//Hi! This is my first ever fic so I'm open to any criticism or compliments :>

It's quite short but I hope you enjoy it

Also, if I get anything canon wrong, please let me know

'Our scars', a short Ravenbarley fic by Kurt

Two moons had passed since his runaway from ThunderClan. "How afraid you must be! Pathetic, weak!" The black tom's old mentor's words kept ringing into his ears. *Please, leave me alone!* Ravenpaw let out a short cry, only to continue toppling down the hallucination of Tigerclaw. "You left your friends for what, to be safe in a barn away from the clans? You're a coward!"

"No!", screeching as he kicked up jumbles of hay flying in the air with his hind leg. *Another nightmare.* His eyes were barely open, but wide enough to observe his surroundings. *It's just the barn; he won't ever find me here. Ever.* Trying to force himself to believe his own words, but not his mind. 'Traitor of ThunderClan', the words keep ringing into his head.

"Hey!" A soft nudge from behind startled the tom, sending him leaping into the air. "Did you have another nightmare?", his barnmate Barley asked worriedly. Relieved that it was just the two of them, Ravenpaw let his fur lie flat. "Yeah, about Tigerclaw again." Resting his head into his rested paws, embarrassed that the barn cat had to still take care of him like a whining kit.

The plump tom sighed, padding closer to Ravenpaw. "Maybe it's the wind that's been affecting your dreams. I'll find you a warmer spo-" Before he could finish the offer, Ravenpaw yowled in fear. "He's going to find me, isn't he? What am I going to do...?" A shiny stream of tears ran down his whiskers while he tried to hide it with his paws. His desperate mews slowly became crooked as he kept weeping. "Fireheart and Graystripe had done so much for me and all I've done was run away from the clans. I don't deserve this peace at all!"

Barley was startled by the sudden outburst of sadness from his barnmate, but he wanted to be there for his friend. Settling down next to Ravenpaw, bringing some warmth between the two of them. "You can tell me all about it. I'll keep listening." He reassured the black tom. "Tigerclaw won't find you here, trust me.", giving soft licks to try and comfort him. "If he does, I'll be sure to turn him into crow-food before he can hurt you."

He paused his crying to give a short chuckle, "I don't know why you care so much, Barley. I came in as a stranger into your barn, drenched like RiverClan prey!" Turning to look at his eyes, he felt a strange new warmth enter his body. Nothing like he's ever felt before. Did he matter to Barley so much?

"I know how it feels, Ravenpaw."

"Huh…?"

"I am from BloodClan. Well, used to be."

Ravenpaw rubbed the tears off his face, now attentively interested in this so called BloodClan. “What’s that?”

Barley inhaled a huge guff of air, giving out a sigh as he explained. “BloodClan lives around the two-leg territories. They’re not like the clans here. Kits as young as four moons were trained to fight and survive. I did too. It was harsh, brutal and definitely not my thing. My littermates are all strong warriors now, and I ran away.”

“I… I had no idea. I’m so sorry.” Ravenpaw watched as his barnmate dip his head lower each time he spoke. “I get these nightmares too, Ravenpaw.” Barley admitted. “It’s never easy to let go of the past, especially when you’ve met great friends and foes. The guilt is always eating me alive!” Raising his head to see his barnmate’s eyes fixed on him with admiration and comfort. “We’ll never move on, and that’s fact. But thanks to your arrival, it felt a lot less… lonely.”

Ravenpaw watched his barnmate’s fur bristle in embarrassment. Under his thick layer of fur revealed a scar he had kept away from worrying him. “Barley, your poor cheek! Was that from the training?”

Barley got even more flustered at Ravenpaw’s ability to notice such details. “I… I did.” Looking away from Ravenpaw to hide the ugly scar. “Sorry, I shouldn’t have…” Ravenpaw had thought he was talking to himself. “It’s not that bad, I think you look like the strongest warrior with it.”

Flustered by his barnmate’s comment, “Really?” He turned back around and met with his eyes. Ravenpaw’s green amber eyes were like the leaves in new-leaf. A refreshing feeling, a brand-new start, and very beautiful. “Yeah. I like it.” Ravenpaw licked Barley’s cheek. “And I think I know why you care so much now… It’s nice to have a cat understand.” Getting shy from his own words, he tried covering his brisling fur with his paws. Barley giggled at his barnmate, licking back at Ravenpaw’s cheek. “And I’m glad it’s you, Ravenpaw.”

Watching his barnmate’s blue eyes was like staring into the skies, so free and lively. Ravenpaw sniffled up his last tear before moving closer to Barley. The two cats felt a new wave of warmth as they huddled closer together.

“I love you, Ravenpaw. We’re both not so different after all.”

“I… I love you too, Barley. Thank you for caring so much.”

The two had tired out themselves after the whole talk, falling asleep while their pelts brushed against each other. Their tails curled together like a grape vine on a trellis. Soft purrs filled the barn as they fell unconscious, not a nightmare to haunt their sleep any longer.

Extra stuff I want to say

Ravenbarley has been my comfort ship ever since I started reading warriors earlier this year, they mean a lot to me <3 Hope I can make better fics next time lol this one kind of sucked ngl

ALSO FUCK AI!! I WOULD NEVER USE AI TO MAKE MY FICS

