepaw and Gullpaw? They need to learn." Was the last thing he heard Blackfoot say as he stood in front of the den.

Seem Brokenstar scented him as he said enter. He did so, seeing that the den was dark and there was a nest in the back. There was sunlight filtering through the den which only made the shadows darker. He saw Boulder and Brokenstar sitting nearby, close to the nest. Their eyes gleamed in the darkness and he wondered if he was in trouble.

"Nightpaw. Come closer. Describe the rogues you saw to Boulder." Brokenstar had a serious tone, nearly a growl. They both were laying down with their paws tucked beneath them. Nightpaw copied them as he told Boulder about the weird collars two of the rogues were wearing.

"They called themselves Bloodclan. The molly seemed like the leader as she was ordering the other two. The molly had one eye and scars across her muzzle." Nightpaw's mew sounded loud as the other two listened in silence.

"Bloodclan you say? No, she isn't the leader. Brokenstar you need to warn the clan. I know Bloodclan because I was a part of it, grew up in it. They are not your normal rogues. The leader is Scourge and he's very deadly despite his small size. One claw is enough to kill a warrior as he has dog teeth in his claws. I've seen it which is why I left. I'm not the only one who managed to escape as Barley was part of Bloodclan too. Though he left before my mother had me. She whispered that we would escape but she got caught. It's why I never changed my name. It is the only thing I had left from my mother since her death freed me from staying in Bloodclan. I ran into Russetfur's group and the rest is history." Boulder was shaking a bit as he recounted his history.

Brokenstar's tail brushed his fur, the first time Nightpaw saw any empathy from the imposing leader.

"Did this cat tell you why they were attacking kittypets?" Brokenstar mew was gruff as if he was holding in his rage. Nightpaw only shook his head.

"Boulder, you are dismissed." Boulder nodded his head before leaving the den, memories swimming in his eyes. Nightpaw began to get nervous since it was only him left. He didn't realize how comforting it was to have another cat there. His tail tip began to twitch as Brokenstar's eyes stared into his own.

"Nightpaw, be honest. Do you wish to go back to your kittypet life? Did I make a mistake when I invited you into my clan?" Brokenstar's huge tail swished once as he stared at him like he was prey beneath his claws.

"No!" Nightpaw meowed as he jumped up. He needed to convince him that he never wanted to go back. Maybe if he told him what he left behind, he would understand. "When I saw Charlie, he was the kittypet I saved and my brother. I realized that I would become lazy like him, only able to come out when the Twolegs let me. That's what you are expecting me to say right?" He saw a flash of shock in Brokenstar's eyes as he gave a curt nod.

"Let me tell you that not all Twolegs are nice. I wasn't safe in my house. The mother Twoleg is the only reason I'm alive. She had two kits, and they would have killed me. They shaved the fur from my body, took moons before it grew all back. They once tried to feed me bad food, went to the vet for that one. Loved to shove me in a bag and toss me from up high. Also loved to swing me around til I was so dizzy I couldn't run." Nightpaw's fur was bristling as he felt a red hot rage overtake him. "I was just a toy to them. I had to leave. Couldn't take it anymore. Everyone thinks oh your life was so easy. Lay around and get fed. Not mine! Sometimes I had to go two nights because the mother wouldn't be home til then. I had to sleep with all my senses spread out in case the kits came around. Couldn't rest fully either. There was nowhere safe for me to go. I tried escaping many times but I went back cuz I didn't know anything else." He closed his eyes to calm himself down.

He jumped as he felt a tail brush his fur down. Opening his eyes, he lay back down as Brokenstar gave a rare smile.

"I see. Apparently you are gaining the Clan's respect. Keep it up. Your determination will do wonders here. Now come along, for I must address the clan." Brokenstar got up, letting Nightpaw lead the way out. Nightpaw watched as Brokenstar jumped on top of the Clanrock.

"May all those who hunt in the Shadows gather here beneath the Clanrock for a clan meeting!" Brokenstar's face was back to being an emotionless mask as he waited for the clan to gather.

Nightpaw met the apprentices questioning glances with a shrug as he sat down next to Darkflower and Stumpytail. They sat near him, waiting for the meeting to start.

"Boulder told me some concerning news about the rogues that Hopeheart's patrol ran into. Bloodclan is their name and they are very dangerous. I want all patrols to keep a lookout for any cats wearing collars that have cat and dog bones in them. We don't know exactly what they were looking for or what they wanted but they did say it isn't over. Shadowclan doesn't back down from threats and we will fight them if we have to! This wouldn't be the first time we've battled with rogues." At this the clan started to cheer for Shadowclan. Nightpaw joined in as he felt the connection and loyalty. Brokenstar let it continue for a bit before raising his tail for silence." As for the badger, she made a den just past our border but we can't let a badger settle so close near here. I want two patrols to chase her out. Blackfoot, you are in charge of that. Dismissed!" He jumped down, nodding at the clan as he saw a lot of cats heading straight to Blackfoot, hoping to get on the badger patrol.

He sighed softly, wishing he could join but of course it was too dangerous for apprentices. He saw the other apprentices get turned away too.

"Ready for your first battle training?" Badgerfang's mew made him jump since he wasn't paying attention. *How could he forget?* He thought as he followed behind Badgerfang. As he padded alongside him, he thought about the rogues. Why were they beating up his brother? Doesn't seem right since kittypets hold no threat to them. Maybe Charlie was exploring and he trespassed on their territory. How could he get Turtlepaw to be nice to him? Now he knew it was because of her own issues, he still doesn't know how to talk to her without her hissing at him.

"Ok we are here, this is the training hollow. It has soft pine needles so cats won't get hurt during training." Badgerfang said as he stopped.

Nightpaw's eyes widened as he saw who was waiting in the hollow. Runningnose greeted him with a raised tail.

"Greetings Nightpaw. Don't go too easy on me. I'm not as fragile as I look." He sat down with a glint of mischievousness in his eyes.

Small notes

I've been trying to figure out how to describe it but your writing is in present tense but the sentences are structured like it should be in past tense. For the most part when a character is directly talking to Nightpaw it's perfectly in present tense.

There's nothing wrong with this, just thought i'd let you know since I can't really directly speak with you.

If you have a discord my username is babyroxasman

But I am an adult and if you do not feel comfortable talking in DMs that is perfectly fine. Google docs lets people make comments by clicking on the right side of the page.

Ch8 Finished 7/17

Chapter 8: Chapter 6: First Fight Training

Summary:

Showing a bit of Shadowclan culture.

Nightpaw glanced at Badgerfang and Runningnose before sitting down. Maybe this is a test of some sort. See if he knew about clan culture. Good thing he asks Littlepaw about medicine cats, otherwise he would fail.

"I won't fight Runningnose. He's a medicine cat and Littlepaw told me medicine cats don't fight." He looked at them again as their whiskers twitched with amusement.

"That is correct, if this was any other clan. Unlike the others, we train even our medicine cats in warrior skills. You see, long ago there was this ThunderClan cat. She went crazy and during a half moon meeting, killed her own medicine cat for some reason. Sloefur, the ShadowClan medicine cat at the time, found his body right by the Moonstone. Anyway when Sloefur was late coming back, he told the leader at the time what happened. I forget who was the leader at the time but they felt it was best for all medicine cats to learn warrior skills." Badgerfang explained with a nod to Runningnose.

"This is so we can defend ourselves in case the camp is attacked. We do have claws too. It makes no sense not to learn since we are important to the wellbeing of our clan. Today we are just learning basic skills so it's not like you can hurt me." Runningnose went to one end of the hollow, waiting for Nightpaw to take his place.

Nightpaw went to the other end, looking at Badgerfang for instructions. Badgerfang showed him a front paw blow as he stood next to him. Nightpaw's claws were sheathed for this technique. Badgerfang had to correct his stance so his blows had power behind the hits. He had to do ten correct blows with each front paw before moving on to the next technique. Runningnose also gave him advice, knowing how hard it is for someone who never fought with techniques before. Nightpaw felt the muscles within his paws getting tiring. They rested a bit before Badgerfang showed him how to do a back kick. He watched closely, seeing Badgerfang check behind him before letting loose a kick using both back paws, balancing carefully on his front paws. He quickly got into the pose, watching his mentor check his stance, nosing a leg that wasn't right.

Badgerfang told him to close his eyes, use his whiskers, tail and ears to sense when Runningnose was behind him.

He heard Runningnose coming close, his ears moving to track him. He felt Runningnose gave his tail a nip and he let loose a back kick but fell while performing it. He opened his eyes, giving a frustrated growl before going back into the pose. Who knew that this move would be so hard. He thought as he closed his eyes again.

"Remember to use your tail for balance. It's going to take a few tries but you are doing great for your first time." Badgerfang encouraged him. He tried a few more times, managing to kick out before Runningnose nipped his tail this time. He got the sense right but fell every time. Badgerfang told him to head to a tree, and put his hind legs up on it but keep his front paws on the ground.

He did so, wondering why he was doing this. He asked and Badgerfang told him it was to get used to balancing on his front paws but with support. He nodded as he closed his eyes, using his senses as well. They were still dull due to him spending his life in a den. Yes he can sense twolegs with no issue but other cats were going to take some time. He could now recognize most of ShadowClan's scents. He opened his eyes as he used his front paws to walk while keeping his back legs in the air. Despite falling a few more times, he got used to the feeling. The sun was setting by the time he was able to pull it off. Badgerfang asks him if he thinks he could spar using just those moves. He said yes as he also wanted to test himself.

After another break, Runningnose was ready at one end of the hollow. Nightpaw faced him, his tail and whiskers showing his excitement. The only rule is no claws and the first one pinned loses. They both charged at each other when Badgerfang told them to start. He jumped over Runningnose, landing behind him as he did a front paw blow on his hind leg. Runningnose used a back kick, hitting him hard. It caused him to land a few feet from him. Shaking his head, he quickly got up. Sensing Runningnose behind him, he did a back kick of his own, feeling it hit connect. He turned around, aiming a lot of front paw blows on his head. Runningnose grinned as he dodged them, his body moving like a snake as he knocked Nightpaw off his paws. He quickly pinned him, telling him he did good against a seasoned medicine cat. Letting him up, Runningnose checked him over for any lasting bruise from the back kick. Nightpaw purred as he gave it his all. Maybe he would win if he knew more moves.

"What was that move you used to knock me off my paws?" He asks Runningnose, respect glowing in his eyes.

"An advanced move that you will learn one day. Don't try to rush ahead of yourself." Runningnose eyes twinkle as they clean their pelts.

"Remember that you just started. Don't worry, for I will teach you all our techniques and soon no one will be able to battle you without wounds." Badgerfang adds as they start to head back to camp.

Nightpaw purred at that as he saw the patrols looking at something on the ground. Blackfoot was stabbing at something while talking to the two badger patrols. Weird as he thought they would have left by now.

"Badger wasn't there. So now Blackfoot is getting the patrols to search for traces of the badger to make sure it's not coming back. Yellowfang is one of our best trackers so she is in charge of one while Swampcloud is in charge of the other." Volewhisper said to Badgerfang as they went to the prey pile.

"So can apprentices join or is it still too dangerous?" Nightpaw asked with a hopeful gleam in his eyes.

"Sorry but no. You just only learnt two fighting moves and none will help against a badger. Besides, you need to rest." Badgerfang said with a frown. Runningnose gave a nod.

"Also I believe someone wants to talk to you alone." Runningnose said as his tail pointed to Turtlepaw who was watching them from afar. Nightpaw grabbed a mouse before heading to her. He saw Runningnose head to the medicine den while Badgerfang went to talk to Blossomsky and Tallpoppy.

Putting the mouse down, he asks if she wants to share. Her eyes widened before giving a small nod. He stepped back to give her first bite before digging in himself. His ear twitched as he heard her paws shuffling in nervousness.

"I'm sorry for the way I've been towards you. Can we start over?" Turtlepaw mewed softly. Nightpaw gave a smile as he nodded.

"Sure. I learnt two battle moves so was wondering if we could practice together some time?" Nightpaw meowed as they finished the mouse.

"That would be nice. But don't think I will go easy on you." She let out a playful hiss with her eyes narrowed.

"I wouldn't want it any other way." Nightpaw mewed with a small purr.

They watched as the two patrols left camp and Blackfoot came towards them. Turtlepaw, why don't you show Nightpaw where to get fresh moss. It's something he needs to learn since one of apprentices' jobs is taking care of nests. It's nice that you two are finally getting along." Blackfoot left them as a border patrol led by Cinderfur came in. He excused himself as they rushed to him.

"We found pieces of prey near the Windclan border. Seems like they are stealing prey again. We need to teach them a lesson since they didn't learn last time." Cinderfur growled as he paced back and forth.

"We will teach them as many times as we need to." Russetfur hiss with her tail lashing.

"No one steals from Shadowclan and gets away from it." Blossomsky growled softly.

Turtlepaw brushed her tail on Nightpaw's side to get his attention. He wished he could be in a fight against the other clans. Sighing, he followed Turtlepaw outside the camp.

As she explained how to claw the moss off without getting splinters, he went to the moss to try. He could see how this too was a form of training, learning how to control clawing instead of going all out. If he clawed carelessly, then the moss would be full of splinters. He stopped as he got a good amount. Turtlepaw went to the pile, getting the splinters out.

"Good for your first try. We can give this to Runningnose as he uses moss as well." Turtlepaw looked over at Nightpaw as he went to the pile to get the splinters out as well. They worked together in silence, rolling the moss into a ball and tucking it under their chin.

After they gave the moss to Runningnose, Nightpaw saw Nightpelt motioning to him to join him as the other elders were asleep. The moon was rising as he went to see what the elder wanted from him. They went to the elder, who asked them how they liked the training. Turtlepaw says her training seems to be tough due to Mossclaw's stern ways. Nightpaw says Badgerfang seemed a bit softer but maybe it was due to him. But he does make sure he learns from his mistakes, and he learns how to stop expecting to be good right away. Nightpelt purred as he heard that, saying they had good mentors and their differences were due to their apprentices' rivalry. He then told them that he was Brokenstar's mentor when he was younger. Before he could continue, Clawface came up, saying he wasn't that old. Nightpelt gave him a hearty bump with his head, saying he's not as young as he was. Nightpaw watched this with interest since Clawface didn't look like he would be friendly to elders.

"You seem surprised, Nightpaw. Nightpelt here is my brother. Bet you didn't think someone like him was related to me." He gave a throaty purr as he bopped Nightpelt on the head with a paw.

"I heard about what you did for your brother. I can respect a cat who is fearless like that. Unlike the other clans who hate fighting, we love it. It's what makes ShadowClan so great. I'm going to head out for some night hunting, see ya Nightpelt. I'll bring you a mouse since I know it's your favorite." Clawface bumped his head into Nightpelt's side before leaving the camp.

"Can you explain the other Clans to me? I want to know what's so different between them. Aren't we all cats? I know this sounds dumb but why can't we get along?" Nightpaw mewed softly while looking at Nightpelt with confusion.

"I've only heard about WindClan. They are scrawny but very agile cats who live on the moors. As a kit, I remember seeing Whitethroat bearing a lot of cuts on his body after fighting them." Turtlepaw meows as she looks at Nightpelt, wondering if she was right.

Nightpelt lay down, letting them know to get comfortable. They glance at each other before copying him.

"You would be right about WindClan but that isn't all. They are faster than the prey they catch, which is rabbits. Tallstar seems like an okay leader even if he doesn't know what his clan is doing half the time. That's how they get away with prey stealing. Always stealing mice and birds, never lizards or frogs. Otherwise they would get caught by Deadfoot, their deputy. Those rabbit munchers smell like their home and the prey they eat so we can always tell when they are on our side of the border. We have no rabbits in our marsh. They strike fast and hard in battle, so always keep an eye on them. Don't give them any room to run, otherwise you will lose the fight. Fighting on the moors is hard but we have counters. You will learn that much later." Nightpelt made sure they were listening closely before continuing.

"We don't need to worry about RiverClan. I heard that due to the rogues, you never saw our territory. Shame that is. Badgerfang needs to hurry up with that. Won't do any good if you get lost on our own territory. Mossclaw did right by you, Turtlepaw." He started to have a small coughing fit.

"Sorry about that. My old sickness is acting up again." Nightpelt said as it finally stopped.

"We don't know much about RiverClan except what is shown during gatherings. They can swim and smell of fish. I often overhear them bragging about what shells they collect. Due to not sharing a border, all we know is they live on the river. Crookedstar is the leader and despite his appearance, he seems like a good leader. RiverClan seems happy and content. Unless they are near ThunderClan. Always meowing about some rocks that they fight over. Which is what I overhear. Us cats with black pelts are great at overhearing things." He gave a throaty purr.

"Last is ThunderClan. Out of all the clans, they like to think of themselves as the heroes of the forest for some reason. It is thanks to the Thunderpath that we rarely fight them or have anything to do with them. They are so prideful and so easy to rile up, just insult them. They hide in the undergrowth of their forest so be prepared to get a surprise attack. Bluestar is the exception as she always seems calm, cool and collected. Tigerclaw is a notable warrior since he is a fierce fighter. Many of our warriors have been in the medicine den due to his claws. Heard they have taken in a kittypet too but he doesn't have the fire burning in his heart like you. After all you fought to join us, something we respect a lot. It also helps that you didn't wear a collar. Anyway that's all for now, thanks for listening to me. Come visit again some time. I will be sure to have other tidbits of information later." Nightpelt let out a yawn as he got up. He purred as he saw them yawning as well.

They gave a nod before shuffling off to the apprentice den. Looking inside, he noticed that only Gullpaw, Littlepaw, Mousepaw and Gingerpaw were asleep. The information he got rolled around in his mind and he barely said goodnight to Turtlepaw before laying in his nest. There were so many different Clans and they seemed so tough. Cats that could run faster than rabbits. Cats that could swim. And cats that hide in undergrowth. He never knew that the forest he looked out at had so much happening in them. He slowly fell asleep, hoping he could keep up in his new fast-paced life.

Ch9 Finished 8/18

Chapter 9: Chapter 7: Meeting Tigerclaw

Summary:

Nightpaw is exploring the rest of the territory and meets Tigerclaw.

Nightpaw slowly woke up without anyone waking him up this time. That's how he realized that slowly he was getting used to the clan life. He looked around, seeing the other apprentices still sleeping. Seeing Brownpaw and Wetpaw, he wondered where they were last night. He padded out of the apprentices' den, blinking in the dawn light that shone down on the camp. He wondered what he could do when he saw Blackfoot leave the warrior's den.

"You're up early. That's what we like to see. You can join us on the dawn patrol. Get something to eat as I wake the others." Blackfoot meowed as he went back inside.

Nightpaw saw that the prey pile was low so he chose a small mouse so that the elders and queens could get a better meal when they woke up. He finished it by the time Blackfoot walked back out, followed by Badgerfang, Whitethroat and Darkflower. He saw a flash of confusion when Badgerfang saw him. They quickly left, nodding to Ratscar who was on guard duty. Ratscar went to sleep since a patrol was out. They walked past the marsh and twolegplace that he saw before. Badgerfang whispered to him that Blackfoot was marking the border so they knew not to come over here. Blackfoot looked over at him, asking if he smelled those rogues from before. Opening his mouth, he did but the scent was old. He told him and blackfoot smiled, saying he was correct. His tail curled up as he realized he passed the small test.

They walk away from the twolegplace towards a tree that is farther in the territory. The tree is huge, looking like it had been struck by lightning.

"This is the burnt sycamore. This is where we learn how to hunt at night, learning how to climb trees without being seen and hiding in the shadows. We also learn how to walk silently." Badgerfang mew softly as they pass it by.

Darkflower shushed them as Whitethroat noticed a mouse. He caught it by slowly creeping up to it. Nightpaw's ears stretched out when he realized that he couldn't hear Whitethroat's pawsteps. How do they move so quietly, he wondered to himself. Whitethroat buried it and they moved on.

"So Nightpaw, how are you liking ShadowClan?" Darkflower slowed down till she was next to him.

"The training is tough but rewarding. Never knew there were so many rules. I still don't understand most of it but I'm going to try my best. Why do you believe in Starclan? I don't understand that. The rest is because it is logical." Nightpaw's whiskers twitched as he looked over at her from the corner of his eyes.

"Of course you wouldn't understand, being a kittypet." Her mew wasn't harsh but full of understanding.

"Starclan watches over us and we do see proof because our leaders get nine lives from them."

"Nine lives? But that is a tall tale that my mother told me when I was a kit. I even heard Twolegs say that." His eyes widened incredulously, hoping that she would say that she was pulling his leg. She shook her head in response.

"It's true. No one knows what goes on when a leader gets their lives. Maybe you will believe it when you see it." Badgerfang interjected as they walked.

"Are we on a border patrol or a walk? You guys chitter like elders. Hurry up." Whitethroat mewed with a shake of his head. That is when they realized that both Blackfoot and Whitethroat were waiting for them to catch up. They gave a small purr before running to catch up.

They walked through a belt of trees that weren't just pines. His ears flicked up when he heard a distant roaring sound. Soon they come upon a hard surface, where Badgerfang uses his tail to block Nightpaw from walking on it.

"Careful Nightpaw, this is the Thunderpath. Cats have died on it before due to the monsters that-" Before he finished speaking, another roaring sound came from the left.

Nightpaw shivered as the monster passed, throwing up dirt from their round black paws. He let out a mew of alarm as the monster was big enough to crush a cat under them and it didn't seem to slow down either. He smelt a scent of burning stone that the monster had left behind.

"Oh look at the kittypet cowering before the monster." A jeering voice sounded from across the Thunderpath.

Looking across, he saw a pale brown tabby tom, a small black tom and a big dark brown tom watching them. His eyes narrowed as Blackfoot stood in front of him. He smoothed down his fur as he looked at them.

"Longtail, Tigerclaw and Ravenpaw. Tigerclaw is mentor to Ravenpaw." Whitethroat mew softly to him.

"Hello Tigerclaw. How's the prey running?" Blackfoot mewed as Whitethroat went to mark the border.

"Prey is running well. Guessing that is the new apprentice? Scrawny little thing ain't he?" Tigerclaw's mew was deep and polite. He licked his left paw to clean his ear, showing off his claws.

Nightpaw saw those claws, and his eyes narrowed. Clearly he was threatening them. Despite his friendly tone. He knows of cats in his past who did this to him during his escapes. He remembered a white fluffy tom who wasn't as nice as he looked. He is not going to fall for it again.

"My name is Nightpaw. I may be small now but that doesn't mean I won't grow." He meowed while keeping his temper. His tail tip's fur bristled despite his efforts. Badgerfang sat down next

to him with a smirk. He is proving himself to the ThunderClan cats. He even ignored Longtail's comment, acting like he doesn't exist. Just like how he dealt with bullies in Twolegplace.

"Nice to meet you, Nightpaw." Ravenpaw's voice shook a bit while he glanced at his mentor.

"Nice to meet you too." Nightpaw replied with a kind mew. He liked meeting other apprentices, wondering about their training. Though he knows he can't ask due to the way Tigerclaw is glaring at him. He looked a bit confused at the hatred coming out of Tigerclaw's amber eyes. Maybe he has something against ShadowClan. He did notice the scars on Tigerclaw's nose and ear, hoping it was one of his clanmates who did it.

Tigerclaw nodded before leaving as Longtail finished marking their border. Blackfoot waited for a few minutes to make sure the Thunderclan patrol was gone. Without a word, Blackfoot walked until the Thunderclan border could no longer be seen. The ground fell away into a deep cleft that became a tunnel. Two sides are lined with squared off stones.

"This tunnel is a ShadowClan secret. ThunderClan doesn't know about this tunnel. It leads to the other side. This is also how we get to the gathering. If we don't go across the ThunderClan border, it is still ShadowClan land all the way to fourtrees." Blackfoot meowed with a flick of his tail. Blackfoot led the way back into the forest. They walk a long way until Nightpaw realizes he didn't see the twolegplace anymore. The twoleg dens faded into trees as Blackfoot led them to another tunnel.

"This is the WindClan tunnel. Unlike ThunderClan, they do know about this tunnel. They often go through it to steal our prey. And we teach them a lesson every time. No one steals from us and gets away with it. Tell me what do you smell?" Badgerfang mewed as he padded next to him. Before he could answer, Blackfoot raised his tail to halt the patrol. There were clumps of long marshy grass nearby where they hid in. That is when he heard pawsteps coming through the tunnel. Blackfoot's tail lashed as the WindClan cats came out the tunnel. They walk a few tail lengths before stopping.

"Careful Cloudburrower, I smell ShadowClan nearby." A brown mottled tom mew softly.

"As you should." Blackfoot jumped out in front of them with a flick of his tail. Badgerfang was behind them with Nightpaw next to him. Darkflower and Whitethroat were on their other side. Too late they saw that they were surrounded. Nightpaw glared as his claws were unsheathed, his fur bristling.

"Mudclaw, Cloudburrow. Why are you trespassing on ShadowClan territory?" Blackfoot's mew was harsh, his tail lashing.

"We don't have to explain anything to you." Mudclaw growled as he launched himself at Blackfoot.

Nightpaw let out a loud hiss as he leaped at Cloudburrow with Badgerfang at his side. He did a front paw blow which Cloudburrow dodged, clawing his side. Badgerfang pushed him out the way before it hit, taking it himself. Pretty soon he saw Mudclaw being overrun by the others and letting out a shriek before running away. Badgerfang bit Cloudburrow's paw before he too ran back into the tunnel. It was only thanks to Badgerfang that he didn't take any hits.

"The thing you need to know about WindClan is that they are quick to retreat." Darkflower purred as she licked the light scratches she got. He peered into the tunnel, seeing it was smaller than the other one. ShadowClan is so much stronger than the other clans. He purred as well as Blackfoot marked the border. Whitethroat went back to pick up the prey he caught as they licked their wounds clean.

"We need to report this to Brokenstar." Blackfoot mew as he licked his pelt clean of blood. They ran back to camp, going through the tunnel in such a rush that they nearly ran into another patrol that was leaving.

"Brokenstar. We found out who is stealing our prey." Blackfoot yowled as Brokenstar came out of his den. The other cats came out of their dens, surrounding the patrol. Soon he saw Runningnose coming towards them, checking them out. He took off the wrap around Nightpaw's ear, saying it doesn't need any more herbs. Nightpaw nodded at him as he listened to Blackfoot's report.

After he finished, Brokenstar seemed to be in deep thought. "I want eyes on that border. If you see any WindClan cats, just follow them. See what they do. Also want eyes on their camp. Flintfang, I want you to lead one patrol at night. Ratscar and Mintshade will be with you. The rest will be lookouts in shifts. We still need hunting patrols so I will lead one, dismissed." Brokenstar had a clever glint in his orange eyes as he took Blossomsky, Volewhisper, and Tallpoppy. The patrol who was going out decided to wait until Blackfoot assigned who was going to be lookout.

"Yellowfang, and Tangleburr. You two will hide in the grass near the tunnel. I want all mentors to teach the apprentices the quiet step. Seems we are going to need to speed up their training. Newtspeck, take your patrol towards Carrionplace. We need to make sure to thin the rats so they won't be a future problem." Blackfoot gave a nod as the rest of the camp started the day. He overheard mumbblings of if it wasn't for WindClan, they would still be asleep. He also sent out two more hunting patrols since the prey pile only had enough for elders and queens.

He saw Blackfoot grabbing some prey to give to the elders. He didn't know the deputy also does apprentice duties. He asks Badgerfang what he should be doing.

"Wake up Gullpaw, Turtlepaw, Mousepaw and Gingerpaw. The other three apprentices have been training late into the night so they need their sleep." Badgerfang told him while Runningnose started to put cobwebs on his cuts. He already finished with Darkflower and Whitethroat. He barely got scratch due to Badgerfang covering him so he was all set. He went into the den, prodding Gullpaw with a paw since she was close to the entrance.

"Gullpaw. Get up. We need to train." He mew softly, trying not to wake Littlepaw since was close to her.

After seeing her open her eyes, he then went to wake Gingerpaw. Due to his mews from waking Gullpaw, he saw that Mousepaw was already awake. Gingerpaw let out a yawn as her eyes opened. He had to pad carefully so he didn't step on Wetpaw's tail. Turtlepaw let out a small snore as he reached her. He gave her a bonk to wake her, expecting her to be as hard to wake as her sister. She quickly got up, hissing as she thought she was under attack.

"Sorry but we got training." Nightpaw whispered as he led the way outside. The others were cleaning themselves as Badgerfang was explaining what they had to do. One of the hunting patrols came back while he was explaining so everyone but Nightpaw grabbed something to eat.

"Nightpaw, would you like to share this blackbird?" Gullpaw asks. She was sharing with Turtlepaw and saw he didn't grab anything. He shook his head since he ate earlier. Soon Brokenstar came back with a lot of prey, placing it down he nodded at his patrol before grabbing Blackfoot to talk to him. The rest of the patrol went to the warriors den to sleep.

Nightpaw tried creeping to listen in when Gingerpaw stepped on his tail to stop him.

"Wouldn't do that if I was you. Never thought you were the nosy type. Besides, it's just boring clan stuff. Anyway, tell us what happened on your patrol." She mewed as she let him go.

He saw the others looking at him with interest in their eyes. He felt hot under his fur due to being the center of attention. *Is this how my brother felt?*, he thought, remembering how popular Charlie was.

"Nothing much happened until we got to the ThunderClan border. The Thunderpath is very scary and loud. We met a ThunderClan patrol. Longtail, Tigerclaw and Ravenpaw." His claws slid out as he remembered Longtail's jeer. The others glanced at each other as they noticed this. Shaking his head, he continued. "Anyway Blackfoot and Tigerclaw were polite to each other. Is Ravenpaw a warrior's apprentice? He didn't act like it. Never saw an apprentice look so scared before. Anyway, since nothing happened there, we went to the WindClan border. Mudclaw came through the tunnel with Cloudburrow and we ambushed them. Badgerfang pushed me aside and fought with Cloudburrow while Blackfoot took on Mudclaw with Darkflower. Whitethroat also helped with Cloudburrow and the fight was over due to us outnumbering them. They ran back home."

"So that's why everyone is up so early." mewed Mousepaw as they finished eating.

Applefur led them to the burnt sycamore. The other mentors were beside them. Applefur stopped in front of it, telling them to try their best to walk softly without stepping on the sticks or making any noise. The other mentors climbed the tree to claw some bark and sticks from it. They littered the ground and the mentors began to put them in strategic places. They went off to the

other side and called an apprentice's name. Gullpaw was first. She had to get to the mentors who were waiting a fox length away. Gullpaw stepped on a bunch of them at first until she was halfway. She then used her tail to move some sticks but it still made noise. She winced as she wasn't expecting it to make noise when she reached the end. Nightpaw was next. He looked over at the place, knowing it was the worst because Gullpaw moved some and broke some sticks apart. He carefully jumped towards the tree as he saw a spot that was clear due to Gullpaw. Ok so now he needs to find another place to leap. If he steps anywhere, he is going to make noise. But he couldn't just stay here. That's when an idea hit him. He glanced up at the tree, noticing where the bark wouldn't fall away due to his climbing. He jumped as high as he could into the tree, making sure he got a strong grip. They never said he couldn't climb the tree. He got on the first branch and noticed that the mentor's eyes were wide. Always think outside the box. It is how he survived his months in the house. Whenever the kits thought they had him, he always managed to outsmart them in some way. He jumped down as far as he could but his back paw hit one before he managed to land clear. He let out a hiss of frustration.

"Well that was something I didn't expect. Nearly did good but you completely failed. The trial was to walk. Not climb. Now you will be going again but last." Fernshade said with a shake of her head.

He knew better than to argue so he just lash his tail. Badgerfang lay his tail on his shoulder but he shrugged it off. He didn't want pity right now. He watched Gingerpaw do it next. Since they saw him fail, the others knew not to do what he did. Gingerpaw was more patient than Gullpaw so she didn't step on as many as she did. She also didn't move any with her tail since they saw that it also made noise. Her tail curled up since she knew she did the best she could as she made it to the end. She sat on the other side of Gullpaw. Gullpaw congratulates her as Nightpaw just let out a grunt as he went back to the other side by walking around the practice area. Mousepaw, like her name implied, took many small steps in order to not make noise. She took longer than the other two but she breathed a sigh of relief when she made it. Turtlepaw gave a small encouraging nod to Nightpaw before she started. She got into her stalking pose. Nightpaw's eyes flash as he remembered that stalking was the answer. They rarely make noise because they don't want to scare off the prey. He watched as she slid around the bark pieces and sticks. Her paws made small movements so she didn't have to put her whole weight on them. But she is also impatient and ran the last few tail lengths. She would have passed if she had kept her patience. Or maybe it was because of her nerves failing. He did notice her movements were shaky as she continued.

Looking across, he now sees why being last is the worst place to be. The area was more messy due to everyone else crossing it and the small clearing he had before is gone. He doesn't have to be perfect. He just needs to try. No shame in failing. These thoughts ran through his head as

he closed his eyes to calm down. He can feel his fur burning as the others are staring at him. Opening his eyes, he also got into his stalking pose. He did remember the snake-like movement Runningnose did in the fight and tried his best to copy it. He didn't jump but narrowed his eyes to see small spots where he could put his paws. He was smaller than the others and hoped he could use his small size as an advantage. He slowly padded forward, having his whiskers constantly twitching to see where to go next. He winced as he stepped on a bark piece but kept his patience unlike Turtlepaw. He slowly lifted one paw and was about to put it down when he noticed the wind was blowing. That cleared some space up so he knew it was pure luck as he finished. He did better than Turtlepaw but only because he saw everyone else trying first and it was much harder.

"Nice try everyone. Did you get the feeling of moving silently? I want you to remember that feeling since it is important. As you saw, Nightpaw failed as he didn't count his claws making noise into the tree. Everyone would have seen and heard him climbing. Turtlepaw nearly had it. I'm surprised no one else thought of the stalking pose but that is why this is a training exercise. You are here to learn. To move silently, get into a stalking pose. Be aware of everything. Branches, sticks, and the wind. If you find your way blocked, try another way." Mossclaw was demonstrating as he moved perfectly between the sticks and bark. "Also remember to keep your weight in mind." He went low and slid across the ground, his fur muffling the sound of the sticks and bark. In the grass, he would be completely silent.

The apprentices' eyes widened as they all got into their stalking poses. Each mentor corrected them when they made a mistake. They spent the day learning how to move. Soon they each went across, improving how they did it before. They asked questions and got answers on improving even more. Soon their mentors told them to always practice, even when hunting. They told them to go hunt some lizards and frogs since they are hard to sneak up on. Mousepaw and Gullpaw went towards the marsh while Gingerpaw went on her own. Turtlepaw also left on her own. Their mentors went with them. The marsh is huge so Nightpaw went to the other side and hid behind a tree that was close to it. Peeking his head out, he saw a big one leaping towards a fallen log. Remembering his lessons, he crept close to it. Before the frog noticed him, he jumped on it with his claws out. He grabbed a leg since it was hard to carry otherwise due to the frog skin. He is getting used to living here. His ear twitched as he heard Badgerfang coming towards him.

"Nice catch. You are learning well." He said with a purr as they walked together.

"I have a great mentor." He replied out the side of his mouth.

"I notice that you are getting more patient. Need to get over your fear but that will come in due time. There's no rush." Badgerfang looked at him out of the corner of his eyes. Nightpaw's can

feel his anger rising beneath his fur. He flicked an ear before he purred as he saw his friends also had frogs and lizards.

"Well done. Time to go back to camp. You all work hard today. Spend the rest of the day resting after taking care of the bedding. We will teach you about hunting at night." Hopeheart mew with a swish of her tail.

After they put their prey on the pile, they each took a corner of the camp to clean the bedding. Turtlepaw, Gingerpaw and Mousepaw took the apprentice den and warriors' den. Nightpaw went to the nursery, asking Brightflower if he could replace her bedding. She gave a nod as she went to strike up a conversation with hopeheart. Nightpaw's ear turned to listen in.

"So do you have any eyes on a mate? I know Russetfur and Deerfoot are spending time together. Same with Scorchwind and Darkflower. But you spend time with everyone." Brightflower is licking her paw to clean her ears.

"I'm just not interested right now. Besides, you know the deal. Someone has to win in a fight against me." Hopeheart smirked as she curled her tail around her paws.

"No one won yet? Thought Badgerfang came close?"

"Badgerfang just kept challenging me. He is on his seventh fight. It is adorable actually."

"I heard him talking about it too. Others had quit but not him." Brightflower looked over at the subject in question. He was curled on a stump near the elders' den, The sun was shining on it, making it a perfect nap spot. The elders were all heading outside the camp, saying they were going for a walk together.

"Maybe I should let him win." Hopeheart murmured to herself as Nightpaw finished replacing the nest.

"Your nest is ready, Brightflower." He said as he went to get rid of the dirty moss outside the camp. Brightflower thanked him as he went to do the elders. Hopeheart went to the warrior's den after they were finished.

After they finished, the apprentices all sat down, and shared tongues. The camp is somewhat empty due to the patrols being out and Nightpaw enjoyed the peace and quiet. Nightpaw told them that he was going to see if Runningnose needed any help. He wanted to do something and felt useless if he was not doing anything. Looking around, he saw Runningnose putting herbs outside to count. He didn't know why he was getting antsy but maybe it was because he was not used to peace.

"Hey Runningnose. Do you need any help? I'm not busy." Nightpaw said as he ran up to him.

"Sure. Just grab some herbs inside and bring them out here. I need to check if I need to go collect anymore." Runningnose was putting the herbs in separate piles. Nightpaw gave a nod as he went into the medicine den. He grabbed a leaf wrap that had seeds in it. He put it outside.

"So want to tell me why you feel like helping? I'm glad for the help but I'm guessing you are here with purpose." Runningnose asked as he watched Nightpaw going back and forth til all herbs were out.

"It's just too peaceful. I'm not used to peace. Besides, I need to do something, otherwise I don't feel right. I have friends but I just don't feel comfortable around them yet." Nightpaw sighed as he helped put all the herbs in a pile.

"Try to relax. You are safe here. I'm sure your friends will understand too." Runningnose said as he pawed the herbs. "Seems I'm running low on burdock roots. Those are needed for rat bites. Thanks for the help Nightpaw. Now go connect with your friends." Runningnose said as he started putting the herbs away.

Nightpaw felt better after talking to Runningnose and gave a smile. Felt like a weight lifted off of his shoulders as he went back. His tail swished as he sat next to Mousepaw.

"Hey, do you guys want to practice fighting moves? I only know two but I want to be better." Nightpaw asks as he looks at the others.

"Sure. I want to see how fast I can dodge." Gullpaw mew as she got up and stretched.

"I want to see how fast I can attack." Turtlepaw said.

"I'm going to sleep. We need to rest for night training." Mousepaw said as she looked over at Gingerpaw.

"I'm going to join you guys. That way it will be two vs two." Gingerpaw mew while Mousepaw looked a bit miffed that her sister wasn't joining her. Mousepaw went to the den while the others went close to the elders' den since there was a small space to practice.

Gingerpaw and Gullpaw began to practice dodging, while Nightpaw waited for Turtlepaw to attack him.

"I'm not going to go easy on you." Turtlepaw's eyes narrowed as she rushed at him. Nightpaw's tail waved excitedly as he waited to jump at the last second. Turtlepaw growled as she tried again. With Nightpaw back facing her, he did a back kick which hit her hard. After hearing her landing, he knew he hit too hard.

"Turtlepaw! Are you ok? I'm sorry. I really should hold back." Nightpaw ran to her, sniffing her over to make sure there was no blood.

"I'm fine." Her fur bristled as she stood back up. They saw the others looking at them with concern but she waved her tail to let them know she was fine. Nightpaw went back to his place

before facing her again. Turtlepaw didn't wait to attack as she rushed at him again. But when Nightpaw dodge, she managed to throw a paw to hit his side.

"Nice one." Nightpaw said as he winced. Her paw strike was good. They fought some more until they were all tired. They saw patrols coming back in as they practiced. Swampcloud was giving advice while they fought. Mostly on Turtlepaw's side. They decided to go for a nap since the sun was going down and they did need energy for tonight. Nightpaw fell fast asleep as the others stayed up to talk for a few minutes, going over their fighting techniques.

Ch10 Finished 8/18

Chapter 10: Chapter 8: Night Hunting

Summary:

Nightpaw learning the dangers of Shadowclan.

Nightpaw quickly woke up when he felt a hard bop on his head. He looked up into Turtlepaw's smug face.

"Not so nice to be woken up like that right?" Turtlepaw mew. There was a mischievous glint in her blue eyes as she licked a paw. He could only growl, knowing he deserved it for doing the same thing to her earlier. She left the den as he began to clean himself before leaving. Blinking his eyes, he purred as he felt the cool night air. Looking up, he saw it was moonhigh and the camp was relaxing. Brokenstar was chatting with yellowfang and scorchwind, Badgerfang was whispering to Hopeheart with his tail on her shoulder. Blackfoot was sharing tongues with Hollyflower and that is when he noticed that they kinda look alike in their body shape. Turtlepaw prodded his side to get his attention.

"Here you go. Gullpaw and Mousepaw are already out with Fernshade and Applefur." She mewed as she dropped a blackbird in front of him. She had a lizard in front of herself and began to eat as he looked to see where Gingerpaw was. He saw her with Runningnose, talking to him as she delivered some prey to him. Russetfur, Deerfoot and Tangleburr went to eat with him as Gingerpaw joined them.

"Hey Gingerpaw, are you excited for tonight?" Turtlepaw asked as she finished. Nightpaw took his time as he was busy observing the camp with one ear turned towards the conversation.

"Of course. I love learning about the differences between day and night hunting. While the other clans sleep at night, we get to explore and see things they never know about. Like how quiet owls are. At least that's what Ratscar told me." She mewed as she started to clean herself.

"Nightpaw? Are you paying attention? Hello?" Turtlepaw walked towards him as he was busy eating. He placed his tail against her mouth when she was close enough.

"You can learn a lot if you observe. Yes I'm excited as well. Besides, night hunting should be more interesting since we can't see without the moonlight. How do we sneak up on prey if they can smell us coming? The wind is cooler than the day and doesn't blow as much." Nightpaw wondered as he moved his tail.

"Very good observation Nightpaw. Maybe you got some sense in that kittypet head of yours." Swampcloud was walking by. He sat down by them. His neck fur bristles as he finishes his meal. He was going to open his mouth to respond but Gingerpaw was faster.

"Swampcloud, he has been with us for close to three days. His kittypet scent had faded by now. He was ready to die by rogues. Besides you know there are half kittypets around so knock it off! Stop being a mousebrain because it is getting tiring." She was nose to nose with him, her tail lashing.

Swampcloud looked taken aback by Gingerpaw defensiveness. He looked and saw Turtlepaw glaring at him as well. He watched as Nightpaw stood with Gingerpaw.

"I'm not going to apologize for where I was born. No cat can help with where they are born. I will do everything to prove to you and everyone that I'm not going anywhere. I will become a warrior that you would be proud of calling your clanmate." Nightpaw hiss softly so only they can hear it.

"I would be watching and waiting for you to run once it gets too tough. Bet you'll be leaving once leafbare starts. Sure it's easy to say that when the prey is running." Swampcloud gave a smirk as he walked off.

"Can't believe I'm related to him." Gingerpaw huffed as she sat down. Both Nightpaw and Turtlepaw stared at her. Noticing this, she told them that Dawncloud had another mate before Ratscar but he died fighting rats in the Carrionplace. It is also how Ratscar got his scar and patchy tail. She only knows because as a kit, she overheard them talking about it when they thought she was sleeping. So they share the same mother and at least Blossomsky is nicer.

"At least you know your parents. I was lucky to run across Charlie and that was only because he lived around the corner. This clan is a big family and I see that now." Nightpaw's mew is bitter as he went to get rid of the bones of his meal. Badgerfang came towards them, telling them it was time as Nightpaw returned.

They walk through the thorn tunnel, seeing Flintfang's patrol ahead of them. Soon they stopped at the marsh as Flintfang's patrol continued to the Windclan tunnel.

"As you can tell, it's going to be harder to hunt at night. Can anyone tell me why that is?" Badgerfang mew as an owl hooted.

"Because we aren't the only ones hunting? Don't owls eat mice too? Also foxes and badgers are night creatures as well. " Nightpaw asked as he glanced at the others.

"The wind barely blows at night compared to day. Also it is dark." Turtlepaw said as she noticed this with her whiskers twitching.

"There is not enough prey that is awake at night too. Aren't they all sleeping?" Gingerpaw mew with a shrug.

"All correct. So now I'm going to show you a ShadowClan secret." Badgerfang went towards the marsh water and ducked until it covered him to his shoulders. Nightpaw frowned as he realized he could only smell the marsh now.

"Disguising our scents works wonders during night hunts. As you can scent, you can no longer smell Badgerfang. Now all of you do the same." Hopeheart mew. Her whiskers twitched in amusement as she saw the expressions on the apprentices.

Nightpaw could feel the muck touch his belly as he walked deeper until he was covered. Looking at Gingerpaw, he saw she had a look of disgust on her face. Same with Turtlepaw on

his other side. He was still scared of getting stuck but he went to the shallow end. After getting out, he was not looking forward to cleaning himself.

"Now remember to keep your senses alert as you hunt. Try your best." Mossclaw mew as they begin to go hunt. Turtlepaw ran towards the ThunderClan border with Mossclaw.

"Bet you I get way more prey than you!" She shouted as she ran.

She won't be catching anything with how much noise she is making. He thought to himself as he opened his mouth to catch a scent. The wind was barely blowing and with everyone all muddy, he couldn't scent anything. Maybe I need to go to the burnt sycamore. As he began to pad away, he felt a paw prodding him.

"Want to hunt together? Since it is easier with two?" Gingerpaw asked when he looked at her. He looked over at Badgerfang and he told them they never said that they have to be alone.

"Sure. Do you know any good hunting spots? I was thinking the burnt sycamore but I'm not sure. Maybe the Carrionplace but I heard there were rats there and it is dangerous." Nightpaw mewed as she began to lead the way.

"The marsh is the hardest since frogs and lizards won't be out. Maybe we can scent something far from the marsh. With Turtlepaw at the ThunderClan border, we can go to the WindClan tunnel. Or near it since there are cats switching out with the guards. Twolegplace is good too cuz Kittypets won't be out at night." Gingerpaw said as Nightpaw walked by her side.

Soon they smelt a mouse hiding in the grass. With a flick of her tail, she told him to circle around to block its escape. The mouse had no idea cuz of their disguises, thought Nightpaw as they crept up using the quiet step they learnt earlier. Soon Gingerpaw launched herself forward but an owl managed to grab her in midair.

"Gingerpaw!" Nightpaw yelled as they ran after the owl. Hopeheart launched herself in the air but fell short. Gingerpaw let out a wail as the owl's claws held her tighter, flying up slowly due to

the weight. Badgerfang launched himself and managed to grab her front paws. The owl lowered itself more due to the increase of weight.

"Nightpaw, aim for the wings." Hopeheart hissed as she jumped for the body. Nightpaw nodded as he jumped on one wing. With their combined weight, the owl fell to the ground. Nightpaw aimed a bite to one wing while Badgerfang managed to claw the face. Hopeheart did a killing bite and soon the talon released Gingerpaw. There were holes where the claws dug into her flanks and she was breathing hard. Blood was pooling under her body. Hopeheart put Gingerpaw on her back as they ran to camp.

"Runningnose!" Badgerfang called out as they came through the tunnel. Dawncloud let out a wail as she saw the state of her daughter. She rushed to her side, licking her when Runningnose came up and told them to put her in the medicine den. He kicked Dawncloud out so he could focus on saving her. Dawncloud was pacing back and forth. Even hissing at Swampcloud when he tried to lead her away. Swampcloud just sat nearby while she continued pacing.

Please be okay. It was so stupid. Of course owls would be up at night. I even said it. Nightpaw thought to himself, feeling guilty as he waited close to the medicine den. He should have been looking up. Time seemed to move slowly until Runningnose came out.

"She made it but she won't be doing anything until those wounds heal. I will give her at least a moon." Runningnose nodded at Dawncloud as she rushed inside. Nightpaw watched as both Blossomsky and Swampcloud went inside as well. A prick was felt in his heart as he watched her family gather.

The camp mood was somber as he left. He first went to a stream to wash the muck off of him. He made sure no one saw him leave as he went back to the owl's body. With a loud growl, he attacked the body, clawing until there was nothing left. This is all your fault! Everything was going fine until you had to mess everything up! was all that was playing in his head. He didn't know how long he was out there but he was breathing heavily as his rage left him feeling worn out.

"Feeling better?" A deep voice mewed as he froze. Looking behind him, he saw Brokenstar watching him with his tail curl around his paws. He peered into his eyes, looking for some judgement but there was none.

"I...yes." was all Nightpaw could get out as he looked at the ground. There was nothing he could say and it was made clear Brokenstar already knew why he was here.

"You have the same anger I had in my youth." The sun was slowly peeking out from the horizon as Brokenstar spoke.

"What do I do?" Nightpaw mew softly as he look at him. Brokenstar walked until he sat next to him.

"Channel it for the good of the clan. That rage can be a good thing but it also can lead you down a path of darkness. I should know for I step on that line. And it was very hard to hold back. My father died due to a WindClan patrol. Next time I saw that cat, I had him under my claws." At this Brokenstar swiped his paw with his claws extended. Nightpaw eyes widened as he saw how long those claws were.

"I didn't care for the code and all I could hear was my father's voice telling me to do it. But I didn't. It was the hardest thing to let him go." Brokenstar mew is soft.

"Did you regret it? If you don't mind me asking?" Nightpaw's glance at him, seeing the memories swimming in his orange eyes. Brokenstar was watching the sun rise.

"Do you regret lashing at the owl's body?" He asks with an ear twitch. "Even now I wonder. You should wash that blood off and get some sleep." Brokenstar's mew was brisk and Nightpaw realized that was the cat under the mask. He pushed his nose into Brokenstar's side for a second to let him know that he won't ever tell anyone about this. He gave a small smile in return as Nightpaw pad slowly back to the camp. At least he now knows he isn't the only one with anger issues. He looked back, seeing Brokenstar's silhouette against the sky.

Ch12

Chapter 11: Chapter 9: Used to life in Shadowclan

He heard the mouse's heart beat in his ear fur as he slowly crept from the bramble bush. He tensed his muscles to pounce, jumping only when he was close enough. He threw the mouse in the air to stun it before giving it the killing bite. Gingerpaw's favorite prey is mouse so he wanted to get it for her. It had been two moons since the owl attack yet she was still afraid of the night. He doesn't blame her either as it must be hard healing after the attack. Runningnose made her do stretches and walk around the camp for healing. There are still signs of where the claws held her. All the apprentices visit her but he visited her the most due to his guilt even though Dawncloud told him it wasn't his fault. His ears pricked as he heard a bird caw from above. He purred as his senses have been awakened to the wild since he joined Shadowclan.

After burying the fresh kill under the leaves, his ears pricked as he heard a monster on the Thunderpath. As the wind blew, he shivered as the wind was brisk. He could imagine Swampcloud's smug face as the days go by. He is not going to let him think he will quit just because it gets cold and hard to find food. He was hunting on his own as Badgerfang wanted to see how well he does by himself. He has until sundown but he already caught two fresh kill. He can relax for a bit. He went to the marsh first to grab a toad, and now he got the mouse. The sun was shining down on a patch of grass so he decided to lie on it, purring at the warmth on his belly. He was close to the Thunderpath behind a bush. His ears pricked as he heard pawsteps coming towards him. He quickly rolled as a grunt sounded.

"Got to be faster than that, Brownpaw!" He gloated as he tussled with him, getting a few good paw swipes in. Brownpaw kicked him off before launching at him again.

" Bet no one can call you a soft kittypet now! Those strikes hurt. Bet they would hurt more with your claws out. Would hate to be your enemy." Brownpaw purred as he gave some paw strikes of his own.

Nightpaw purr as they separate, cleaning the dirt from their pelts. Brownpaw may be older but he just can't get the quiet steps down. It is why he could hear him coming.

"So why are you here? Were you searching for me?" Nightpaw asked as he waited for an answer.

"Well you remember how we found out WindClan had visitors which is why they were stealing prey? Stumpytail told me to go tell Blackfoot that we found a badger walking towards the burnt sycamore due to them chasing it towards us. We actually watch them do it too. Seems they think our territory is for their waste." He snarled as his tail lashed. "Stumpytail is waiting for back up so I got to go!" Brownpaw ran off towards the camp.

That Brownpaw is so forgetful. He thought to himself as he lay back down, peering through the bush that lined the Thunderpath. He can see the Thunderclan border on the other side clearly.

His eyes widened as he saw a ginger tom step out from the other side. What was that mouse brain doing? He quickly got up, stepping closer to the bush as the tom put a paw on the thunderpath and heard a loud meow yelling Firepaw before a monster came through. Did he lose his paw? He closed his eyes to guard against the fierce wind that the monster brought up. Opening them, he strained all senses to the other side. He sighed in relief as he saw the ginger tom whole and alive on the other side. They met each other's eyes and stared at each other for a few minutes. He blink slowly before seeing Firepaw run back into the forest. That was Firepaw? The one who was also a kittypet who joined a clan.

He looked around to make sure no one saw him as he quickly ran across. He did want to talk to Firepaw since they were both outsiders. Sure he was accepted by most of his clan and they seem to like him. It's just mostly Swampcloud that seemed to have an issue with him. He liked to act like nothing affects him but Swampcloud's taunts do get to him. Deep down he does feel like what Swampcloud says does make sense. Every time it snowed, he never went out due to how cold it was. He was only locked out once but remembered how cold he was when he realized the door was closed and there was no way back inside. Now he is being watched as the seasons pass, wondering if he was going to run away once it snowed. As he crossed the border, he rolled in the Thunderclan scent markers to mask his scent. He quickly ran into the undergrowth, hissing softly when he felt the thorns in his fur. How do these Thunderclan cats ever move around when there were so many bushes and stuff to get tangled in? Already he was missing his territory as he opened his mouth to scent Firepaw. He stopped moving as he heard warriors coming towards the border, closing his eyes to hide. These cats are loud, how exactly do they sneak up on prey? He wondered as he kept completely still.

"You know what to do, Darkstripe." A familiar mew sounded as he crouched there. Tigerclaw sounded calm.

"Of course Tigerclaw. Be back before the kittypet does." Darkstripe spit out the word kittypet as if it was mouse bile. They both separated and Nightpaw waited until there was no more noise before leaving his hiding spot. Guess he going to interrupt Firepaw's training. He uses all his skill to follow Firepaw before any more cats come towards the border. He purr to himself as he realize that he was great at the shadow steps. Seems his training is paying off as he ran from bush to bush. Soon he could see Firepaw hunting some prey, waiting for him to get the kill. His eyes narrow as he saw Firepaw in a crouch before jumping and killing the mouse. What was that move? Shaking his head, he let out a hiss to get his attention. He felt proud as he walk around, keeping himself hidden in Firepaw's own forest.

"Firepaw. Just want to talk. Sheathe your claws." Nightpaw whisper as he walk around when he saw Firepaw's fur bristling.

"Who are you?!" Firepaw hisses as he look around, not seeing anyone. He open his mouth but he can only scent Thunderclan and the undergrowth.

"Mean no harm. To prove this, Tigerclaw seem to be planning a test for you. Darkstripe is helping him. Let meet at the gathering as we have a lot in common." Nightpaw quickly ran back to the Thunderpath.

Before he left, he heard other pawsteps so knew he was about to get caught. He look both ways before quickly running across, hoping that no one saw him. He landed on the other side before the monster came down the road. He knew the monster would further hide his scent as he went to a stream to wash the Thunderclan scent from his pelt.

"So how was Thunderclan?" A small whisper sounded as he got out the stream, shaking the water from his pelt. Looking around, he saw Turtlepaw watching him calmly with her tail wrap around her paws. His ears flatten as he saw her curious expression.

"Don't worry. We are alone. All I saw was you running across the thunderpath. Was hunting near the border when I saw you run like dogs was chasing you. Why were you over there? I won't tell anyone." She mew as he sat in front of her.

He stare at her, noticing the soft fur framing her face. He can see the depths of friendship in her eyes as they spent the past two moons training together. He begin to shuffle his paws before speaking, hoping she can see his point.

"Well it was because I wanted to see Firepaw. The only other kittypet that was accepted into a clan and becoming a warrior. You won't understand because you are clanborn." Nightpaw mew bitterly as he look away.

"I thought you would know me better than that. Come on, I understand perfectly." Turtlepaw scoff as he look back at her. She poke him with her paw before smiling at him.

"You did say Shadowclan is like a family. Something in your tone told me you was unhappy with that fact. You aren't as mysterious as you like to believe. Sure the ones who don't know you well won't get you, but I been paying attention. You are lonely. I get lonely too. Even with my family around." She shrugged.

"If you tell anyone what I said, you be sore next training session." Nightpaw don't know how she manage to get him out of his own head.

"Who said you will win?" He narrow his eyes before bowling her over, pinning her quickly. He gave a smug expression as she couldn't move him.

"You are too heavy. Maybe lay off the frogs." She grunt as she try to shove him off. Suddenly he heard Gulpaw calling for Turtlepaw. She quickly ran towards them, her eyes widening as she took in the scene before her.

"Now I see why you want to hunt alone." Gulpaw tease as she watch them quickly separate.

"Here I thought something was wrong since you rarely want to hunt alone. Now I see." Gulpaw tail was curled up in amusement as they start to sputter that it wasn't what she thought.

Nightpaw gave a small cough as he felt his fur heat up. Turtlepaw is just a good friend.

"I need to do some more hunting. See you both around." He empathize the both as he walk quickly away. He was far away before he saw a bird. Got a mouse, toad so now a bird. The bird was busy with a worm as he crept up. He quickly launch himself on the bird, giving it a quick killing bite before he look up due to hearing voices. He walk around a tree before seeing Gingerpaw with Blossomsky.

"Are you sure there no owls around here?" Gingerpaw mew as she anxiously look up.

"It is daytime. You can relax. Come on, let's go walk. You can't stay cooped up in the medicine den." Blossomsky mew softly while brushing her fur against Gingerpaw to relax her.

Nightpaw didn't want to interrupt them so left without making himself known. At least Gingerpaw was outside. He grab his bird as he went to get the other prey that he killed. Looking up, he saw it was midday so he decided to head back to camp. He saw Gulpaw and Turtlepaw with no prey ahead of him. He raise his tail in greeting before waiting for them to go through the tunnel first.

"Well done Nightpaw. Next head to the elders and take care of them. After that you can eat and rest." Hopeheart said with a nod.

He twitch his ears to let her know he heard before heading to the prey pile. He drop them as he heard Hopeheart send Turtlepaw to clean the warriors den while Gulpaw help with the elders. Oh no, he thought to himself while heading to the elders den.

Peeking his head in the den, he saw the elders resting. Gulpaw is next to him, giving him a knowing smile. He did his best to ignore her.

"Hey Nightpaw, Gulpaw. Need fresh bedding and a mouse." Ashfur mew as he look up.

"Tell Runningnose my joints are acting up and could use some medicine and poppy seeds." Archeye groan as he stretch one limb.

"Got it. Will tell Runningnose right now." Nightpaw mew as he watch Gulpaw coming back with moss. Guess she left when Ashfur spoke. He was about to go when he heard yowls as warriors stream in, many of them bleeding with fur torn off.

At the scent of blood, Runningnose ran out with cobwebs around one paw. Stumpytail limp in, with Blackfoot on his back. Slowly letting him down, He move aside so Runningnose can work. Brokenstar came into the camp last, Nightpaw let out an alarmed mew as he saw that he was holding Brownpaw by his scruff. Nightpaw watch him closely, letting out a small sigh of relief when there is signs that he is still alive. Brokenstar put him down as Runningnose rush to him, checking him over.

"Gulpaw, get me more cobwebs! Warriors, clean your wounds if you can!" Runningnose said as he begin to separate the warriors into urgent and not urgent care. When he went to Brokenstar, he was met with a hiss to take care of the clan first. The other warriors left to get moss and more cobwebs. Nightpaw went to Newtspeck as Gulpaw gave him cobwebs. He press hard on the bleeding wounds, hoping he was doing it right. After all he watch Runningnose do the same to others in the past. He look around, nodding at the other apprentices who was doing the same as he was. Littlepaw was with Stumpytail, Gulpaw was passing cobwebs around, and Turtlepaw was helping Yellowfang. Mousepaw is helping Clawface while Wetpaw was out with the others getting more cobwebs. This is what it meant to be in a clan. Runningnose was focused on Brownpaw as he seem the weakest. Brokenstar was bleeding into the ground but kept refusing help until he saw that everyone was being taken care of.

"Badger. Took us by surprise but Stumpytail patrol came and we managed to chase it away. Brownpaw took a claw attack as he rush in to save Newtspeck. Brave fool. Anyway I had to save him." Brokenstar meow as he fell unconscious. Yellowfang yowl and push Turtlepaw away to get to Brokenstar side. He remembered that Brokenstar is Yellowfang's kit. He mew in alarm, seeing his strong leader was down. She was mewling softly to him, like he was a kit and he guess to her, he still is.

"Nightpaw. Need you to go to Thunderclan and ask Spottedleaf for some chervil roots and marigold. Hurry!" Runningnose rush to Brokenstar, revealing the long gash in his side. Runningnose start pressing down hard on the wound as Gulpaw join in. Looking around, he realize how much was riding on him to get to their rival clan. The rest of the warriors who wasn't in the patrol or out collecting cobwebs was putting moss around each injured cat, making them more comfortable since they can't be moved. He quickly ran through the thorn tunnel, seeing the others coming back with a lot of cobwebs. Must be really bad if we need another clan help, he thought to himself as he ran as fast as he could.

Breathing hard, he made it to the thunderpath, growling in frustrations as there is no breaks between monsters. Looking across the Thunderpath, he saw a tabby tom with a patrol, marking the border. He frantically wave his tail to get their attention, knowing they wouldn't be able to hear with the monsters. There was a white tom and a pale ginger molly who saw him and padded forward close to the border.

"What do you want Shadowclan cat! Cross this border and I will lined my nest with your fur!" snarl the ginger, narrowing her eyes.

"Enough Sandpaw. Look at him. Does he look like he want to cause trouble? Look at his body language. You can tell a lot without the cat having said a word. He got our attention so what do you think he wants?" The white tom stare down at Sandpaw, until she gave a huff.

"He wants help, Whitestorm." She mew as she stop her aggressive pose. She still glare at him as Whitestorm allow him to cross so they can hear his request.

"Runningnose sent me. I need Spottedleaf. Need chervil roots and marigold." He knead the ground as he look back towards his territory. Please hold on Brownpaw. He overheard Whitestorm sending Runningwind to get her as they walk deeper into the forest. They stop, sitting down as if he wasn't in a hurry. He begin to pace back and forth, his tail tip twitching anxiously.

"Calm down. Spottedleaf will get here soon. What's your name?" Whitestorm asks as he sat down, wrapping his tail around his paws.

"Nightpaw." He mew as he close his eyes. Don't do anything to anger the clan that is helping. He open his eyes when he calm down like Whitestorm said.

"Is it true that you're a kittypet?" Sandpaw asks. Looking at her, he wonders what she wants to know since her expression was smug.

"Yes. Whatever you think of saying, save it. I already heard it. Is it true that Thunderclan cats are rude and as arrogant as you?" He hiss before he can stop himself. So much for not angering the clan that is helping. Her tone rub his fur the wrong way.

He wince as he saw her eyes narrow. "Are all Shadowclan cats are mouse brain like you?" She hiss back.

"Enough you two. Spottedleaf! Over here!" Whitestorm wave his tail when a dark tortoiseshell and white molly arrive holding a leaf wrap. She put it down before speaking.

"Here you go. I include dock leaves as well as the herbs you said. Tell Runningnose he can send for more if he needs it." Her mew was soft, like listening to a mother soothing a kit. At least medicine didn't care that he was a kittypet or from another clan.

He thank her before picking up the leaf wrap. Nodding to the Thunderclan cats, he ran as fast as he could back to the Thunderpath. It was quiet so he went back to the camp without any issues. Swampcloud was outside, waiting for him. Now wasn't the time for animosity so he only gave a wave of his tail for him to get the leaf wrap. Swampcloud blink at him to show he is grateful before heading inside. He lay on his side as he need to rest after all that running. Soon Swampcloud came back, telling him that thanks to him being so fast, the others will survive. He couldn't respond due to catching his breath. He twitch an ear to tell him that he heard as he close his eyes. After a few minutes, he got up and went inside, nodding at Swampcloud as he pass by. Looking around, he saw Yellowfang, Stumpytail, Clawface, Rowanberry and Scorchwind outside the medicine den. They all had cobwebs and leaves plaster to their fur. All

was sleeping except Yellowfang and Newtspeck. Newspeck was padding outside while Yellowfang was laying down. Their eyes were on the den's entrance and he knew it was because they was worried about their kits.

"Any news?" He mew as he pad to her, his tail tip twitching anxiously. He also noticed Hollyflower sitting outside the elder's den, keeping one ear turn towards them.

"Runningnose is helping him right now. Blackfoot and Brokenstar is also inside. They are ones hurt the most but he is worried about Brownpaw. He's on the edge. I can't lose my kit." She whisper as she continue pacing.

"He is strong. He will pull through with Runningnose help. Thanks to you getting the herbs here fast." Marigoldfur mew as she went towards them. She led Newtspeck away to the prey pile.

"Of course." Nightpaw mew as he head to the elders den. He need to do something to take his mind off of Brownpaw. He saw Brownpaw earlier that day. How could he be close to Starclan now. He look up with his tail drooping as he reach Hollyflower.

"Brownpaw will pull through, Nightpaw. Trust in Runningnose. He will be ok." Hollyflower mew as she wrap her tail around him in comfort.

"He is like a brother to me. They all are. I saw him earlier today and he said he was going to get a patrol to help. Never thought he be trying to fight a badger. Can't blame him cuz he was protecting his mother." Nightpaw mew softly.

"That the thing about badgers. Despite their smell, they are very good at sneaking up on cats. Even foxes seem to have trouble with them." Ashfur said as he glance at Nightpelt sleeping form.

He sighs as he finish replacing Ashfur's nest with clean moss and pine needles. Finishing, he saw Runningnose speaking to Newtspeck. He quickly ran to him, with questions brimming in his eyes.

Brokenstar, Blackfoot and Brownpaw will be ok. Wetpaw and Littlepaw is with him now. You may visit him tomorrow. It be much worst if you didn't get the herbs. Thank you Nightpaw." Runningnose mew with a tired purr.

His eyes widen as he saw Brokenstar walking out the medicine den towards his den. His ear, side and spine was plastered with cobwebs and smelt heavily of herbs. Brokenstar glance at him before going inside. He thought he saw a smile but it was gone too quick for him to be sure. Next was Blackfoot and he had cobwebs on both sides. He went to sit in the middle of the clearing.

"Gather around." His mew was shaky and he try to stand up but Runningnose push him back down. Nightpaw watch the others leaving the dens and sat close to Mousepaw. After the clan gather, he saw Blackfoot glance around to make sure Littlepaw and Wetpaw walk out the medicine den and sat outside.

"The badger has been chased from WindClan onto our territory. We chased the badger out so I want all warriors and apprentices to keep an eye out in case it returns. Just because we are healing doesn't mean you can slack off. All duties will be as normal. Want two border patrols and Littlepaw, help Runningnose replenish his stock. Wolfstep and Flintfang will be in charge of duties while we heal. That is all." Blackfoot mew grew stronger as he talked. Runningnose helped him to a nest outside the medicine den with the rest of the injured warriors. He watch as Littlepaw said something inside before leaving to meet with Runningnose. Suddenly a paw prod him in the side, and he saw Volewhisper looking at him.

"I know you are tired but Flintfang want us to go on a hunting patrol. You think you are up for it? It is okay if you are not." Volewhisper mew as Mintshade and Tangleburr join them.

"I need something to take my mind off of Brownpaw. A hunt is a perfect distraction." Nightpaw said as the others went through the entrance. Looking back, he felt good to see the camp being so normal after everything that happened. Nothing will bring down ShadowClan spirit.

End of Beta

I wish I could have continued but I got further in than I expected. Thank you for letting me do this, I had fun.