THEIR CHOICES WILL RULE THE
DESTINY OF EVERY CLAN—
OR DESTROY THEM FROM WITHIN.

After a treacherous journey, the warrior Clans have begun to settle into their new homes around the lake. But while some cats see their new beginning as a chance to build a lasting peace, WindClan’s deputy Mudclaw believes the other Clans cannot be trusted. And as he prepares to take the ailing Tallstar’s place as leader, Mudclaw will do whatever it takes to secure the future of his Clan—no matter who stands in his way.

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The Rise of Scourge

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We've made it.
I can barely believe it, but we've made it.
Our destination.

Guided by StarClan…

…we've arrived at our new home.

At least, I hope that's true.

I hope this is where StarClan wants us.

Because with all that this journey has taken out of us…

Look at that lake! It's beautiful. It's all beautiful.

But will the territory be right for us?
...I don't think any of the Clans could survive another one.

I'm Mudclaw. Deputy of WindClan.

Second in command to Tallstar, our leader.

The journey has weakened him.

Maybe... maybe we can make a new start here.

Maybe Tallstar can heal.

None of this would've been necessary if not for the Twolegs.

We'd lived near them for as long as any cat could remember.

As long as we stayed away from their dens, everything was fine.
But then they came into the forest — our forest — with their roaring, stinking metal monsters, and they drove us out.

Everything the Clans had worked for, everything we had built, gone in a heartbeat.

We had to find a new home. All of us. And for that to happen...

...all four Clans had to work together.

Every generation after...
It meant we had to cross territory we'd never seen before...

...Put kits and elders through distress they never should've had to deal with...

...until we found a place far away from the Twolegs and their monsters.

I can't...

On this journey I learned things I had never known about the world.

Saw things I never knew existed.

And as we traveled...
...As more and more dangers revealed themselves...

Marshkit!

...I grew more and more resolved.

Whatever I have to do to secure the future of my Clan -

Build a new home in this strange, unfamiliar place?

Defend against any threats to our safety?
What gets decided now – how the new territories are divided – will affect all four Clans for generations to come.

WindClan needs to remember.

...Journey or not, other Clans... can't be. Trusted.
Oh no…
I had hoped a solid night’s rest would give Tallstar some energy.
I can see now — that hope was for nothing.

It’s time to meet with the other Clan leaders.
They’re ready to send a patrol out to explore the new territory.

Kate Kate

Mudclaw… you’ll need to… represent WindClan.

The journey took… so much out of me… I doubt I could even… stand up right now.
Are you sure? I’m only a deputy.

Will they even listen to me?

Every cat...

In every clan... respects you, Mudclaw.

I know you’ll...

Make sure...

WindClan is treated fairly.

Mudclaw – wait.

Represent...

WindClan.

Stand firm.

But remember, the other clans are...

...not our enemies.

This new home is... a chance... for the clans to live together... in peace and friendship.

Well... that’s a noble thought.

But friendship isn’t as important as making sure WindClan has the territory, the prey, that we need.

The other clans must respect our borders, right from the beginning. I have to see to that.

Sigh...

You need to... keep the peace, Mudclaw.

That is an order, from your leader.

As you say.
Barkface.

Come here.

Tallstar seems so weak. Isn’t there something you can do to help him recover?

Tallstar has always been strong, Mudclaw, but he’s getting old.

I think you should prepare to become leader. Very soon.

I would help if I had the proper herbs, but I don’t know where to find them.

Not in Leafbare. Not here.

And even if I did have all the herbs I need…

Take two warriors and go find some herbs.

And be careful. We don’t know what dangers we’re facing here yet.

No. No. Not yet.
Tallstar may not be able to attend...

...but I'm not about to let WindClan get left out of this.

Cats of all Clans!

Today there are decisions to be made and tasks to be carried out.

Hunting patrols will go out right away. WindClan will take the hills and RiverClan can fish in the lake. ThunderClan —
Mudclaw, what are you doing, giving orders like this?

The last time I looked, Tallstar was still leader of WindClan!

Why is Onewhisker closing his eyes to the facts?

Not for much longer.

Some cat has to take charge of WindClan.

Do you want the other Clans to divide the territory among themselves and leave us out?

As if we would!

Show a bit of respect!

Tallstar was the leader of our Clan when you were a kit mewling in the nursery.

That’s enough.

I’m not a kit now! I’m the deputy.

And Tallstar hasn’t done much to lead us since we left the forest.

Onewhisker, I know you’re worried about Tallstar.

Mudclaw is only doing his duty.
He doesn’t need to act like he’s leader already.

Why is Onewhisker so angry?

I’m the one who needs to hold WindClan together.

And why is Firestar concerning himself with WindClan’s leadership, anyway?

It’s none of his business.

Doesn’t he see that all the responsibility is on my shoulders?

Until we get our new territory established, WindClan will stay over here—the farthest from the horseplace. We don’t need to be mixing with other Clans anymore.

Right, listen up.

Fine.

Yeah, all right.

Got it?
I still can’t believe One whisker hissed at me like that.

And in front of every cat.

Who does he think will look out for WindClan while Tallstar’s sick?

I respect Tallstar.

But some cat has to take charge.

And it doesn’t do any cat any good to pretend Tallstar can act as leader right now.

I do.

I was thinking a nice juicy squirrel might give him some strength.

Mudclaw—may I go and hunt for Tallstar?

Yes…of course, One whisker.

That’s a good idea.
Onewhisker's a good hunter. It doesn't take him long.

Thank you... Onewhisker.

I'm... grateful.

Prey is plentiful in the woods.

If he'll eat...

It's as if I can see the last of Tallstar's strength bleeding out of him.
Tallstar’s dying, isn’t he?

I’m afraid so.

I’m going to need your support, Onewhisker.

Of course, anything you need.

I spend the rest of the day with my guts clenched.

When the leaders decide to meet again, it’s a welcome distraction.

Every time I hear a cat speak, I fear it’s going to be news of Tallstar’s death.

When the leaders decide to meet again, it’s a welcome distraction.

We must find out about this new place so that we can start establishing our new territories.

We’re going to send a patrol with one cat from each Clan to explore the lakeshore and the land around it.
Tawnypelt from ShadowClan.

Mistyfoot will go for RiverClan.

Brambleclaw from ThunderClan, Crowfeather from WindClan.

Every WindClan cat has to understand that.

CROWFEATHER.

A word. Listen.

I know you grew close to those other cats when you made your way to the sun-drown-place...

Whatever this patrol discovers will be incredibly important.
...But the time for friendships with other Clans has passed.

It's going to be up to you to find the best territory for WindClan.

Even if you have to fight for it.

Remember that WindClan comes first.

Yes, I know that, Mudclaw.

No cat needs to question my loyalty.

Barkface...

Leave us...

For a moment, will you?
Of course. I’ll... I’ll go and try to find some coltsfoot. It’ll help with your breathing.

How are you feeling?

Think you’ll be able to get up tomorrow?

We have all... traveled together and... overcome so much.

We’ll be settling into our new territory soon.

There should be... peace between the clans.

Firestar and... ThunderClan... have always been... friends to WindClan.

I would like to... spend the end of my... final life... thinking... that the other Clans... can become friends... as well.

I know you’re looking forward to seeing it.

MudClaw, you didn’t... need to warn Crowfeather... against the other Clans.

I may be... weak... but there’s nothing wrong... with my hearing.

We have all...
Tallstar, I —
I'm not sure you know what you're saying.

ThunderClan might have helped us once...

...but Firestar has always treated WindClan's territory like his own!

You made me deputy to help protect WindClan.

That's what I'm doing.

I hate arguing with Tallstar. I hate it.

But what else can I do? I have to protect WindClan!

As we wait for word from the patrol sent around the lake...

Life must go on.

Which means we must hunt.

Meeow!

Onewhisker. I need your help!
No you don’t!

Gotcha!

The three of us work well together.

Tornear is good… but he’s my littermate.

Nice.

It would probably look better if I made Webfoot my deputy.

Or… maybe an older cat.

It hasn’t been that long since Webfoot was my apprentice.

So many decisions to make.

I’ll miss Tallstar… but I am looking forward to leading WindClan. We could use some fresh ideas.

I might start training the apprentices a little harder in fighting techniques.
It was a good hunt.

I hope prey stays that plentiful.

Cats of all Clans! Gather around!

Hey — I think that's Crowfeather over there. The scouting patrol must be back!

Brambleclaw. Come up to the stump so we can hear you.

Can't let any cat think WindClan isn't properly represented.

Time to take my place.
We've found territories that are suitable for all the Clans. Reeds and water for RiverClan, pine forest for ShadowClan, leafy woods for ThunderClan, moorland for WindClan.

Brambleclaw had his say. But I'd rather hear it from a WindClan cat.

Hey.

Crowfeather.

Come over here. Talk with me.

Tell me what you saw on this patrol.

Is it like Brambleclaw said?

Tell me what you saw on this patrol.

Is it like Brambleclaw said?

About what?

Tell me what you saw on this patrol.

Tell me what you saw on this patrol.

Tell me what you saw on this patrol.

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Tell me what you saw on this patrol.

Tell me what you saw on this patrol.

Tell me what you saw on this patrol.
Whatever. Yes, there’s a perfect place for a WindClan camp.

A hollow on the moor. No cat could ask for a better spot.

Good. But we need to make sure WindClan has as much territory as the other clans.

We will, Mudclaw. There’s plenty of room.

And which Clans will our territory border?

It’s looking like RiverClan…

…and ThunderClan.

Okay, you’ve done well.

Tommorow, the Clans will move to their new territories. Be ready.

I can’t remember the last time my insides weren’t clenched tight.

Worrying about WindClan…about Tallstar…about new deputies…about…

It’s as if my whole life has become worrying.

No, you listen.
I already decided the island isn’t suitable for a camp —

And I don’t appreciate you trying to get Leopardstar to change that decision.

Look, all I was trying to do —

I don’t want to hear it. You need to remember who RiverClan’s deputy is, Hawkfrost.

Because it’s not you.

No cat can say Hawkfrost didn’t make a good temporary deputy. He stepped up while Mistyfoot was missing.

True, but now that she’s back, and he’s just a warrior again?

I think we’re looking at trouble in RiverClan.

There’ll be trouble in ThunderClan, too, unless Firestar finally accepts that Graystripe must be dead.

He needs to appoint another deputy to take Graystripe’s place.

Soon.
Yeah, probably Brambleclaw.

He’s Tigerstar’s kit, you know. Just like Hawkfrost.

Just between you and me — Tigerstar almost destroyed the Clans. If I were a Clan leader? I wouldn’t want either one of them as deputy, or give them any kind of power.

Once we’re in our own territory again, we won’t have to worry about conflict in the other Clans.

True. Thank StarClan we don’t have that kind of trouble in WindClan.

Yes... Thank StarClan...

If not, will they be able to find us?

Silverpelt looks the same as it did in our old home.

Tallstar would tell me to have faith in StarClan, I know.

Right now... I don’t think I have any other choice.

I can’t sleep at all. Did StarClan come with us to our new home? How can I get my nine lives when I become leader, if StarClan isn’t here?
Oh no!

Is it true?

Is it?

Tallstar!
It’s Tallstar!

Tallstar is dead!

Listen —
listen —

Why is OneWhisker up on the leaders’ stump?

I was there when Tallstar died, and he said —

What’s that?
Tallstar is dead?
Why did no cat
tell me?

And why is
Firestar
trying to take charge of
WindClan business again?

Mudclaw, you’re
our leader now.

We will
all grieve for
Tallstar,
but we need you to
help us settle in
our new home.

Yes! Mudclaw
leads us now!

Mudclaw!

Listen to what I’m
trying to tell you,
please.

Just before
he died, Tallstar
made Onewhisker
his deputy.

What?
This is as much of a shock to me as it is to you, Mudclaw.

I’ll need your support and experience every paw step of the way.

And I would like you to carry on being WindClan’s deputy.

Firestar tells us that his friend Onewhisker is to be leader!

You don’t think I believe this load of fox dung, do you?

Did any other cat witness this convenient change of mind?

I was there. I heard Tallstar make Onewhisker his deputy.

I hear Brambleclaw’s words. But his face tells me he’s unsure. Maybe even guilty.

Did Firestar promise to make you deputy of ThunderClan?

Another ThunderClan cat, what a surprise!

Did Firestar promise to make you deputy of ThunderClan?

What did you just say?
How dare you doubt my word?

Or my warrior’s?

Are you going to sit here and accept this?

Do we let ThunderClan choose our leader for us?

I will follow Onewhisker.

I know Brambleclaw does not lie.

If he says that Tallstar made Onewhisker deputy...

I believe him.

Oneestar, I greet you as the leader of my Clan.

Thank you, Crowfeather.

How many of our warriors do you think will follow you, you sniveling, crow-food-eating traitor?

Oneestar, I greet you as the leader of my Clan.

Thank you, Crowfeather.

But don’t call me Oneestar yet. I haven’t received my name or my nine lives from StarClan.
And you never will!

Come down here and fight me if you dare. Then we'll see who will make the better leader for WindClan.

Stop!

Sheathe your claws, Mudclaw! Do you want to start a fight with Tallstar's spirit still watching over us?

We should be sitting vigil for him, not bickering over who will take his place!

I believe what the ThunderClan cats tell us. This was Tallstar's choice...

...and you must accept it.
Very well.

But if you think I’ll serve as your deputy, you’re wrong.

This is wrong.

Every bit of it, from nose to tail-tip.
How could Tallstar have made Onewhisker his deputy? And why? What did I do to disappoint him? ...but the only thing I can hear is a roaring in my ears.

The vigil is a time for us to share memories of Tallstar...

And why?
I don't understand. Would Tallstar really do this? Betray me like this? It makes no sense.

Maybe not, but Onewhisker has always been a good Clanmate.

And you know I've never trusted Firestar.

You think he'd lie to our faces like this?