

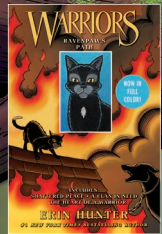
SHADOWCLAN FACES TWO PATHS. ONLY ONE WILL SAVE ITS LEGACY.

ShadowClan stands on the brink of its own destruction. Its leader, Brokenstar, is bent on nothing but battle and revenge. His former mentor, retired warrior Nightpelt, hasn't had an easy path, but he has always put his Clanmates first. So when Brokenstar banishes Nightpelt and the rest of ShadowClan's elders to the farthest edges of Clan territory, Nightpelt is shocked at his cruelty. But he's determined to ensure he and his fellow exiles survive the coming frost—and live to reclaim the ShadowClan they've always known.

DON'T MISS THESE OTHER WARRIORS GRAPHIC NOVELS



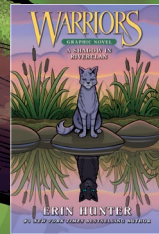
WARRIORS:
GRAYSTRIPE'S
ADVENTURE



WARRIORS:
RAVENPAW'S
PATH



WARRIORS:
SKYCLAN AND THE
STRANGER



WARRIORS:
A SHADOW IN
RIVERCLAN



WARRIORS:
WINDS OF
CHANGE

harperalley.com

US \$12.99 / \$15.99 CAN

ISBN 978-0-06-304326-8



9 780063 043268



0622

Enter the wild at
WARRIORCATS.COM

A WORKING PARTNERS BOOK



An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

Cover art © 2022 by HarperCollins Publishers

Art by James L. Barry

Also available as an ebook.



WARRIORS

GRAPHIC
NOVEL

EXILE FROM
SHADOWCLAN

HUNTER

WARRIORS

GRAPHIC NOVEL

EXILE FROM
SHADOWCLAN



ERIN HUNTER

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

WARRIORS

EXILE FROM
SHADOWCLAN

 HarperCollins

WARRIORS

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Graystripe's Adventure

Ravenpaw's Path

SkyClan and the Stranger

A Shadow in RiverClan

Winds of Change

Tigerstar and Sasha #1: Into the Woods

Tigerstar and Sasha #2: Escape from the Forest

Tigerstar and Sasha #3: Return to the Clans

The Rise of Scourge

WARRIORS

EXILE FROM SHADOWCLAN

CREATED BY
ERIN HUNTER

WRITTEN BY
DAN JOLLEY

ART BY
JAMES L. BARRY

 HarperCollins



An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

Warriors: Exile from ShadowClan

Created by Erin Hunter

Written by Dan Jolley

Art by James L. Barry

WARRIORS

EXILE FROM
SHADOWCLAN

HarperAlley is an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Exile from ShadowClan

Text copyright © 2022 by Working Partners Limited

Art copyright © 2022 by HarperCollins Publishers

All rights reserved. Manufactured in Slovenia.

No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information address HarperCollins Children's Books, a division of HarperCollins Publishers, 195 Broadway, New York, NY 10007.

www.harpercollinschildrens.com


Library of Congress Control Number: 2021951514

ISBN 978-0-06-304327-5 (hardcover) — ISBN 978-0-06-304326-8 (pbk)

22 23 24 25 26 GPS 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

❖

First Edition

 HarperCollins



 HarperCollins

SHADOWCLAN TERRITORY.

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED IT HERE.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT
THE AIR IN THE PINE FOREST...

...SOMETHING ABOUT
THE WAY THE *PREY* TASTES.

HarperCollins



I'VE NEVER WANTED TO BE ANYTHING BUT A SHADOWCLAN WARRIOR.



BUT SOMETIMES...



...WHAT A CAT WANTS ISN'T WHAT STARCLAN HAS IN MIND.



NIGHTPELT!

THAT FINE, JUICY MOUSE WOULDN'T BE FOR ME, WOULD IT?



THAT DEPENDS.

CAN I PERSUADE YOU TO EAT MORE THAN TWO BITES THIS TIME?



NOW, NOW, DON'T MAKE FUN OF YOUR ELDERS.

YOUR OWN APPETITE WILL WITHER ONE DAY, JUST YOU WAIT AND —



UHHF!

POOLCLOUD! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



WOULD YOU TWO GET OUT OF THE WAY?

WE'RE TRAINING HERE!

WELL!



HOW RUDE! I SUPPOSE THAT'S JUST YOUNG CATS NOWADAYS, THOUGH.

NOT YOUNG CATS EVERYWHERE, NO, IT ISN'T.

BUT SINCE BROKENSTAR BECAME LEADER, FIGHTING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN SHADOWCLAN.



I ALWAYS PREFERRED HUNTING, MYSELF.



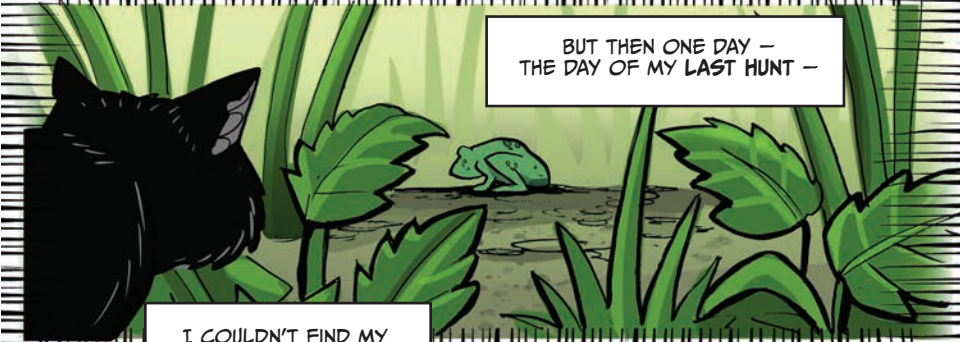
I'M NO ELDER. NOT YET.



BUT I'M NO WARRIOR ANYMORE, EITHER.



I'VE ALWAYS HAD TROUBLE BREATHING.



BUT THEN ONE DAY — THE DAY OF MY LAST HUNT —

I COULDN'T FIND MY BREATH AT ALL.



≧ KOFF KOFF ≦
≧ KOFF ≦
≧ HAKK ≦

≧ KOFF ≦





AND I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR IT EVER SINCE.

HHAAH... HUUH...

>WHEEZE<



YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO CAMP, BROTHER.

IF YOU CAN'T KEEP UP...

...YOU'RE NO GOOD TO THE CLAN.



...WHILE THE REST OF THE CLAN IS THINKING ABOUT THE NEXT BATTLE.



SHADOWCLAN!



SO I RETIRED.

TO THE ELDERS' DEN.



IT'S NOT SUCH A BAD LIFE, I SUPPOSE.

AT LEAST I CAN TAKE CARE OF THE ELDERS...



BROKENSTAR HAS BEEN A STRONG LEADER SO FAR.



HE CERTAINLY COMMANDS A GREAT DEAL OF LOYALTY.



I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK I MIGHT HAVE DONE A FEW THINGS DIFFERENTLY, IF I WERE IN CHARGE...



...BUT THE WHOLE CLAN LOVES HIM.



AND NO CAT IS ASKING FOR MY OPINION.



⇒KOFF KOFF<
⇒HAKK<



CATS OF THE CLAN, YOU HAVE FOUGHT WELL IN OUR RECENT BATTLES.



I SHOULD GET THE MEDICINE CATS TO CHECK THE ELDER'S FOR TICKS.

HMM... WONDER IF IT'S TIME TO GATHER FRESH BEDDING FOR THEM.

APPRENTICES USED TO DO THESE THINGS, BUT NOW BROKENSTAR HAS THEM TRAINING FOR BATTLE ALL THE TIME.

EVEN OUR ELDER'S HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY.



HUH?



I KNOW THEY WOULD DO ANYTHING TO MAKE US STRONGER AND MORE POWERFUL.
AND WITH THAT IN MIND, I HAVE DECIDED THAT THEY CAN BEST HELP THEIR CLAN BY LEAVING THE CAMP.



THE ELDER'S ARE NO USE FOR FIGHTING OR HUNTING OR HAVING KITS, SO THEY CAN'T TAKE UP PRECIOUS ROOM.

OR PREY.

THEY MUST GO.



IT'S AGAINST THE WARRIOR CODE!

THEY MIGHT BE MORE COMFORTABLE AWAY FROM THE CAMP...



LEAVE THE CAMP? BUT... BUT...



BROKENSTAR CAN'T DO THIS TO US!

HE CAN, THOUGH. BROKENSTAR IS THE LEADER OF SHADOWCLAN NOW.



THE ELDERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CLAN, SHARING THEIR WISDOM WITH THE YOUNGER CATS.



BUT APPARENTLY NOT UNDER BROKENSTAR.



WE WILL GO, BROKENSTAR.



GOOD.

MOVE OUT AT ONCE, AND GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR HUNTING.

I WAS BROKENSTAR'S MENTOR, A LIFETIME AGO. NOT THAT IT EVER MEANT ANYTHING TO HIM.



I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE ALL SAFE. I PROMISE.



SHADOWCLAN'S MEDICINE CATS.

YELLOWFANG AND RUNNINGNOSE.



GOOD OF THEM TO ESCORT US, AT LEAST.

THIS IS WRONG.

THE ELDERS HAVE WORKED HARD ALL THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR CLAN. THEY DESERVE TO BE PART OF IT.

TO BE TAKEN CARE OF NOW THAT THEY'RE OLD.

THE CLAN NEEDS THEIR WISDOM.

RAGGEDSTAR WOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED THIS.

BUT SINCE HIS DEATH AT WINDCLAN'S PAWS...

...ALL BROKENSTAR HAS WANTED TO DO IS AVENGE HIS FATHER.

EVEN WHEN HE WAS MY APPRENTICE, ALL HE EVER WANTED TO DO WAS FIGHT.

BROKENSTAR WANTS TO MAKE SHADOWCLAN MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY OTHER CLAN.

THAT'S A GOOD THING - ISN'T IT?



IT ISN'T GOOD THAT HE MADE MOSSKIT HIS APPRENTICE WHEN HE WAS ONLY FOUR MOONS OLD.

THAT'S FAR YOUNGER THAN THE SIX MOONS THE CODE CALLS FOR.

AND IT ISN'T GOOD TO MAKE THE ELDERS LEAVE THE CLAN CAMP, EITHER.

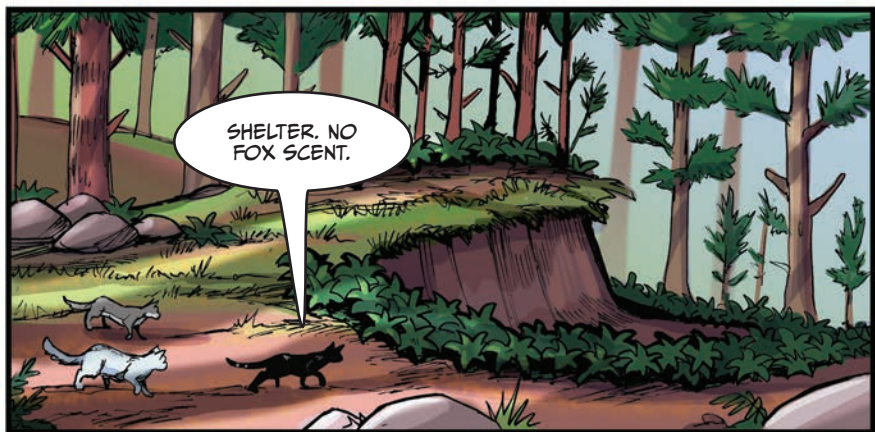
WHAT BROKENSTAR'S DONE - WHAT HE'S DOING - IT'S ALL AGAINST THE WARRIOR CODE THAT STARCLAN GAVE TO THE CLANS.

STARCLAN HASN'T DONE ANYTHING TO STOP BROKENSTAR, THOUGH.

THESE THINGS MUST BE THEIR WILL, JUST AS MUCH AS HIS.



LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THAT HILL.



SHELTER. NO FOX SCENT.

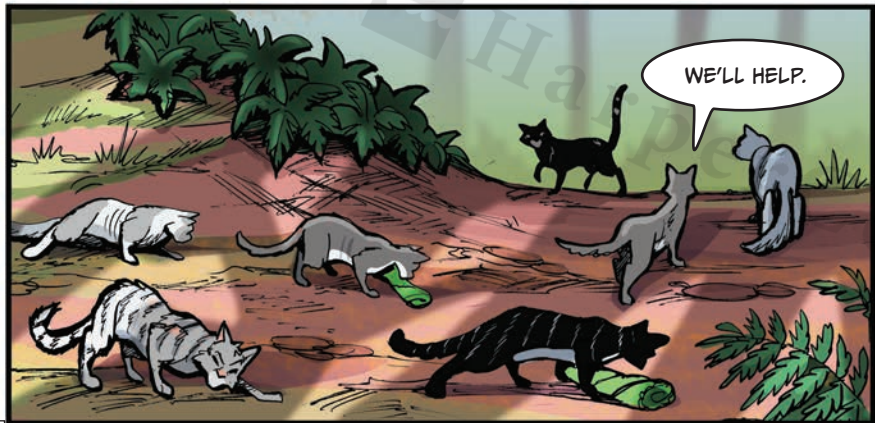


NO TWOLEG SCENT, EITHER.

IT ONLY NEEDS A BIT OF WORK.



THIS WILL MAKE A GOOD DEN.



WE'LL HELP.



JUST NEED TO GET ENOUGH SCOOPED OUT SO IT'S DEEP...



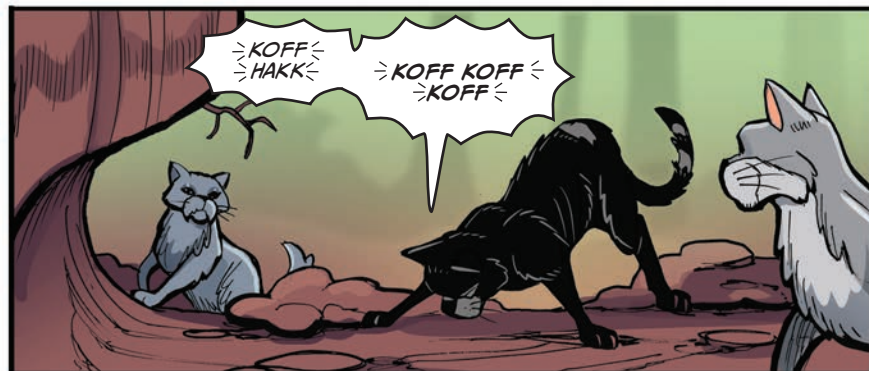
...DEEP...



≧KOFF≦

≧KOFF≦

≧WHEEZE≦



≧KOFF≦

≧HAKK≦

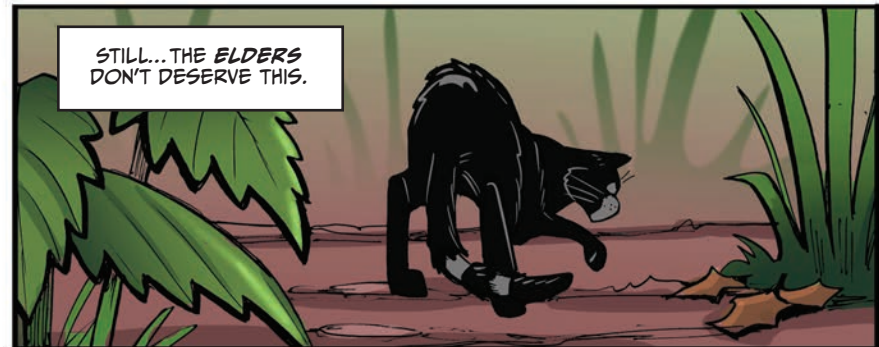
≧KOFF KOFF≦

≧KOFF≦



THAT'S GETTING REALLY BAD, ISN'T IT?

SOME DAYS...
≧WHEEZE≦ ARE BETTER THAN OTHERS....

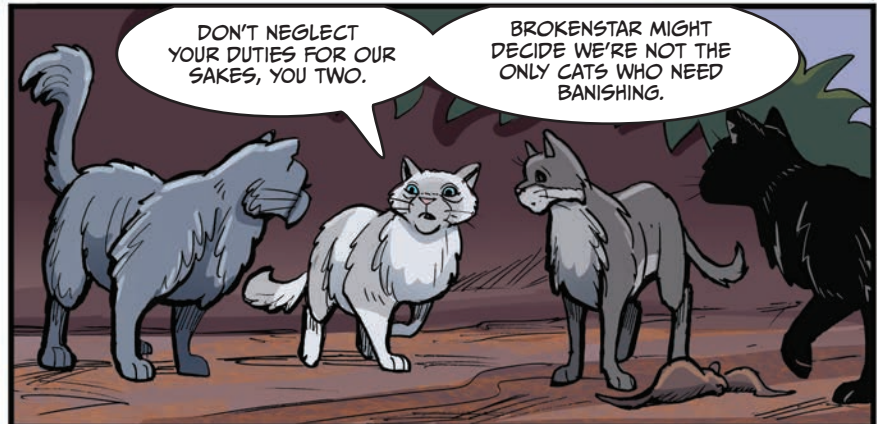




BROKENSTAR SHOULD BE SERVING *THEM* NOW, INSTEAD OF SENDING THEM OUT ON THEIR OWN.



WELL... I *MEANT* WHAT I SAID TO THEM.



DON'T NEGLECT YOUR DUTIES FOR OUR SALES, YOU TWO.

BROKENSTAR MIGHT DECIDE WE'RE NOT THE ONLY CATS WHO NEED BANISHING.



I *WILL* KEEP THEM SAFE.



TIME FOR US TO GET BACK.

I UNDERSTAND.

THANK YOU BOTH SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HELP.



I PROMISE WE'LL COME AND VISIT.

AND WE'LL BRING HERBS SO YOU CAN TREAT YOURSELVES - FOR ANYTHING MINOR, ANYWAY.



YOU HAVEN'T BEEN BANISHED, POOLCLOUD! NONE OF YOU HAVE.

YOU'RE STILL PART OF SHADOWCLAN. YOU STILL LIVE IN OUR TERRITORY.



FEELS LIKE BANISHMENT.



I'M GLAD THEY COULD ALL GET TO SLEEP.



THEY'VE ALL WORKED HARD GETTING THIS DEN READY. AND THEY NEED REST MORE THAN I DO.



I MIGHT NOT BE MUCH FOR *DIGGING* ANYMORE... OR *FIGHTING*...

BUT *GUARDING* THEM I CAN DO.

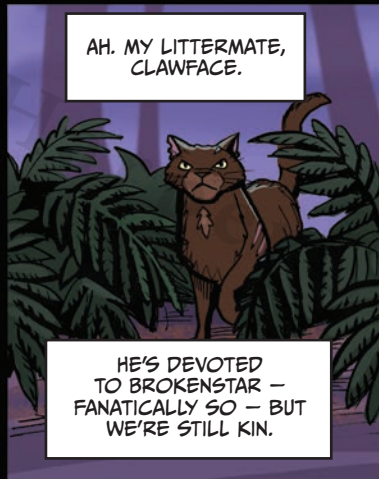
IT FEELS MUCH LESS SAFE OUT HERE IN THE FOREST THAN IT WAS IN THE SHADOWCLAN CAMP — *HOME*. I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL ON EDGE.



PAW STEPS...?



WHO'S THERE?



AH. MY LITTERMATE, CLAWFACE.

HE'S DEVOTED TO BROKENSTAR — FANATICALLY SO — BUT WE'RE STILL KIN.



BROTHER.

PLEASANT, UH... PLEASANT EVENING, ISN'T IT?



SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE FOUND A GOOD CAMP.



CLAWFACE... BE HONEST WITH ME.

DO YOU REALLY THINK WHAT BROKENSTAR'S DOING IS RIGHT?

NOT JUST EXILING THE ELDERS. TRAINING KITS TO BE WARRIORS WHEN THEY'RE TOO YOUNG? TAKING THEM TO ATTACK THE OTHER CLANS?



MOSSPAW IS BIG AND STRONG, BROTHER. HE'S READY, EVEN IF HE'S NOT SIX MOONS OLD YET. AND THE OTHER KITS...

...THEY CAN'T WAIT FOR THEIR TURN TO COME, THEY'RE SO JEALOUS. BROKENSTAR HONORS MOSSPAW BY MAKING HIM AN APPRENTICE EARLY.



BESIDES, THE OTHER CLANS *NEED* TO BE AFRAID OF US —

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP SHADOWCLAN *SAFE*.

WINDCLAN MURDERED RAGGEDSTAR. DON'T FORGET THAT.

AND THE *OTHER* CLANS WILL BE *HAPPY* TO ATTACK US IF WE SHOW THEM EVEN THE LEAST BIT OF WEAKNESS.



AS FOR THE ELDERS... ONCE SHADOWCLAN IS *SAFE* — ONCE THE OTHER CLANS HAVE LEARNED TO FEAR US —

THEN YOU AND THE REST OF THEM WILL BE ABLE TO COME *BACK*.



I'M *SURE* OF IT.



YOU JUST NEED TO BE PATIENT.



PATIENT?

LEAF-BARE IS COMING. IF THE ELDERS AND I ARE GOING TO SURVIVE...



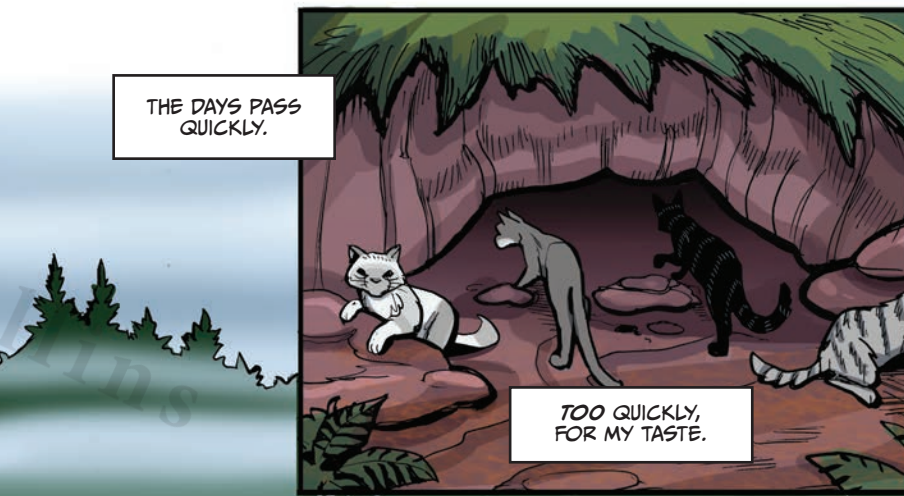
...WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DEPEND ON EACH OTHER.

AND ALL OF THEM WILL HAVE TO DEPEND ON *ME*.

I WON'T LET THEM DOWN...



...BUT *PATIENCE* HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.



THE DAYS PASS QUICKLY.

TOO QUICKLY, FOR MY TASTE.



WE'RE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS, AREN'T WE? GETTING THE CAMP READY FOR LEAF-BARE.

WELL, WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN THROWN OUT OF CAMP...



THIS IS A GOOD, WARM DEN.

... BUT THIS IS STILL OUR TERRITORY, AND WE ALL HAVE THE EXPERIENCE OF OUR MOONS AS WARRIORS.

IT'LL DO, NO QUESTION.

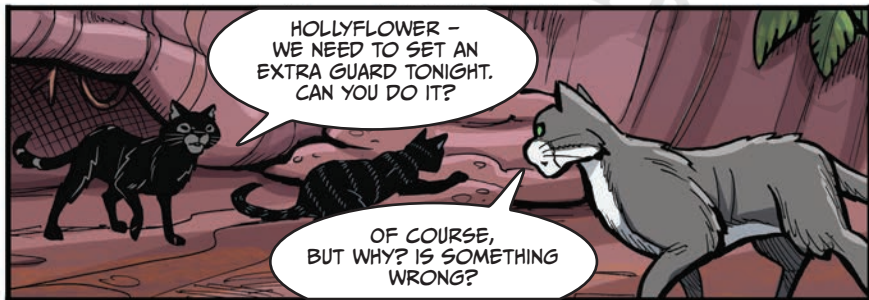
LEAF-BARE WON'T TOUCH US IN HERE.



THERE ARE FOXES IN THE WOODS, THOUGH.

I HOPE THIS WILL BE GOOD ENOUGH.

sniff sniff



HOLLYFLOWER - WE NEED TO SET AN EXTRA GUARD TONIGHT. CAN YOU DO IT?

OF COURSE, BUT WHY? IS SOMETHING WRONG?



MAYBE NOT. WE JUST NEED TO BE VIGILANT.



MAKE WAY!



FRESH HERBS HERE!

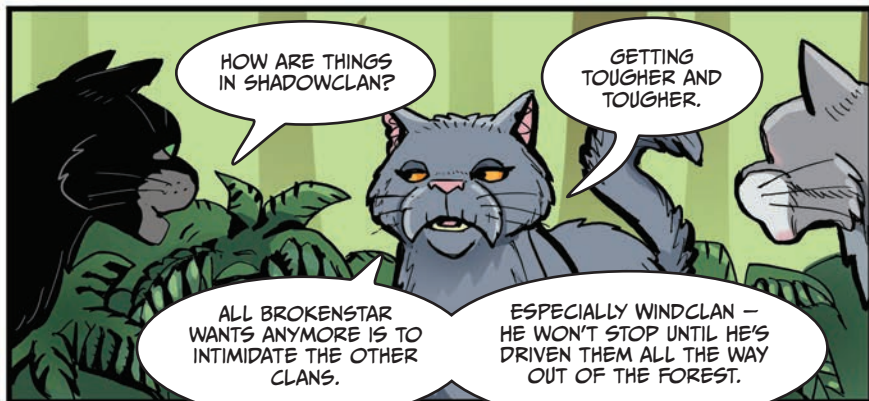


YELLOWFANG - RUNNINGNOSE! I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU AGAIN SO SOON.

NOT THAT YOU'RE NOT WELCOME!

WELL, WE TOLD YOU WE'D BRING YOU WHAT YOU NEEDED, DIDN'T WE?

YOU'VE GOT HERBS TO TREAT THE ACHEs AND PAINS OF THE ELDERs - AND SOME TO TRY TO HELP WITH THAT COUGH OF YOURS, TOO.

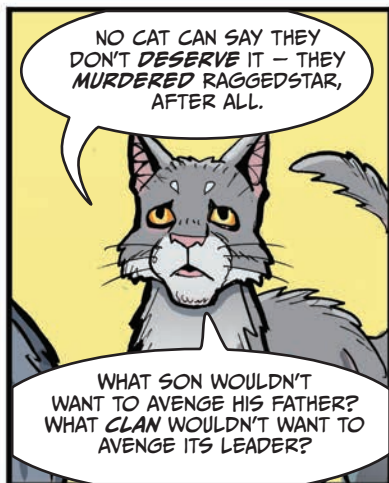


HOW ARE THINGS
IN SHADOWCLAN?

GETTING
TOUGHER AND
TOUGHER.

ALL BROKENSTAR
WANTS ANYMORE IS TO
INTIMIDATE THE OTHER
CLANS.

ESPECIALLY WINDCLAN —
HE WON'T STOP UNTIL HE'S
DRIVEN THEM ALL THE WAY
OUT OF THE FOREST.



NO CAT CAN SAY THEY
DON'T *DESERVE* IT — THEY
MURDERED RAGGEDSTAR,
AFTER ALL.

WHAT SON WOULDN'T
WANT TO AVENGE HIS FATHER?
WHAT *CLAN* WOULDN'T WANT
TO AVENGE ITS LEADER?



HONESTLY,
I DON'T THINK ANY CAT
IN SHADOWCLAN *LIKES* THE
WAY BROKENSTAR IS GOING
ABOUT IT.

BUT AS RUNNINGNOSE SAID,
THEY ALL UNDERSTAND WHY HE'S
DOING THE THINGS HE DOES.



MAYBE IT WOULD BE BEST
JUST NOT TO THINK ABOUT
BROKENSTAR AT ALL.

CONCENTRATE ON THE
THINGS I CAN DO...



...AND LET BROKENSTAR
JUST *BE* BROKENSTAR.



HERE — BROUGHT
YOU SOME MORE.



OH, THANK YOU,
NIGHTPELT. THAT'S VERY
SWEET OF YOU.



I WONDER...
IF WE ANCHORED THE
EDGES IN THE GROUND AND
PACKED IN SOME ROCKS
AROUND THEM...

WOULD THAT
MAKE IT STRONGER,
DO YOU THINK?

I THINK WE
SHOULD FIND
OUT.



THAT SOUNDS EXACTLY
LIKE A JOB FOR A YOUNG,
STRONG CAT, DOESN'T IT,
HOLLYFLOWER?

IT DOES INDEED!
GOOD THING WE *HAVE*
ONE OF THOSE, THEN,
ISN'T IT?



THERE. SEE IT?



SEE IT AND SMELL IT.

WE SHOULD COME AT IT FROM TWO SIDES.

I HOPE IT DOESN'T HEAR MY STOMACH GROWLING.



OH NO. NO NO NO, NOT NOW -



≧KOFF≦
≧WHEEZE≦

NOW IT WON'T JUST BE CLAWFACE. ARCHEYE WILL SEE HOW USELESS I REALLY AM.



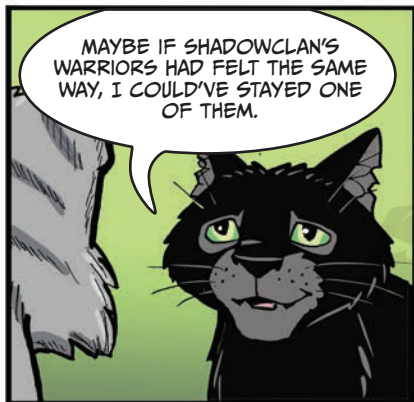
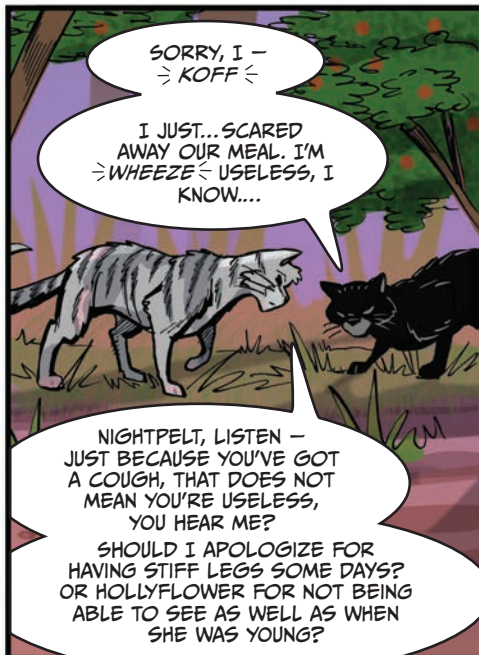
≧KOFF KOFF KOFF≦
≧HAKK≦

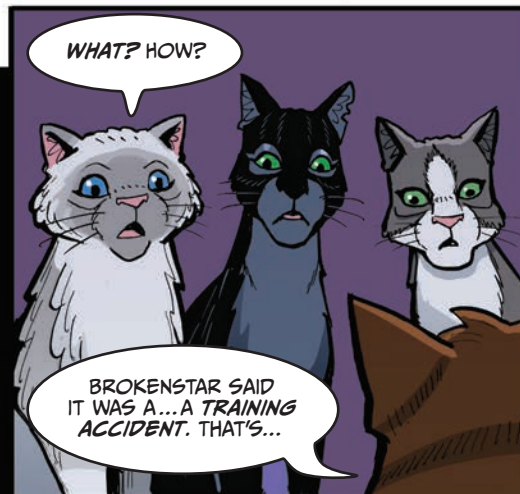


≧KOFF≦
≧KOFF≦



≧WHEEZE≦





BROKENSTAR'S GETTING THE MOURNING MOTHER OUT OF THE WAY...



...SO SHE CAN'T MAKE A FUSS ABOUT HIM TURNING HER OTHER KITS - VOLEKIT AND DAWNKIT - INTO APPRENTICES TOO EARLY.

SOME CAT NEEDS TO DO SOMETHING... BUT WHAT?



ALL OF US HERE ARE OLD... WEAK... HOW COULD WE POSSIBLY HELP?

YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE WITH US, FEATHERSTORM. I PROMISE.

YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS YOU NEED TO.



COME WITH ME.

YOU NEED REST.



I'VE NEVER SEEN A CAT MORE DEVASTATED THAN FEATHERSTORM.



DAY AFTER DAY, SHE JUST... SITS.

TRAPPED IN HER GRIEF.



AND STARCLAN HELP ME...



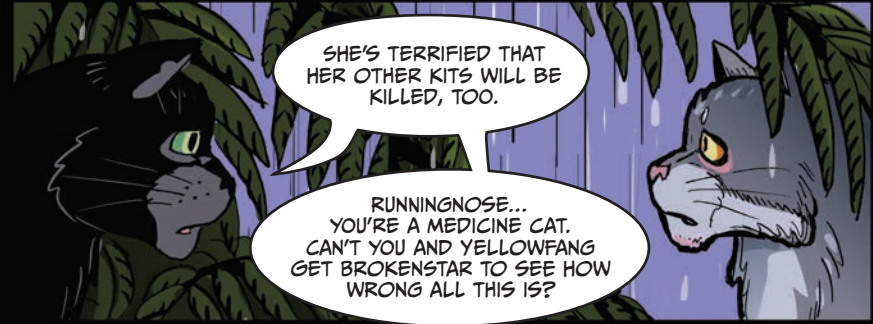
...I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO HELP HER.



NIGHTPELT!



I'VE COME TO CHECK ON YOU ALL - AND FEATHERSTORM.



SHE'S TERRIFIED THAT HER OTHER KITS WILL BE KILLED, TOO.

RUNNINGNOSE... YOU'RE A MEDICINE CAT. CAN'T YOU AND YELLOWFANG GET BROKENSTAR TO SEE HOW WRONG ALL THIS IS?



SHE IS HERE, ISN'T SHE?

WELL...HER BODY IS. LOSING MOSSPAW CRUSHED HER.

IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO FOR HER, DO YOU THINK?



THE KITS ARE SHADOWCLAN'S FUTURE.

THEY NEED TO BE PROTECTED UNTIL THEY'RE OLD ENOUGH TO BECOME WARRIORS, OR SHADOWCLAN WON'T HAVE A FUTURE.

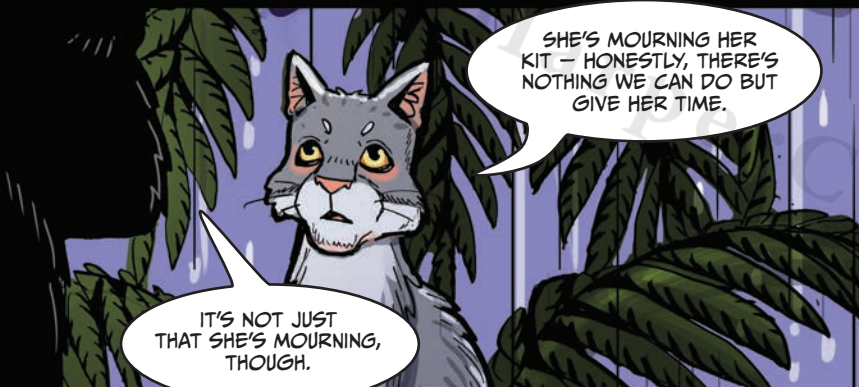


BELIEVE ME, NIGHTPELT, I KNOW. BUT AS SORRY AS I AM TO SAY IT - THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.



BROKENSTAR DOESN'T LISTEN TO ANY CAT WHO DISAGREES WITH HIM.

AND WHAT MAKES IT WORSE IS THAT THE MOST POWERFUL WARRIORS - LIKE YOUR BROTHER, CLAWFACE - SUPPORT HIM.



SHE'S MOURNING HER KIT - HONESTLY, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO BUT GIVE HER TIME.

IT'S NOT JUST THAT SHE'S MOURNING, THOUGH.



YELLOWFANG DOES SPEAK UP AGAINST BROKENSTAR, BUT... I FEAR THAT WON'T END WELL. YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND, NIGHTPELT.

IN THE END, MEDICINE CATS ADVISE THEIR LEADER, YES.

BUT THE LEADER MAKES THE DECISIONS.



GOT SOME MORE HERBS FROM RUNNINGNOSE.



MIND IF I SIT WITH YOU FOR A BIT?



I KNOW THIS... THIS SITUATION WE'RE IN HERE IS...IT'S NEW, AND STRANGE, AND NONE OF US KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH IT.

BUT WE'RE ALL STILL SHADOWCLAN CATS, AND WE LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER.



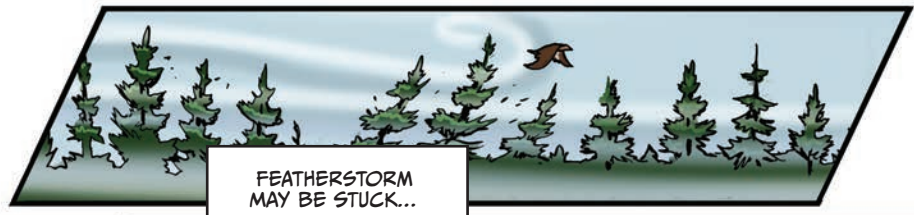
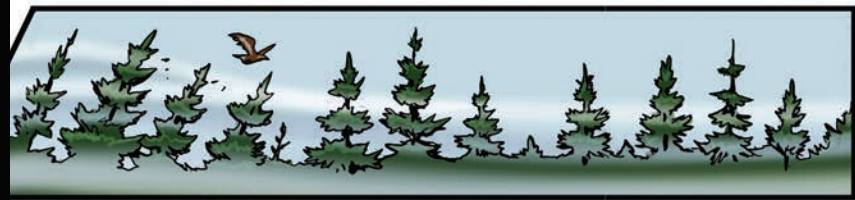
MAYBE YOU CAN'T BE THERE FOR YOUR KITS RIGHT NOW, BUT...

FEATHERSTORM, YOU CAN HELP ME PROTECT OUR CLANMATES *HERE*.

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DO THAT?



HELP ME MAKE THIS A PLACE WHERE WE CAN ALL SURVIVE THROUGH LEAF-BARE?



FEATHERSTORM MAY BE STUCK...



... BUT THE SUN KEEPS
RISING AND SETTING FOR
THE REST OF US...

...BRINGING LEAF-BARE
CLOSER AND CLOSER.



I'VE DONE
EVERYTHING I CAN
TO PREPARE.



WE ALL HAVE.



NOW THERE'S NOTHING
ELSE BUT TO WAIT...

...AND, STARCLAN WILLING,
SURVIVE.

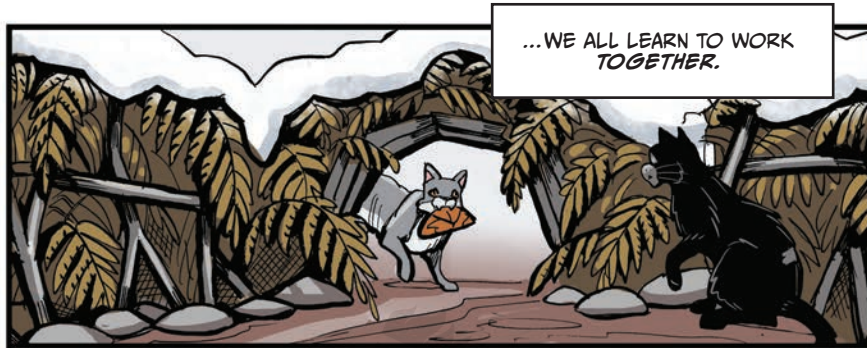
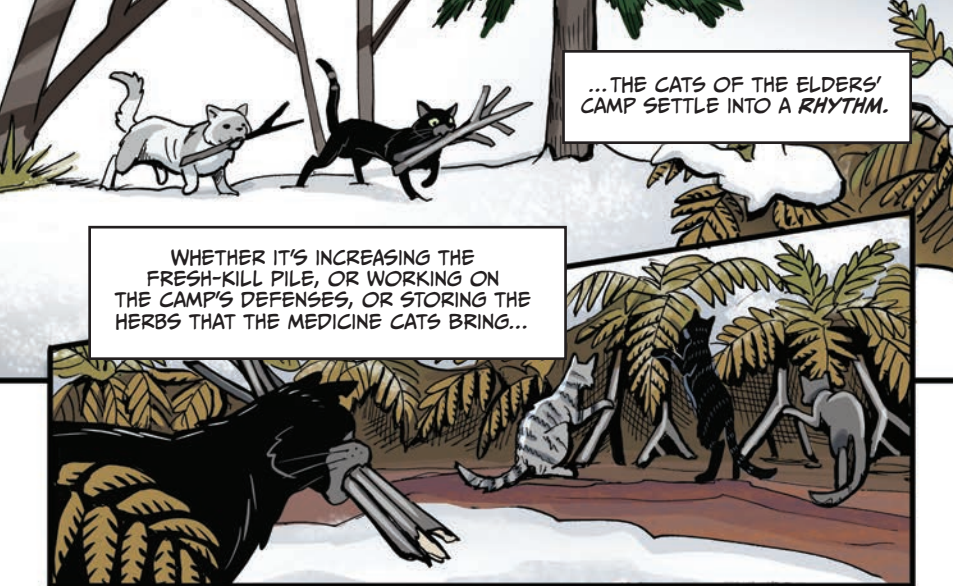


DAYS PASS. I LOSE
TRACK OF HOW MANY.



BUT SOMEWHERE
ALONG THE WAY...







SHADOWCLAN CATS!
EVERY ONE OF THEM!



LED BY BROKENSTAR
HIMSELF? WHAT IS THIS?



CLAWFACE!
WHAT'S
GOING ON?



WE'RE ABOUT
TO ATTACK WINDCLAN'S
CAMP UNDER COVER
OF DARKNESS.

SHADOWCLAN WON'T
SHOW THEM ANY MERCY -
NOT UNTIL THEY'VE BEEN
DRIVEN OUT.

BROKENSTAR
WANTS REVENGE FOR
RAGGEDSTAR'S MURDER.
WE ALL DO.



I CAN SEE IT IN
YOUR FACE, BROTHER.
YOU THINK THIS IS A BAD
IDEA.

IT'S NOT.
SHADOWCLAN'S GROWING
LARGER, WITH ALL THE KITS
BORN OVER THE PAST FEW
SEASONS...

...SO MUCH THAT OUR
HUNTING GROUNDS WON'T
SUPPORT US FOR LONG.

BUT ONCE WE DRIVE OUT
WINDCLAN AND TAKE THEIR
HUNTING GROUNDS? THEN WE'LL
HAVE PLENTY OF PREY.



IT'S JUST -
DRIVING WINDCLAN
OUT COMPLETELY?

THERE HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN FOUR
CLANS IN THE FOREST, AND...
I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND
CRUEL, BUT...

... RAGGEDSTAR WAS
KILLED IN BATTLE. IT'S SAD,
BUT IT HAPPENS.

THIS CAN'T BE
STARCLAN'S WILL.



YOU'RE WRONG.

WINDCLAN'S
GOING TO GET WHAT
THEY DESERVE.



LISTEN, YOU'RE BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN EVER, CLAWFACE, BUT —

JUST LOOK AT YOUR CLANMATES! LOOK HOW THIN THEY ARE!



MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE HUNTING FOR THE CLAN, INSTEAD OF GOING TO BATTLE.

WARRIORS DON'T HUNT FOR THE CLAN ANYMORE.

BROKENSTAR SAYS EVERY CAT CAN HUNT FOR THEMSELVES



TRAINING TO FIGHT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN HUNTING.

BESIDES, ONCE WE WIN, THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF PREY.



DON'T MIND IF I HELP MYSELF TO THESE MORSELS, THOUGH.

WHAT? CLAWFACE — I CAUGHT THOSE FOR THE ELDERS!



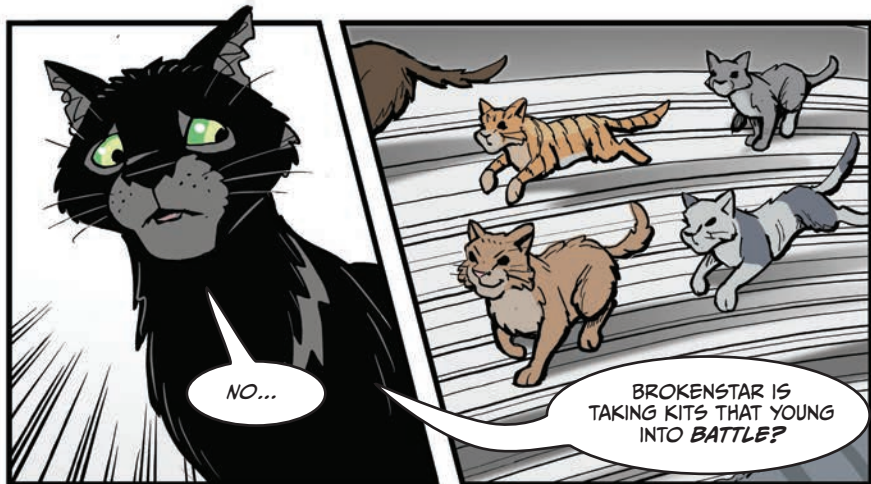
WARRIORS NEED TO EAT MORE THAN YOU AND THE ELDERS DO. KEEP IN MIND...

...BROKENSTAR STILL LETS YOU HUNT ON SHADOWCLAN TERRITORY, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE FIRST RIGHTS TO PREY.



THE ELDERS AND I ARE SHADOWCLAN, CLAWFACE. THIS IS OUR TERRITORY, TOO.





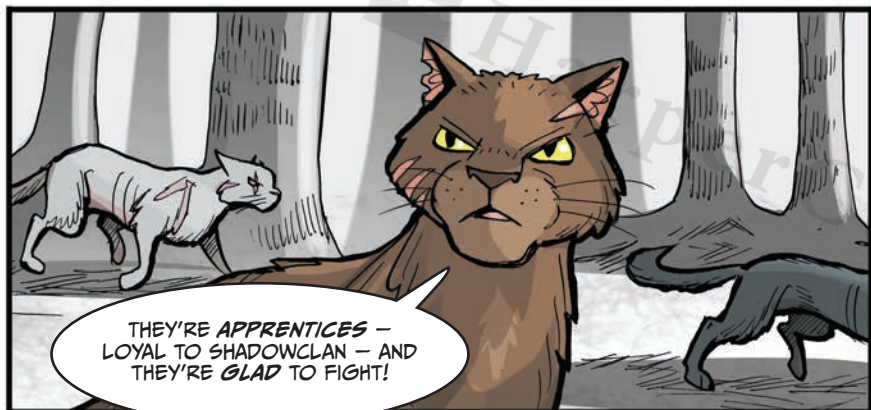
NO...

BROKENSTAR IS TAKING KITS THAT YOUNG INTO BATTLE?

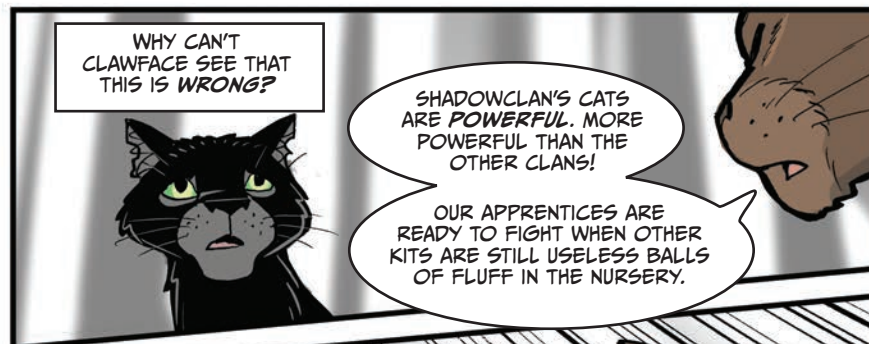


AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO MOSSPAW?

THEY ARE NOT KITS, NIGHTPELT. NOT ANYMORE.



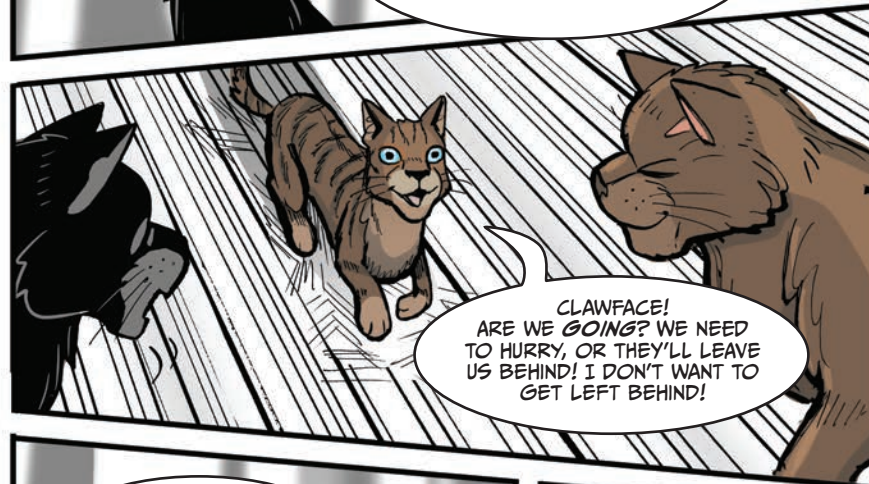
THEY'RE APPRENTICES — LOYAL TO SHADOWCLAN — AND THEY'RE GLAD TO FIGHT!



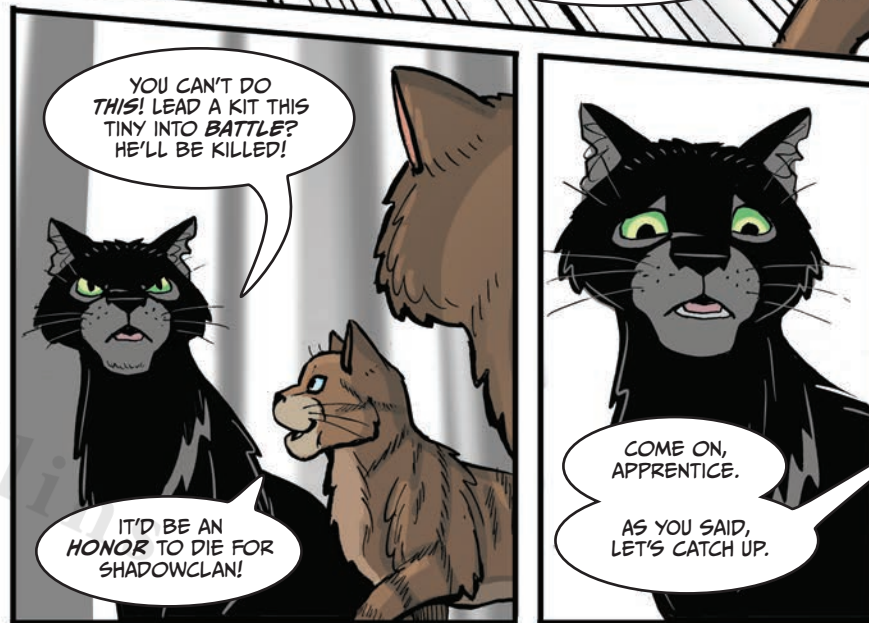
WHY CAN'T CLAWFACE SEE THAT THIS IS WRONG?

SHADOWCLAN'S CATS ARE POWERFUL. MORE POWERFUL THAN THE OTHER CLANS!

OUR APPRENTICES ARE READY TO FIGHT WHEN OTHER KITS ARE STILL USELESS BALLS OF FLUFF IN THE NURSERY.



CLAWFACE! ARE WE GOING? WE NEED TO HURRY, OR THEY'LL LEAVE US BEHIND! I DON'T WANT TO GET LEFT BEHIND!



YOU CAN'T DO THIS! LEAD A KIT THIS TINY INTO BATTLE? HE'LL BE KILLED!

IT'D BE AN HONOR TO DIE FOR SHADOWCLAN!

COME ON, APPRENTICE.

AS YOU SAID, LET'S CATCH UP.



IT WAS A SHADOWCLAN BATTLE PATROL, PASSING BY ON THEIR WAY TO WINDCLAN.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW MANY CATS BROKENSTAR WAS TAKING.

HE WANTS TO DRIVE WINDCLAN OUT OF THE FOREST COMPLETELY.

NIGHTPELT?

WHAT'S WRONG?

DID YOU GO BACK TO THE SHADOWCLAN CAMP? YOU SMELL LIKE EVERY CAT.

ARE MY KITS WITH THE BATTLE PATROL?

I DIDN'T SEE VOLEKIT OR - I MEAN VOLEPAW -

OR DAWNPAW, BUT... I COULDN'T SEE ALL THE RAIDERS.

I THINK HE WAS TAKING MOST OF THE CLAN.

THEY COULD HAVE BEEN THERE. THEY PROBABLY WERE.

I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE.



OH.



I'M SORRY I CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR KITS.



I THINK...
I THINK I'M GOING TO WAIT FOR THE BATTLE TO BE OVER. I KNOW I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP.

MAYBE I CAN CATCH THE PATROL WHEN THEY RETURN TO CAMP?



I'LL WAIT WITH YOU.

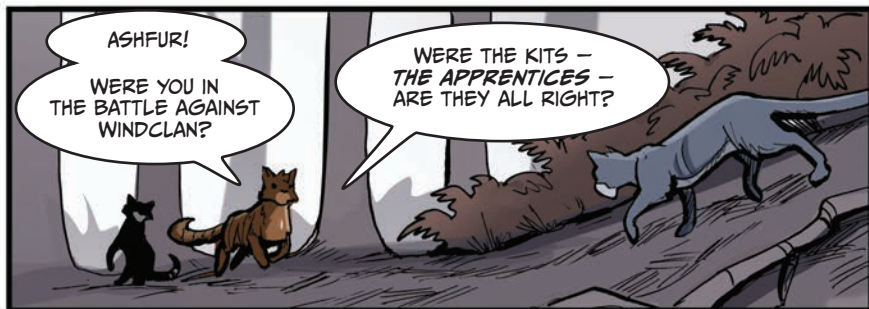


I HEAR A CAT COMING!

THERE!
OVER THERE!



THAT'S OUR CLANMATE ASHFUR.
MAYBE HE CAN TELL US ABOUT THE WINDCLAN RAID.



ASHFUR!
WERE YOU IN
THE BATTLE AGAINST
WINDCLAN?

WERE THE KITS –
THE APPRENTICES –
ARE THEY ALL RIGHT?



THE APPRENTICES
FOUGHT BRAVELY. NONE
OF THEM WERE BADLY
HURT.

OH,
THANK STARCLAN.



THE BATTLE WENT
WELL. WINDCLAN WON'T BE
FEELING SECURE IN THEIR
CAMP FOR A WHILE.



THANKS FOR COMING
TO TELL US. THIS HAS BEEN
A LONG NIGHT.

WELL... ACTUALLY...
I MEAN, I'M GLAD TO BRING
YOU NEWS YOU WERE
HOPING FOR.

BUT I'VE
COME TO ASK
A FAVOR.

FROM US?



WELL,
OF COURSE, BUT...
WHAT DO YOU
NEED?

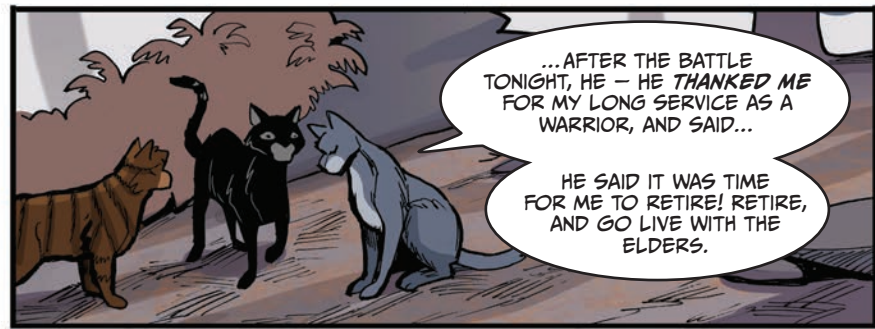
I – WELL...
I QUESTIONED
BROKENSTAR.

I ASKED HIM, SHOULDN'T WE
BE CONCENTRATING ON HUNTING
FOR THE CLAN, NOW THAT LEAF-
BARE HAS COME?
INSTEAD OF
TRAINING FOR ENDLESS
BATTLES?



HE DIDN'T
GET ANGRY. NOT THAT
I COULD SEE.

HE JUST SAID THAT DEFENSE
AGAINST THE OTHER CLANS WAS
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING
FOR SHADOWCLAN.
BUT THEN...



... AFTER THE BATTLE
TONIGHT, HE – HE THANKED ME
FOR MY LONG SERVICE AS A
WARRIOR, AND SAID...

HE SAID IT WAS TIME
FOR ME TO RETIRE! RETIRE,
AND GO LIVE WITH THE
ELDERS.



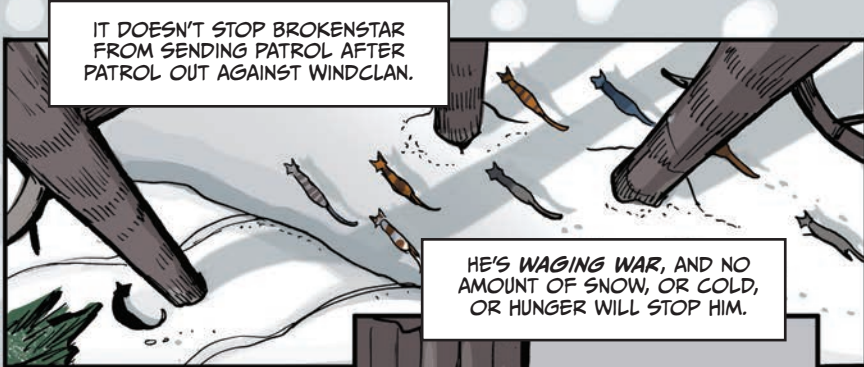
YOU'RE
WELCOME TO JOIN
US, ASHFUR.

WE MAY NO LONGER BE
WARRIORS, BUT WE'RE ALL STILL
SHADOWCLAN. AND WE LOOK
AFTER EACH OTHER HERE.



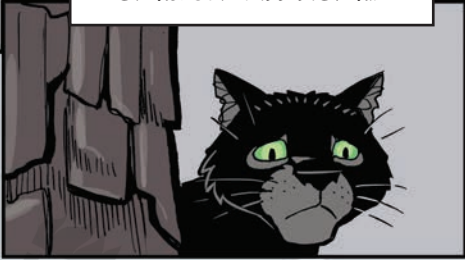
EVERY TIME IT COMES BACK, I FIND THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW COLD LEAF-BARE GETS.

IT DOESN'T STOP US FROM HUNTING, FROM SCROUNGING, FROM DOING WHAT'S NECESSARY TO SURVIVE.



IT DOESN'T STOP BROKENSTAR FROM SENDING PATROL AFTER PATROL OUT AGAINST WINDCLAN.

HE'S WAGING WAR, AND NO AMOUNT OF SNOW, OR COLD, OR HUNGER WILL STOP HIM.



AND YET...



AS THE COLD CREEPS PAST FUR AND FLESH AND SETTLES INTO BONE...AS THE NIGHTS GROW LONGER, DARKER, LONELIER...



...MORE AND MORE CATS PEEL AWAY FROM SHADOWCLAN. FROM BROKENSTAR.



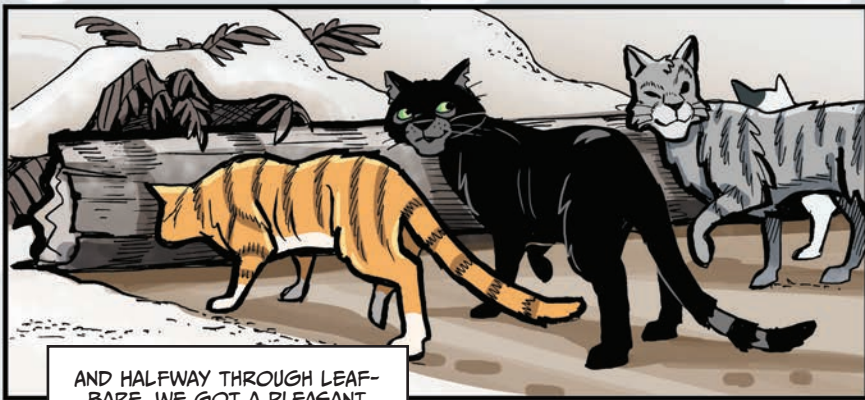
AND THEY WIND UP AT OUR CAMP.



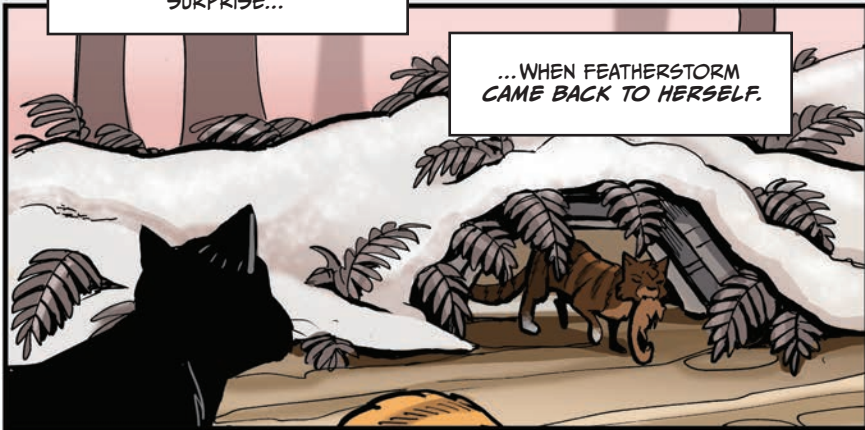
NOT THAT WE MIND.

MORE PAWS MAKE THE WORK GO FASTER, THAT'S CERTAIN.





AND HALFWAY THROUGH LEAF-BARE, WE GOT A PLEASANT SURPRISE...



...WHEN FEATHERSTORM CAME BACK TO HERSELF.



PREY'S BEEN SCARCE FOR A MOON NOW.



FEATHERSTORM GETTING BACK ON HER PAWS - HELPING US HUNT - IS MORE THAN WELCOME.



THESE HIPS AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE, THAT'S FOR SURE.

WON'T SURPRISE ME IF THEY FREEZE SOLID UNDER MY FUR.



PREY MIGHT BE SCARCE, BUT WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER, AND BRINGING IN WHAT WE NEED.

BUT FOR THE REST OF SHADOWCLAN, IT'S EVERY CAT FOR THEMSELVES. I WORRY ABOUT HOW MANY OF THEM ARE GOING HUNGRY.

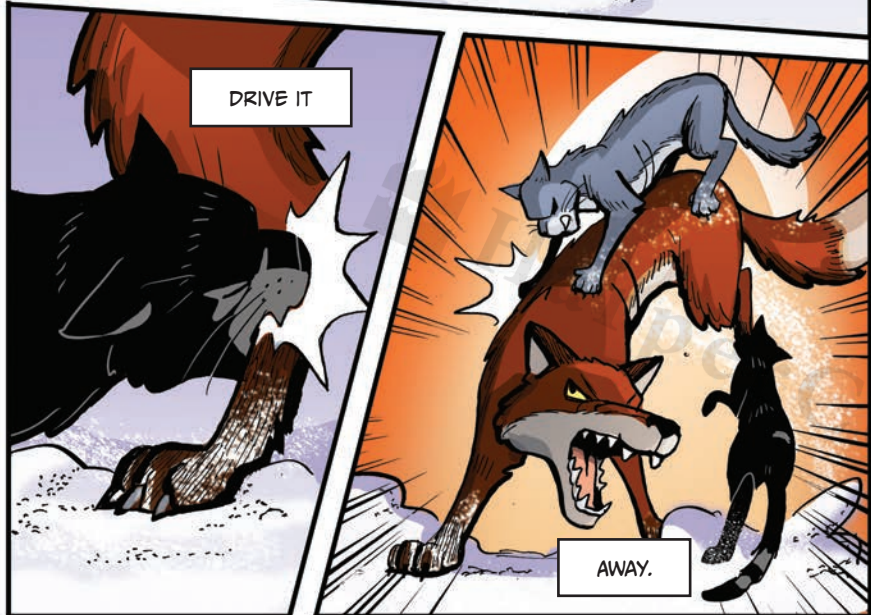


HOLD ON. I JUST GOT... A TRACE OF SOMETHING.



sniff
sniff
sniff









THE BLEEDING.

NIGHTPELT,
I CAN'T MAKE IT
STOP.



WE NEED A
MEDICINE CAT.
BUT...

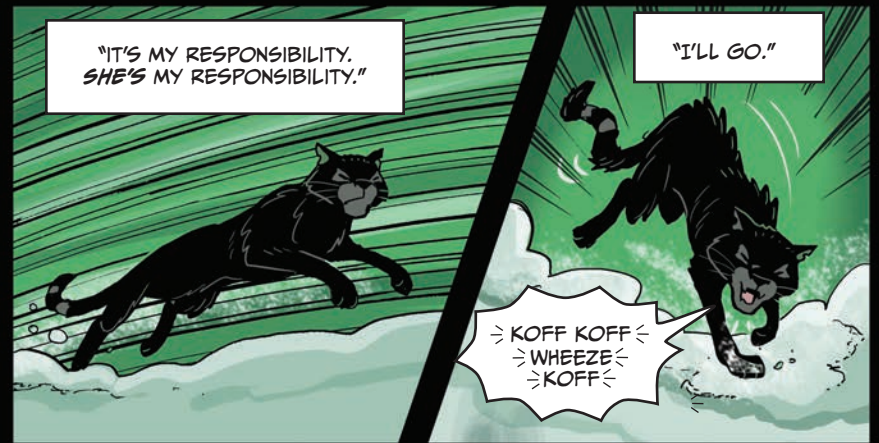


... THAT FOX IS STILL
OUT THERE - AND NOW
IT'S WOUNDED.



I'LL GO.

BUT-



"IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY.
SHE'S MY RESPONSIBILITY."

"I'LL GO."

≧ KOFF KOFF ≦
≧ WHEEZE ≦
≧ KOFF ≦



≧ HAKK ≦

NO NO NO NO...

... NOT NOW, NOT NOW!
NOT WHEN POOLCLOUD
NEEDS HELP!





HEY. STOP WHERE YOU ARE, NIGHTPELT. YOU DON'T BELONG HERE.

I NEED >KOFF<
I NEED A MEDICINE CAT.
>WHEEZE<



YEAH, I'D SAY YOU NEED HELP, ALL RIGHT. BUT YOU STILL SHOULDN'T BE HERE. GO BACK TO YOUR CAMP.

I'M STILL
>PANT PANT PANT<
I'M STILL SHADOWCLAN!
BROKENSTAR SAID SO!
>KOFF<



AND IT'S NOT FOR ME.
>WHEEZE<

IT'S FOR AN ELDER!



AN ELDER, HUH?

EH. FINE. BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO GET BROKENSTAR'S PERMISSION IF YOU WANT ONE OF OUR MEDICINE CATS TO GO WITH YOU.



NO.



BROKENSTAR — IT'S POOLCLOUD!

SHE'S BEEN MAULED BY A FOX! PLEASE, IF SHE DOESN'T GET HELP, SHE'LL DIE!



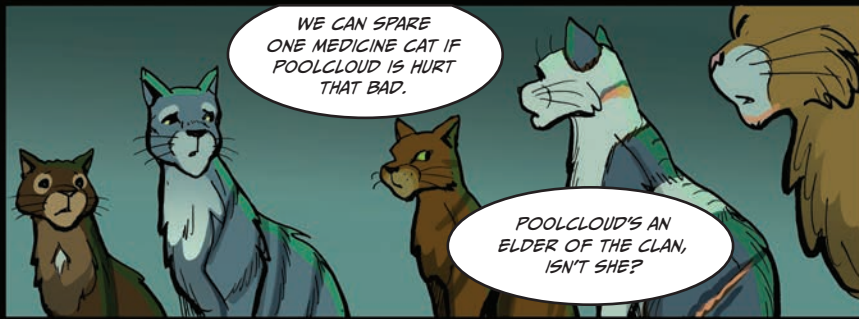
POOLCLOUD WAS A BRAVE WARRIOR IN HER TIME, IT'S TRUE. BUT PERHAPS HER TIME HAS PASSED.

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT SHADOWCLAN'S MEDICINE CATS MUST STAY IN CAMP, IN CASE ANY OF SHADOWCLAN'S WARRIORS NEED THEM.

WE ARE IN CONSTANT DANGER FROM THE OTHER CLANS. WE HAVE TO BE READY FOR ATTACK.



THIS ISN'T RIGHT.



WE CAN SPARE ONE MEDICINE CAT IF POOLCLOUD IS HURT THAT BAD.

POOLCLOUD'S AN ELDER OF THE CLAN, ISN'T SHE?



UH...



POOLCLOUD'S TIME AS A WARRIOR MAY HAVE PASSED, BROKENSTAR.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE ABANDON HER.

I'M GOING WITH NIGHTPELT, AND I'LL SEE THAT POOLCLOUD GETS THE HELP SHE NEEDS.



YOU NEED TO REMEMBER WHO IS LEADER HERE, MEDICINE CAT.



FINE.
GO.



COME ON, COME ON, FASTER -





SHE WAS A GOOD WARRIOR. FOLLOWED THE CODE.

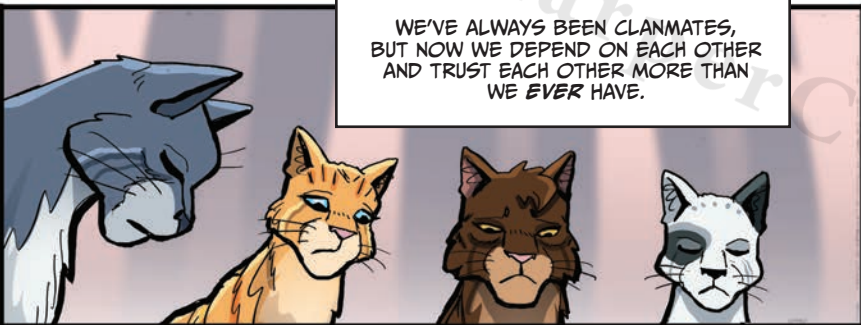
DID EVERYTHING SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO.

WE'RE GOING TO MISS HER.

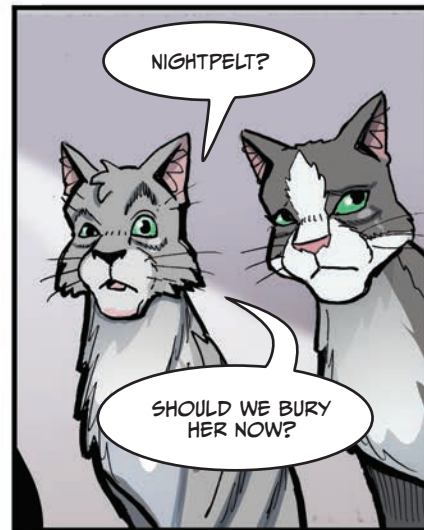
SOMETHING OCCURS TO ME.



THIS LITTLE GROUP OF CATS WHO BROKENSTAR DROVE OUT OF THE SHADOWCLAN CAMP HAS CHANGED.



WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN CLANMATES, BUT NOW WE DEPEND ON EACH OTHER AND TRUST EACH OTHER MORE THAN WE EVER HAVE.



NIGHTPELT?

SHOULD WE BURY HER NOW?



OH.



THEY WANT *ME* TO LEAD THEM?

ME, THE CAT WHO HAD TO JOIN THE ELDERS EARLY BECAUSE HE WAS TOO SICK TO MAKE IT AS A WARRIOR?

MAYBE I *HAVE* TAKEN CARE OF THE OTHERS.

MAYBE MY *COUGHING HASN'T* KEPT ME FROM PROVING MY WORTH. MAYBE ARCHEYE WAS RIGHT...

THIS IS WHAT A CLAN *SHOULD* BE.



 HarperCollins

