

Book 1

Frost, Stone,
and Leaf

Prologue

Coalstar was eating a fish he caught. Suddenly, he bit into something that tasted funny. The moment he tasted it, he knew what it was. *The Spirit's soul!* The Spirit was a spirit of war, of bared teeth and unsheathed claws. Whenever any cat ate it, they would become possessed. Coalstar fainted, and reawakened, a different cat than he had been.

The entire IslandClan ran away, searching for a new home. Coalstar was now the Ghost Cat. He summoned up all of the rats on the island. Together, they burned up every single blade of grass and every single tree, until the islands were a wasteland of lava rock and burnt plants. The Ghost Cat spoke to a pool of Lava.

“May all of SkyClan separate! May Thunder, Shadow, Wind, and River fight! May the Forest have four clans!”

She had just been dreaming about catching prey in the

"Hello. What are you doing in Star Clan,

“Frostpaw? My name is not Frostpaw!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Snowy is completely fine.” Snowy meowed indignantly.

Snowy did not know what Treebark was meowing

Snowy did not know what Treebark was meowing about. She followed Treebark anyway. Treebark took her

to a giant tree. A golden she-cat was grooming herself on a rock.

“Frostpaw has arrived, Lightningstar.” Treebark meowed. Lightningstar lifted her head and shouted, “Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here underneath the Highrock for a clan meeting.”

About fifty cats scrambled to the rock. Lightningstar announced, “This kittypet will now be named Frostpaw. Her mentor will be Treebark. Let me introduce you to a few key cats. Beside me is Bigclaw, my deputy.”

Lightningstar pointed to a very old light gray she-cat, “This is Moonmist, our medicine cat. She gives advice to the clan-cats below us.”

She then pointed to a sand-colored tortoiseshell, “This is Daisyfoot, an important warrior.”

“This tree in the middle is the Tree of Life, the heart of Star Clan. That is where clan meetings are held. Go to that sandpit for training.”

Chapter 2

Frostpaw walked to the sandpit where Treebark was standing. He mewed, “The first thing all apprentices learn is the Hunter’s Crouch. Walk swiftly but lightly. Make sure the ‘pads’ on your paws touch the ground first. Like this.” Frostpaw walked as quietly as possible. Suddenly, a mouse scuttled in front of her. Frostpaw jumped and caught it in her claws. She had just caught her first mouse.” Frostpaw dropped it in the Prey Pile.”

“It is Sun-high already. You should eat something.” Treebark meowed.

Most of the warriors were already eating their midday meals. Frostpaw took a few mice from the Prey Pile. She offered one to Moonmist, who looked old and weak. When Frostpaw took the first bite of the mouse, her body seemed to be refilled with energy. It was very different from the Fancy Feast cat food her owners used to give her. The training continued, with Frostpaw still learning about hunting. When the sun was starting to sink, Frostpaw headed towards the apprentices’ den. It was a mound of earth covered in turf and hollowed out. Frostpaw curled up on the fresh hay, much more comfortable than her old kitty condo.

The next morning, there was a clan meeting. Lightningstar announced, “The Ghost cat has split up the

four clans and made them compete with each other. We have to unite them by convincing them to share hunting grounds.”

The cats applauded. The warriors rushed to their dens. It was time for Frostpaw to continue her training. Treebark was next to a row of brown and green lily-pads. He mewed, “We are going to play a game called Green Left-Right. You will be assigned a green lily pad. When I say ‘Right’, go to the brown lily pad on your right. If I say ‘Left’, go to the brown lily pad on your left. If I say ‘switch greens’, change your assigned green. If I say ‘Prey’, catch some prey and return to your assigned green.”

Frostpaw started becoming swifter. She was running at about 44 tail-lengths per second. The Prey Pile was growing because of her training. Suddenly, the bushes were rustled by paw steps. A dog and a cat appeared. The dog was a gray-and-black husky. The cat was a sandy brown she-cat with a missing ear. Frostpaw interrogated, “What are you doing in Star Clan?”

Chapter 3

The dog and cat shrunk back, terrified.

“I will take you to my leader.” Frostpaw continued.

When Lightningstar saw the newcomers, she commanded, “Tell me why you are here.”

“I saw a strange shape in the stars,” the dog stammered.

“My clan teases me about my ear,” the cat said reluctantly.

Lightningstar responded. “We will take you in. May all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here for a clan meeting!”

Once all the cats had gathered around the High Rock, Lightningstar announced, “This dog, from now on, will be known as Stonepaw. His mentor will be Daisyfoot. This cat, from now on, will be known as Leafpaw. Her mentor will be Bigclaw.”

All the cats applauded as the apprentices received their names. Stonepaw and Leafpaw headed towards the training sandpit. Treebark taught them Green Left-Right. Soon, the Prey Pile was as tall as the warriors’ dens. That

was when they decided to stop. All of the cats ate some prey and shared tongues in their dens.

That night, Frostpaw had a strange dream. She was sitting next to the pond by Moonmist's den. Suddenly, a cat emerged from the water. It was translucent and turquoise, as if made of water. Then it spoke. "Frost, stone, and leaf will strengthen the clans and bring them through Leaf-bare."

Frostpaw woke up suddenly. It was just before dawn, and the cats were all asleep. She crept to Moonmist's den. The pond was quiet except for the waterfall. Frostpaw thought about the dream. How will Frost, Stone, and Leaf help the clans? Frost was feared by every cat in the Forest. As the sun rose up, so did the cats. Moonmist was about to meditate by the Reflection Pool when she spotted Frostpaw there, deep in thought.

"What are you doing here so early?" asked Moonmist.

"I had a dream. A water cat emerged from the Reflection Pool. It said that frost, stone and leaf will help the clans.

"Well, I do believe that that is the case. It is time that a prophecy is to be sent to the Cats Below. Tell Lightningstar to decide whether to send it."

Frostpaw rushed to Lightningstar and told her about the dream. She responded with the usual call: "May all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here for a clan meeting!"

All of the warriors gathered around the High Rock, and Lightningstar started to speak. She meowed, "Frostpaw had a dream. She discovered that Frost, Stone, and Leaf will strengthen the clans. Who agrees on sending the prophecy?"

All of the cats raised their tails. Lightningstar continued, "Then Moonmist will send it through the Reflection Pool tonight. Apprentices, please stay with her to see how it is done."

"You mean apprentices and kittypets, " laughed Stonepaw, pointing at Frostpaw, "What's a kittypet? Always a kittypet."

Frostpaw recognized that statement. That was what many clan-born warriors meowed to kittypet-born ones. As she uncovered her claws, ready to fight, Leafpaw meowed while jumping towards Frostpaw, "You think you can beat me just because you have two ears?"

The cats and dog immediately broke into a fight. All of them were getting clawed everywhere. At the sight of this tangled ball, Bigclaw shouted, "ENOUGH! Star Clan should not be fighting within itself."

The apprentices walked over to the medicine cat's den. The only sound was the flowing waterfall. A hot spring, round as the moon and shiny as a mirror, was fed by it. The spring was a faint aquamarine. Moonmist emerged from the rock pile, supported by a glowing staff. She called, " This is StarClan speaking. Frost, stone, and leaf will strengthen the clans and bring them through Leaf-bare."

Then she threw her staff into the water. The Reflection Pool glowed, darkened, and sent off waves in all directions. Then it was silent.

"Your staff," Frostpaw reminded Moonmist.

"The staff will return once a response is given. Moonmist will know when," meowed a voice. Frostpaw turned to see a completely black tom behind her.

"This is Darkpelt, the controller of the stars," Moonmist introduced.

Darkpelt held a very large star chart as he moved around the stars. Finally, he tossed it into the Reflection Pool. Several other warriors made their offerings into the pond. Once it returned to normal, the apprentices continued with their training.

That night, Squirrelstar could not sleep. She had a feeling that StarClan had something to say. That was confirmed by a shooting star streaking across the night sky. She repeated the words of StarClan to herself. *Frost, Stone, and Leaf. How will that strengthen the clans and bring them through Leaf-bare?*

Chapter 4

Frostpaw was assigned a hunting mission near Moonmist's den. Stonepaw and Leafpaw were there, waiting. As usual, they argued over everything: where to find the best prey, if a mouse had sensed them, and even what to do next. Their arguing made Moonmist, who was in her morning meditation, leap with surprise. She accidentally knocked Frostpaw into the Reflection Pool. The Milky Way carried her out of the hollow. Frostpaw waved her paws around, trying to swim back, but the current was too strong. She was being carried to Climbing Structure II. Frostpaw felt her head hit the Stepping Stones. A mouth picked her up and took her to Moonmist's den. She was set on a soft bed. When Frostpaw opened her eyes, she saw the two most unlikely faces: Stonepaw and Leafpaw. They were licking Frostpaw while Moonmist mixed some herbs. She added them to a pot of boiling water, along with a slice of golden melon. The mixture turned bright red. Moonmist gave Frostpaw a spoonful. She reluctantly sipped it. A feeling of warmth filled her.

"Healing Potion, "Moonmist explained, "With herbs for head bumps. and cold fur." Moonmist poured the rest of the potion into a filter. The excess herbs were

dried and stored in one set of jars. The base potion was stored in another.

For the next few days, Frostpaw stayed in Moonmist's den. Stonepaw and Leafpaw visited her every day to share tongues. A friendship started to form between the cats, and there was no mention of kittypets. When Frostpaw was allowed to resume training, she found out it was about climbing. Every day, the apprentices climbed around on Climbing Structure I. After a few weeks, it was time to be promoted to Climbing Structure II. It did not just include logs, but also trees, stepping stones, and even vines to swing on. Several times, Stonepaw fell into the Milky Way. Treebark was always there to pull him out. The vines were too low for Leafpaw, for she was a long, thin cat. Treebark cut them so that even Lightningstar can hang from them.

Chapter 5

That night, Darkpelt extended the moon until it was full. The Cats below held their moonly gathering. Tigerstar, the ShadowClan leader, meowed about joining with RiverClan to create TigerClan and control the forest. Bluestream, the RiverClan representative, told Frostpaw that a former RiverClan leader, Leopardstar, joined with a former ShadowClan leader, also called Tigerstar, to make TigerClan. ThunderClan united with WindClan to form LionClan. At the end, Firestar, the ThunderClan leader, made the two clans four again.

“The Forest should just have one clan. Why do Lion and Tiger have to meet in battle? Why does one clan have to be powerful and control the whole Forest? Why don’t we call the new Clan not TigerClan, but something like none of our names, like SkyClan?” Squirrelstar protested. Lightningstar shouted, “Treebark! Shadowfur! Windstorm! Bluestream! We must stop them from fighting. Darkpelt, hide the stars with clouds.”

“StarClan is angry,” Harestar meowed, “It is telling us that this gathering is over.”

The Cats Below retreated into their camps. Frostpaw, Stonepaw, and Leafpaw walked to the hill that was their den.

That night, Frostpaw dreamed that it was raining. The water level was gradually rising, Frostpaw started swimming, but when she dove under the water, there were

three kits: a gray she-cat, an orange tabby tom, and a white she-cat. Frostpaw recognized them. Mosskit, Adderkit, and Blossomkit. She held all of the kits in her mouth, and swam to the surface.

When Frostpaw woke up, she really held three wet bundles of fur. She was confused. Leafpaw told her that these three kits rose to Mistywoods. What are they doing in Midforest? Frostpaw carried the kits to Lightningstar. She called a clan meeting. Instead of the usual wave of cats, there were a few sleepy cats rolling to the High Rock. Lightningstar announced, "Mosskit, Adderkit, and Blossomkit have been found in Frostpaw's den."

Several caterwauls came out from the crowd. They were all versions of "what should we do with them?"

"How about we keep them in Midforest until they are fit for their journey back to Mistywoods?" suggested Bigclaw. The large red deputy was licking the shivering kits.

Moonmist meowed, "I will mix a potion for them. Apprentices, meet at my den to see how it is done."

Frostpaw, Stonepaw, and Leafpaw rushed to the rock pile. The three kits were already sleeping in a tree-bark box. Moonmist poured some red liquid into her cauldron and added some fragrant purple flowers from a jar labeled LAVENDER: FOR COLD FUR. The old gray cat then added some bright orange berries from a container labeled GLOWBERRIES: FOR CATS WHO HAVE BREATHED SMOKE OR WATER. Moonmist gave each kit a spoonful. The moment each kit drank the potion, they stopped

shivering, opened their eyes, and coughed up a mouthful of water.

“What happened to them?” asked Leafpaw.

"After the broken gathering, the Milky Way flooded while the kits were out of their dens. The floodwater took the kits to Midforest, and they could not find their way back," replied Moonmist, "They are currently not fit for their journey back to Mistywoods."

The three apprentices helped line the box with sticks, moss, and grass. Mosskit, Adderkit, and Blossomkit were sleeping again, like they had never woken up in between.

order to rescue Mosskit, Adderkit, and Blossomkit.

Chapter 7

He was a large cat with shaggy, rock-colored fur and blue eyes, similar to those of Moonmist. He held a crooked wooden scepter with a translucent stone that had a faint image of a cat.

“Come closer into the light, three lost travelers,” he coaxed, “Now I know who you are. Mosskit, Bluefur’s kit, Mistystar and Stonefur’s little sister. The underfed tom is Adderkit, named after the snake that bit you. And there is Blossomkit. Your white fur is unusual for that of a ShadowClan cat. Three kits that did not live long enough to know the cats around you. Other than the Four Clans, there is also the remainder of SkyClan, driven out of the old Forest. BloodClan, who do not deserve the name of Clan. Then there is IslandClan, driven out of their island home by the Ghost Cat, and OceanClan, living by the seaside. My name is Rockstar, the Creator,” the cat meowed softly.

Rockstar started to tell the stories of the important cats that have lived. The kits listened with their ears pricked up, waiting to be brought back to StarClan.

Chapter 8

Frostpaw, Stonepaw, and Leafpaw met at moonhigh. They decided to try to find Mosskit, Adderkit, and Blossomkit. The three apprentices started climbing down the Tree of Life. They climbed, and cclliimmbbeedd, and cccllliiimmmbbbbeeeddd, and cccclllliiimmmmbbbbbeeedddd, and cccclllliiimmmmbbbbbeeedddd. When they reached ground level, they just passed through. That was the strangest event Frostpaw ever experienced. Now, they were climbing down over the Clans' territories. From above, Frostpaw could see the Twoleg nest that she used to live in. Then they kept cccclllllliiimmmmbbbbiiiiiinnnnnnngggggg down the tree trunk. Again, they passed below ground level. Suddenly, the world turned dark. Frostpaw was in some kind of underground tunnel.

“Where am I?” Frostpaw asked.

“We are underground, at the roots of the Tree of Life,” Leafpaw answered, “If we follow along this tunnel, we will get to Rockstar’s den. Mosskit, Adderkit, and Blossomkit are there.”

“How do you know so much?” Stonepaw wondered.

“The Reflection Pool told me. It showed an image of these three kits and an older cat, who Moonmist told me was Rockstar, her brother.”

The three apprentices made small nests in the tunnel and got whatever rest they could. Tomorrow would be the first day of their journey.

Chapter 9

“Mmoosskkiitt!!” yowled Oakheart.

“Where are yooooooooooooooooooooooooooooou?”
meowed Bluestar.

A few nights before, Silverpelt flooded. Bluestar and Oakheart managed to swim to safety, but Moskit got blown away. Now, the cats did not know where their kit was.

Moskit was actually in Rockstar’s den, listening to stories about their ancestors.

“I am a creator of the universe,” meowed Rockstar, “Let me tell you how it was made. Many moons ago, the universe was only a seed, infinitely small, infinitely, dense. Each animal had a Creator. One day, the Creator of Creators decided to plant the seed. The Creator of Creators looked like a Twoleg. He had a long, light blue pelt and long, white fur on his head. We all held it in our paws. The seed glowed with a bright light, and then sprouted a tree, the Tree of Life. The remnants of the explosion formed a translucent ball, the Heartstone. The Creator of Creators now keeps the Heartstone on a stick. After the Ghost Cat appeared, though, the Heartstone was broken. It is your job, as of 4

others, to recover the lost pieces. The cats of Midforest were created in the explosion. There were cats representing elements of nature. Darkpelt for the night sky, Daisyfoot for grass and flowers, Treebark for trees, Shadowfur for stone, Windstorm for air, and Bluestream for water. There is also the Leader and Deputy, Lightningstar and Bigclaw, who make decisions on prophecies and omens. There is also Silverpelt, the medicine cat, who sends prophecies and views the cats in the reflection pool. I, Rockstar, hold up the world, and control all that grows on it.”

“Silverpelt? You mean Moonmist?” the three kits squealed.

“I mean Silverpelt,” answered Rockstar, “Silverpelt’s fur is the source of the Milky Way. Now let me introduce your ancestors.”

The three kits listened about the history of the clans, how the Tribe of Rushing Water brought cats to the old Forest. The cats included Cloud Spots, Gray Wing, Rainswept Flower, Tall Shadow, and of course, Skystar. How Thunderheart, Shadowshade, Windfoot, and Riverstream argued on who should be the new leader. How SkyClan split into ThunderClan, ShadowClan, WindClan, RiverClan, and RemainderClan. How Mistyfur, and then Cloudstripe, became the new leaders of RemainderClan. How the cats

moved from the Forest, to the Lake, and then to the Valley. How three kittypets, Leafdapple, Echosong, and Sharpclaw (Leaf, Smoke, and Scratch) were brought into RemainderClan by Cloudstar. Finally, Rockstar finished, and the kits drifted off into a deep sleep.

Chapter 10

Frostpaw pulled two objects out of her backpack: a red headband and a red ribbon. The headband had a blue stone that would light the way. The red ribbon could cast spells on objects and animals that are hit. Stonepaw and Leafpaw followed her as they proceeded down the tunnel.

For what seemed like ages, they traveled along the tunnel, stopping only once to eat dried prey they brought. Finally, Leafpaw sighed and meowed, “I am so tired that my paws are dropping off! Can’t we rest?”

“Use our backpacks as nests so that we can sleep,” suggested Stonepaw.

The cats each ate one more piece of dried prey, and then slept in their backpack dens.

The days continued like this. Every single day, the cats and dog walked through the endless tunnel. One day, they found out something interesting. They came to a wide cave with white strands everywhere. Spider webs covered the ceiling, floor, and walls, making it hard to travel. Suddenly, Frostpaw screamed. A group of eight giant spiders appeared out of nowhere. Their sixty-four total red eyes glowed like torches. The spiders spit shiny

silk all over the cave, so that the apprentices had nowhere to go.

“We’re trapped!” Stonepaw explained. He was right. Frostpaw tried to push through the strands, but that just made her even more stuck. The apprentices bit through the spider silk, but it was too strong even for their teeth. For a while, all three of them stood there, mewling in pain.

Suddenly, an idea jumped into Frostpaw’s mind. She held up her red ribbon wand, and sliced through the strands as if she were holding a knife.

“Fight the spiders!” she shouted to Stonepaw and Leafpaw. Stonepaw and Leafpaw unsheathed their claws and bared their teeth. The spiders tried to wrap them with silk, but Frostpaw sliced at it with her wand. After a long time, all eight spiders were dead. A milky white substance flowed from the spiders.

“Spider eye,” Leafpaw explained, “Moonmist told me it could be used as a medicine if fermented for seven days and seven nights.”

Saying that, Leafpaw pulled out a small bottle and filled it with spider eye. The liquid smelled like the spider silk that had formed the trap. *Maybe that was what the spiders used to spin silk.* She then stuffed the bottle into her backpack and kept walking.

Chapter 11

Leaf, Smoke, and Scratch walked away from the Twoleg school they lived in. The three kittypets were bored of the life they were having, and wanted a better life. When their owners were not watching, the cats were practicing fighting moves. They believed they were going to become cat warriors.

Leaf, Smoke, and Scratch walked across the stony beach to a volcano that their owner called Mount Obsidian. Leaf, who had the sharpest vision, fixed her green eyes on the top of the mountain. There was a cave! Leaf called to Smoke and Scratch to follow her up the mountain.

The first day was traveling through a coniferous forest. Trees provided shelter, and undergrowth hid prey. The next day, the trees started to thin, and it was much colder. Each of the three cats had an attribute to help them climb up the snowy slopes. Leaf had sharp vision to see through the snow. Smoke had a thick, fluffy pelt to help warm both herself and the other cats. Scratch had sharp claws to hold on to the snow and create pawholds for the other two cats. The trees thinned out, and there was nothing more than empty, snowy slopes. The only prey was snow rabbits and the occasional hawk.

Finally, they reached the cave. It was on a ledge shaped somewhat like a cat's claw. Leaf sniffed at the cave. Out came an unexpected scent: cats! She called to the other two cats, "Smoke! Scratch! There are cats in the cave!"

Once the three cats walked into the cave, a dark gray tomcat with dark blue eyes walked out.

"What are you doing at the RemainderClan camp?" the cat questioned.

"We are trying to find a new home and a new life. We are bored with life with the Twolegs. Who are you?" meowed Scratch. The cat answered, "My name is Skywatcher. You may enter RemainderClan as long as you are loyal, for it is your loyalty that holds us together. Now let me take you to our leader, Cloudstar."

Skywatcher took the three cats into the cave. Leaf immediately was engulfed by the darkness. After several heartbeats, all eight eyes adjusted to the darkness. Finally, they entered a large chamber. Cats rushed around, sharing tongues and eating prey. This must be the Clan's central clearing. Around the chamber, tunnels led to individual dens. Skywatcher took Leaf, Smoke, and Scratch through the central tunnel. It led to another chamber, probably the leader's den. Out emerged an elderly gray-and-white tabby.

“I am Cloudstar,” he meowed, “I am the leader of RemainderClan. You are welcome here, since we need a new deputy, and we cannot find any fit warriors. Mistywing, the medicine cat, found a dappled leaf outside her den. I think that means that you, Leafdapple, should become the deputy.”

“Leafdapple?” Leaf wondered, “My name is Leaf.”

Cloudstar appeared to not have heard, for he yowled, “Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here underneath the Highledge for a clan meeting.”

This seemed to be some kind of signal, for several cats rushed underneath a high ledge. Cloudstar signaled with his tail for Leaf, Smoke, and Scratch to join him on the Highledge. Leaf jumped up onto the ledge with a single leap. *Maybe that was what made her a fine warrior.*

“Mistywing has received a sign that these three kittypets will make fine warriors,” Cloudstar mewed, “Leaf, from this moment on, you will be known as Leafdapple. StarClan honors your courage and enthusiasm. Smoke, from this moment on, you will be known as Echosong. StarClan honors your courage and compassion. Scratch, from this moment on, you will be known as Sharpclaw. StarClan honors your courage and determination.”

All of the cats started chanting: “Leafdapple! Echosong! Sharpclaw! Leafdapple! Echosong! Sharpclaw!”

Cloudstar spoke again: “We have another important ceremony to perform before moonhigh. None of the Clanborn cats wish to become my deputy, ever since Frostear fell into lava and died. Mistywing, step forward and show us your sign.”

A pale gray she-cat walked forward. Leafdapple smelled the bittersweet scent of herbs on her pelt. Mistywing meowed, “Last night, Moonheart appeared in a dream, holding a dappled leaf. I believe that Leafdapple should be deputy.”

Leafdapple thought she must have been dreaming. She just joined the Clan, and now she was the deputy. Echosong and Sharpclaw pressed their muzzles into her flank. Just then, Echosong meowed, “May I speak?”

Cloudstar gestured for her to step forward, and Echosong spoke, “I would like to become Mistywing’s apprentice.”

“I agree,” Mistywing intoned, “I can see that she will make a great medicine cat.”

With Leafdapple deputy, and Echosong medicine cat apprentice, the former kittypets felt like they truly belonged.

Chapter 12

After getting out of the spider cave, Frostpaw, Stonepaw, and Leafpaw continued on. They walked, and wwaallkkeedd, and wwwaaallkkkeeeddd, and wwwwaaaallllkkkkkeeeedddd, and wwwwwaaaaallllllkkkkkeeeeddddd through the tunnel. Suddenly, Frostpaw smelled something strange. The smell was of wet earth, dirty water, dead plants, and *cats*. *Were there cats this deep underground?* She called Stonepaw and Leafpaw: “Let’s go forward! I smell something.”

As the apprentices walked forward, the ground started to get wetter and wetter underpaw. After a few tail-lengths, they reached a giant quagmire. It was in a cave, with glowing fungus. The cave was filled with mud and the occasional pools of water. The apprentices waited for a moment, unsure about what to do, then Stonepaw suggested, “Let’s rest for some time. Maybe StarClan can tell us what to do.”

As Frostpaw closed her eyes, she emerged in a forest with starry trees.

“StarClan, are you there? Can you help me?” Frostpaw called.

Several cats appeared. There was a light gray tom with blue eyes, a dark gray tom with blue eyes, and a light gray tabby she-cat with blue eyes. *Maybe blue eyes is a common trait in the clan they are from.*

“I am Skystar I,” the first cat greeted Frostpaw.

“I am Skystar II,” the second cat also stepped forward.

“And I am Mistystar I,” the third cat stepped forward.

“How can I escape this quagmire and find the kits?” Frostpaw asked.

Skystar I spoke, “In the quagmire, there is a cat named Mossfang. She has lived there for many moons, so many that her pelt is covered with algae, moss, and mud. She is the creator of this quagmire and the guardian to Rockstar’s den. She is now one of the three servants of the Ghost Cat.”

After saying that, the three clan leaders turned away.

“Wait! Don’t go!” Frostpaw cried, but she had already woken up.

Chapter 13

Frostpaw meowed to Stonepaw and Leafpaw, “I had a dream last night. All of the former SkyClan and RemainderClan leaders met me in StarClan, and we meowed about Mossfang, the cat that lives in the Quagmire. Mossfang used to be the guardian of the den of the Creator, Rockstar, but now is a servant of the Ghost Cat.”

Stonepaw unsheathed his dog claws and barked, “We must cross the Quagmire. We must save the kits. We must make Mossfang good again. We must.....Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

Before he could finish his sentence, Stonepaw lost his balance and tumbled into a muddy pit in the Quagmire. The gray dog started to sink into the mud, with one paw sticking out.

“Heeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeelp!” Stonepaw yowled. Frostpaw stood there, shaking. Leafpaw did the same. Suddenly, something tugged at Frostpaw’s hind legs. She turned around, but no cat was there. She then felt the tug again.

“Leafpaw? What do you want?” Frostpaw called.

“I want Stonepaw to get out. And also, something is twitching on your hind leg,” Leafpaw answered.

Frostpaw felt at her hind legs and pulled out a long, red strip. Then, she remembered. She had brought a wand that Moonmist gave her.

“Stonepaw! Hang on tight!” Frostpaw called.

Stonepaw stuck his paw straight up, and Frostpaw wrapped the ribbon around it. She then pulled with all of her strength and Stonepaw came flying out. His pelt was covered in mud.

“Thank you for saving me,” meowed Stonepaw as he landed on the stone floor.

Leafpaw, who was getting impatient waiting, meowed, “Why not just cross the Quagmire already? Moskit, Adderkit, and Blossomkit are waiting for us.”

Hearing Leafpaw, the three apprentices scampered across the swamp, focusing on the dry land and being careful not to sink in quicksand, like Stonepaw did. As they jumped, they landed on a quite soft patch of moss that seemed to move underneath their paws. Then, a voice meowed from underneath.

“Why are you disturbing my sleep?”

Chapter 14

The apprentices were scared off their paws. Frostpaw fell back into a pool of dirty water, tainting her pure white fur. Frostpaw knew who it was: Mossfang. Now, she could see the creature clearly. It was a large cat, covered in the Quagmire, with only parts of her muddy brown pelt showing. She was about thirteen times Frostpaw's size. Mossfang opened her mouth in a giant yawn, exposing her sharp, yellow fangs.

"So, here you are, three lost apprentices, not knowing where you are going. And there's a dog. I used to think cats were afraid of dogs. What are you doing here?" Mossfang meowed smoothly.

Stonepaw was the first to speak: "We are not lost! We are three StarClan apprentices. We are finding three lost kits, Mosskit, Adderkit, and Blossomkit."

"I have seen those three kits. Rockstar, that furless old cat. I used to protect his den, until the Ghost Cat emerged. Then I realized who to follow. You all follow Rockstar and Moonmist because you are too weak to fight. If I join with the Ghost Cat, together, along with Shadestripe and Eighthhead, then we could take over ThunderClan, and ShadowClan, and WindClan, and RiverClan, and SkyClan, and BloodClan,

and WarriorClan, and IslandClan, and OceanClan, and StarClan, and even the Dark Forest!” Mossfang continued.

“IslandClan? OceanClan?” Leafpaw asked. Mossfang responded, “IslandClan was the clan that used to live where the Ghost Cat now lives, but they were too weak to defend themselves and were exiled. OceanClan were explorers, led by Kelpstar. They lived in a sea cave. The Ghost Cat captured a large raft when it was passing by and exiled all the cats on it.”

Frostpaw thought for a few heartbeats. *Mossfang was once Rockstar’s protector. After the Ghost Cat appeared, she joined him. The Ghost Cat was possessing Mossfang!*

“Mossfang!” Frostpaw pleaded, “Mossfang, don’t attack us! The Ghost Cat will not make you more powerful. He is just trying to trick you into joining him and taking over the clans. If you help us cross the Quagmire, we will help free you from the Ghost Cat’s rule.”

Mossfang hesitated for a moment, and finally reluctantly agreed.

“I will carry you to Rockstar’s den. However, you must keep your promise, or I will eat all of you,” Mossfang promised.

“Eat us?” Leafpaw asked, shivering. Mossfang responded, “I am the Quagmire, and the Quagmire is me. To eat you, I will simply drown you in the Quagmire.”

The three apprentices climbed onto the great cat’s back, and she started to move. Frostpaw discovered that Mossfang looked just like a patch of moss when viewed from above. For a while, all they could see was mud, and reeds, and other Mossfang-like patches of mud. Finally, a gate appeared before their eyes.

Chapter 15

A golden cat statue guarded the gate. When the apprentices approached, the golden cat meowed,
*“Thunder rolls though the forests,
Keeping every cat awake.
Shadow lurks in every corner,
Making sure codebreakers cannot escape.
Wind blows on the highest mountaintops,
Cooling the cats as they run.
River runs through the meadow,
So warriors can hunt and kits can have fun.
What joins them all is Star,
Up in Silverpelt, so far.
Watching over them all,
Saving them from every fall.
What is hidden is Sky.
Why exiled, no cat knows why.
However, they will come back,
And protect the Clans from every attack.
If StarClan remains in their belief,
There will be three, Frost, Stone, and Leaf.”*

Frostpaw remembered the Frost, Stone, and Leaf prophecy. It had echoed in her mind whenever she dreamed. Now, the Great Gate’s guardian spoke of it.
Frost, Stone, and Leaf. Frostpaw, Stonepaw, and

Leafpaw. Were they the Three that will fulfill the prophecy? They were barely apprentices. Maybe they were. Apprentices will become warriors, if they return alive. Frostpaw turned around to Stonepaw and Leafpaw, who were cleaning themselves after falling into the Quagmire again. As Mossfang slowly sank into the mud as a clump of mud, Frostpaw meowed to Stonepaw and Leafpaw, “I know it! We are Frost, Stone, and Leaf!”

Stonepaw nearly fell into a pit of mud one more time. Leafpaw gave him a hawthorn berry to help calm him down. Frostpaw continued, “The gate is opening! We must be right!”

Frostpaw entered first, dragging Stonepaw. Next came Leafpaw, with her much-reduced herb supply. They came to a room, surrounded by thick tree roots. Inside was an earth brown tom with patches of gray and black. He looked old, even older than Moonmist. The cat carried an old tree branch, and on it was a stone. It was even brighter than the stone on Moonmist’s staff and was pure white. Below him were three kits that Frostpaw recognized as Mosskit, Adderkit, and Blossomkit. *How could the kits have crossed the great Quagmire? Did they find Mossfang too?* The old tomcat was just finishing his sentence, “Now rest, three lost travelers. Tomorrow, you will go to StarClan, where you belong.”

Frostpaw wanted to shout, “We are here! We will bring you back to StarClan.” Without realizing it, Frostpaw let the words escape from her mouth. The kits’ heads snapped to see her. They simultaneously squealed, “Frostpaw! Stonepaw! Leafpaw!”

The old cat slowly turned his head around.

“I am Rockstar, formerly Rockfall,” he croaked, “I am the Creator of cats. I have just told the kits the stories of the cats who now walk and have once walked in the living world. The stone I possess is the Cat’s Heartstone. If destroyed, it would cause disorder among the cats until it is repaired.”

“We have come here to bring back the kits,” Leafpaw explained, “When the gathering truce was broken and