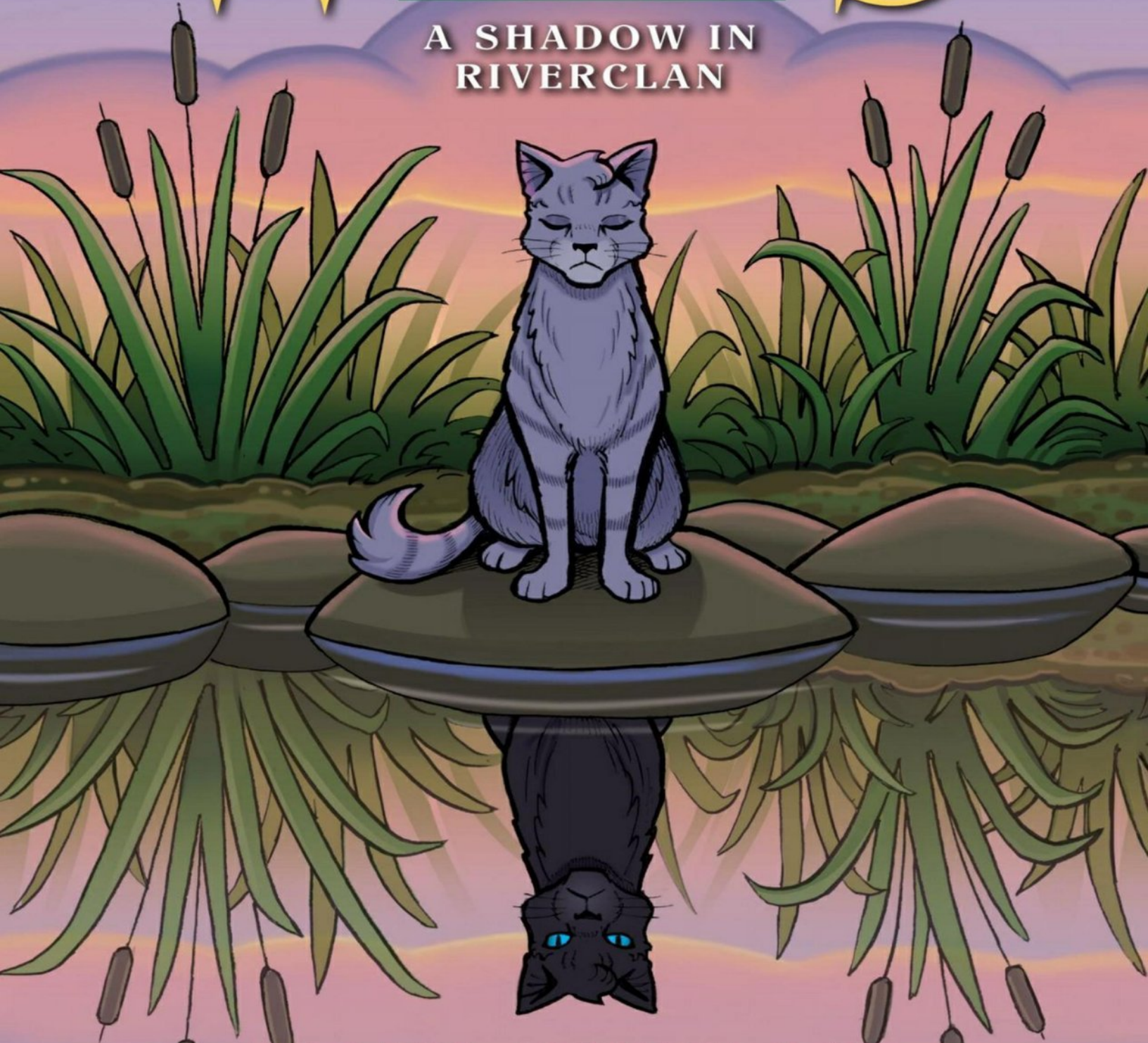


WARRIORS

GRAPHIC NOVEL

A SHADOW IN
RIVERCLAN



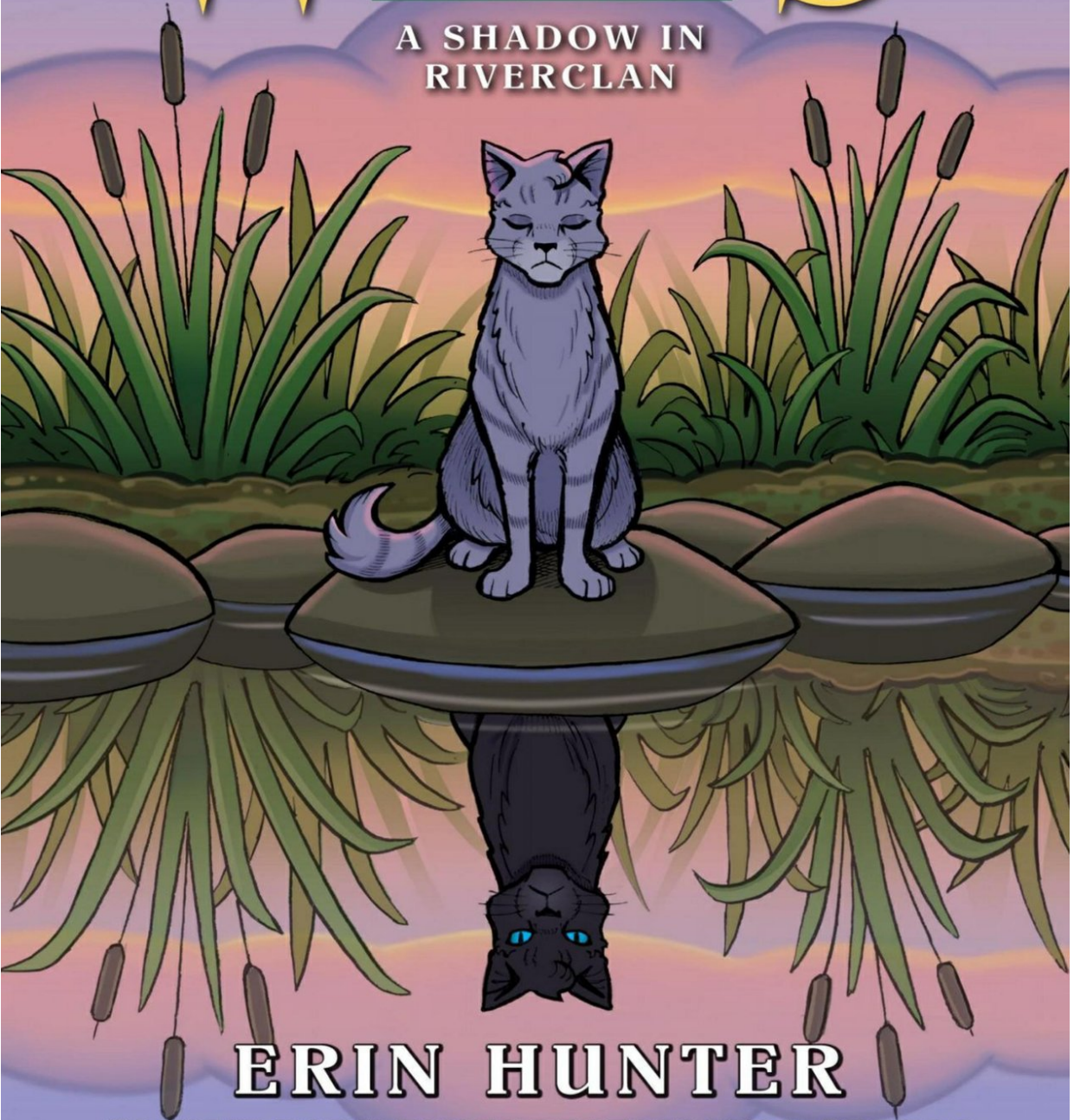
ERIN HUNTER

#1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR

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WARRIORS

A SHADOW IN
RIVERCLAN

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A SHADOW IN
RIVERCLAN

CREATED BY
ERIN HUNTER

WRITTEN BY
DAN JOLLEY

ART BY
JAMES L. BARRY



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WARRIORS

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Graystripe's Adventure

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SkyClan and the Stranger

A Shadow in RiverClan

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: A Shadow in RiverClan

Created by Erin Hunter

Written by Dan Jolley

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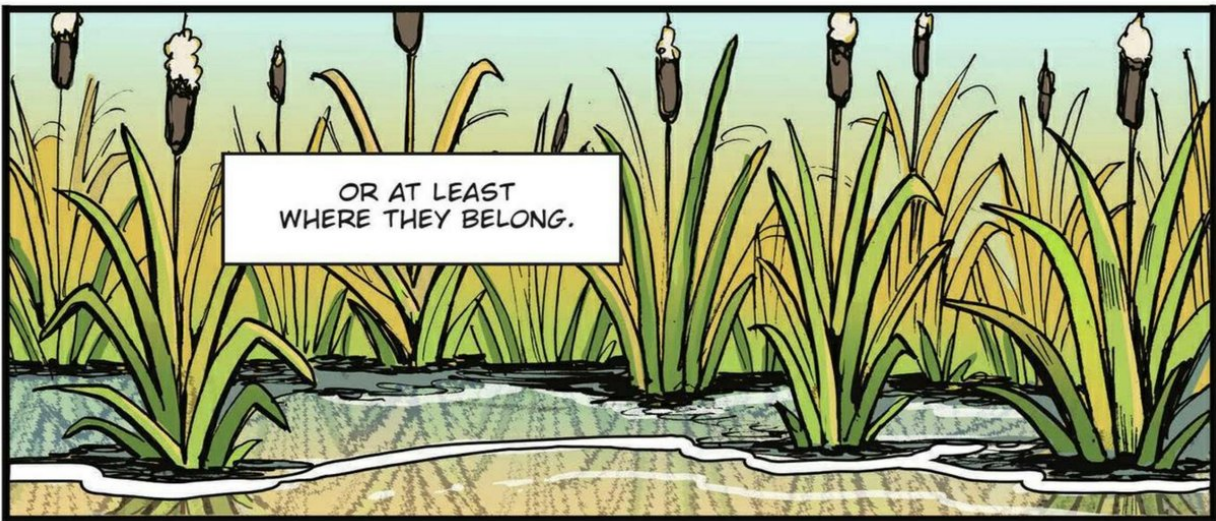




HOME...



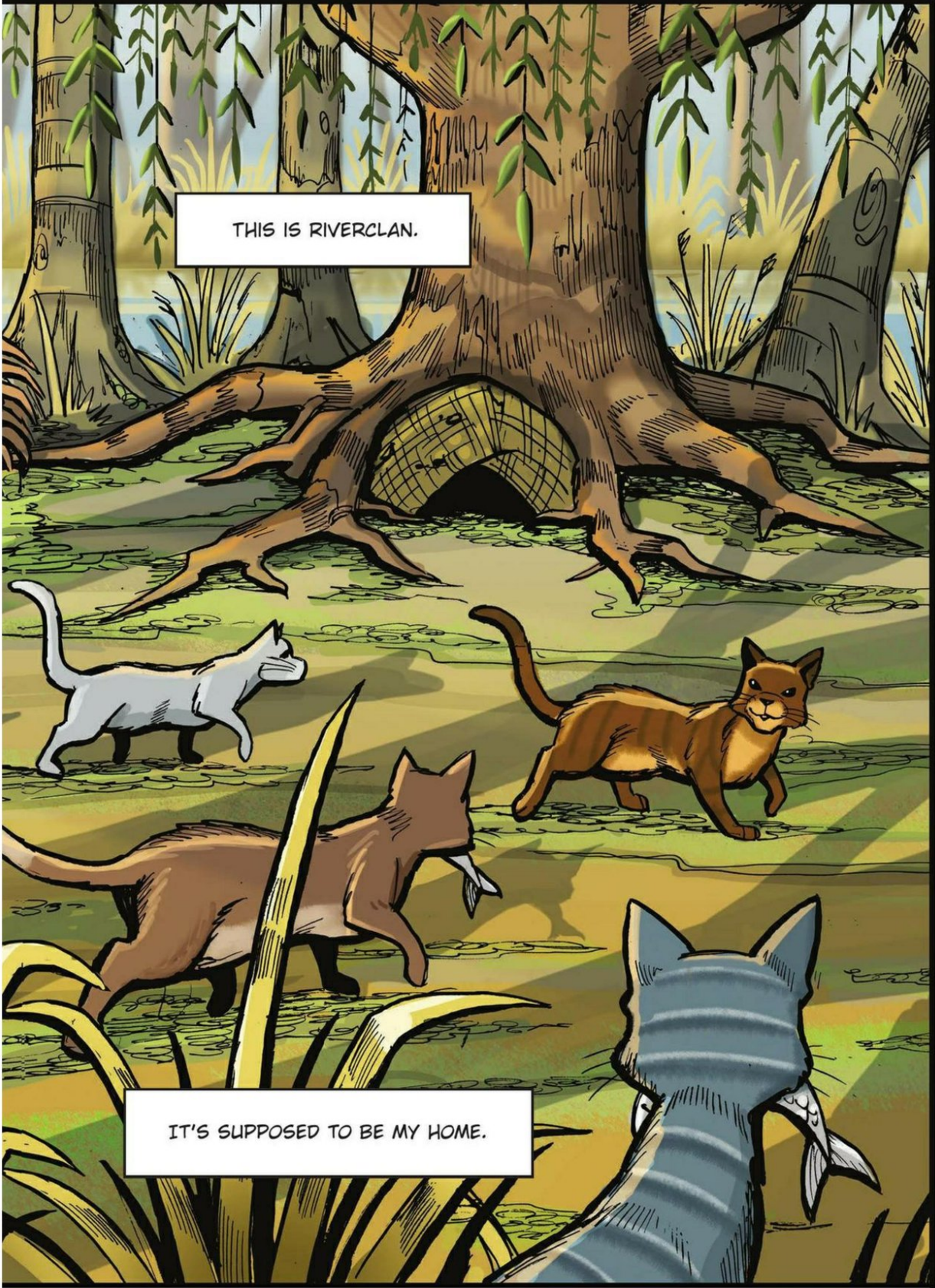
EVERY CAT KNOWS WHERE
THEIR HOME IS, DON'T THEY?



OR AT LEAST
WHERE THEY BELONG.

EVERY CAT...EXCEPT ME.





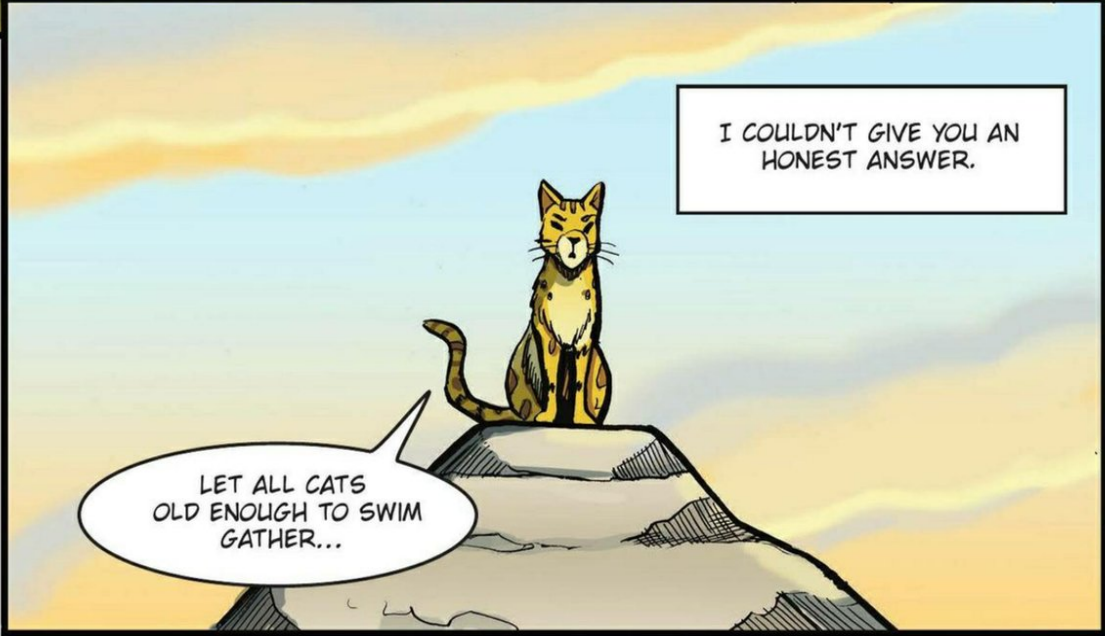
THIS IS RIVERCLAN.

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE MY HOME.



BUT IF YOU PUT CLAWS TO MY THROAT AND DEMANDED I TELL YOU WHERE I BELONG?

RIVERCLAN!



I COULDN'T GIVE YOU AN HONEST ANSWER.

LET ALL CATS OLD ENOUGH TO SWIM GATHER...



I, LEOPARDSTAR, LEADER OF RIVERCLAN, CALL MY ANCESTORS TO LOOK DOWN ON THESE APPRENTICES.



THEY HAVE TRAINED HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE WAYS OF YOUR NOBLE CODE, AND I COMMEND THEM TO YOU AS WARRIORS IN THEIR TURN.



FEATHERPAW, DO YOU PROMISE TO UPHOLD THE WARRIOR CODE AND PROTECT AND DEFEND YOUR CLAN...

...EVEN AT THE COST OF YOUR LIFE?



LEOPARDSTAR'S WORDS RING IN MY EARS...

ECHOING DOWN THE LONG, PAINFUL ROAD THAT HAS LED ME TO THIS PLACE.

OUR MOTHER'S NAME WAS SILVERSTREAM. I NEVER REALLY KNEW WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE, SINCE SHE DIED WHEN STORMPAW AND I WERE BORN.



I'VE HEARD SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL.

WHAT I KNOW IS THAT SHE WAS A RIVERCLAN CAT...

WHILE OUR FATHER, GRAYSTRIPE, WAS A WARRIOR OF THUNDERCLAN.



AFTER OUR MOTHER DIED, RIVERCLAN SAID STORMPAW AND I BELONGED WITH THEM.



AND GRAYSTRIPE LOVED US SO MUCH, HE LEFT THUNDERCLAN AND JOINED US HERE.



SO RIVERCLAN WAS THE FIRST PLACE WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO FEEL WELCOME.

SUPPOSED TO FEEL SAFE.



NO WONDER YOU LOST THAT FISH! YOU'RE HALF-THUNDERCLAN!

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!

WE'RE REAL RIVERCLAN KITS. WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM?

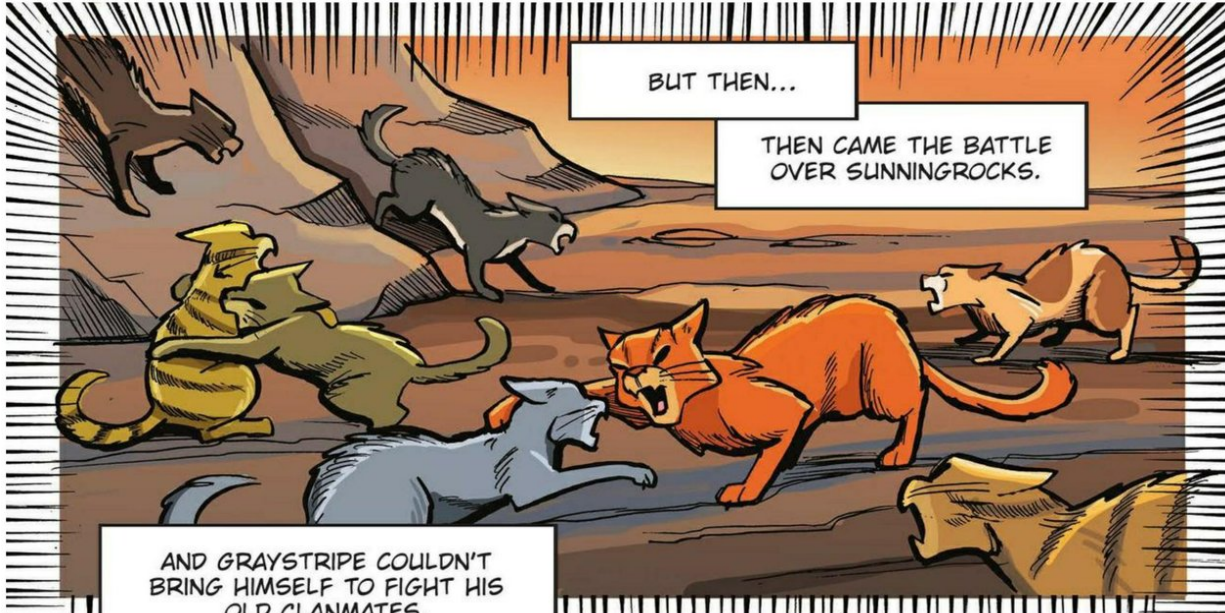
OUR MOTHER WAS CROOKEDSTAR'S DAUGHTER! AND OUR FATHER'S THE BRAVEST WARRIOR IN RIVERCLAN!



STOP THAT AT ONCE! THAT IS NOT HOW YOU TALK TO A CLANMATE!

FEATHERKIT AND STORMKIT ARE JUST AS MUCH A PART OF RIVERCLAN AS YOU ARE.

SORRY...



BUT THEN...

THEN CAME THE BATTLE
OVER SUNNINGROCKS.

AND GRAYSTRIPE COULDN'T
BRING HIMSELF TO FIGHT HIS
OLD CLANMATES.

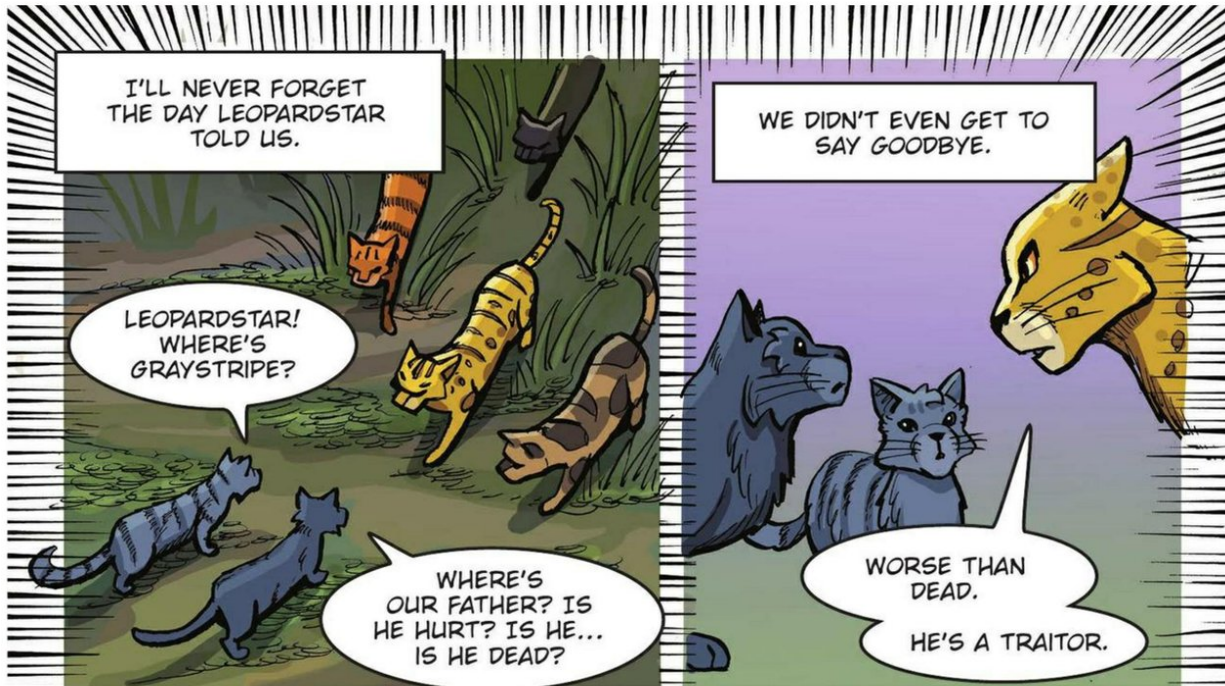


LEOPARDSTAR HAD BECOME
RIVERCLAN'S LEADER AFTER
CROOKEDSTAR DIED...

...AND SHE SENT OUR FATHER
AWAY. FOR GOOD.



HE WENT BACK TO
THUNDERCLAN, AND WE
WEREN'T ALLOWED TO SEE
HIM ANYMORE.



I'LL NEVER FORGET THE DAY LEOPARDSTAR TOLD US.

WE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO SAY GOODBYE.

LEOPARDSTAR! WHERE'S GRAYSTRIPE?

WHERE'S OUR FATHER? IS HE HURT? IS HE... IS HE DEAD?

WORSE THAN DEAD. HE'S A TRAITOR.



EVERYTHING CHANGED FOR US THAT DAY.

SO THAT'S IT, THEN. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A CHOICE.

FOLLOW GRAYSTRIPE TO THUNDERCLAN? OR STAY HERE AND BECOME RIVERCLAN APPRENTICES?

IT ALL SEEMED SO SIMPLE BACK THEN. SAD, BUT SIMPLE.



WE'LL ALWAYS LOVE GRAYSTRIPE.

BUT WE'RE RIVERCLAN CATS. WE BELONG HERE. DON'T WE?

I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT. I LOVE IT HERE. AND ONE DAY, WE'LL BE RIVERCLAN WARRIORS!

AND NOW...HERE WE ARE. ABOUT TO BE NAMED WARRIORS OF RIVERCLAN. SO WHY IS THE QUESTION GNAWING AT ME -



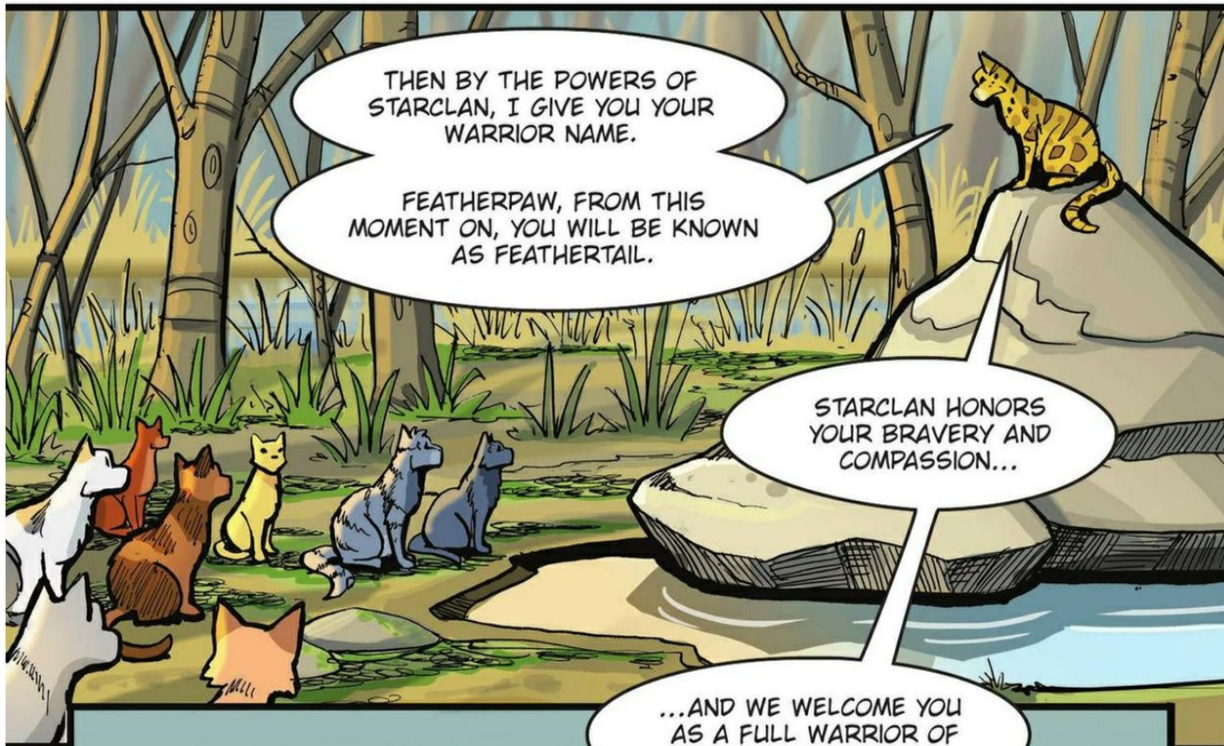
AM I READY?

I KNOW WHAT GRAYSTRIPE WOULD SAY. "MAKE YOUR CLAN PROUD."

SO...



I DO.



THEN BY THE POWERS OF STARCLAN, I GIVE YOU YOUR WARRIOR NAME.

FEATHERPAW, FROM THIS MOMENT ON, YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS FEATHERTAIL.

STARCLAN HONORS YOUR BRAVERY AND COMPASSION...

...AND WE WELCOME YOU AS A FULL WARRIOR OF RIVERCLAN!







FEATHERTAIL! STORMFUR!

FEATHERTAIL!
STORMFUR!

FEATHERTAIL!
STORMFUR!



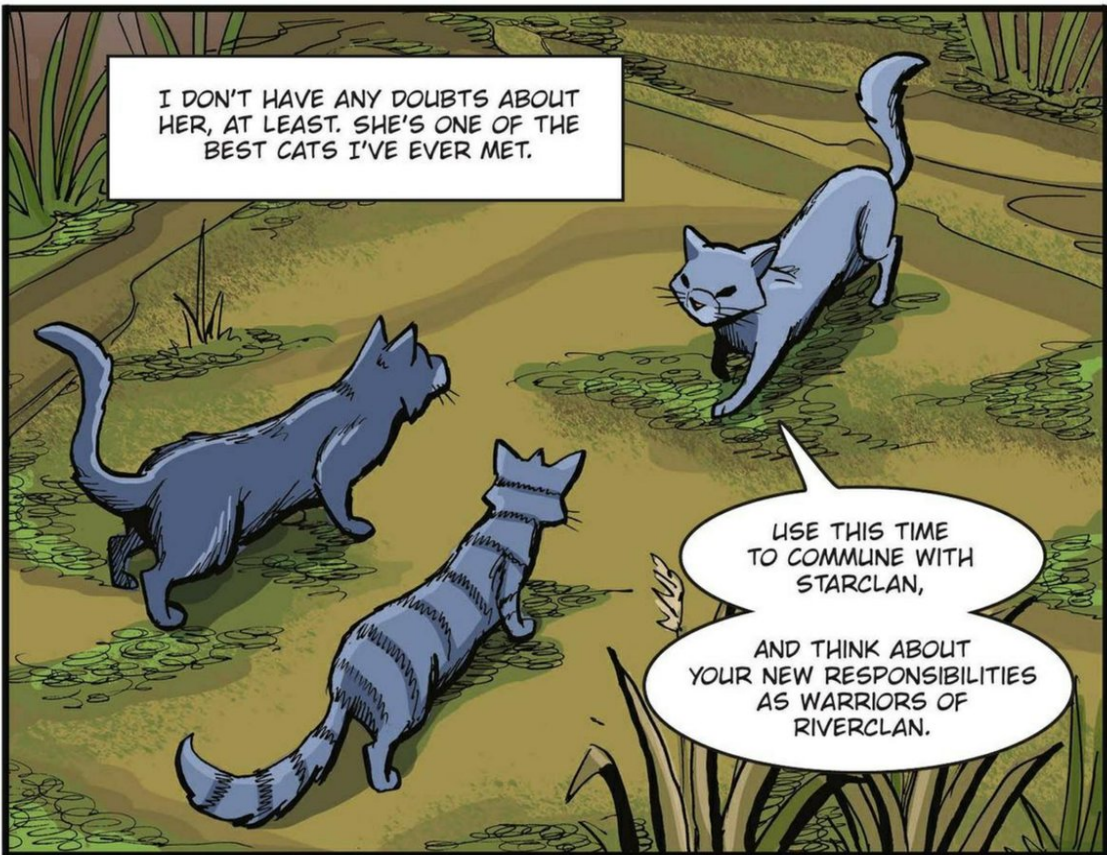


ALL RIGHT, NEW WARRIORS, LISTEN UP.



IT'S TIME FOR YOUR VIGIL. THAT MEANS YOU'RE GOING TO STAY AWAKE ALL NIGHT TONIGHT AND GUARD THE CAMP. IN SILENCE.

THAT'S MISTYFOOT. MY FORMER MENTOR, AND THE CURRENT RIVERCLAN DEPUTY.



I DON'T HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT HER, AT LEAST. SHE'S ONE OF THE BEST CATS I'VE EVER MET.

USE THIS TIME TO COMMUNE WITH STARCLAN,

AND THINK ABOUT YOUR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AS WARRIORS OF RIVERCLAN.





AN ENTIRE NIGHT SPENT
IN SILENCE. IT WON'T
BOTHER ME...

...THOUGH I'M AFRAID NOT
BEING ABLE TO TALK MIGHT KILL
MY BROTHER.



I DON'T KNOW ABOUT
COMMUNING WITH STARCLAN...
BUT THIS CERTAINLY DOES GIVE ME
PLENTY OF TIME FOR MEMORIES.

MISTYFOOT AND STONEFLUR
WERE THE BEST MENTORS WE
COULD HAVE ASKED FOR.



THEY WORKED HARD
TRAINING STORMPAW AND ME.
TAUGHT US TO FIGHT AND HUNT
AND SWIM AND FISH.

THOSE ARE THE
GOOD MEMORIES.



MOST OF THE
REST OF THEM...

ARE JUST
PAINFUL NOW.

IT ALL WENT WRONG WHEN RIVERCLAN FOUND OUT MISTYFOOT AND STONEFUR WERE HALF-CLAN CATS. JUST LIKE STORMPAW AND ME.

MY BROTHER AND I DIDN'T CARE. IT ONLY MADE US FEEL CLOSER TO THEM.




BUT THEN ONE CAT ROSE UP. BECAME LEADER OF SHADOWCLAN.

HIS NAME WAS TIGERSTAR.



TIGERSTAR SPENT A LOT OF TIME TALKING TO LEOPARDSTAR. TELLING HER THINGS. CONVINCING HER OF THINGS.





TIGERSTAR SAID SHADOWCLAN AND RIVERCLAN SHOULD JOIN TOGETHER. BECOME ONE CLAN.

AND LEOPARDSTAR AGREED.

SHE THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE RIVERCLAN STRONGER...ALLYING WITH ANOTHER POWERFUL CLAN.

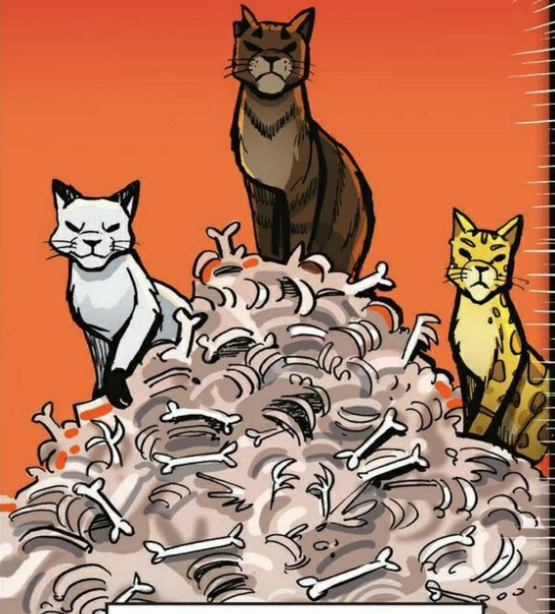


SHE WAS WRONG.



TIGERSTAR TOOK ALL THE POWER FOR HIMSELF.

TIGERSTAR BECAME THE LEADER OF THE NEW TIGERCLAN.



AND TIGERSTAR HATED HALF-CLAN CATS.

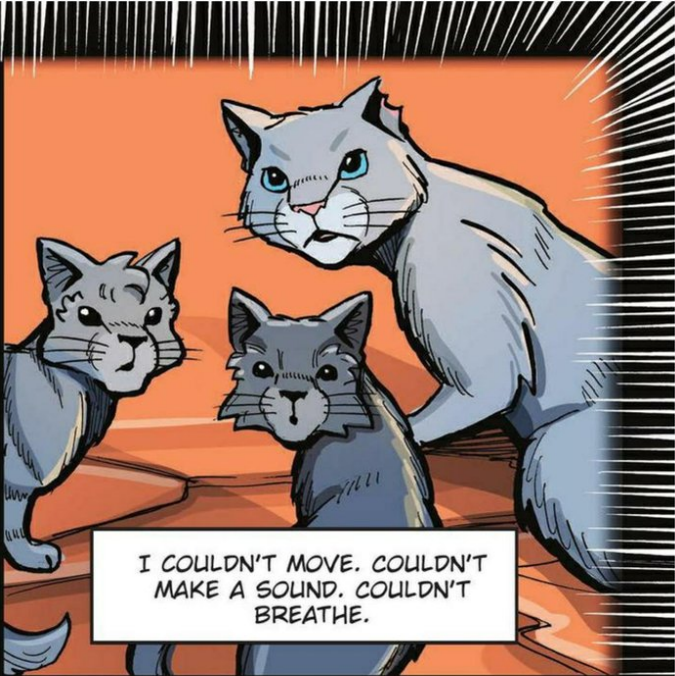
STONEFLUR.



YOU THINK A MISERABLE HALF-CLAN WARRIOR CAN PROVE HIS LOYALTY TO TIGERCLAN?

VERY WELL. SHOW ME HOW LOYAL YOU CAN BE.





THEY WERE ALL TOO AFRAID OF TIGERSTAR.





YOU HEARD TIGERSTAR, STONEFUR.

DO AS HE SAYS.



NO.

NO, I WILL NOT.



DISLOYALTY FROM A HALF-CLAN CAT. HOW PREDICTABLE.

KILL HIM.



STONEFUR WAS A PROUD, STRONG WARRIOR.

BUT DARKSTRIPE AND BLACKFOOT WERE TWO OF TIGERCLAN'S DEADLIEST FIGHTERS.

HE KNEW WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.



SLITCH!

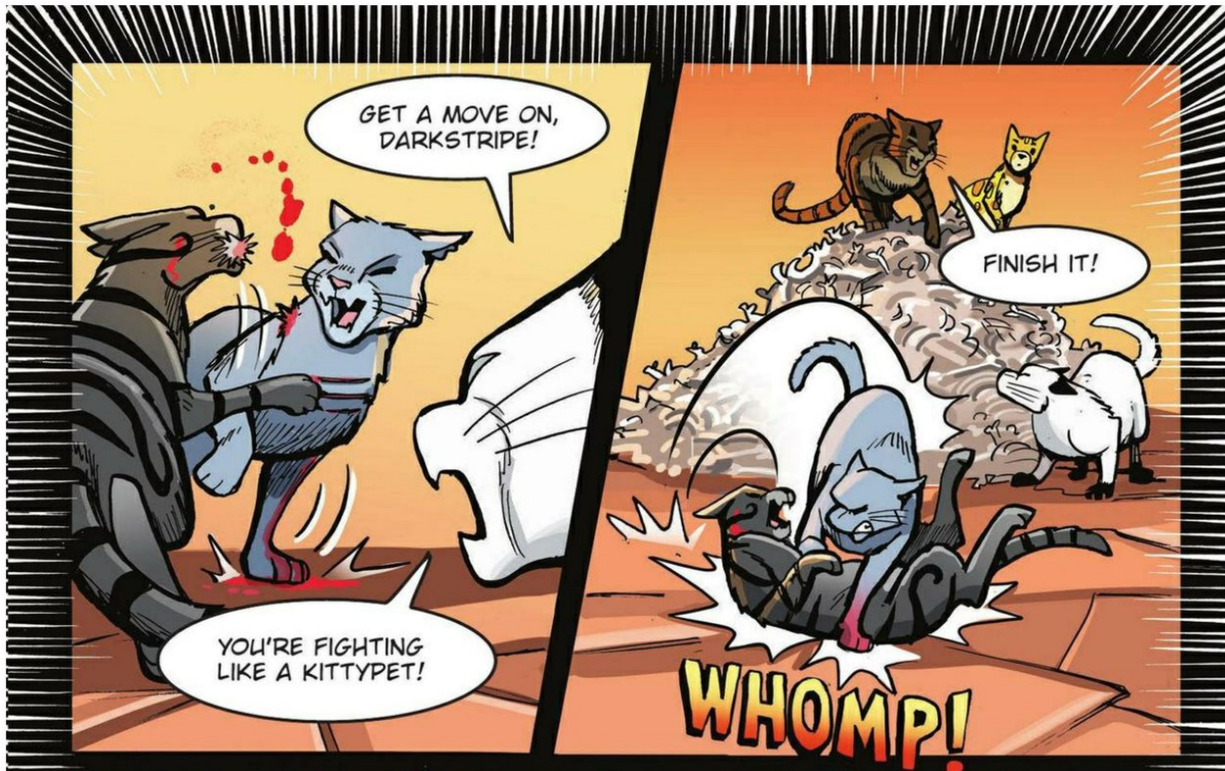


WE ALL DID.



RRREEOOOWR!







WE WOULD'VE DIED
THAT NIGHT, TOO.
STORMFUR AND ME.

IT FELT LIKE WE
ALREADY HAD.



BUT OUR FATHER
CAME FOR US.



HE TOOK US TO THUNDERCLAN,
ALONG WITH MISTYFOOT. HE SAVED
ALL OUR LIVES.

SO WE LEFT OUR HOME...
AND STONEFUR... BEHIND US.





IT FELT SO STRANGE AT FIRST... BECOMING A PART OF THUNDERCLAN.



BUT WE STILL HAD MISTYFOOT. SHE KEPT UP OUR APPRENTICE TRAINING.



EVENTUALLY WE FOUND OUR PLACE THERE, AMONG THE OTHER THUNDERCLAN APPRENTICES.



WE EVEN HELPED DEFEAT THE CRUEL, WICKED ROGUE KNOWN AS SCOURGE -

THE CAT WHO FINALLY KILLED TIGERSTAR.

BUT I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THAT TIME OF PEACE COULDN'T LAST.

IT ENDED THE DAY LEOPARDSTAR WALKED INTO THE THUNDERCLAN CAMP.



NOW THAT TIGERSTAR AND SCOURGE WERE BOTH DEAD, SHE SAID, THERE WAS NO MORE TIGERCLAN.

RIVERCLAN WAS RE-FORMING.



COME BACK TO RIVERCLAN. IT'LL BE THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE.



SHE OFFERED TO MAKE MISTYFOOT HER NEW DEPUTY.

TO GIVE US ALL A CHANCE TO "HELP REBUILD THE CLAN."

I GUESS MISTYFOOT THOUGHT IT WAS TOO GOOD AN OFFER TO TURN DOWN.





"HELP REBUILD THE CLAN."



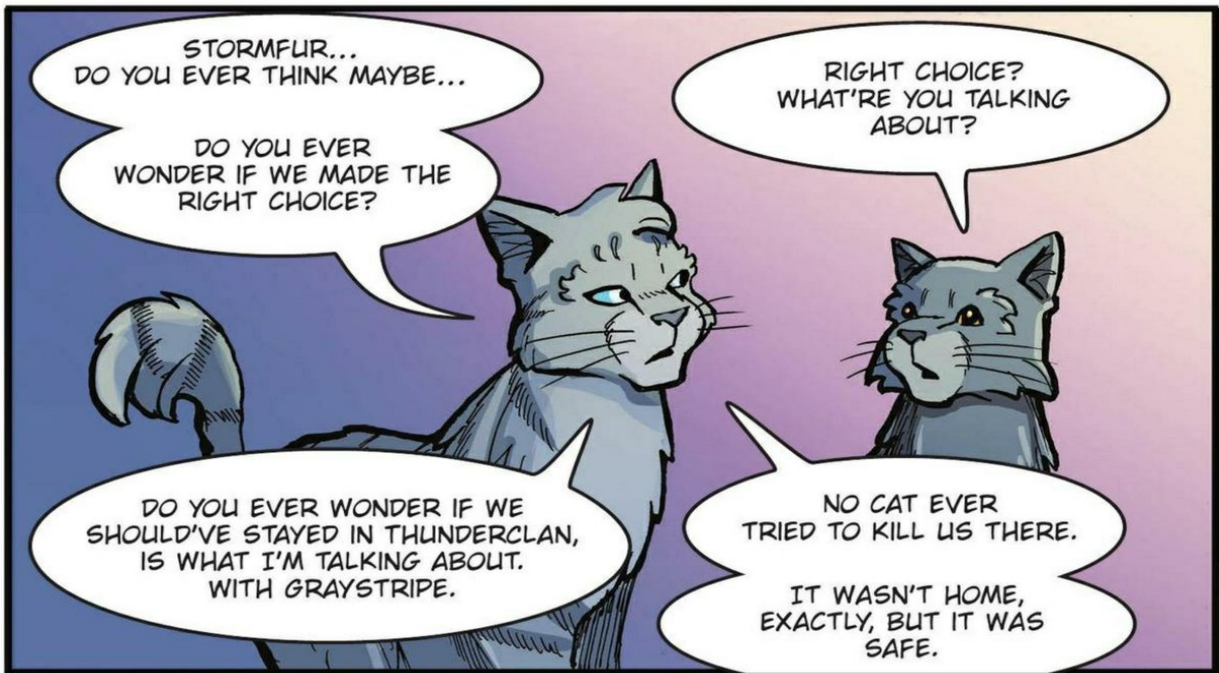
SO HERE I AM. I'VE SWORN THE OATH. TAKEN MY WARRIOR NAME. LIKE IT OR NOT, I'M A RIVERCLAN CAT AGAIN.

BUT HOW? HOW CAN I BE THE LOYAL WARRIOR MY CLAN NEEDS, WHEN I DON'T TRUST LEOPARDSTAR AT ALL?



THAT'S IT! THE SUN'S UP, THE VIGIL'S OVER! WE DID IT!

WE'RE WARRIORS! REAL WARRIORS!



STORMFUR... DO YOU EVER THINK MAYBE...

DO YOU EVER WONDER IF WE MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE?

DO YOU EVER WONDER IF WE SHOULD'VE STAYED IN THUNDERCLAN, IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. WITH GRAYSTRIPE.

RIGHT CHOICE? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

NO CAT EVER TRIED TO KILL US THERE. IT WASN'T HOME, EXACTLY, BUT IT WAS SAFE.



ARE YOU SERIOUS?
IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO BE
HAVING THOUGHTS LIKE THAT,
DON'T YOU THINK?

...
YEAH. I
SUPPOSE IT IS.



THERE ARE OUR
NEW WARRIORS!
CONGRATULATIONS!

GOT THROUGH
YOUR VIGIL ALL
RIGHT, I SEE!

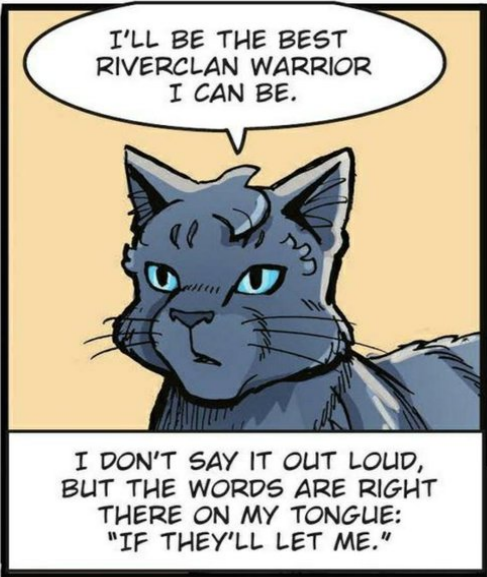
THANKS!
IT WAS NO
PROBLEM!

YES, THANK
YOU.



LOOK, WHATEVER
HAPPENS, I KNOW I'M A
RIVERCLAN CAT. AND I THINK
YOU KNOW YOU ARE, TOO.

WE CAN GET PAST WHAT
HAPPENED BEFORE.



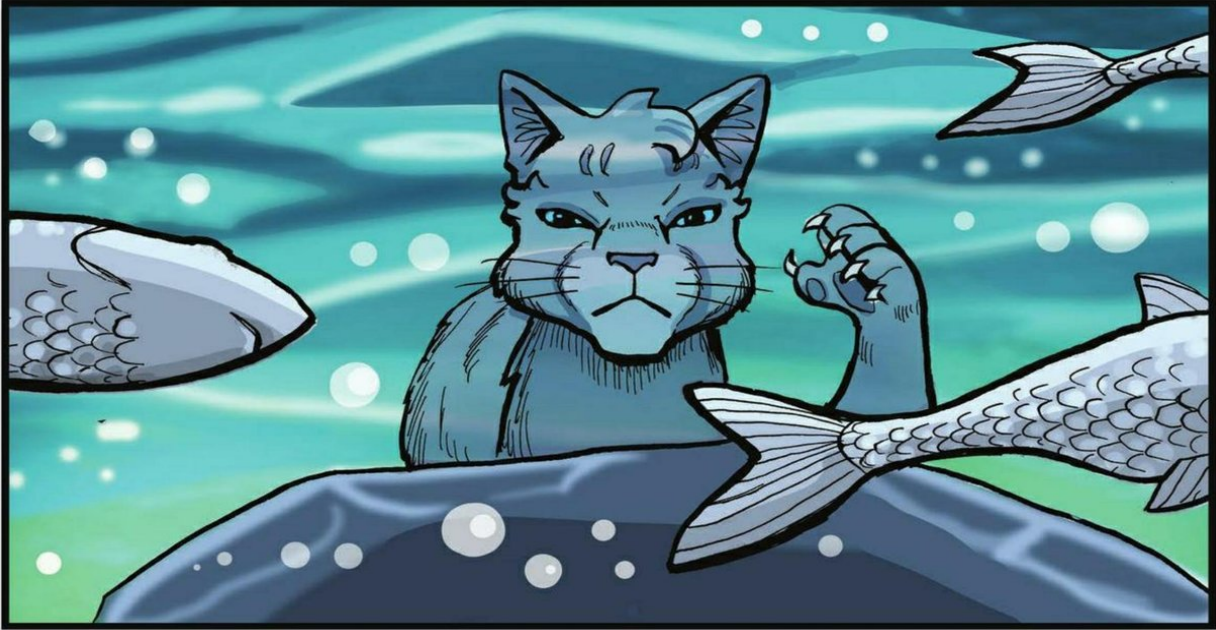
I'LL BE THE BEST
RIVERCLAN WARRIOR
I CAN BE.

I DON'T SAY IT OUT LOUD,
BUT THE WORDS ARE RIGHT
THERE ON MY TONGUE:
"IF THEY'LL LET ME."



AND I DO TRY MY BEST,
AS NEWLEAF TURNS THE LAND
GREEN AGAIN.







AFTER A WHILE,
LIFE EVEN BEGINS TO SEEM
ROUTINE.

I KNOW I SHOULD BE SETTLING
INTO IT. RELAXING. ENJOYING THE LIFE
OF A GROWN WARRIOR.



SO MUCH REPAIR WORK
TO DO! SUNUP TO SUNDOWN,
IT'S WEAVE REEDS, WEAVE
REEDS!

SHADOWCLAN
JUST RUINED OUR CAMP!
DON'T YOU THINK SO,
FEATHERTAIL?



EH.

BUT I CAN'T.



I JUST CAN'T.



FEATHERTAIL! THAT WAS A NICE JUICY SQUIRREL WE GOT BACK THERE.
WANT TO SHARE IT WITH ME?



ALL THESE CATS.
LIVING WITH ONE ANOTHER.

RELYING ON ONE ANOTHER.

TRUSTING ONE ANOTHER...

EVEN WITH THEIR LIVES.





NO, THANKS.



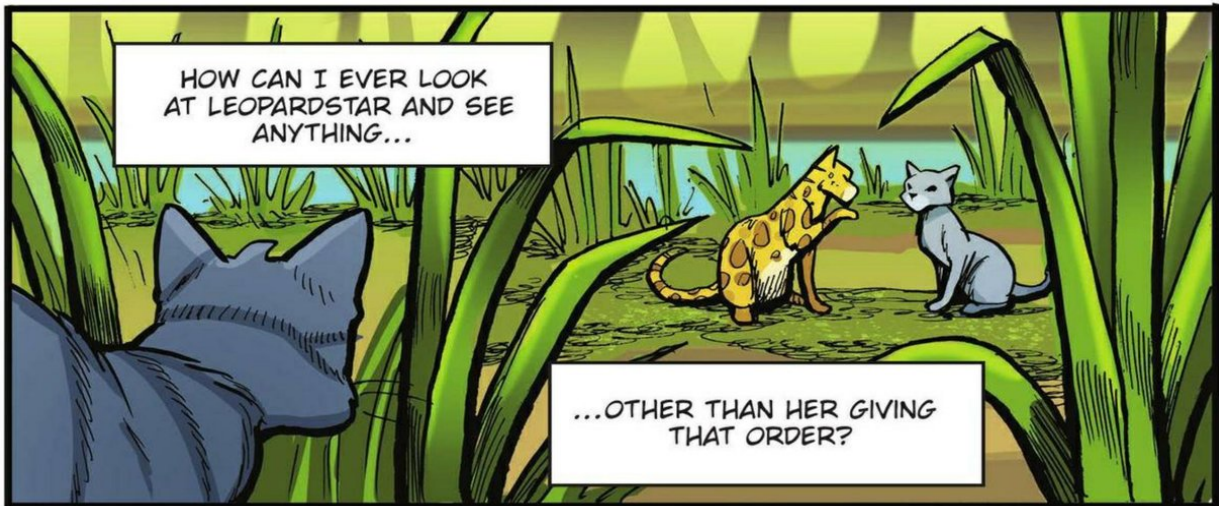
OH...OKAY...

SOME DAYS IT FEELS LIKE MY BRAIN HAS BECOME A SWARM OF BEES INSIDE MY HEAD.



HOW CAN I LIVE WITH THE CATS WHO WANTED MY BROTHER AND ME DEAD JUST BECAUSE OF WHO OUR PARENTS WERE?

WHO CHEERED WHEN STONEFUR DIED?



HOW CAN I EVER LOOK AT LEOPARDSTAR AND SEE ANYTHING...

...OTHER THAN HER GIVING THAT ORDER?



THE DISTANCE STARTS SMALL...



...BUT IT GROWS EVERY DAY.



FEATHERTAIL!
THE FISH ARE
JUMPING UP HERE!
WANT TO JOIN US?

NO, THANKS.
I'M FINE WHERE
I AM.





PART OF ME WANTS TO TELL MYSELF THAT I'M FINE WITH IT. THAT I DON'T NEED ANY OTHER CAT.



AT THE SAME TIME, I SEE HOW WELL STORMFUR HAS FIT IN.



AND I WONDER HOW TERRIBLE A SISTER I AM THAT I FEEL JEALOUS.



LISTEN, FEATHERTAIL. I KNOW YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE, AND I WANT TO HELP. I REALLY DO.

BUT I'VE MADE MY CHOICE. I HOPE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. I NEED TO BE PART OF RIVERCLAN.

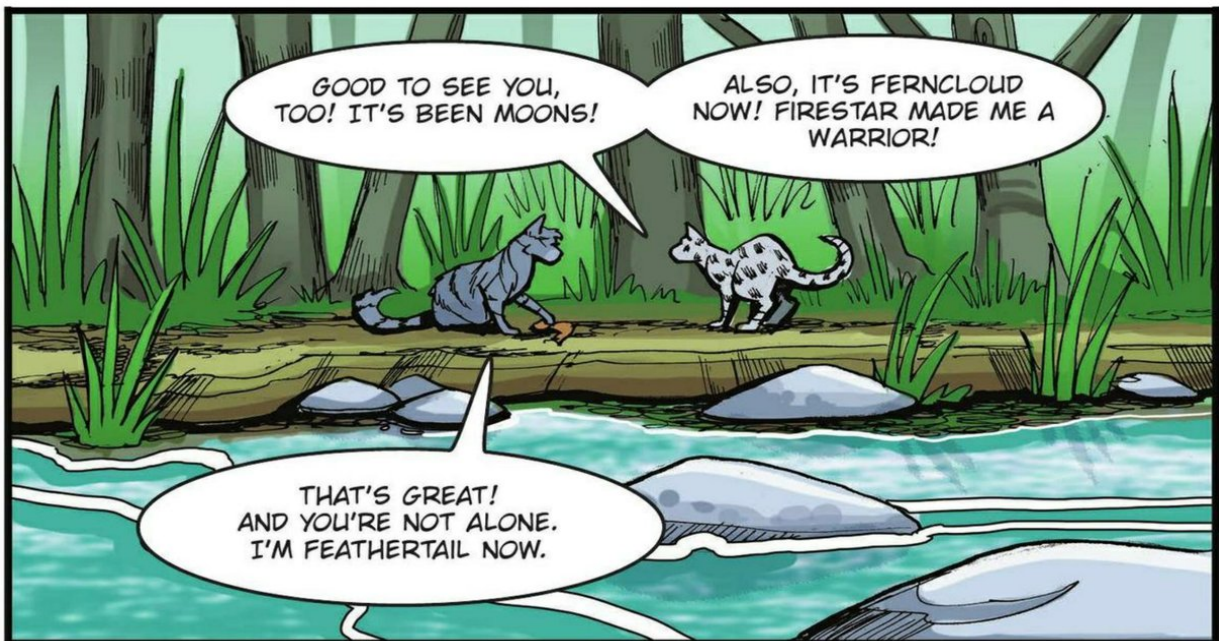
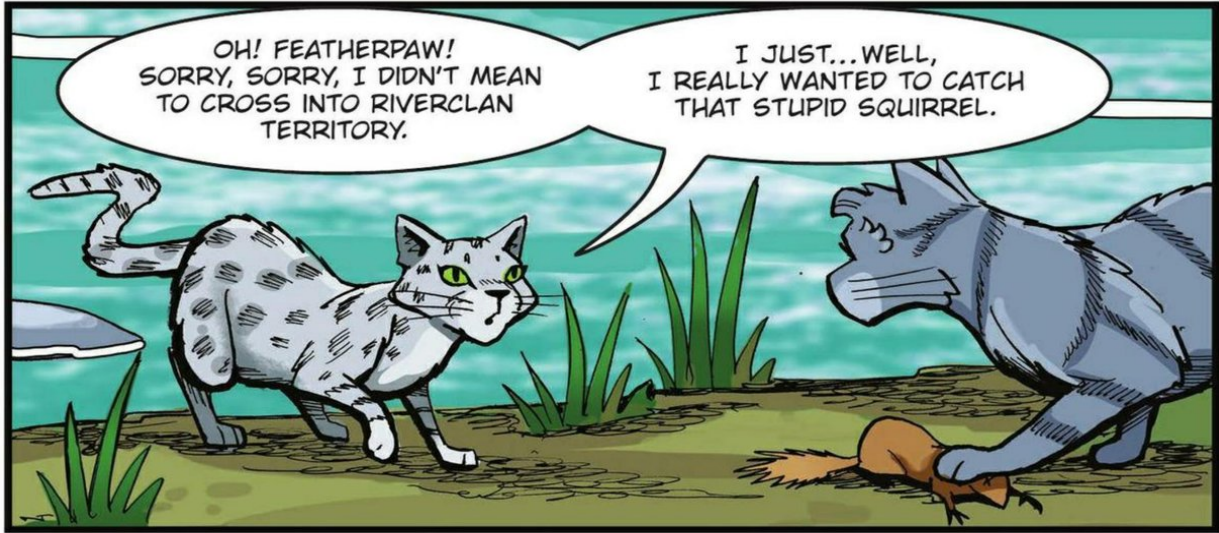
AND THAT MEANS... WELL, IT MEANS FORGIVING THE CATS WHO HURT US.

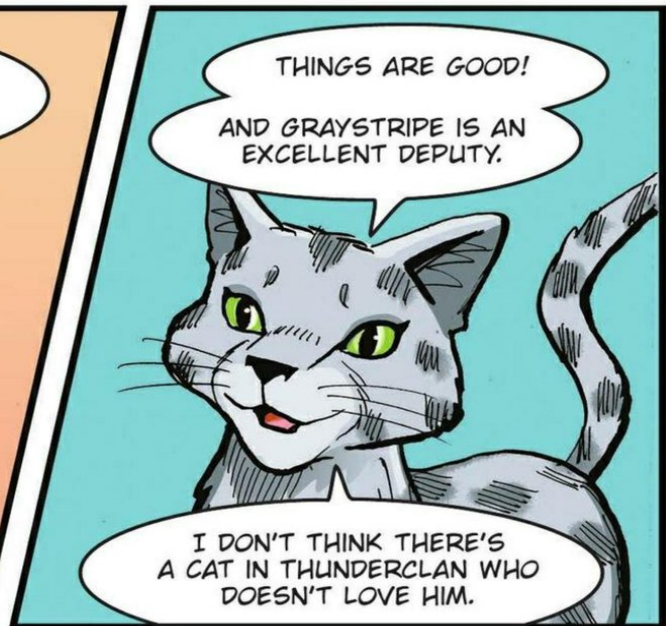
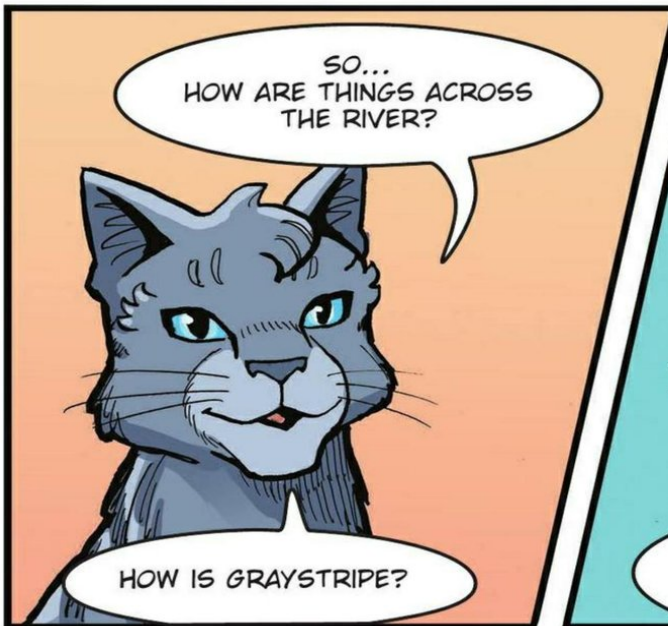
HE WANTS A RESPONSE FROM ME. HE DESERVES ONE. BUT I CAN ONLY GIVE HIM SILENCE.













THAT'S GREAT!
CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN!



THANKS! IT IS GREAT,
ISN'T IT? I CAN'T WAIT TO HAVE
OUR FIRST LITTER!



HERE... YOU KNOW WHAT?
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THIS
SQUIRREL.

REALLY? ARE YOU SURE? IT
WAS ON RIVERCLAN LAND WHEN
YOU KILLED IT, I WON'T ARGUE
ABOUT THAT...



NO, IT'S FINE.
IT WAS YOUR PREY ANYWAY,
AND IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE
GOING TO NEED YOUR
STRENGTH.

BESIDES,
I'VE NEVER CARED
FOR SQUIRREL ALL
THAT MUCH.



AND WHAT
EXACTLY IS THIS?



WHY IS A THUNDERCLAN CAT SITTING HERE ON RIVERCLAN TERRITORY, FEATHERTAIL?



AND WHY IN THE NAME OF STARCLAN WOULD YOU GIVE AWAY FRESH-KILL?



IT'S FINE, REALLY, YOU CAN KEEP IT -

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT ABOUT IT....



YEAH?
WELL, MAYBE I DO WANT
TO FIGHT ABOUT IT!

I HAVEN'T TORN
INTO A THUNDERCLAN
HIDE IN MOONS!



COME ON, BLACKCLAW!
WE'RE GOING TO TEACH THIS
PUNY LITTLE CAT A LESSON.

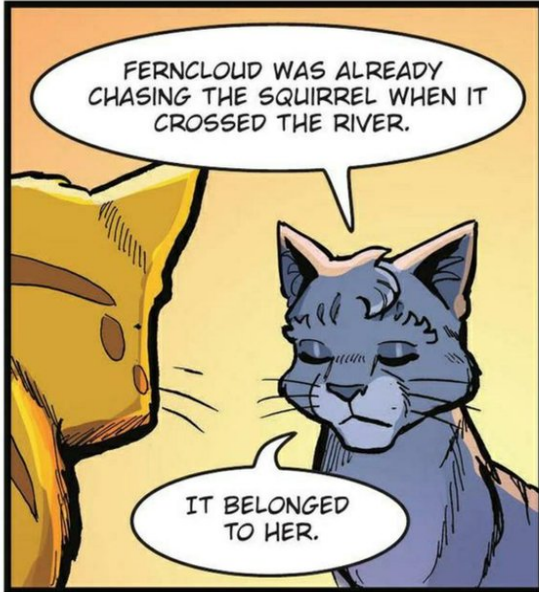
MAKE SURE SHE
THINKS HARD BEFORE SHE
TRESPASSES AND STEALS
OUR PREY AGAIN!



LEAVE HER ALONE!







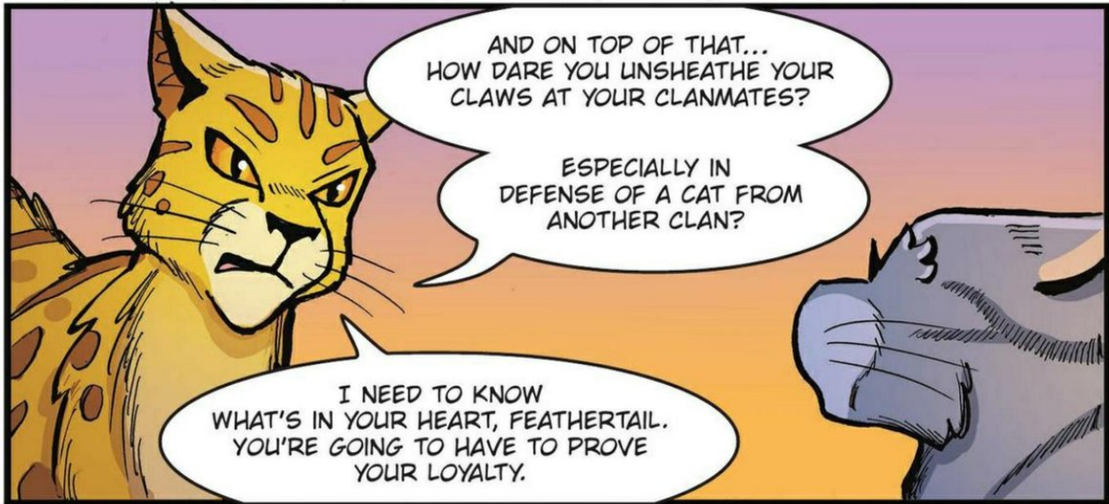
FERNCLOUD WAS ALREADY CHASING THE SQUIRREL WHEN IT CROSSED THE RIVER.

IT BELONGED TO HER.



RIDICULOUS!

PREY GOES WHERE IT WANTS. IF FERNCLOUD WERE A DECENT HUNTER, SHE WOULD'VE CAUGHT IT IN HER OWN TERRITORY.



AND ON TOP OF THAT... HOW DARE YOU UNSHEATHE YOUR CLAWS AT YOUR CLANMATES?

ESPECIALLY IN DEFENSE OF A CAT FROM ANOTHER CLAN?

I NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR HEART, FEATHERTAIL. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PROVE YOUR LOYALTY.



IT'S ALL I CAN DO NOT TO LAUGH IN HER FACE.

I'M THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO PROVE MY LOYALTY?

SHE'S THE ONE WHO BETRAYED RIVERCLAN!

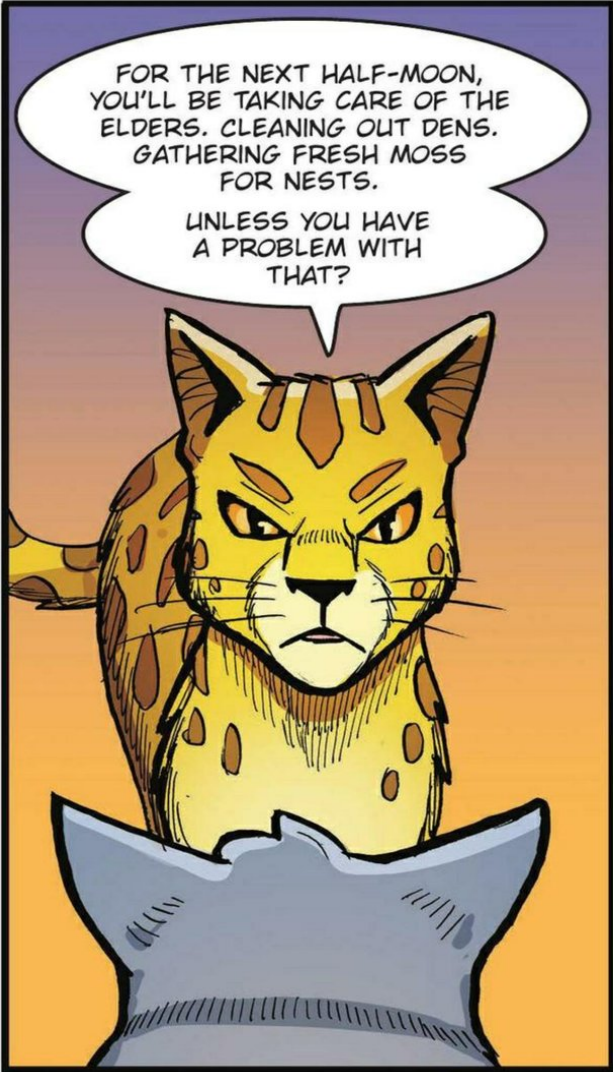
SHE'S THE ONE WHO THREW IN WITH TIGERSTAR!

WE'RE JUST SUPPOSED TO FORGET THAT?

WELL, I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN.



UNTIL YOU REMEMBER HOW TO ACT LIKE A REAL WARRIOR, FEATHERTAIL, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TREAT YOU LIKE AN APPRENTICE.



FOR THE NEXT HALF-MOON, YOU'LL BE TAKING CARE OF THE ELDERS. CLEANING OUT DENS. GATHERING FRESH MOSS FOR NESTS. UNLESS YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

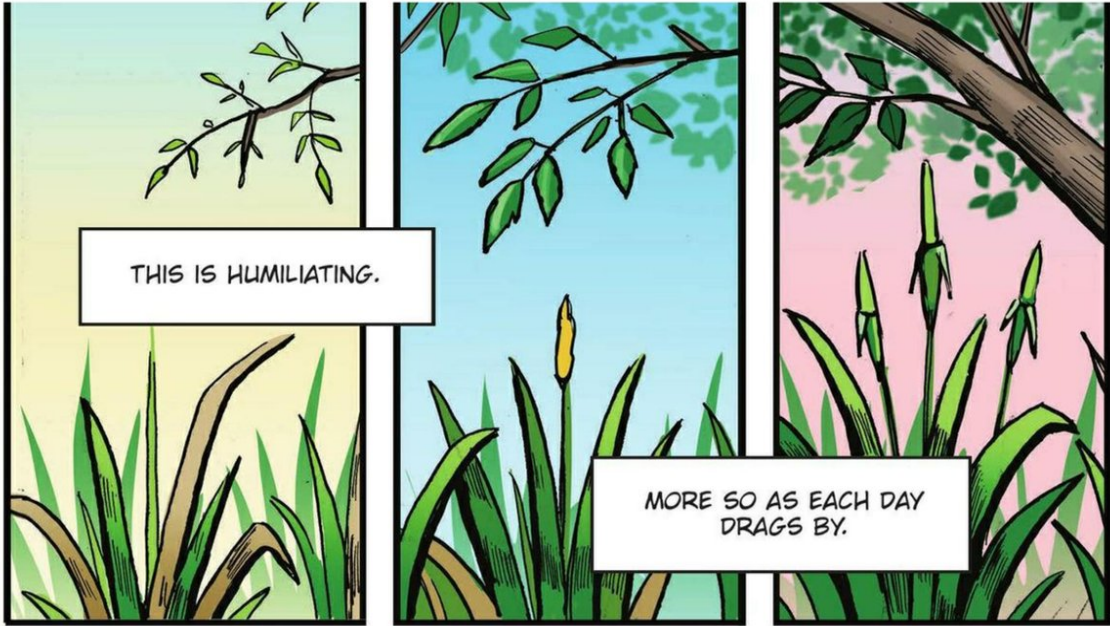


THERE'S A LOT I COULD SAY.

A LOT I WANT TO SAY... BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME.

NO, LEOPARDSTAR.

IT'S FINE.



THIS IS HUMILIATING.

MORE SO AS EACH DAY
DRAGS BY.



BUT AT LEAST IT GIVES ME
AN EXCUSE NOT TO TALK TO
ANY CAT.



THAT'S A GOOD
LOOK FOR YOU,
FEATHERTAIL!



YOU KNOW, THIS PUNISHMENT THING HAS WORKED OUT WELL FOR THE CLAN.

WE'RE A LITTLE SHORT ON YOUNG CATS, AFTER ALL. IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOME CAT TO DO THE APPRENTICE WORK.

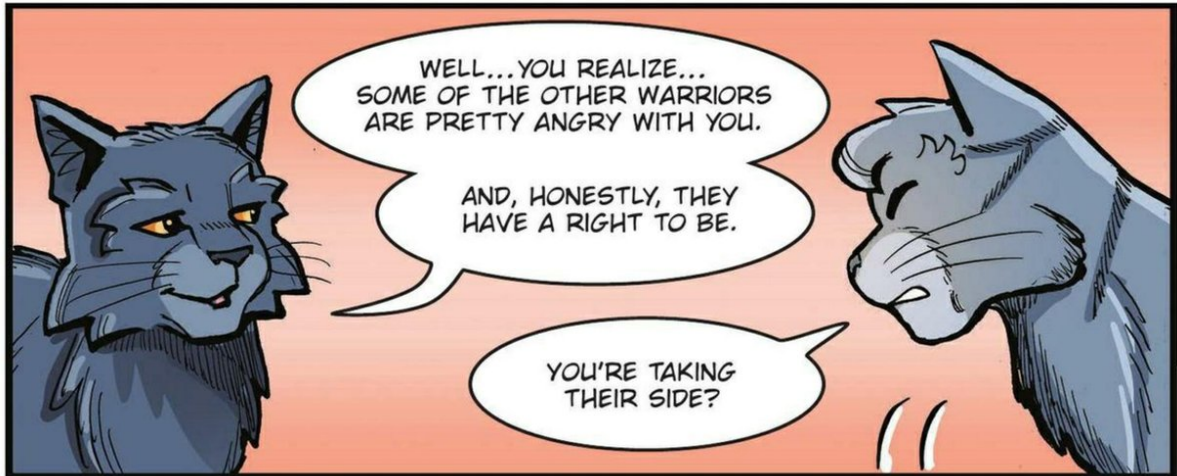


HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT THIS MOSS?

HEY, EASY NOW, IT'S ONLY FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF DAYS.



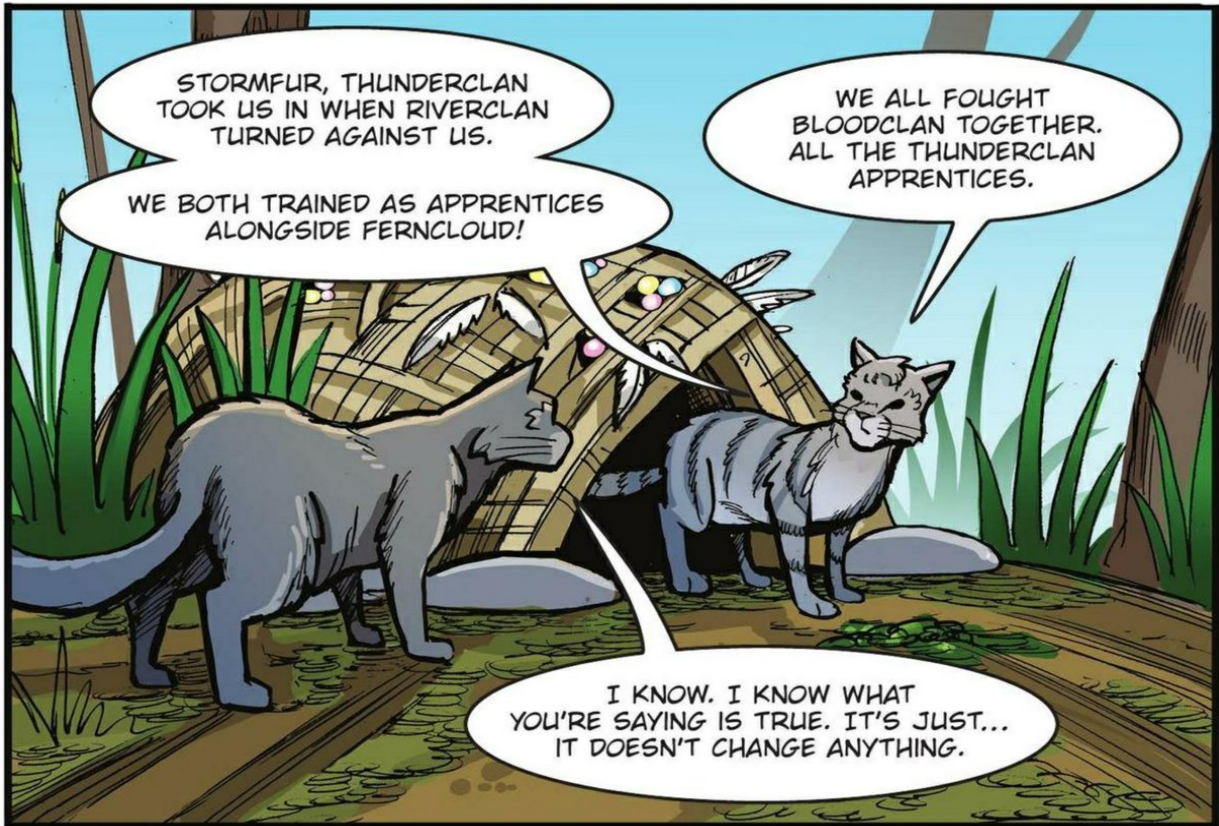
IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD IF SOME OF THE OTHER WARRIORS WEREN'T SO FILTHY. I THINK BLACKCLAW TEARS UP HIS NEST MOSS ON PURPOSE. HE'S TRYING TO MAKE THIS AS HARD FOR ME AS POSSIBLE.

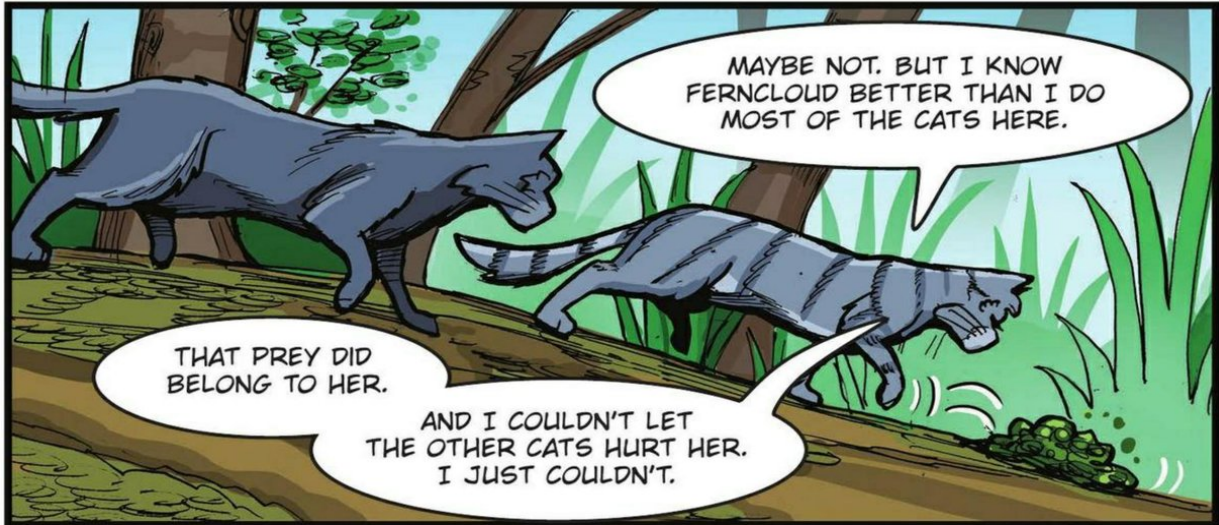


WELL... YOU REALIZE... SOME OF THE OTHER WARRIORS ARE PRETTY ANGRY WITH YOU.

AND, HONESTLY, THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO BE.

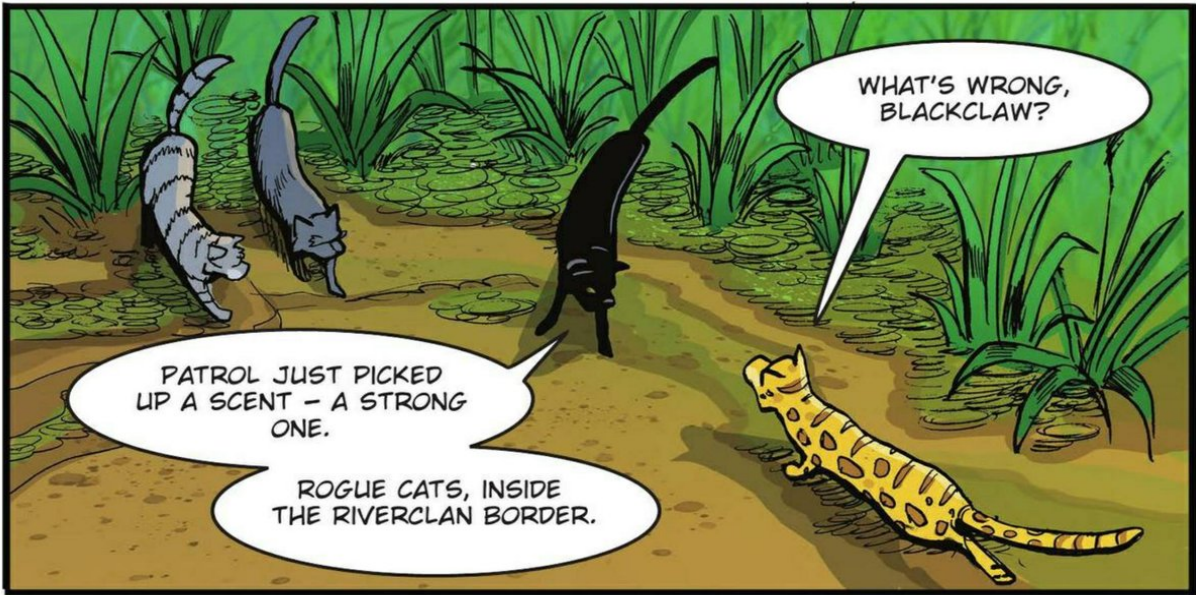
YOU'RE TAKING THEIR SIDE?







LEOPARDSTAR!



PATROL JUST PICKED UP A SCENT - A STRONG ONE.

WHAT'S WRONG, BLACKCLAW?

ROGUE CATS, INSIDE THE RIVERCLAN BORDER.



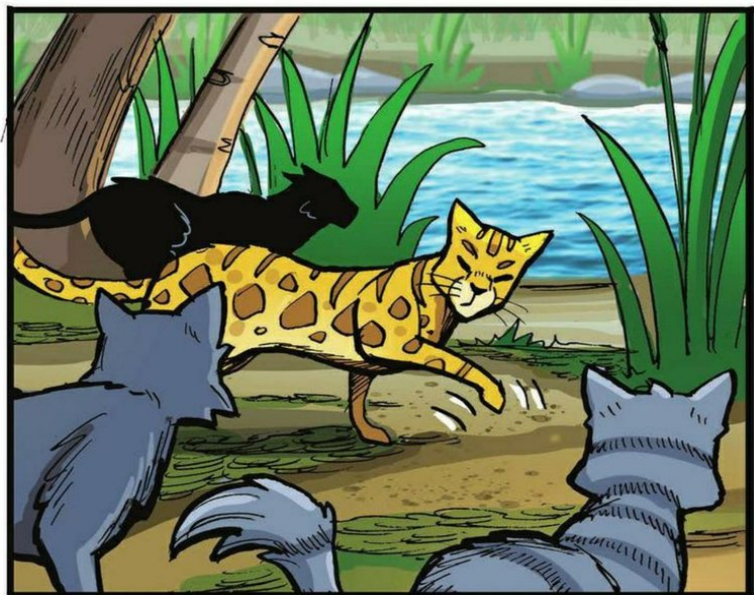
ALL RIGHT.

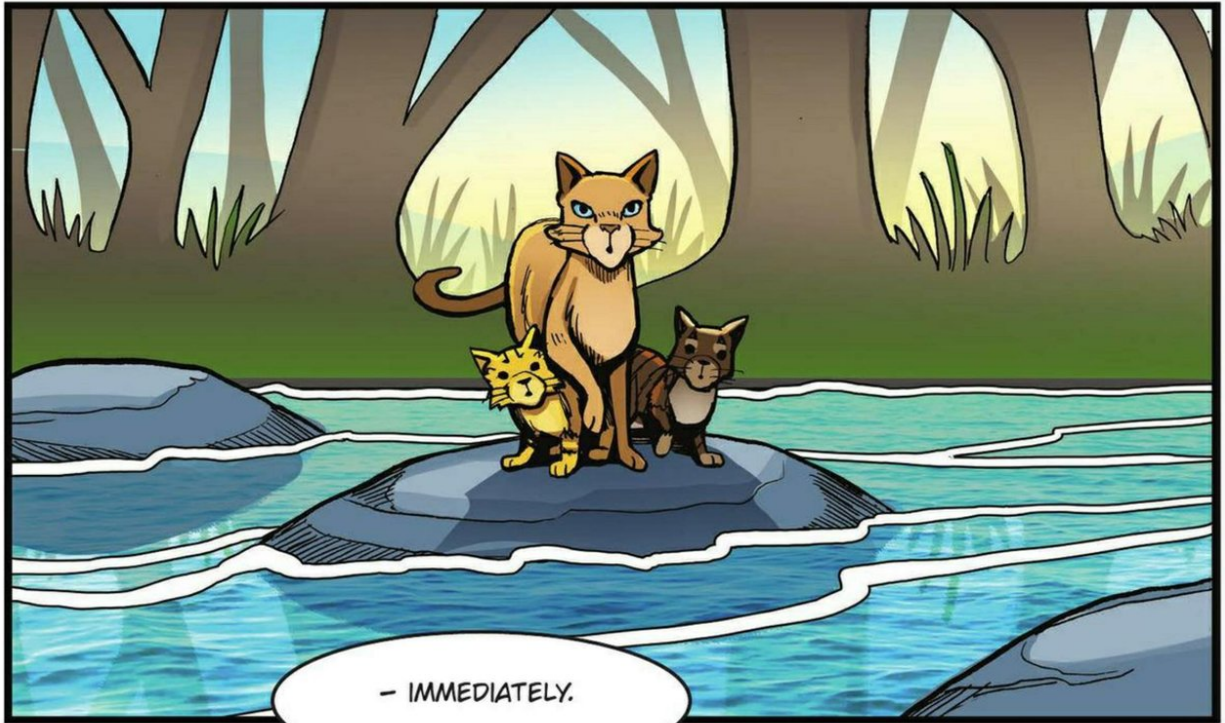
I'LL TAKE A FRESH PATROL AND SCARE THEM OFF.



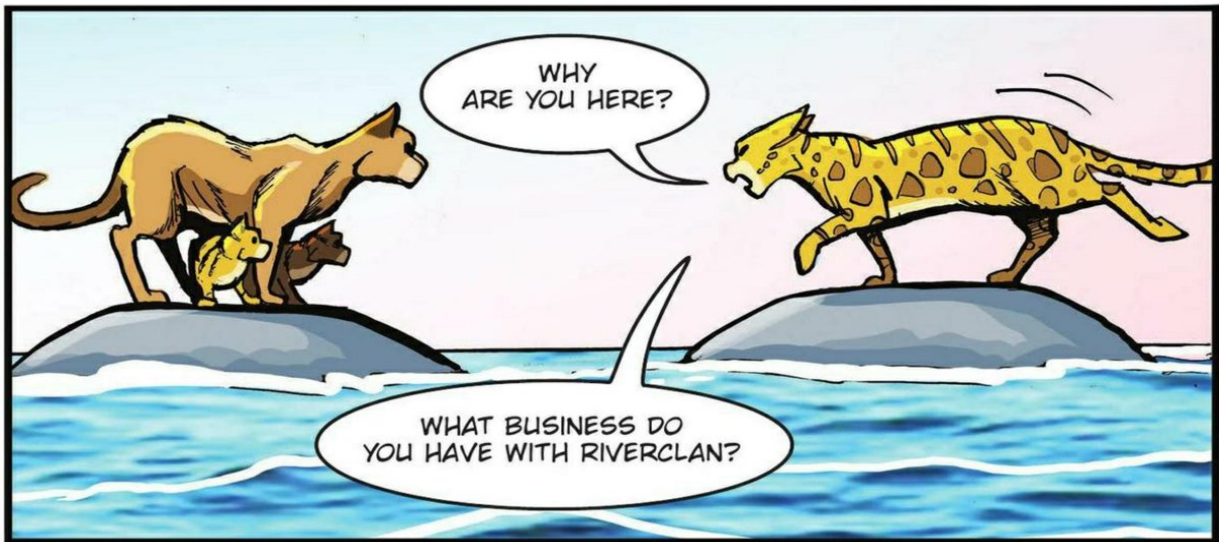
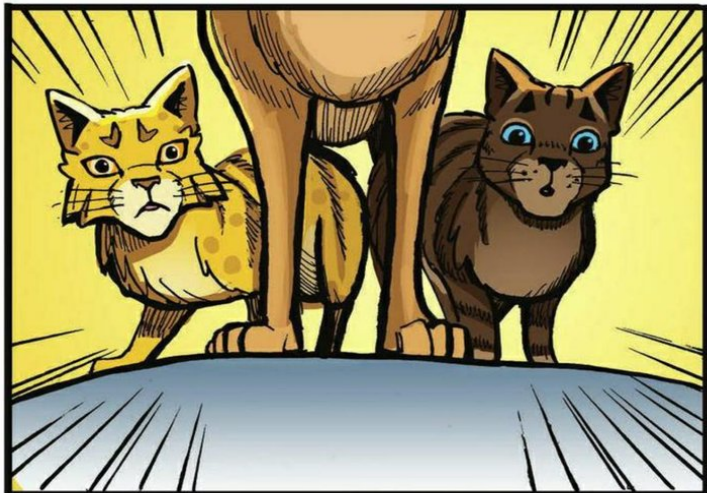
FEATHERTAIL. STORMFUR.

COME WITH ME.

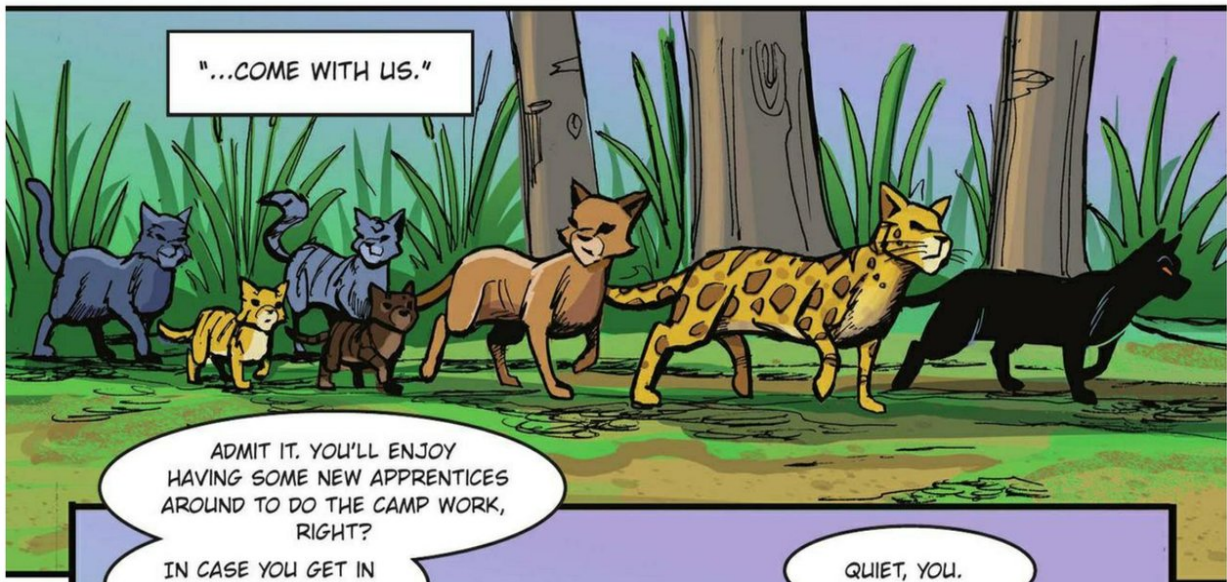
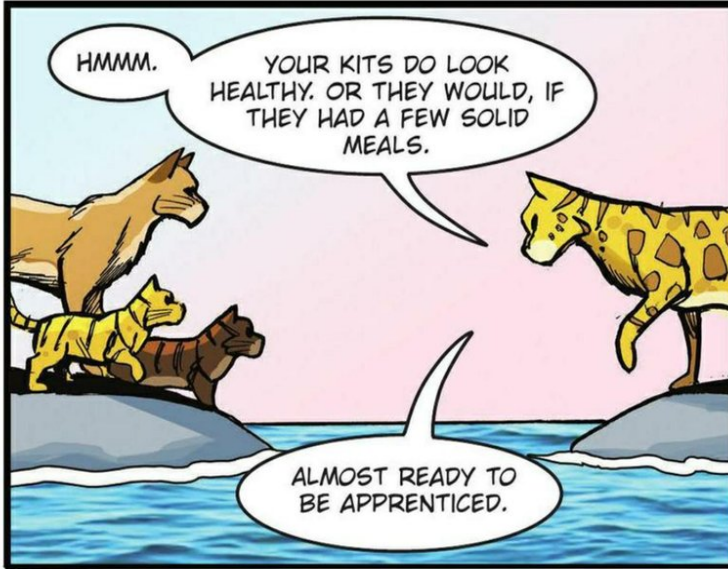














IT TAKES BARELY A QUARTER-MOON FOR SASHA TO FIT RIGHT IN WITH RIVERCLAN.



SHE PROVES TO BE A CAPABLE ENOUGH HUNTER...



AND THOUGH SHE HASN'T YET TAKEN A WARRIOR'S NAME, THE OTHER WARRIORS SEEM TO ACCEPT HER READILY ENOUGH.



LITTLE WONDER. SHE'S CHARMING. OUTGOING. EVERY CAT ENJOYS HER COMPANY.



PART OF ME WONDERS WHAT THAT FEELS LIKE.

I SHOULDN'T WONDER. NOT WHEN I'VE WORKED SO HARD TO PUSH EVERY CAT AWAY.



STILL. IT'S JUST... IT'S NOT FAIR. SASHA WASN'T BORN INTO ANY CLAN.

WHY SHOULD SHE BE ACCEPTED, WHEN I NEVER WILL BE?



OH!



FEATHERTAIL.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR NEWEST CAT? IS SHE FITTING IN WELL?



I... WOULD SAY SO, YES. THOUGH SHE SEEMS HESITANT ABOUT TAKING A WARRIOR'S NAME.

YES. SHE'S TOLD ME SHE NEEDS A BIT OF TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT. I RESPECT THAT.



AFTER ALL... JOINING A CLAN IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. YOU UNDERSTAND THAT BETTER THAN MOST, DON'T YOU?

OH, I UNDERSTAND, LEOPARDSTAR. BETTER THAN YOU DO.



SASHA'S KITS - HAWK AND MOTH - SETTLE INTO CLAN LIFE JUST AS EASILY AS THEIR MOTHER.

IT SEEMS AS IF THEY'VE BEEN PART OF RIVERCLAN FOREVER.



I HOPE BEING HUNGRY IS THE WORST THING THAT EVER HAPPENS TO THEM.



I HOPE THEY NEVER HAVE TO FACE THE TERROR THAT STORMFUR AND I DID.





LOOK AT THOSE TWO.
A ROCK COULD PAY BETTER
ATTENTION TO THE KITS.



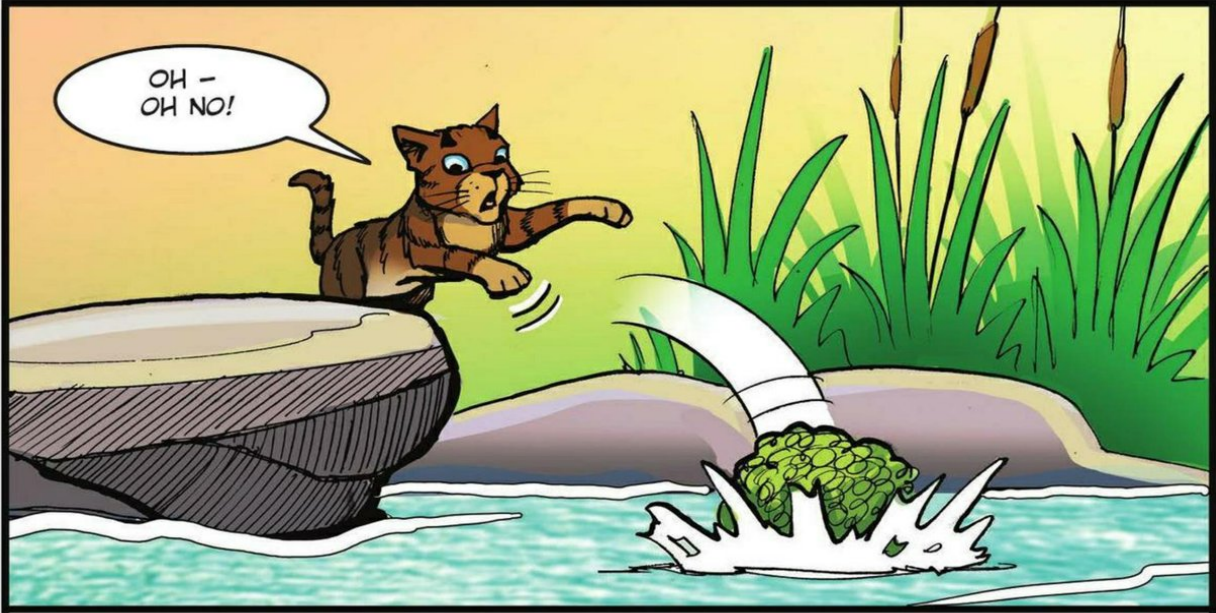
BUT I AM PAYING ATTENTION...
AND IT ONLY TAKES A HEARTBEAT
TO REMIND ME -

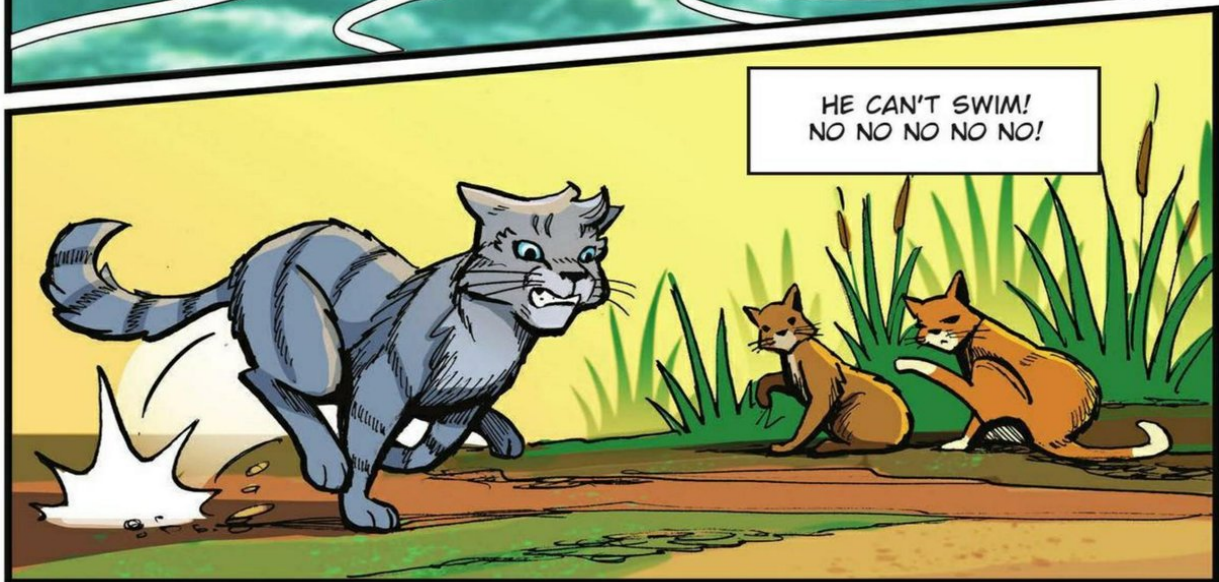


HAWK AND MOTH ARE
FITTING IN WELL, BUT THEY
WEREN'T BORN HERE...

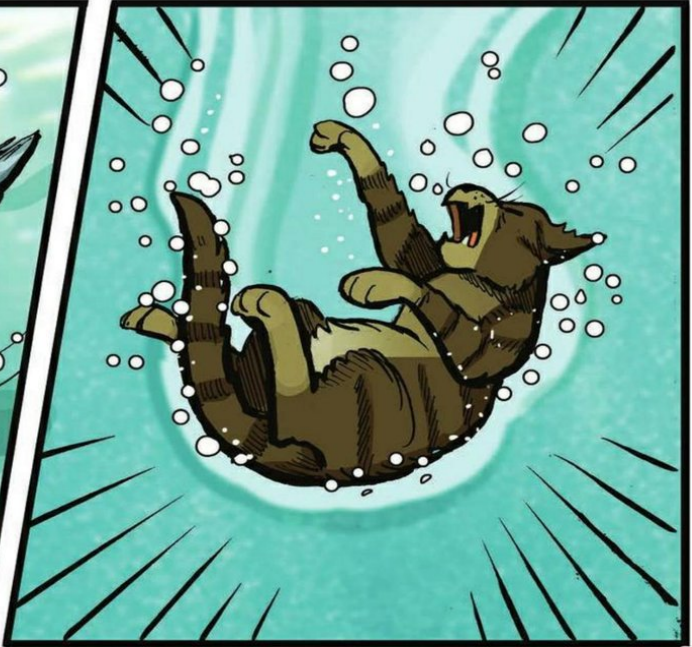


AND THEY DON'T
KNOW THE RIVER!

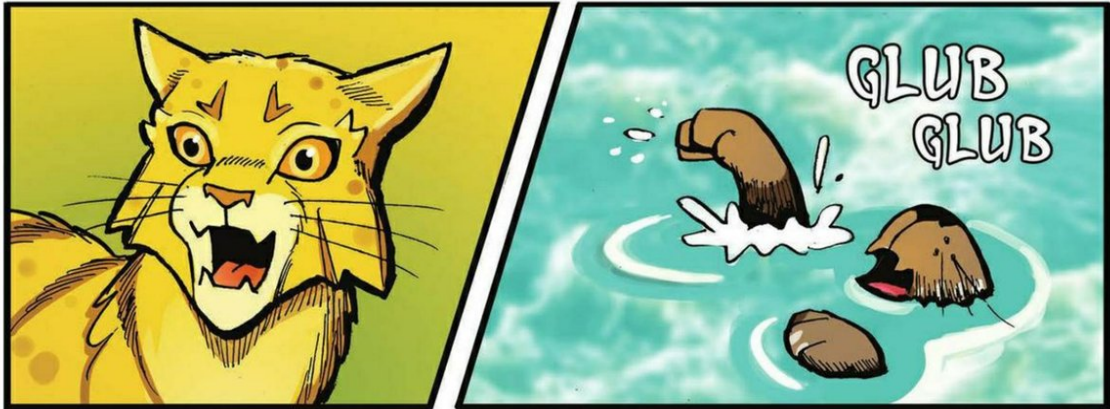


















IT TAKES A WHILE FOR MY LEGS TO STOP SHAKING.

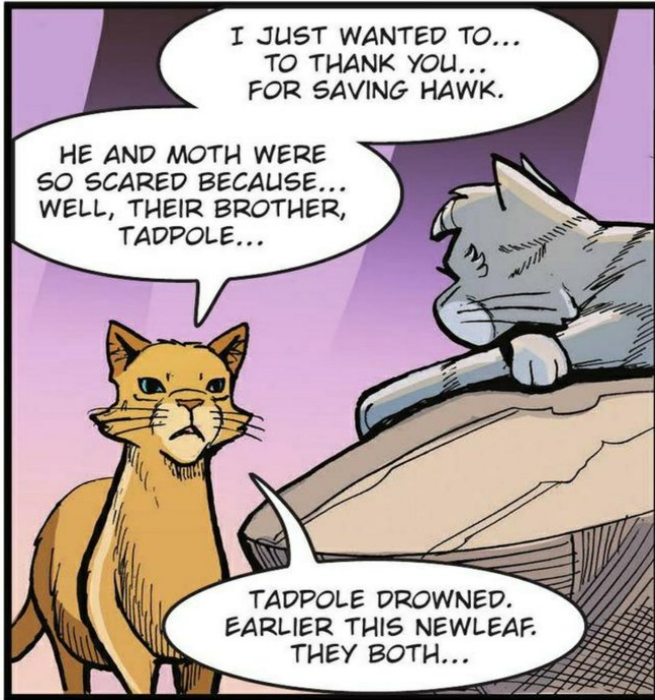


NOT THAT I WOULD LET ANY CAT SEE THEM SHAKE.

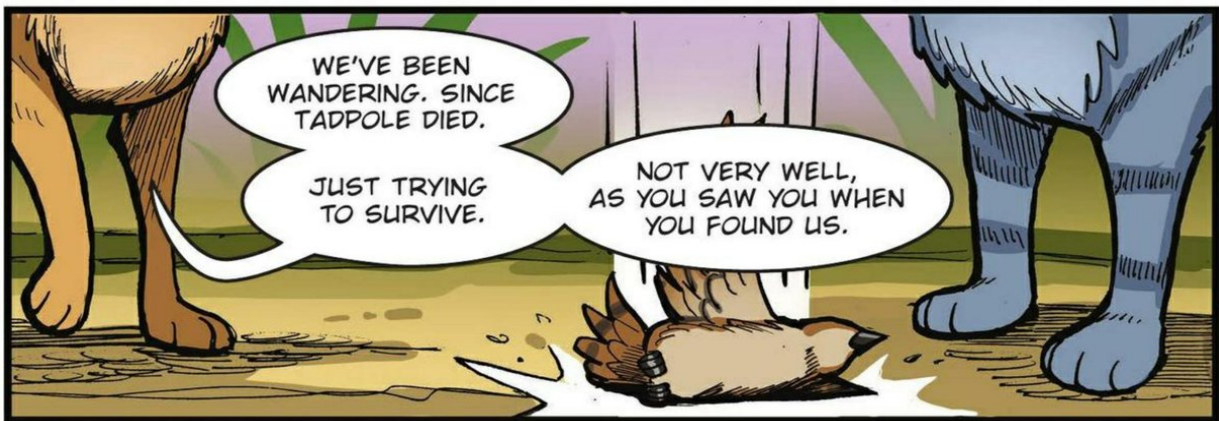


FEATHERTAIL...?
I, UH...
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU...
IF YOU DON'T MIND?

IF YOU DO MIND, THAT'S FINE, I DON'T WANT TO DISTURB YOU. IT CAN WAIT...



• • •





WE TRIED TO JOIN A GROUP OF BARN CATS, BUT THAT TURNED OUT TO BE... NOT SUCH A GOOD PLACE.

SO WE HAD TO LEAVE.



ALL I WANT IS A TRUE HOME FOR MY KITS. YOU KNOW?

I HOPED RIVERCLAN COULD BE THAT HOME.

AND, SO FAR, IT HAS BEEN. I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GRATEFUL I AM. WE ALL ARE.



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE KITS' FATHER?

IS HE STILL AROUND?

N-NO...
NO, HE DIED.

AND JUST LIKE THAT - SASHA AND I BECAME NEARLY INSEPARABLE.







WITH SASHA'S BLESSING, I EVEN START TEACHING HAWK AND MOTH HOW TO SWIM.



NOW, YOUR MENTORS, WHOEVER THEY'RE GOING TO BE, WILL SHOW YOU TO REALLY SWIM. LIKE THE REST OF RIVERCLAN.

BUT THERE'S NO HARM IN LEARNING THE BASICS. THIS WAY YOU'LL BE SAFE, CLOSE TO THE RIVER.



BUT YOU SHOULD STILL NEVER SWIM ALONE. NOT UNTIL YOUR MENTORS HAVE TOLD YOU IT'S ALL RIGHT.

SAY THANK YOU!

THANK YOU, FEATHERTAIL!

THANKS, FEATHERTAIL!

AS I WATCH THE KITS SPLASH AROUND IN THE SHALLOWS, I REALIZE I'M FEELING SOMETHING I HAVEN'T FELT BEFORE.





SOMETHING DEEP INSIDE ME.
IN MY HEART.

IS THIS WHAT BEING PART OF A CLAN
IS SUPPOSED TO FEEL LIKE?



I HAVE TO SAY,
FEATHERTAIL, IT'S GOOD TO SEE
YOU MAKING FRIENDS. I WASN'T
SURE THAT WAS GOING TO
HAPPEN HERE.

NEITHER WAS I.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD BE EVEN
BETTER...IS IF I COULD MENTOR ONE OF
THOSE KITS. HAWK IS VERY BRAVE, AND
MOTH IS SO CLEVER!

I THINK I COULD TEACH THEM A LOT....
PLUS, I THINK I CAN TRUST SASHA.
SINCE SHE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH...
EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED.



AND, YOU KNOW.

IT IS NICE TO HAVE
A FRIEND OTHER THAN
YOU.

HEY!



FEATHERTAIL...
IF YOU DON'T MIND ME
ASKING...



HOW COME YOU STAY SO...
SEPARATE FROM THE OTHER
RIVERCLAN CATS?

EXCEPT FOR STORMFLUR AND
MISTYFOOT, I MEAN.



AT FIRST I THOUGHT
YOU WERE JUST SHY. BUT
YOU'RE NOT, ARE YOU?
NOT REALLY?



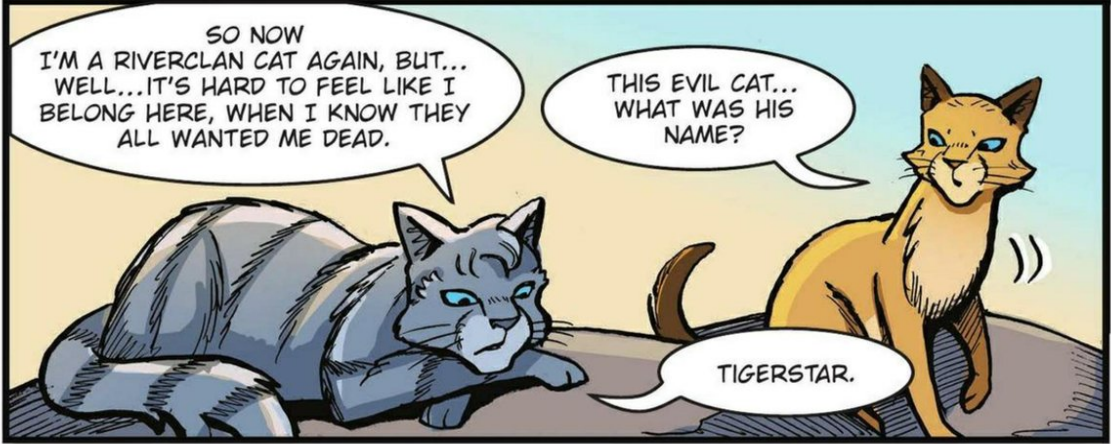
WELL...

THERE WAS AN EVIL
CAT WHO TOOK OVER BOTH
RIVERCLAN AND SHADOWCLAN.

HE DEMANDED STORMFLUR AND
I BE KILLED FOR BEING HALF-CLAN.
AND HE DID KILL STONEFLUR,
MISTYFOOT'S BROTHER.



LEOPARDSTAR...
AND THE OTHER RIVERCLAN CATS...
SUPPORTED HIM. DID WHATEVER
HE SAID TO DO.



SO NOW
I'M A RIVERCLAN CAT AGAIN, BUT...
WELL...IT'S HARD TO FEEL LIKE I
BELONG HERE, WHEN I KNOW THEY
ALL WANTED ME DEAD.

THIS EVIL CAT...
WHAT WAS HIS
NAME?



TIGERSTAR.



THAT'S HORRIBLE!
AND I THOUGHT MY KITS
WOULD BE SAFE HERE....

I THINK
THEY WILL BE. DON'T
WORRY. RIVERCLAN ISN'T
LIKE THAT ANYMORE.

ARE YOU SURE?



THAT SIMPLE QUESTION TAKES
ME OFFGUARD. AM I SURE? HAS
RIVERCLAN CHANGED?

AND IT HITS ME. YES. THE CLAN
HAS CHANGED. THEY'VE ALL
LEARNED FROM THEIR MISTAKES.

I CAN'T IMAGINE THEM FOLLOWING
A LEADER LIKE TIGERSTAR NOW.

OR DOING KITS OR APPRENTICES
HARM FOR NO REAL REASON.



I'M SURE. YES.
BESIDES...
I'LL BE LOOKING OUT
FOR YOUR KITS. AND SO WILL
STORMFUR AND MISTYFOOT.

THANK YOU.



AND...I HOPE YOU
CAN LEARN TO TRUST YOUR
CLAN AGAIN. I KNOW CATS
MAKE MISTAKES...

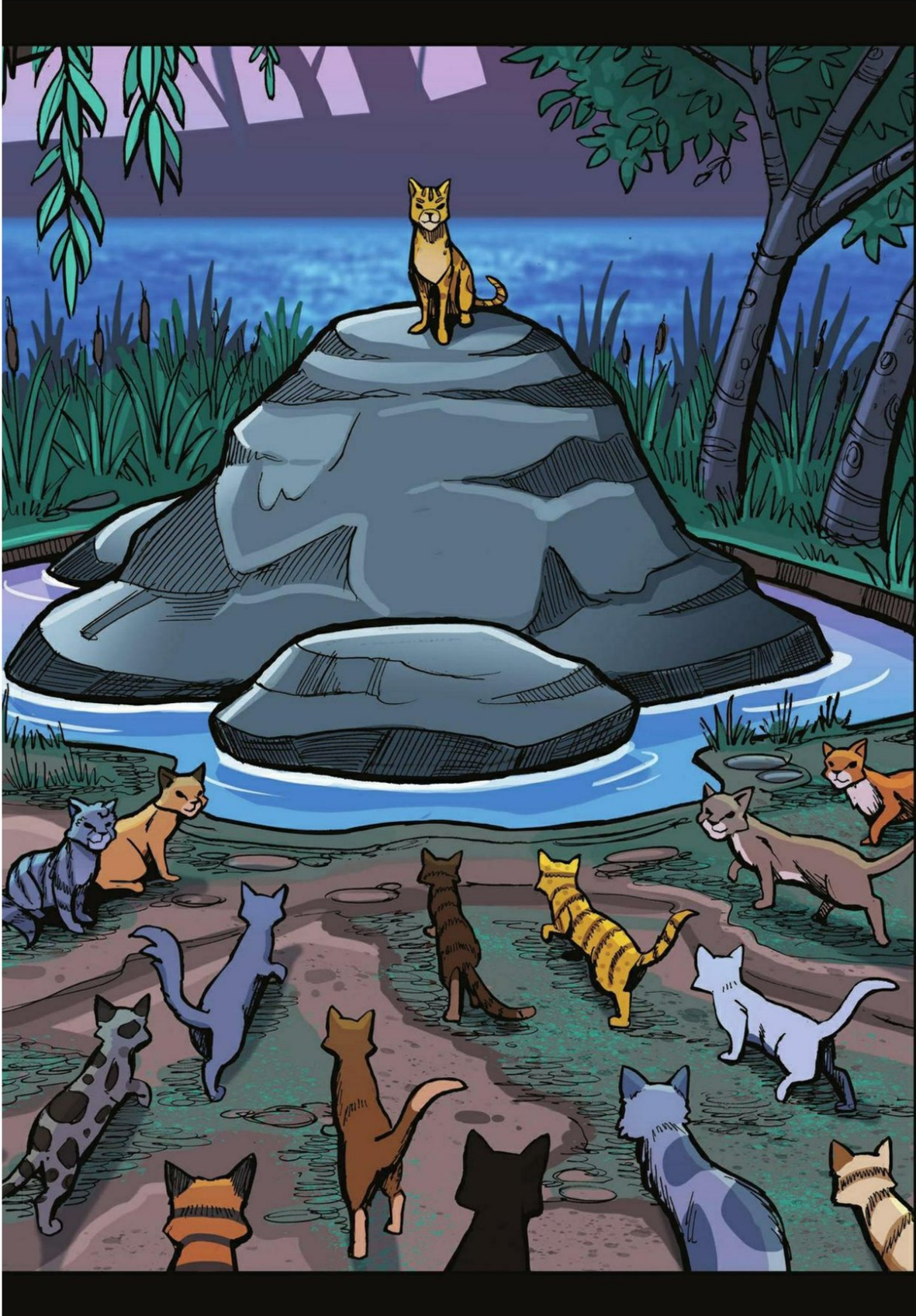
THE ONES WHO
LISTENED TO TIGERSTAR
SHOULDN'T BE BLAMED FOREVER,
SHOULD THEY?

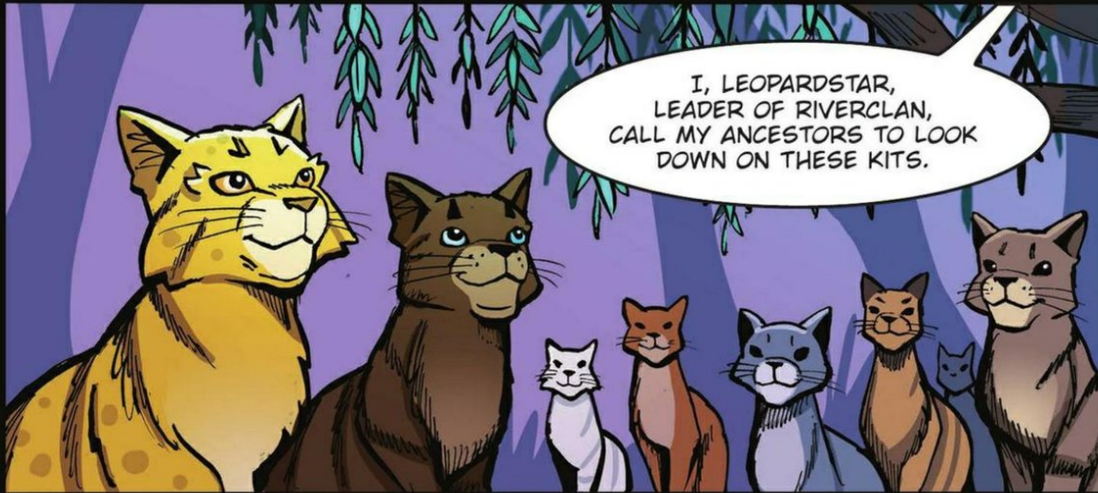
NOT IF
THEY'VE LEARNED
BETTER NOW.



NEWLEAF COMES AND GOES.

GREENLEAF HAS BEGUN BY
THE TIME LEOPARDSTAR CALLS
RIVERCLAN TOGETHER AGAIN.





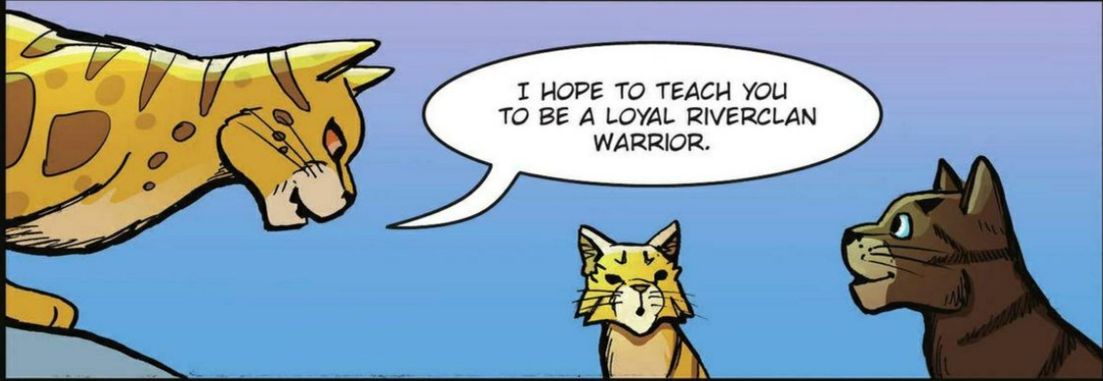
TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT. HAWK AND MOTH BECOME HAWKPAW AND MOTHPAW. OFFICIALLY RIVERCLAN APPRENTICES.







AND I WILL BECOME YOUR MENTOR, HAWKPAW.



I HOPE TO TEACH YOU TO BE A LOYAL RIVERCLAN WARRIOR.



MOTHPAW!
HAWKPAW!

MOTHPAW!
HAWKPAW!

MOTHPAW!
HAWKPAW!



HAWKPAW!
MOTHPAW!

HAWKPAW!
MOTHPAW!

I SHOULD BE HAPPY
FOR THE KITS.



MISTYFOOT WAS A GREAT
MENTOR, AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN
A LOYAL CAT.

I TRUST HER WITH MOTHPAW.



LEOPARDSTAR, THOUGH...

HOW CAN I EVER
TRUST HER?



ALTHOUGH... SHE LOOKS AS IF SHE
WANTS TO DO HER BEST WITH HIM.
MAKE HIM A GREAT WARRIOR.

STARCLAN, I HOPE
THAT'S TRUE.



THIS IS EVERYTHING I'VE EVER WANTED FOR MY KITS!



THEY'LL HAVE A WHOLE CLAN OF CATS TO LOOK OUT FOR THEM HERE. THEY'LL BELONG!

THE LIFE OF A ROGUE CAT IS SO HARD...AND NOW THEY WON'T EVER HAVE TO FACE IT.



EXCEPT - WHAT YOU WERE SAYING, BEFORE...

WILL HAWKPAW BE SAFE WITH LEOPARDSTAR?



I WISH YOU COULD HAVE BEEN HIS MENTOR INSTEAD. I KNOW YOU'D TAKE CARE OF HIM.



I WISH I COULD'VE BEEN HAWKPAW'S MENTOR, TOO. BUT THIS IS A GOOD THING.

IT'S UNUSUAL, AND A REAL HONOR, FOR THE CLAN'S LEADER TO TAKE AN APPRENTICE.



SEE, BY MAKING HERSELF AND THE CLAN DEPUTY HAWKPAW AND MOTHPAW'S MENTORS...

...SHE'S TELLING THE CLAN THAT THE TWO APPRENTICES BELONG, EVEN THOUGH THEY WEREN'T BORN IN RIVERCLAN.

THAT WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED UNDER TIGERSTAR.

AM I LYING TO HER?

HAS LEOPARDSTAR CHANGED ENOUGH THAT SHE WANTS TO PROTECT THE OUTSIDERS SHE'S LET JOIN RIVERCLAN?

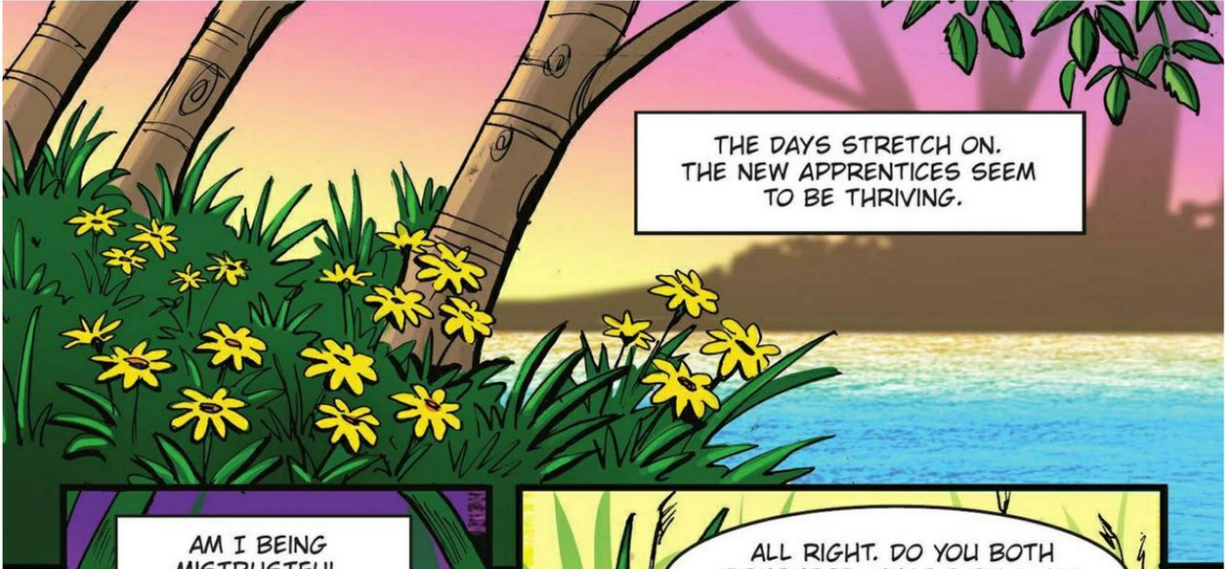


I THINK I'D BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON MOTHPAW AND HAWKPAW.



JUST IN CASE.





THE DAYS STRETCH ON.
THE NEW APPRENTICES SEEM
TO BE THRIVING.



AM I BEING
MISTRUSTFUL
FOR NOTHING?



ALL RIGHT. DO YOU BOTH
REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU
ABOUT THE PROPER WAY
TO POUNCE?

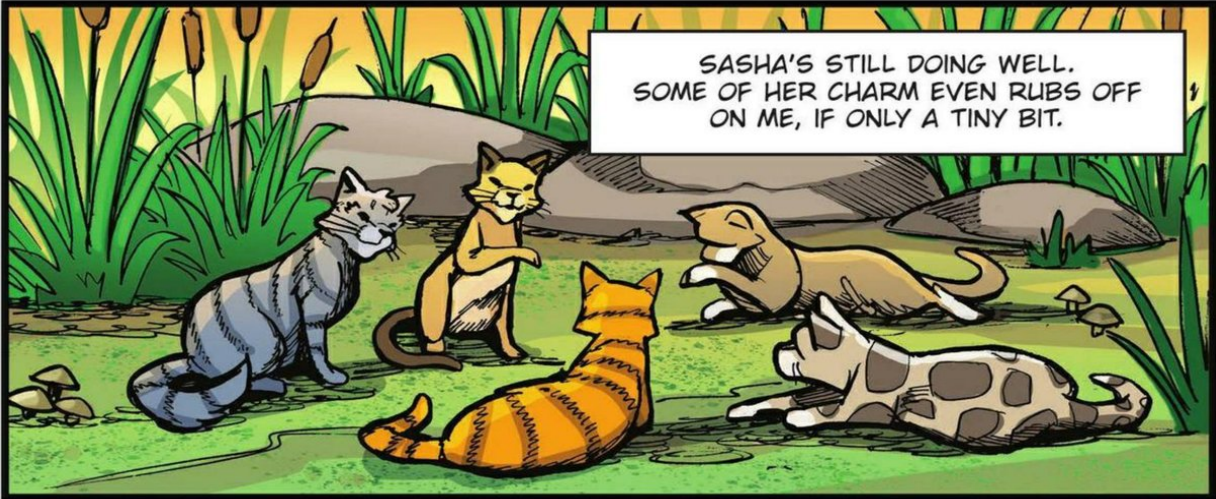
YES!

OKAY,
THEN SHOW ME!



I'LL JUST KEEP WATCHING.

IT CAN'T HURT.



SASHA'S STILL DOING WELL.
SOME OF HER CHARM EVEN RUBS OFF
ON ME, IF ONLY A TINY BIT.



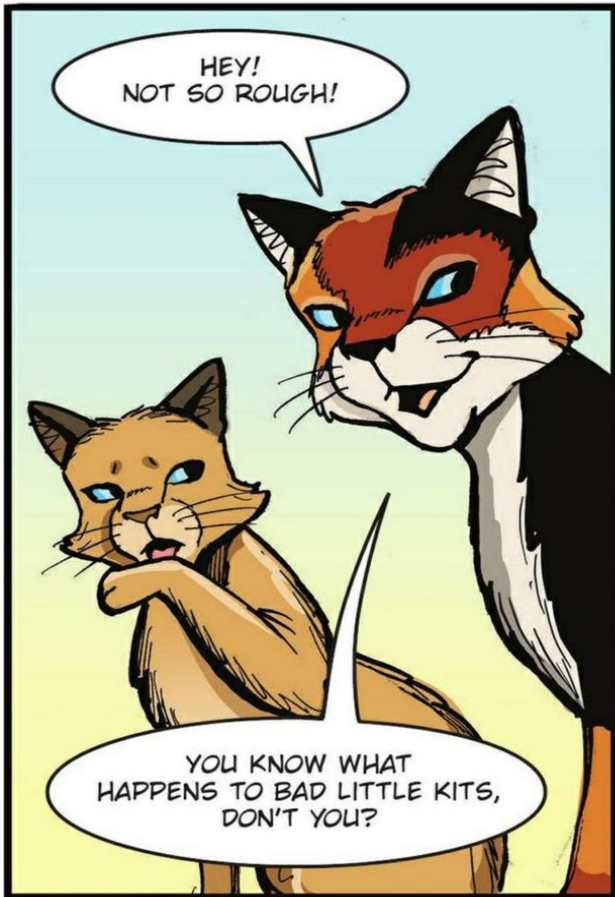
IT WAS TRUE,
WHAT I SAID TO STORMFUR.
IT IS NICE TO HAVE FRIENDS.

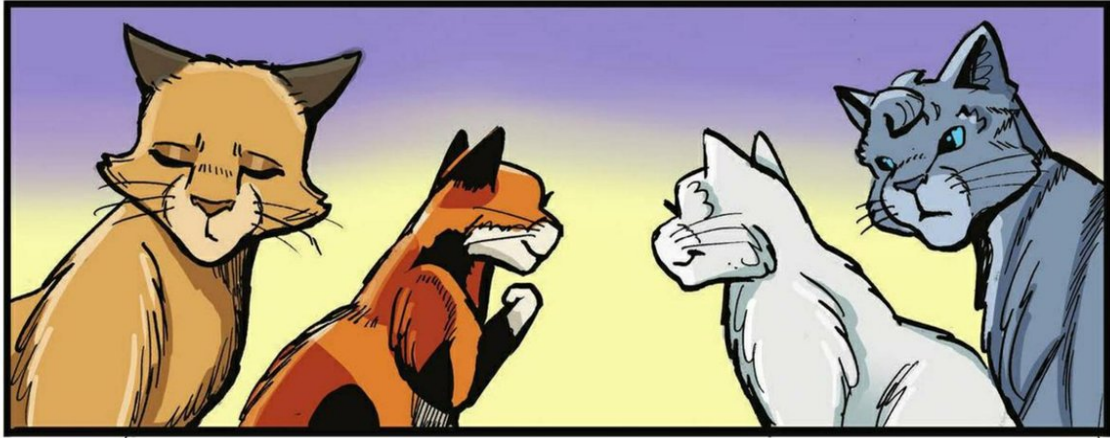


NICE TO BE PART OF A CLAN.
FULLY PART OF IT.

I THINK I'VE MISSED
THIS.











I KNEW HIM...
AND I LOVED HIM.

TIGERSTAR IS
MOTH AND HAWK'S
FATHER.



BUT PLEASE, PLEASE
BELIEVE ME. WHEN WE WERE
TOGETHER, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT
HE WAS TRULY LIKE!

AS SOON AS I FOUND OUT,
I LEFT. AND TOOK THE KITS
WITH ME.



BUT YOU
NEVER STOPPED
LOVING HIM?



IF ANY CAT FINDS OUT
THAT TIGERSTAR IS HAWKPAW
AND MOTHPAW'S FATHER,
THEY WON'T BE SAFE.

PLEASE DON'T TELL
THE CLAN! FEATHERTAIL,
PLEASE.

EVERYTHING I'VE DONE
HAS BEEN TO PROTECT
MY KITS.

PLEASE DON'T UNDO
ALL OF THAT.



PLEASE. FEATHERTAIL.
WE'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T
WE?

TIGERSTAR NEVER MET
HIS KITS. HE NEVER EVEN KNEW I
WAS EXPECTING!

PLEASE DON'T PUNISH THEM
FOR WHAT HE DID WRONG. THAT'S...
THAT'S WHAT HE TRIED TO DO TO
YOU, ISN'T IT?

HURT YOU
BECAUSE OF WHO
YOUR PARENTS
WERE?



WHAT SHE'S DONE IS INEXCUSABLE.
THE CLAN WOULD BE JUSTIFIED TO CAST
THEM OUT. MAKE THEM ROGUES AGAIN.

BUT IT ONLY TAKES A
HEARTBEAT FOR ME TO KNOW I
CAN'T DO THAT TO THEM.



SASHA'S RIGHT.
IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT.



SASHA, ON THE OTHER PAW...

FINE.
I'LL KEEP YOUR
SECRET.

BUT YOU AND I
ARE DONE.



FEATHERTAIL, NO...
PLEASE. YOU'RE MY BEST
FRIEND.



YOU KNEW!

I TOLD YOU WHAT TIGERSTAR DID TO ME. TO STORMFUR, TO STONEFUR. AND NOT ONLY DID YOU KEEP YOUR SECRET...

YOU STILL LOVE THAT... THAT TYRANT.



THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BE YOUR FRIEND, OR HAVE ANY TRUST IN YOU, ANYMORE.



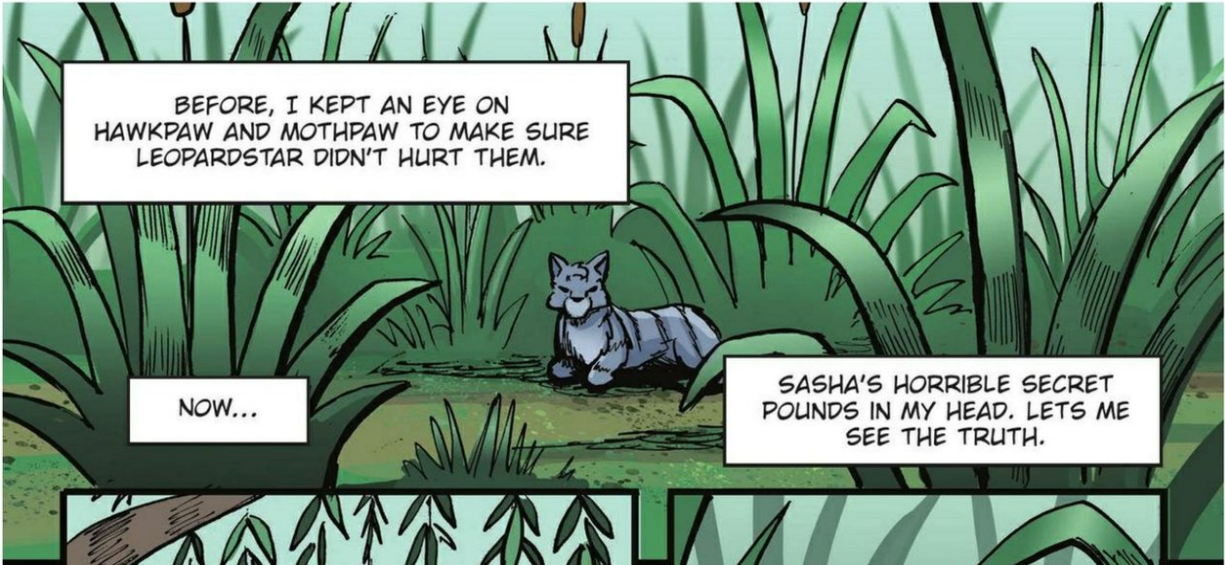
IN FACT...

YOU'VE LET ME SEE THE TRUTH.

YOU AND I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN STRANGERS, SASHA.



I JUST DIDN'T REALIZE IT UNTIL NOW.



BEFORE, I KEPT AN EYE ON HAWKPAW AND MOTHPAW TO MAKE SURE LEOPARDSTAR DIDN'T HURT THEM.

NOW...

SASHA'S HORRIBLE SECRET POUNDS IN MY HEAD. LETS ME SEE THE TRUTH.



NOW IT FEELS AS IF I HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON EVERY CAT.



AND THE TRUTH IS...

I CAN'T TRUST ANY CAT.







STORMFUR HAS ALWAYS BEEN TRUE TO ME. ALWAYS THE ONE FRIEND I KNEW I HAD.

BUT THIS IS TOO BIG TO PUT ON HIM. WHAT IF HE LET IT SLIP? THE KITS COULD GET HURT.



I...CAN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED. BUT I KNOW YOU'RE MY FRIEND. I DON'T NEED ANY OTHER CAT.

FEATHERTAIL, THAT'S NO WAY TO LIVE.

WE NEED TO DEPEND ON OUR CLAN! THAT'S WHY WE HAVE CLANS!

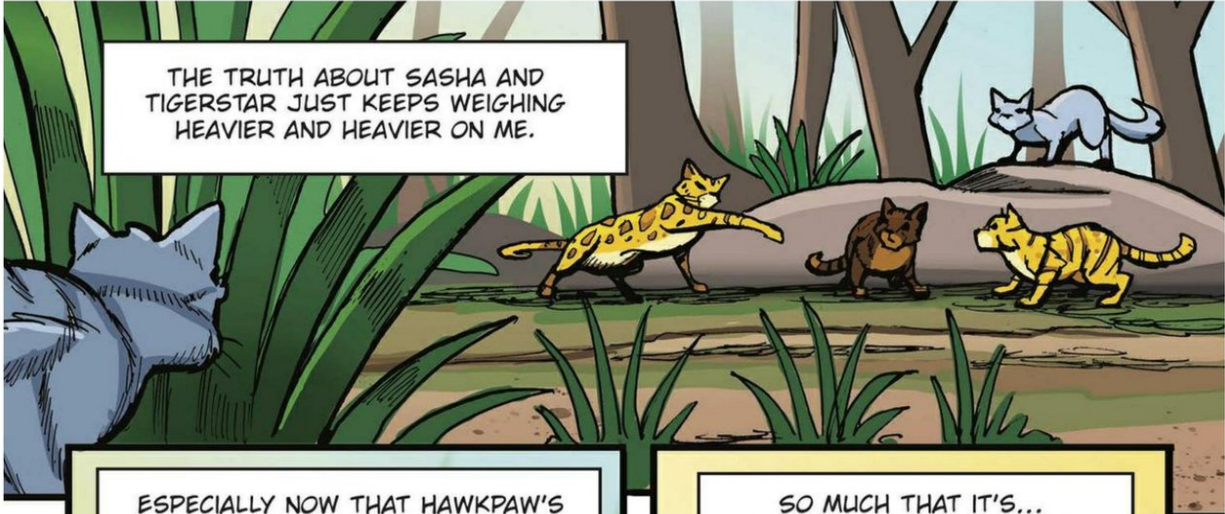


I... I JUST... I'M SORRY.

I CAN'T.



WHATEVER.



THE TRUTH ABOUT SASHA AND TIGERSTAR JUST KEEPS WEIGHING HEAVIER AND HEAVIER ON ME.

ESPECIALLY NOW THAT HAWKPAW'S GETTING BIGGER. I DON'T KNOW IF I WOULD'VE NOTICED, IF I DIDN'T KNOW HIS SECRET...



...BUT HE'S STARTING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE HIS FATHER. AND HE MOVES THE SAME WAY. WITH THE SAME INTENSITY.

SO MUCH THAT IT'S... IT'S A LITTLE LIKE HAVING TIGERSTAR RIGHT BACK HERE IN THE CAMP.



SHOULD I TELL THE REST OF RIVERCLAN THE TRUTH?



BY KEEPING IT TO MYSELF, AM I PUTTING THE CLAN IN DANGER?

BUT I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. I MADE A PROMISE.

EVEN THOUGH THE THOUGHT OF WHAT HAWKPAW MIGHT BECOME SENDS SHIVERS DOWN MY BACK.

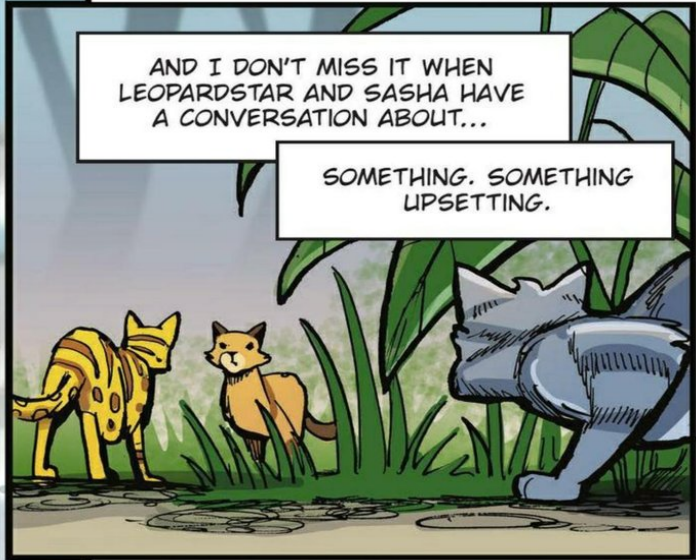
OVER THE COURSE OF
THIS GREENLEAF..

I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY
GOOD AT KEEPING AN
EYE ON THINGS.



AND I DON'T MISS IT WHEN
LEOPARDSTAR AND SASHA HAVE
A CONVERSATION ABOUT...

SOMETHING. SOMETHING
UPSETTING.



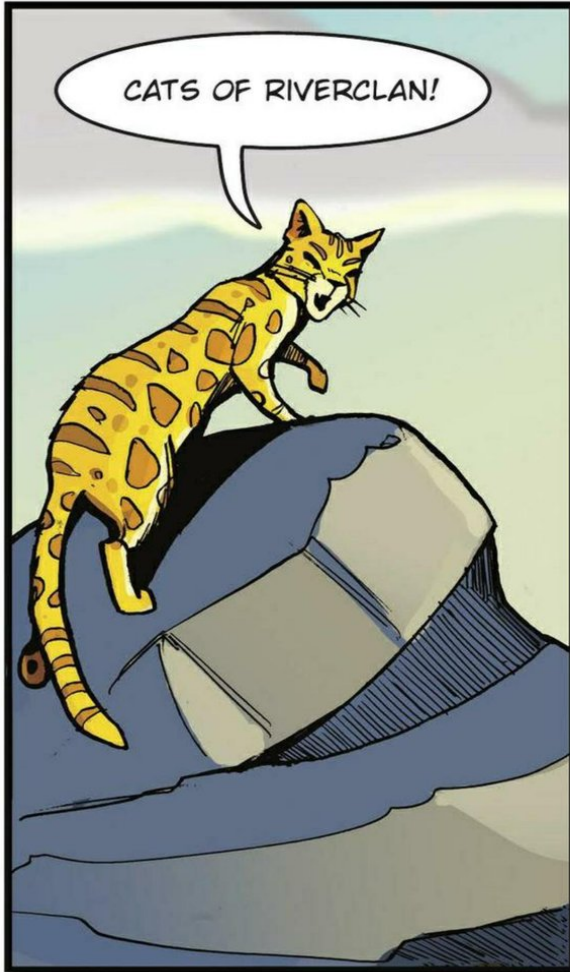
NEXT TIME, SASHA.

YOU CAN BE SURE
OF THAT.



HMMM.





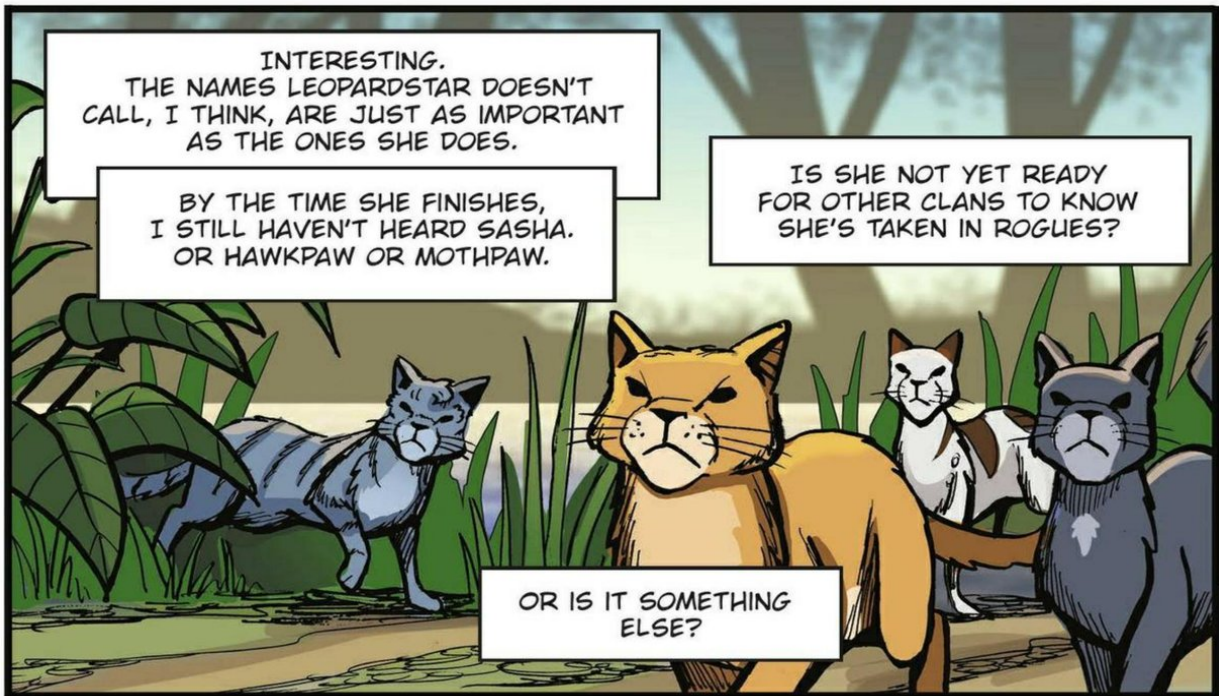
CATS OF RIVERCLAN!



THE MOON HAS GROWN FULL - IT'S TIME FOR A GATHERING!

THESE CATS WILL ATTEND WITH ME:

STORMFUR. MISTYFOOT. MUDFUR. FEATHERTAIL...



INTERESTING. THE NAMES LEOPARDSTAR DOESN'T CALL, I THINK, ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE ONES SHE DOES.

BY THE TIME SHE FINISHES, I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD SASHA. OR HAWKPAW OR MOTHPAW.

IS SHE NOT YET READY FOR OTHER CLANS TO KNOW SHE'S TAKEN IN ROGUES?

OR IS IT SOMETHING ELSE?

FOUR TREES.

SITE OF THE GATHERING.

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THIS PLACE. ESPECIALLY NOW...





...BECAUSE IT MEANS
I GET TO SEE MY FATHER.





CATS FROM ALL FOUR CLANS...



DIFFERENCES PUT ASIDE.
NO TERRITORIES TO FIGHT OVER.

PART OF ME WISHES WE
DIDN'T NEED CLANS AT ALL.

THEN IT WOULDN'T MATTER
HOW I FELT ABOUT RIVERCLAN.
OR ITS LEADER.



I AM HAPPY TO SHARE WITH EVERY CAT HERE THAT THUNDERCLAN IS DOING WELL!



THERE HAS BEEN ADEQUATE PREY, AND EVEN THOUGH WE DID EXPERIENCE A BOLT OF GREENCOUGH...



...WHICH FIRESTAR IS STILL RECOVERING FROM, OUR MEDICINE CAT, CINDERPELT, WAS ABLE TO CURE IT EASILY.



IT'S GOOD TO SEE GRAYSTRIPE UP THERE.

YES, BUT I HOPE FIRESTAR IS OKAY. HE'S BEEN SICK FOR A WHILE.

LEOPARDSTAR AND THEN THE OTHER CLAN LEADERS SHARE THEIR WORDS.

WHEN THEY ARE DONE, THE MOON HAS
CROSSED THE SKY AND THE GATHERED
WARRIORS ARE FREE TO CATCH UP WITH
OTHER CLANS.

THE VOICES OF SO MANY
SOCIALIZING CATS MINGLE INTO
A KIND OF DULL ROAR.

I'M ONLY INTERESTED
IN TALKING TO ONE, THOUGH.



FEATHERTAIL... STORMFUR...
EACH TIME I SEE YOU, I CAN
HARDLY BELIEVE IT.

MY KITS,
FULL-GROWN
WARRIORS.

I AM SO PROUD
OF YOU TWO!





THANKS!
SO, HOW COME YOU'RE STILL REPRESENTING FIRESTAR? IS HE REALLY STILL SICK?

HE'S IMPROVING, DON'T WORRY.
I'M SURE HE'LL BE AT THE NEXT GATHERING.



HEY, THERE'S BRAMBLECLAW AND ASHFUR. LET ME GO CATCH UP WITH THEM.



FEATHERTAIL... YOU LOOK SAD. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M FINE.

I NOTICED THAT YOU AND YOUR BROTHER WEREN'T EXACTLY MINGLING WITH THE REST OF YOUR CLANMATES.



ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?

ARE YOU HAPPY IN RIVERCLAN? IS EVERY CAT TREATING YOU WELL THERE?





AND IF HE'S HAPPY THERE, I'M HAPPY FOR HIM.

BUT I WOULD ALSO LOVE TO HAVE MY DAUGHTER IN THUNDERCLAN WITH ME.



I APPRECIATE THE OFFER. I MEAN IT.



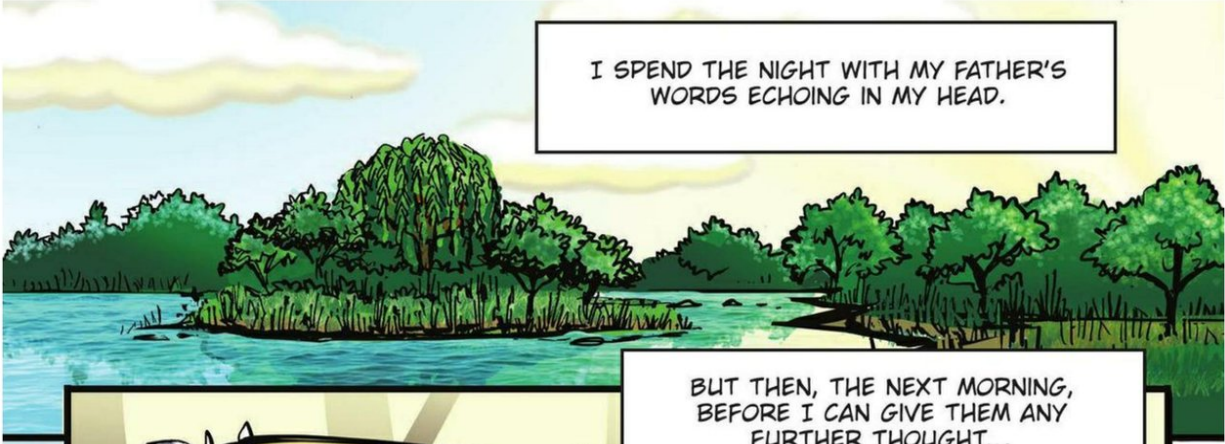
BUT...AS LONG AS STORMFUR IS STILL PART OF RIVERCLAN...

I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD AT LEAST TRY TO FIND MY PLACE THERE, TOO.



ALL RIGHT. BUT THE OFFER IS ALWAYS OPEN.

THANK YOU.



I SPEND THE NIGHT WITH MY FATHER'S WORDS ECHOING IN MY HEAD.

BUT THEN, THE NEXT MORNING, BEFORE I CAN GIVE THEM ANY FURTHER THOUGHT...



FEATHERTAIL. I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

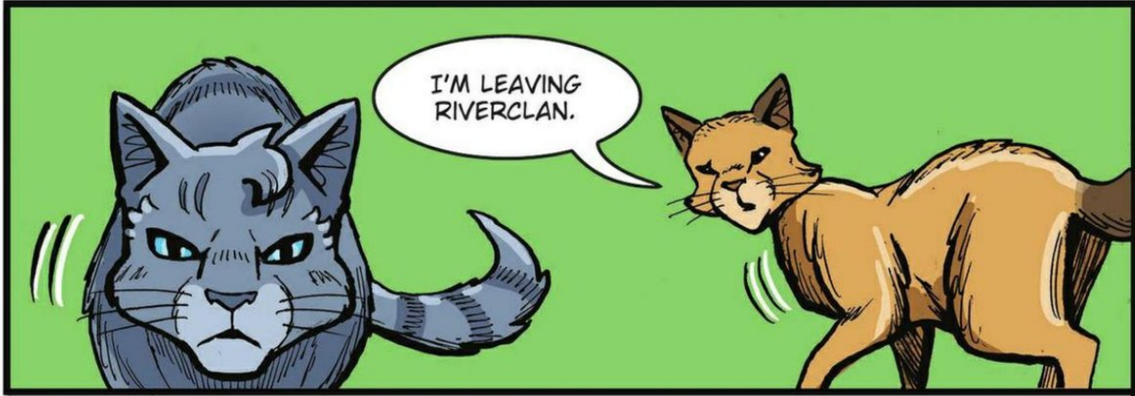
IN PRIVATE.

PLEASE.



WHAT DO YOU WANT, SASHA? I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU.

MAYBE NOT, BUT I THINK YOU'LL WANT TO HEAR THIS.



I'M LEAVING RIVERCLAN.



SASHA, YOU...
YOU DON'T NEED TO LEAVE BECAUSE OF ME.
I DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU'VE DONE, BUT I PROMISED TO KEEP YOUR SECRET, AND I MEANT IT.



THIS ISN'T BECAUSE OF YOU.
LEOPARDSTAR WANTS ME TO JOIN THE CLAN OFFICIALLY.

SHE ALREADY THINKS I'VE STALLED FOR TOO LONG.



SHE WANTS TO INTRODUCE US ALL TO THE OTHER CLANS.

IT'S GENEROUS. AND AMAZING. AND I CAN'T DO IT.



TOO MANY OF THE SHADOWCLAN CATS KNEW ME WHEN I WAS WITH TIGERSTAR...

...AND IF THEY SEE ME WITH MY KITS, THEY'LL KNOW TIGERSTAR WAS MOTH AND HAWK'S FATHER.

ESPECIALLY SINCE HAWK'S LOOKING MORE LIKE TIGERSTAR EVERY DAY.



THEY WON'T LET US STAY. NOT AFTER ALL THAT TIGERSTAR DID.

AT BEST, THEY'LL DRIVE US OUT.

AT WORST... THEY'LL KILL US.

I CAN'T ARGUE WITH HER. SHE'S RIGHT, AND WE BOTH KNOW IT.



SO I'M LEAVING.





I'VE SPENT ALL DAY NOW TRYING TO FIGURE OUT SOME WAY FOR SASHA TO STAY IN RIVERCLAN. TO STAY WITH HER KITS.



I COULDN'T COME UP WITH ANYTHING. SHE'S RIGHT.



IF HAWKPAW AND MOTHPAW ARE GOING TO STAY SAFE, SASHA CAN'T BE HERE ANYMORE.



I SHOULD BE GLAD TO SEE HER LEAVE.



BUT I'M NOT.



SHE WAS A GOOD FRIEND. FOR A WHILE.



EVEN IF IT WAS ALL BASED ON A LIE.



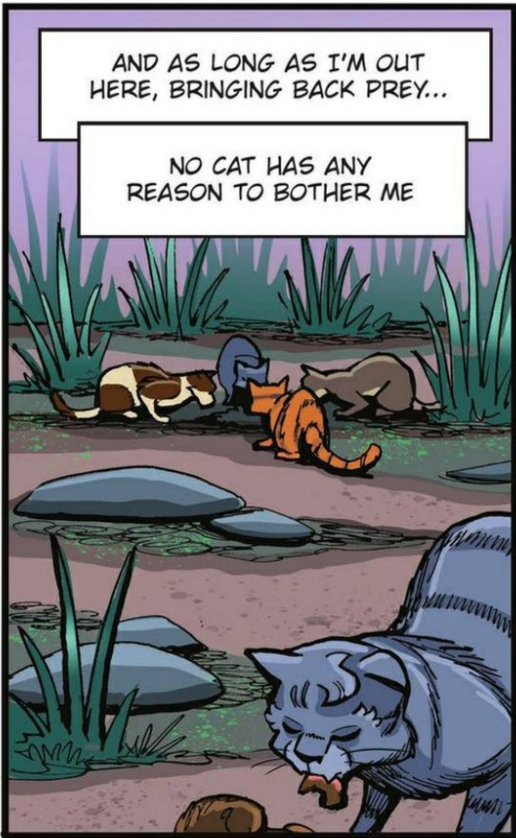


IT'S GETTING COLDER NOW.

SUITS ME FINE.



THE COLDER IT GETS,
THE MORE IMPORTANT IT IS
TO BRING BACK PREY.



AND AS LONG AS I'M OUT
HERE, BRINGING BACK PREY...

NO CAT HAS ANY
REASON TO BOTHER ME



I WAS RIGHT WHEN I TOLD GRAYSTRIPE THAT STORMFUR BELONGS HERE.

HE'S A RIVERCLAN CAT, THROUGH AND THROUGH. WHICH IS GREAT...



EXCEPT, THE MORE TIME HE SPENDS WITH ALL OF THEM, THE LESS TIME HE HAS FOR ME.

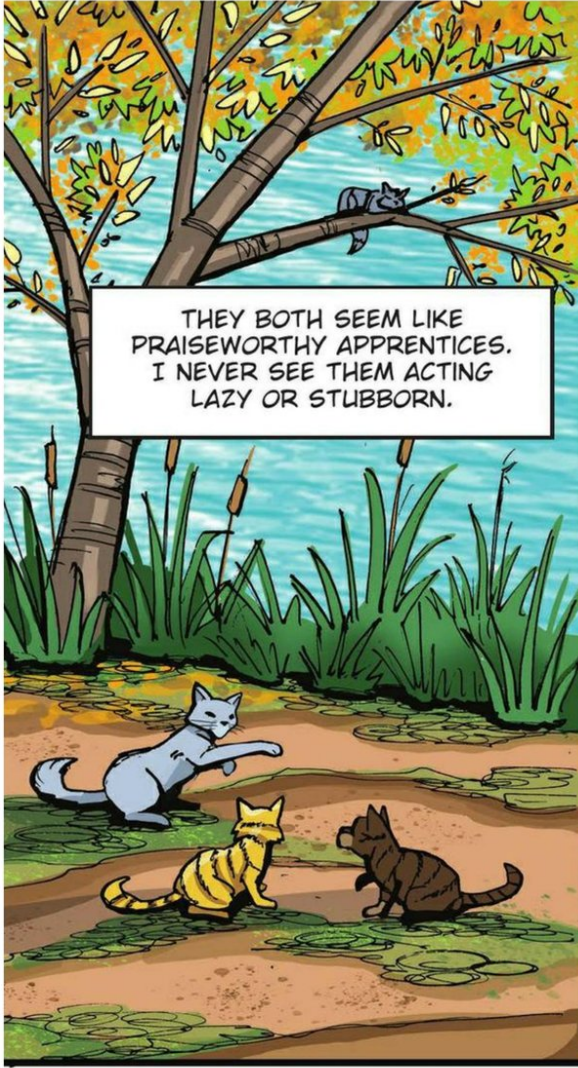
I MISS HIM.



BUT IT'S BETTER TO BE BY MYSELF.

NOT TO MENTION, BEING ALONE MAKES IT EASIER TO KEEP WATCH OVER HAWKPAW AND MOTHPAW.





THEY BOTH SEEM LIKE PRAISEWORTHY APPRENTICES. I NEVER SEE THEM ACTING LAZY OR STUBBORN.



AND YET...

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HAWKPAW. I CAN'T SHAKE IT. SOMETHING ABOUT HIM THAT BOTHERS ME.



I TELL MYSELF IT'S "SOMETHING." THAT'S NOT HONEST. I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT IS.



DAY BY DAY, HAWKPAW GET FIERCER. MORE VICIOUS.

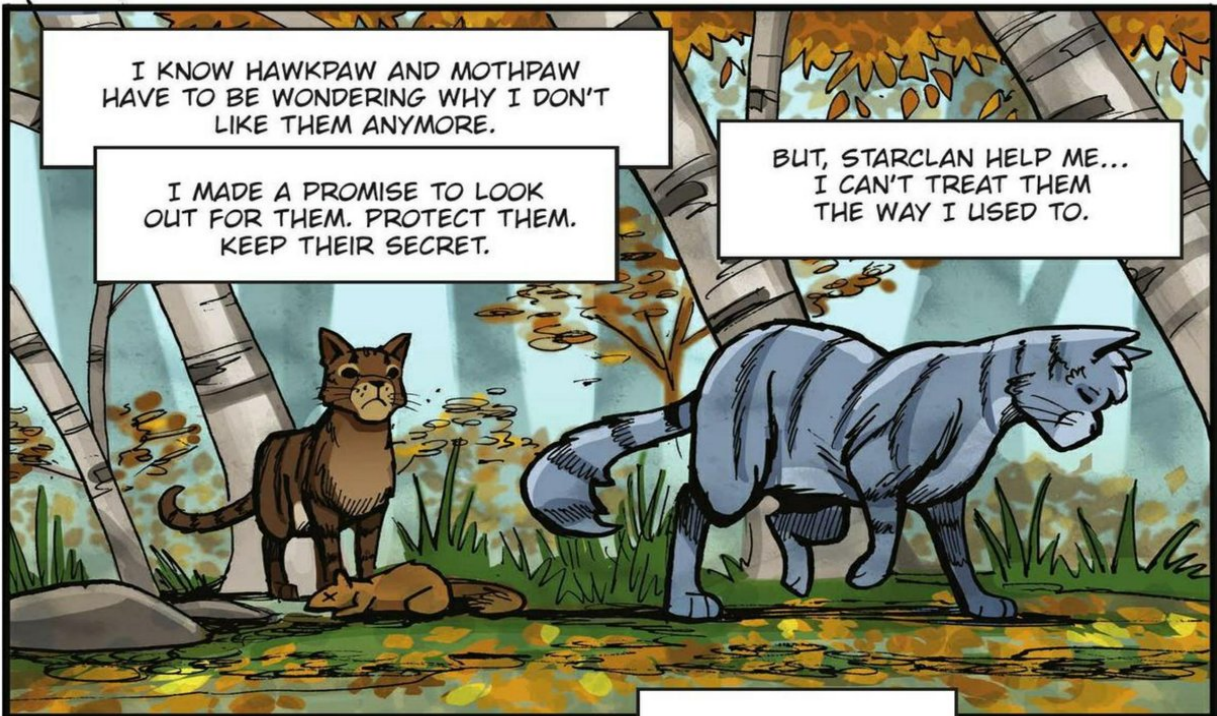
IS HE JUST A TALENTED FIGHTER?

OR IS HE ON HIS WAY TO BECOMING AS DANGEROUS AS HIS FATHER?





YEAH. VERY NICE.



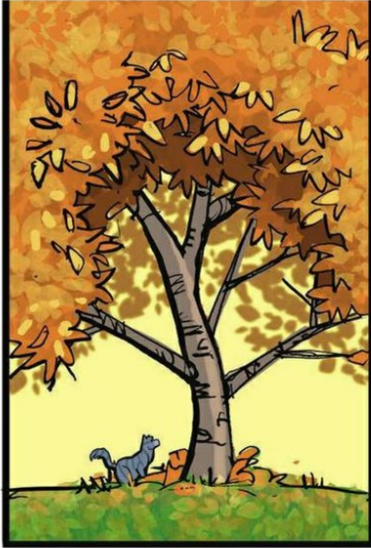
I KNOW HAWKPAW AND MOTHPAW
HAVE TO BE WONDERING WHY I DON'T
LIKE THEM ANYMORE.

I MADE A PROMISE TO LOOK
OUT FOR THEM. PROTECT THEM.
KEEP THEIR SECRET.

BUT, STARCLAN HELP ME...
I CAN'T TREAT THEM
THE WAY I USED TO.

I JUST CAN'T.





BEFORE I KNOW IT,
LEAF-BARE IS ON US.



AND IT'S A HARD ONE. PREY'S GETTING
SCARCE...AND TEMPERS FLARE.









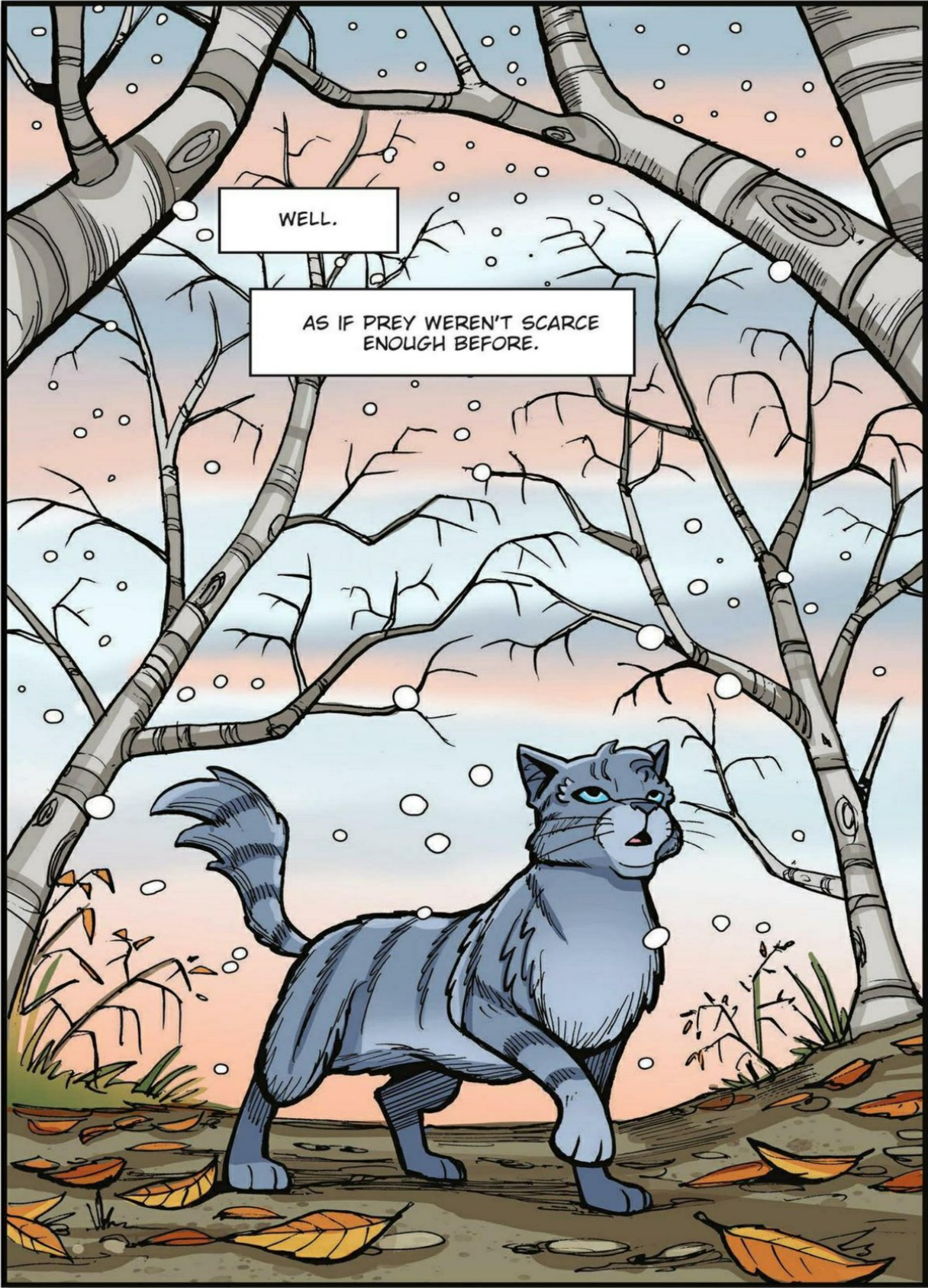
I DON'T THINK LEOPARDSTAR WAS EXPECTING HAWKPAW TO CHARGE LIKE THAT...



...BUT IT ONLY TAKES A COUPLE OF HEARTBEATS FOR THE WINDCLAN PATROL TO DECIDE IT ISN'T WORTH IT.







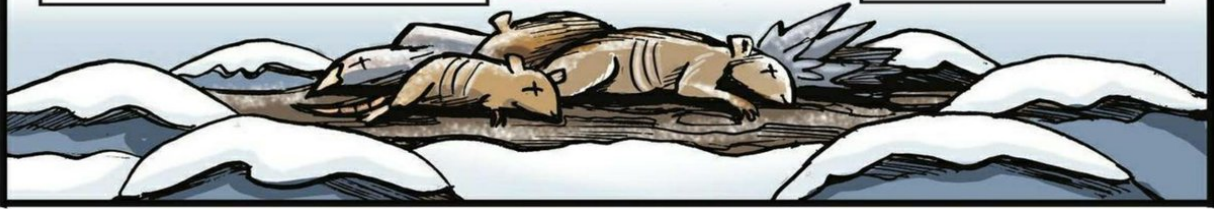
WELL.

AS IF PREY WEREN'T SCARCE
ENOUGH BEFORE.



I SUPPOSE IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.

LEAF-BARE IS NEVER EASY.



BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY LESS PAINFUL TO ENDURE.



WE USUALLY HAVE IT THE BEST OUT OF ANY OF THE CLANS. USUALLY THE FISH NEVER STOP SWIMMING...



NO MATTER HOW COLD IT GETS.

BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY FISH THERE ARE, IF YOU CAN'T GET TO THEM.





A FEW CATS TRY,
BUT IT'S NO USE.



UNTIL THE RIVER THAWS,
WE CAN FORGET ABOUT FISH.



THE PROBLEMS DON'T STOP AT
FOOD AND THE LACK OF IT, EITHER.

I KNOW WHAT LEOPARDSTAR'S
THINKING. THE RIVER PROTECTS
US. IT'S A NATURAL BARRIER.

AGAINST THE CATS OF OTHER CLANS...
AND AGAINST THE ANIMALS THAT WOULD
LIKE TO TREAT US AS PREY.



THANKS TO THE COLD, THAT PROTECTION IS GONE.



<COFF COFF>



HEY. DON'T COUGH ON ME.

I WOULDN'T BE COUGHING AT ALL IF WE HAD SOME FOOD.



I WISH WE DID HAVE SOME FOOD, BECAUSE IF YOUR MOUTH WERE FULL, YOU WOULDN'T BE TALKING. I -



AAAAIIIIII!!







WARRIORS
OF RIVERCLAN!



ATTACK!



I'VE NEVER SEEN
A FOX THIS BIG...
OR THIS VICIOUS.



IT'S GOT TO BE STARVING
TO INVADE OUR CAMP THIS WAY.





WE WEREN'T READY.

THE FOX IS TOO STRONG.



IF THIS IS HOW WE DIE...



IF THIS IS HOW I DIE...



I CAN THINK OF WORSE WAYS TO GO.



I'D RATHER DIE LIKE THIS THAN STARVE.









RIVERCLAN OWES YOU A GREAT DEAL, HAWKPAW.

YOU CAN WALK? YOU'RE SURE?

I LANDED IN A BIG PILE OF SNOW. RELAX.



LEOPARDSTAR IS RIGHT. THANK YOU, HAWKPAW.

THAT FOX WOULD HAVE KILLED ME.

YOU'RE WELCOME, FEATHERTAIL, BUT IT WAS NOTHING. REALLY. I WAS JUST... DOING WHAT CLAN CATS ARE SUPPOSED TO DO, RIGHT?



EVERY WARRIOR WITH INJURIES! HEAD TO MUDFUR'S DEN!

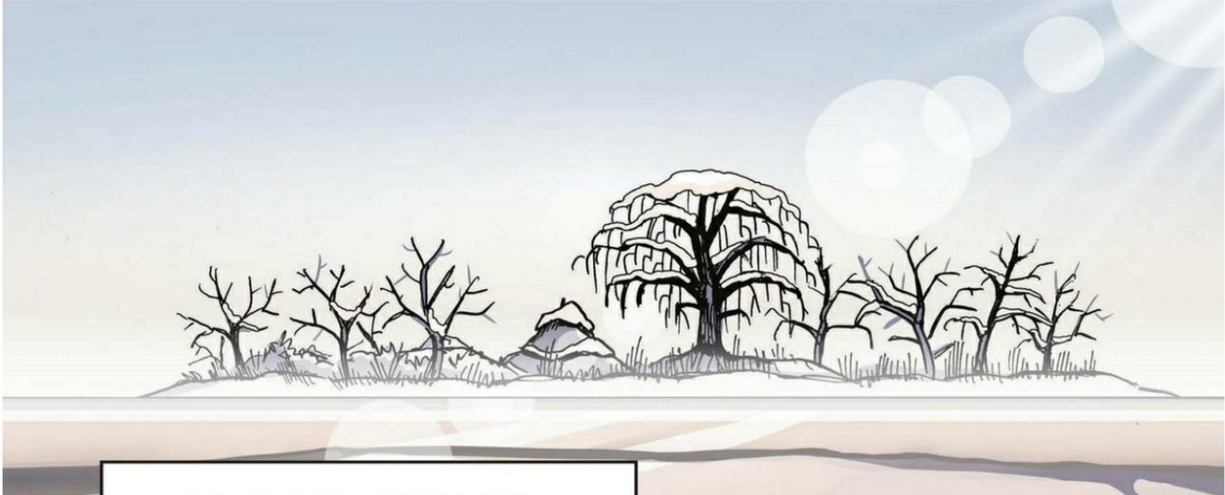
I SHOULD BE FILLED WITH JOY RIGHT NOW. STORMFUR WASN'T BADLY HURT, I DON'T THINK, AND I'M STILL BREATHING.

YET...IN THE AFTERMATH OF THAT FIGHT...

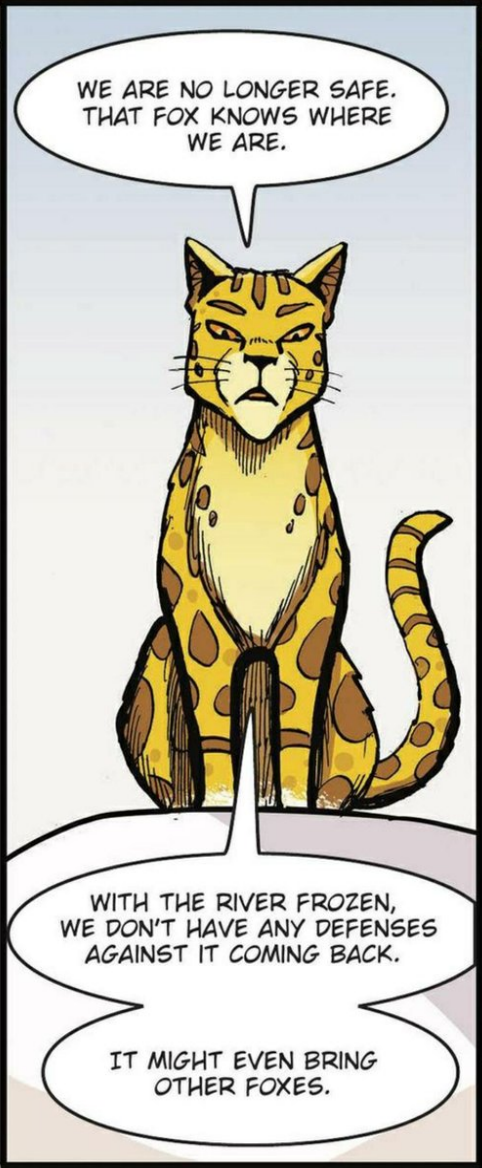
ALL I CAN THINK IS...

HOW DARE LEOPARDSTAR ACT LIKE SHE'S HAPPY MY BROTHER AND I ARE ALIVE?





THE NEXT DAY, LEOPARDSTAR
MAKES THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT
I KNEW WAS COMING.





LET IT COME!

WE BEAT IT ONCE!
WE CAN DO IT
AGAIN!



CATS AROUND
HAWKPAW LAUGH...



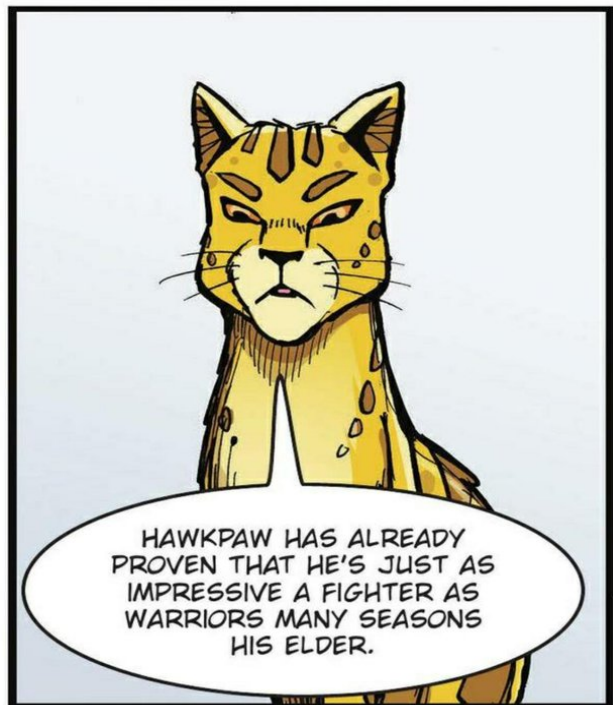
...BUT LAUGHTER OR NOT,
WE ALL KNOW WE MIGHT NOT BE
SO LUCKY A SECOND TIME.

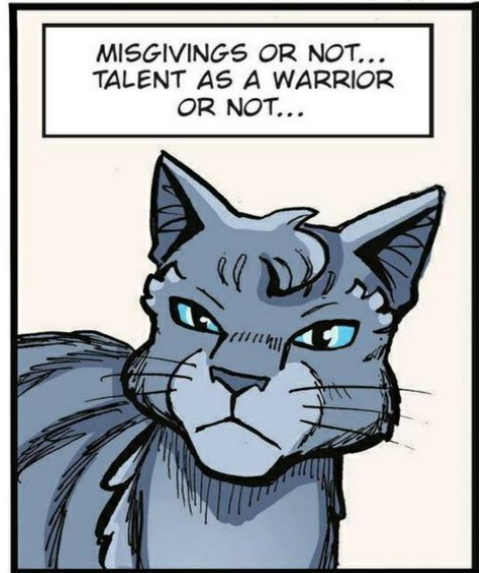


I WANT TO PUT TOGETHER
A SMALL, QUICK-MOVING PATROL
TO GO OUT AFTER THE FOX.

WE'LL TRACK IT TO ITS DEN
AND THEN, WHEN WE KNOW WHERE IT
LIVES, RETURN WITH A LARGER PATROL
- INCLUDING WARRIORS FROM OTHER
CLANS.

THEY'LL WANT TO
GET RID OF THIS THREAT
JUST AS MUCH AS
WE DO.









THE REST OF THE CLAN AGREES:

SINCE WE'RE GOING TO NEED OUR STRENGTH, THEY LET US HAVE WHAT LITTLE IS LEFT ON THE FRESH-KILL PILE.

AND OF COURSE OUR MEDICINE CAT BRINGS US SOME TRAVELING HERBS.



THE WHOLE CLAN IS THERE AS WE LEAVE, BUT NOT MANY OF THEM SAY ANYTHING.

I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, EITHER. "GOOD LUCK?" "HAVE A SAFE TRIP?" ... "DON'T GET KILLED?"

ONE THING I'LL GRANT
LEOPARDSTAR, WITH NO ARGUMENT...



SHE'S A MUCH BETTER TRACKER
THAN THE REST OF US.

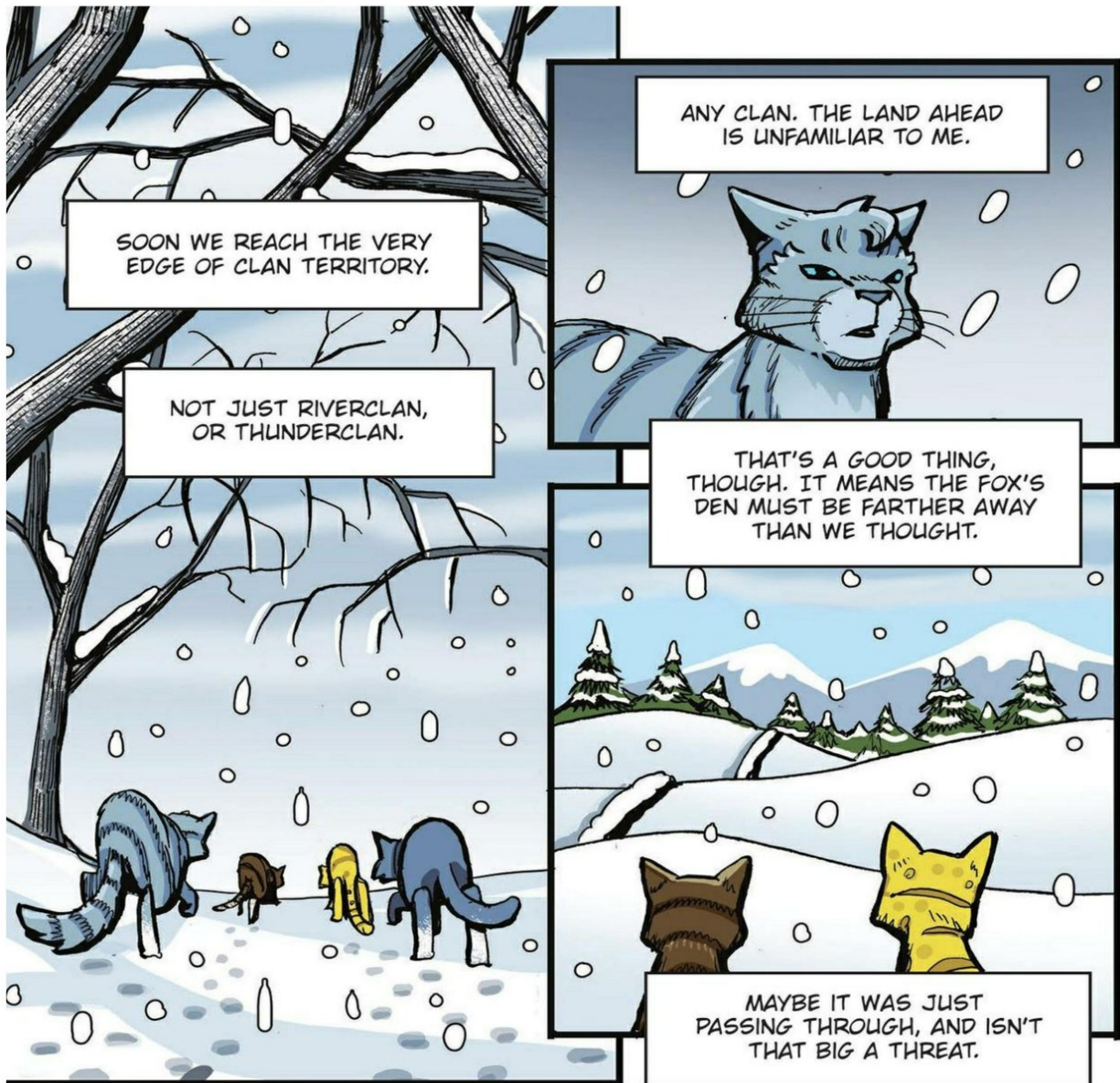


PREY-SCENT ALL BUT
VANISHES IN THE SNOW...



...BUT SHE NEVER EVEN
SLOWS DOWN.





SOON WE REACH THE VERY
EDGE OF CLAN TERRITORY.

NOT JUST RIVERCLAN,
OR THUNDERCLAN.

ANY CLAN. THE LAND AHEAD
IS UNFAMILIAR TO ME.



THAT'S A GOOD THING,
THOUGH. IT MEANS THE FOX'S
DEN MUST BE FARTHER AWAY
THAN WE THOUGHT.



MAYBE IT WAS JUST
PASSING THROUGH, AND ISN'T
THAT BIG A THREAT.



STILL. IT'S SCARY, HEADING
INTO THE UNKNOWN LIKE THIS.



I DON'T THINK...
I'VE EVER BEEN... THIS
COLD BEFORE...

YES, AND TALKING
ABOUT IT WILL MAKE
YOU WARMER.



STORMFUR'S NOT WRONG.
I'VE NEVER BEEN THIS COLD,
EITHER.



NEVER BEEN THIS COLD...
AND NEVER BEEN THIS CLOSE
TO LEOPARDSTAR.



I'VE BEEN AVOIDING
SPENDING ANY REAL TIME
WITH HER FOR SO LONG...



MAYBE FOR TONIGHT
I CAN PUT EVERYTHING
ELSE ASIDE.



HALF-CLAN...

DON'T DESERVE
TO LIVE...

TIGERSTAR
SAID SO...



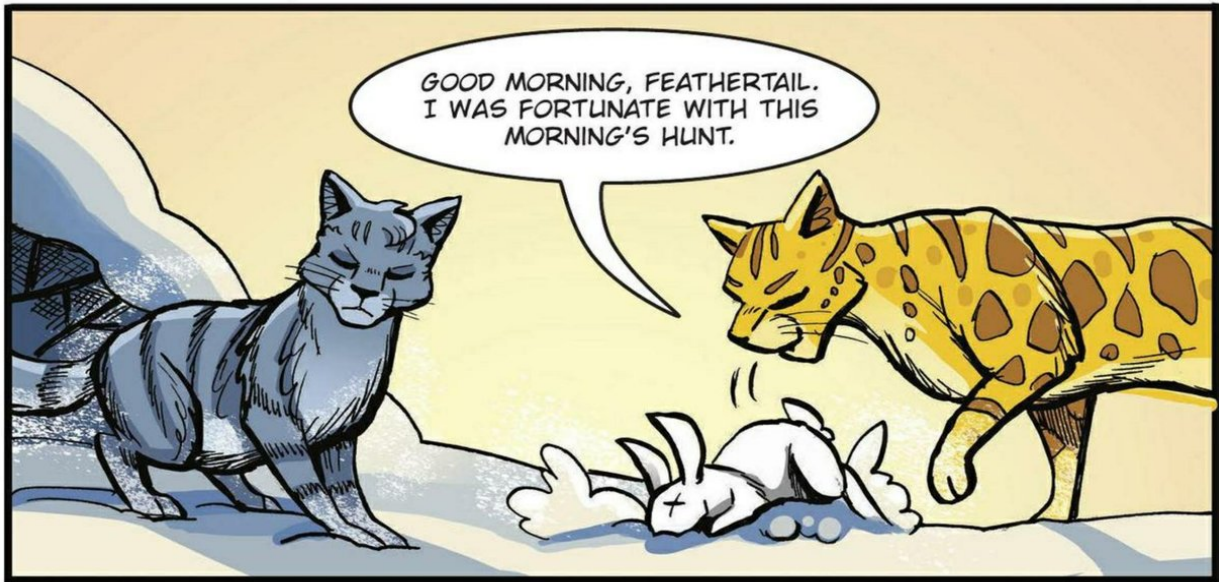
KILL THEM!

KILL HER AND
HER BROTHER!

KILL THEM
BOTH!









OFFER TO SHARE PREY
WITH ME.



AS IF SHE CARES
ANYTHING ABOUT ME.



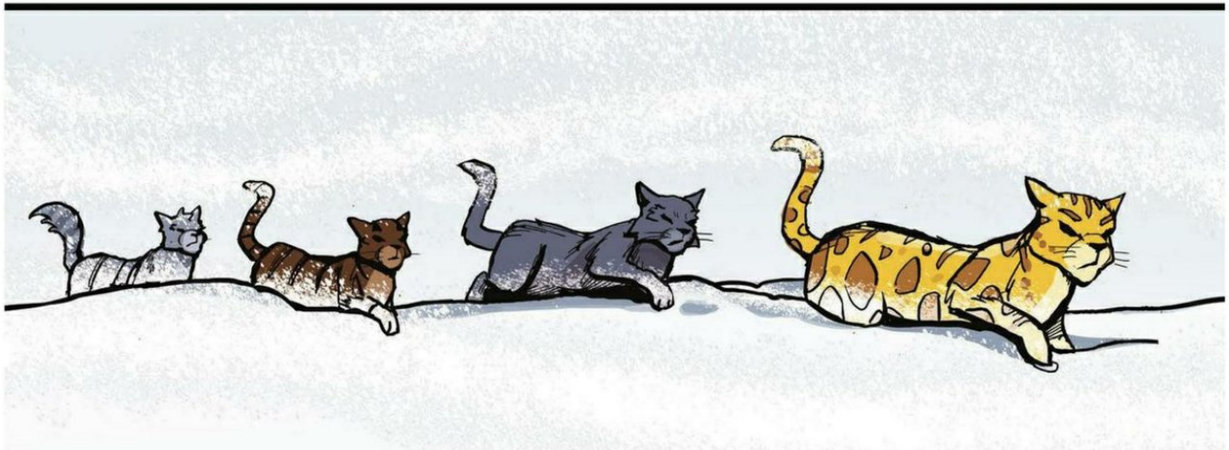
SHE MADE IT PLENTY CLEAR HOW
SHE FEELS ABOUT ME...

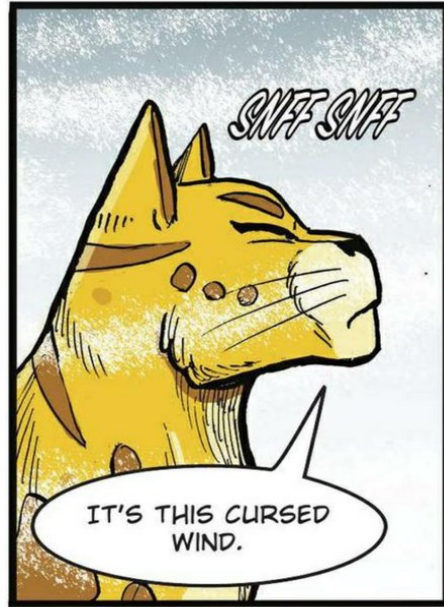
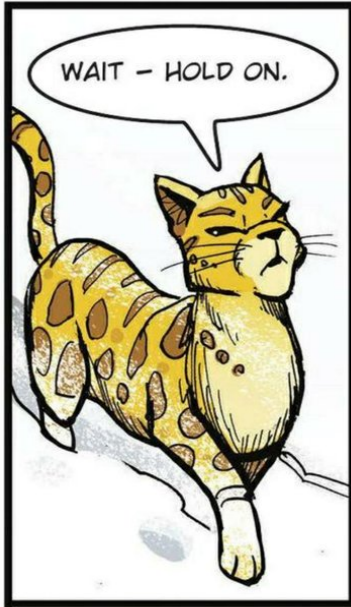


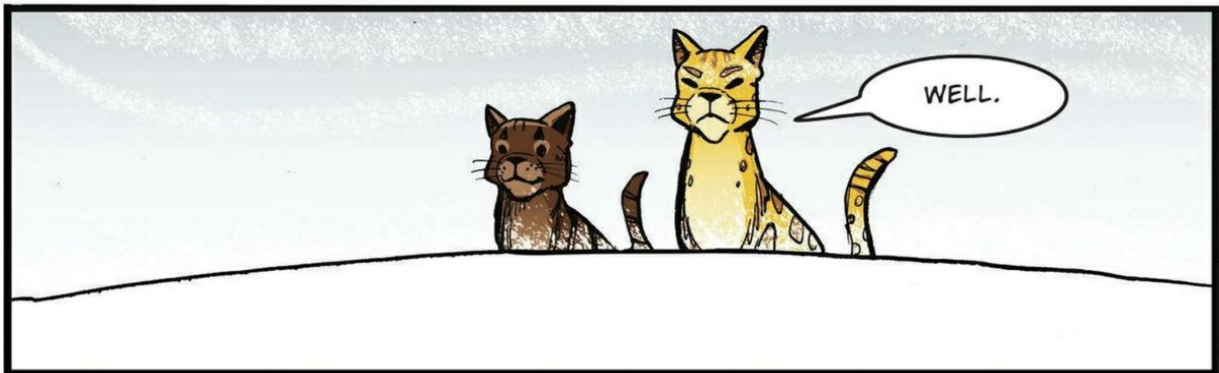
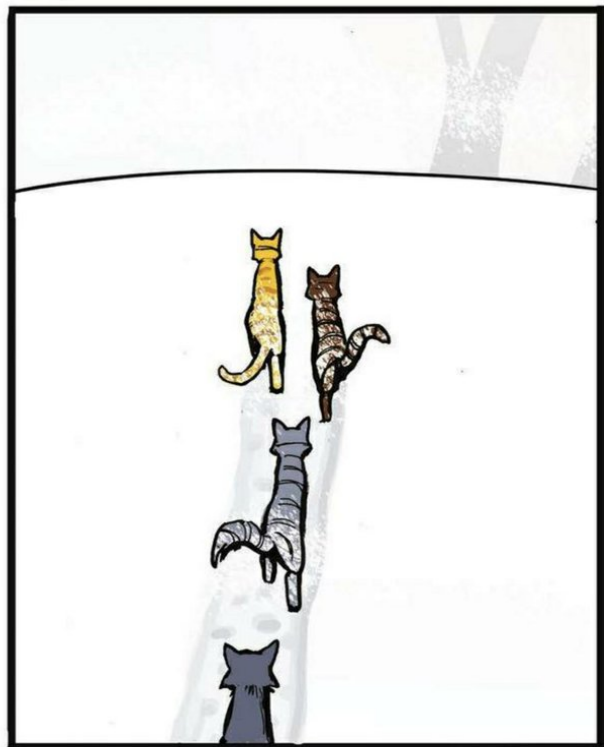
AND ABOUT MY BROTHER.



• • •















HAWKPAW!
STAY BEHIND US!

FEATHERTAIL! STORMFUR!
WE NEED TO GET THE FOX TO
BACK OFF -



JUST FAR ENOUGH
THAT WE CAN ALL MAKE A
RUN FOR IT!

HIT IT HARD AND FAST!
MAKE IT RETREAT, LIKE WE
DID IN CAMP!

READY...



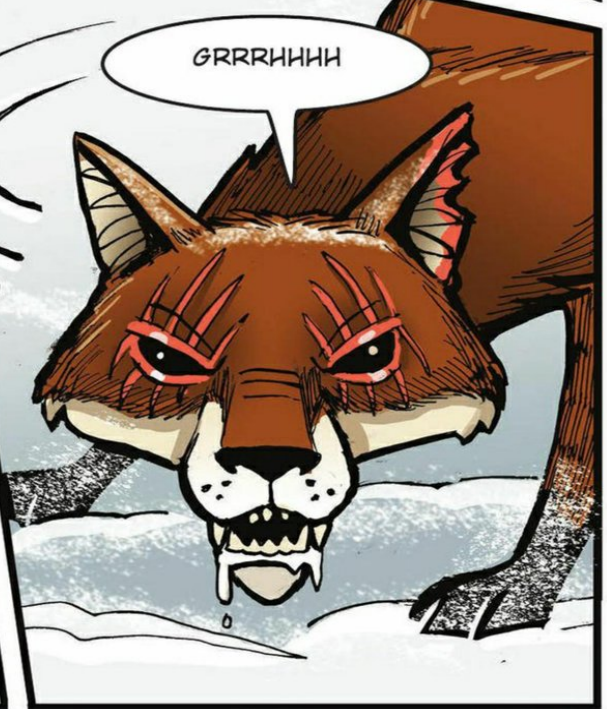
NOW!



HIT IT!

GIVE IT EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!









AAIIRRRHH!



WHAMN!



LNF!



ABRUPTLY IT FEELS LIKE
THE WORLD HAS COME TO A STOP.
LIKE A WHOLE SEASON PASSES
BETWEEN EACH HEARTBEAT.



STARING INTO
LEOPARDSTAR'S EYES...



SEEING THE PAIN, THE FEAR...

THE SACRIFICE.



NO MATTER WHAT SHE'S
DONE IN THE PAST...

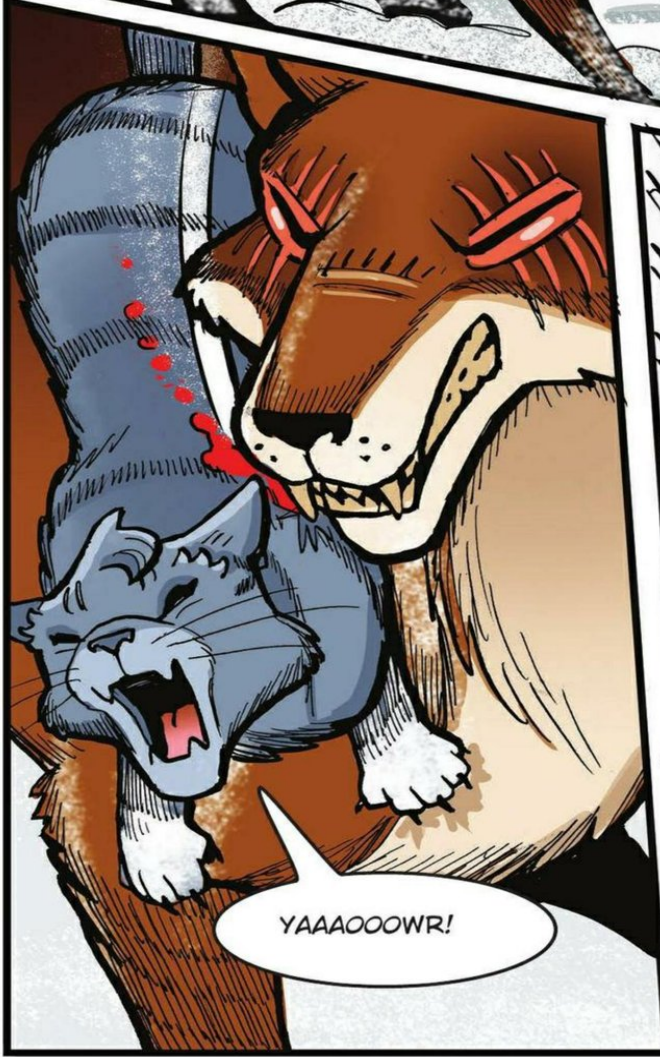
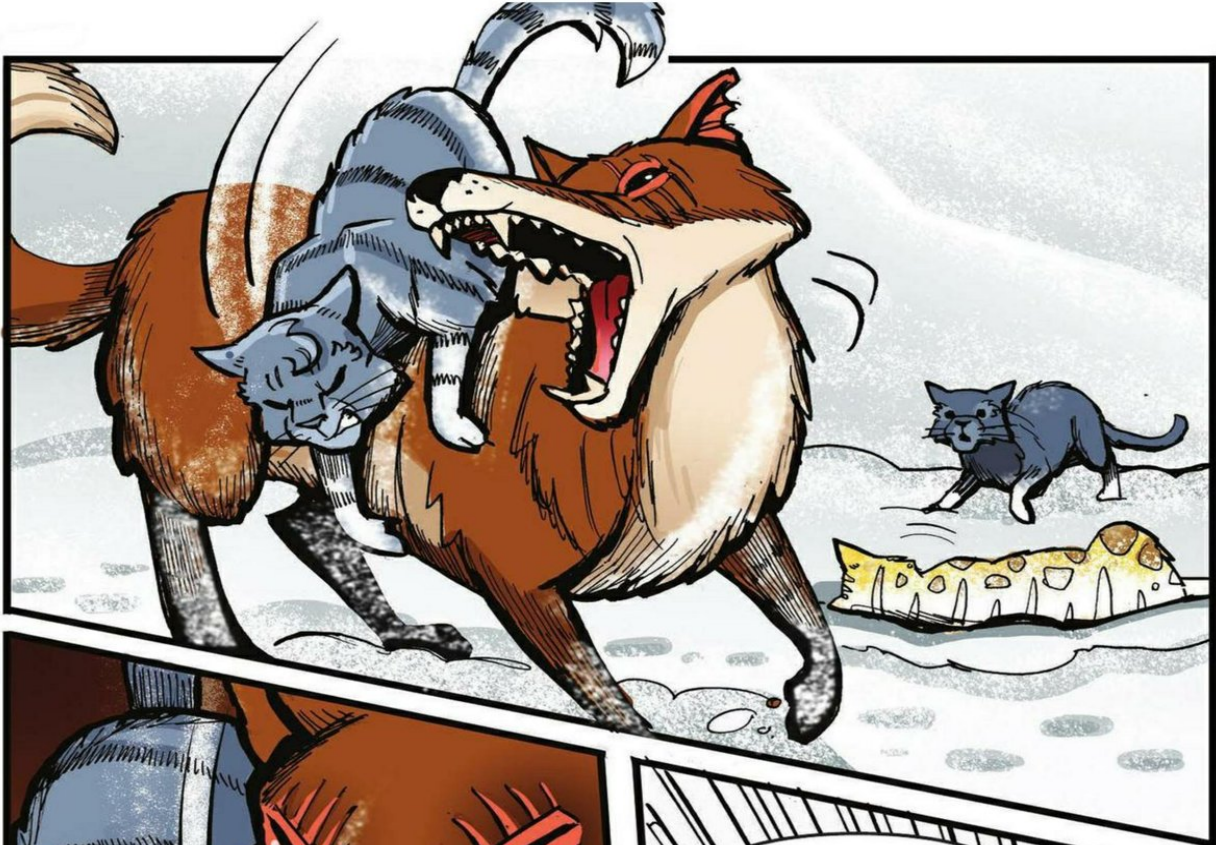


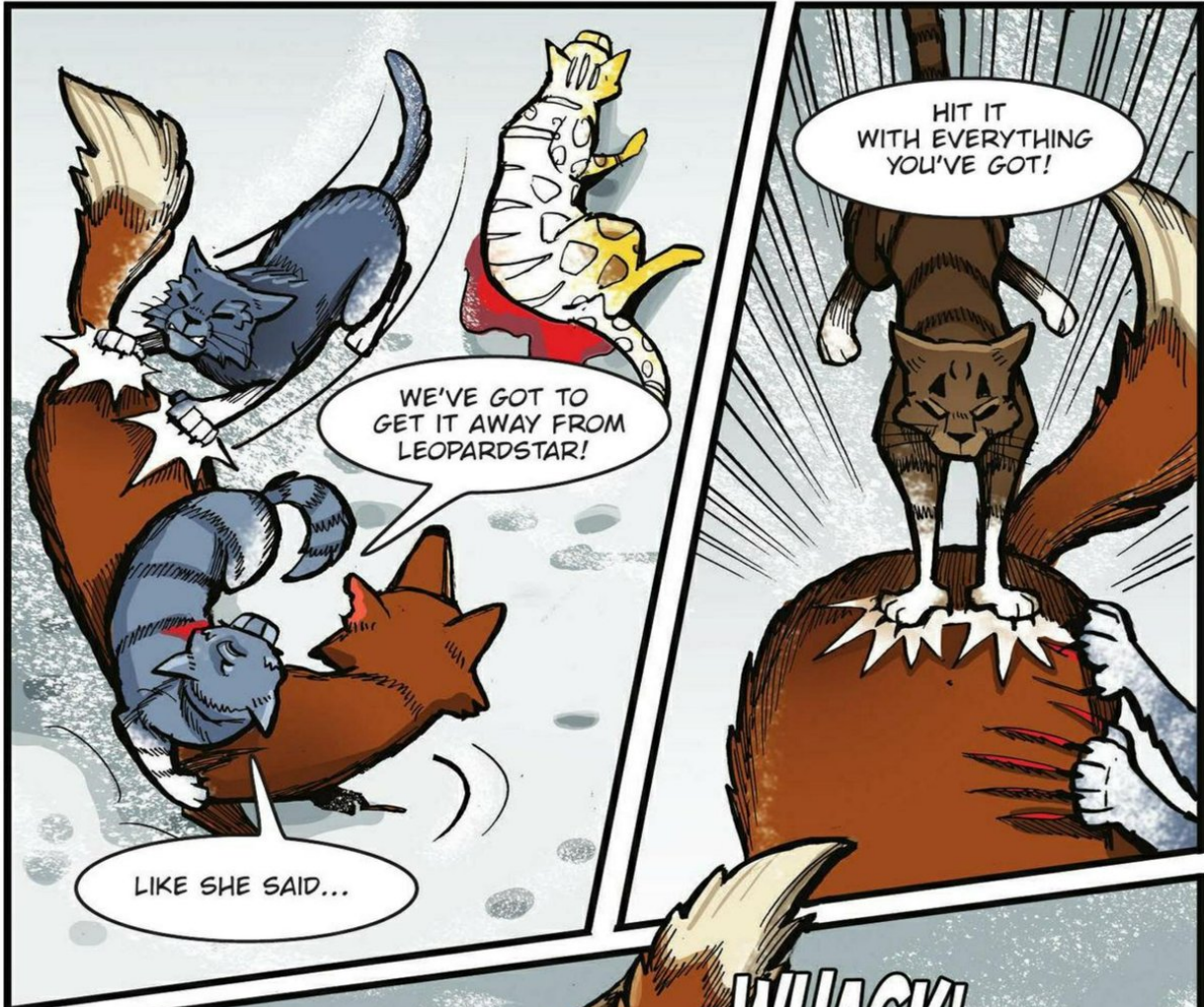
SHE'S WILLING TO GIVE UP
ONE OF HER LIVES FOR MINE
NOW.



AND I KNOW...













TAP
TAP



CAN YOU ALL...
MAKE IT BACK...
TO CAMP?

I CAN MAKE IT.
STORMFUR?

I'M SURE AS
STARCLAN NOT STAYING
OUT HERE ANOTHER
NIGHT.

WE'RE FINE,
LEOPARDSTAR. LET'S
GET YOU BACK TO
MUDFUR.



FEATHERTAIL...
YOU KNOW CLAN LEADERS
HAVE...NINE LIVES...
RIGHT?

YES. SO?

SO YOU SHOULD HAVE...
DONE WHAT I SAID...AND LEFT ME
THERE.



WELL.

THAT'S NOT
WHAT CLANMATES
DO.



HERE,
LEAN AGAINST
ME.



I'VE FELT PRIDE BEFORE.
BUT IT'S ALWAYS BEEN IN SOMETHING
I'VE DONE FOR MYSELF.

THIS FEELING...
THIS PRIDE IN MY CLAN...

THAT'S NEW.



FEATHERTAIL,
STORMFUR, I...

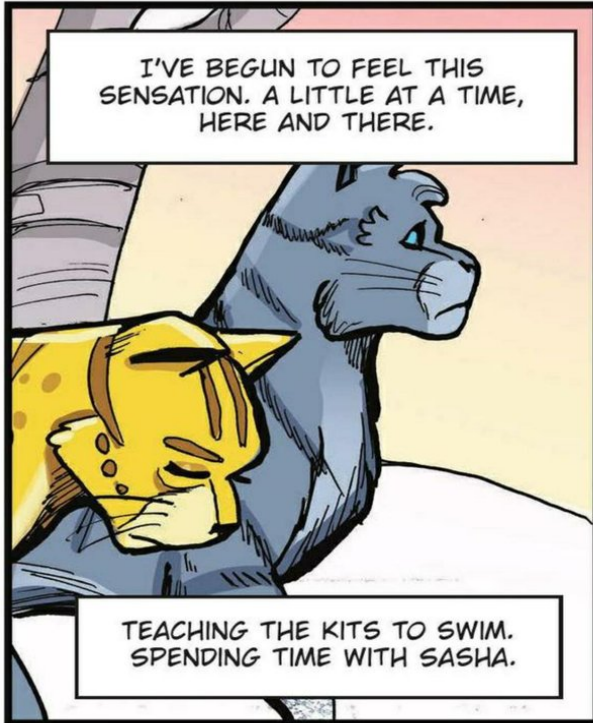
I NEED TO SAY
SOMETHING TO YOU...
TO YOU BOTH.



I'VE WANTED
TO SAY THIS FOR A
LONG TIME...

BUT I COULD
NEVER FIND THE
RIGHT MOMENT.





I'VE BEGUN TO FEEL THIS SENSATION. A LITTLE AT A TIME, HERE AND THERE.

TEACHING THE KITS TO SWIM. SPENDING TIME WITH SASHA.



LIKE TINY CRACKS IN THE ICE OF A FROZEN RIVER.



BUT NOW... HEARING LEOPARDSTAR'S WORDS, IT'S...



...IT'S AS IF THE RIVER ICE HAS BROKEN, ALL AT ONCE, AND IT'S ALMOST OVERWHELMING ME.

I'M NOT ANGRY ANYMORE.

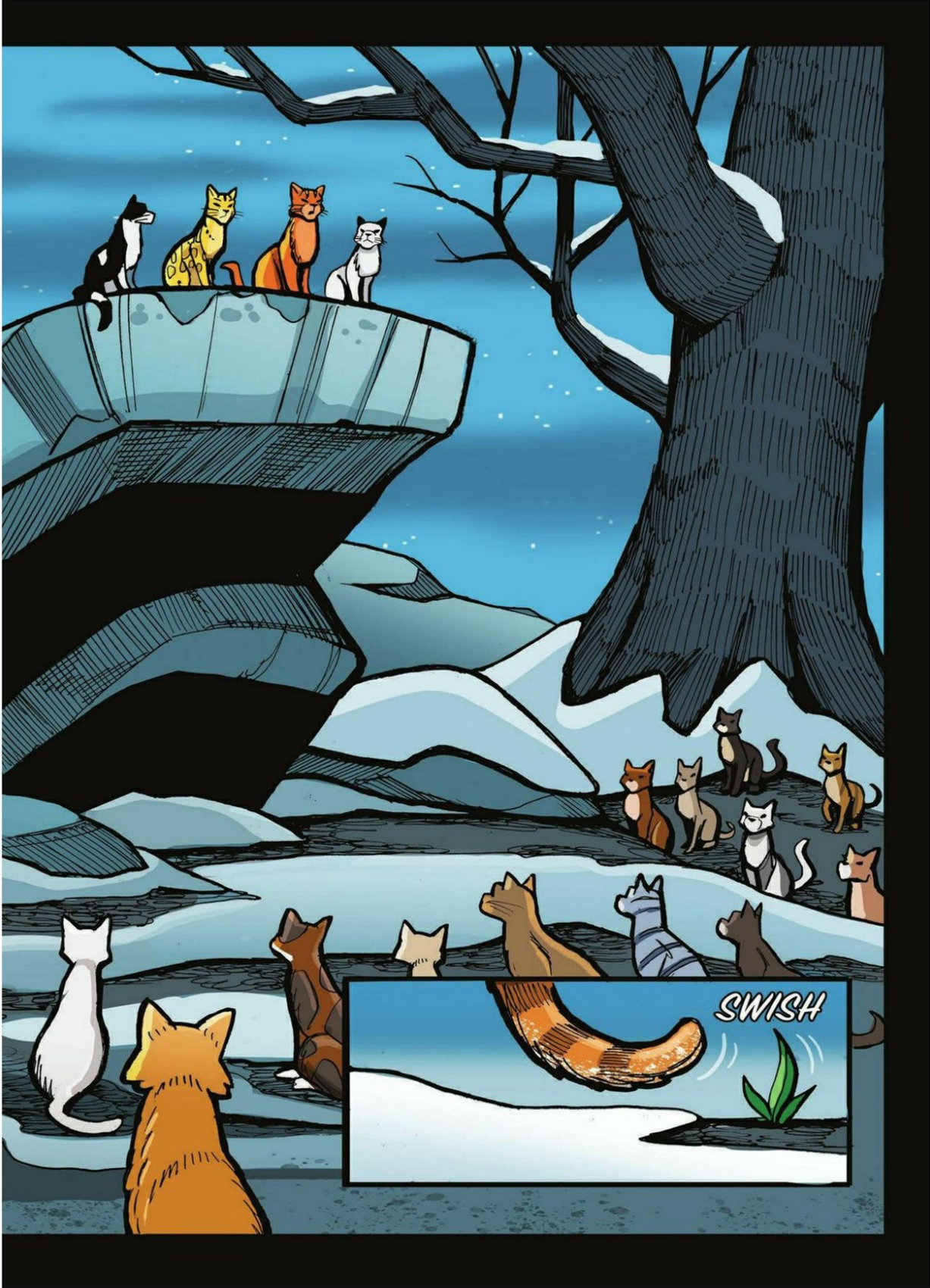






DRIP
DRIP DRIP

CRUNCH





AND, TO
FINISH UP...

I AM HAPPY TO REPORT
THAT THUNDERCLAN HAS MADE
IT THROUGH LEAF-BARE WITH
NO LOSS OF LIFE.



THANK YOU,
FIRESTAR, AND THANK YOU,
THUNDERCLAN.



RIVERCLAN ALSO MADE IT THROUGH LEAF-BARE WITHOUT LOSING ANY CATS...

...BUT IT WAS A VERY NEAR THING, AND WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT...

...HAD A RIVERCLAN PATROL NOT TRACKED AND KILLED A FOX THAT HAD ASSAULTED OUR CAMP.



THAT PATROL OWED A GREAT MEASURE OF ITS SUCCESS TO TWO WARRIORS IN PARTICULAR -

FEATHERTAIL AND STORMFUR.



WITHOUT THEIR BRAVERY, I WOULD NOT BE SPEAKING TO YOU TONIGHT.



YOU TWO MAY BE GETTING TIRED OF HEARING THIS BY NOW...



...BUT I AM IMMENSELY PROUD OF YOU. AND DEEPLY IMPRESSED.

THANK YOU.

WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN TIRED OF HEARING IT YET. FEEL FREE TO TELL US AS OFTEN AS YOU'D LIKE.



YOU KNOW...

WHILE I'M DELIGHTED THAT YOU'RE THRIVING, AND BECOMING GREAT RIVERCLAN WARRIORS...



...I WOULD ALWAYS BE HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU BACK TO THUNDERCLAN.

AND WE'RE PLEASED AND FLATTERED, GRAYSTRIPE.

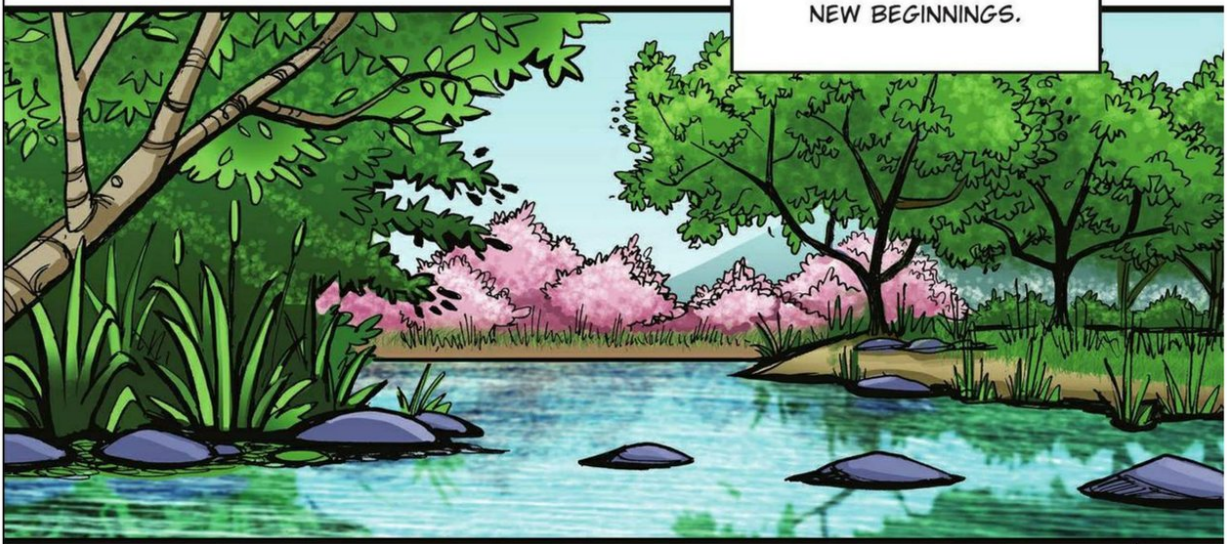
BUT WE'VE MADE UP OUR MINDS.



RIVERCLAN IS OUR HOME.



NEWLEAF.

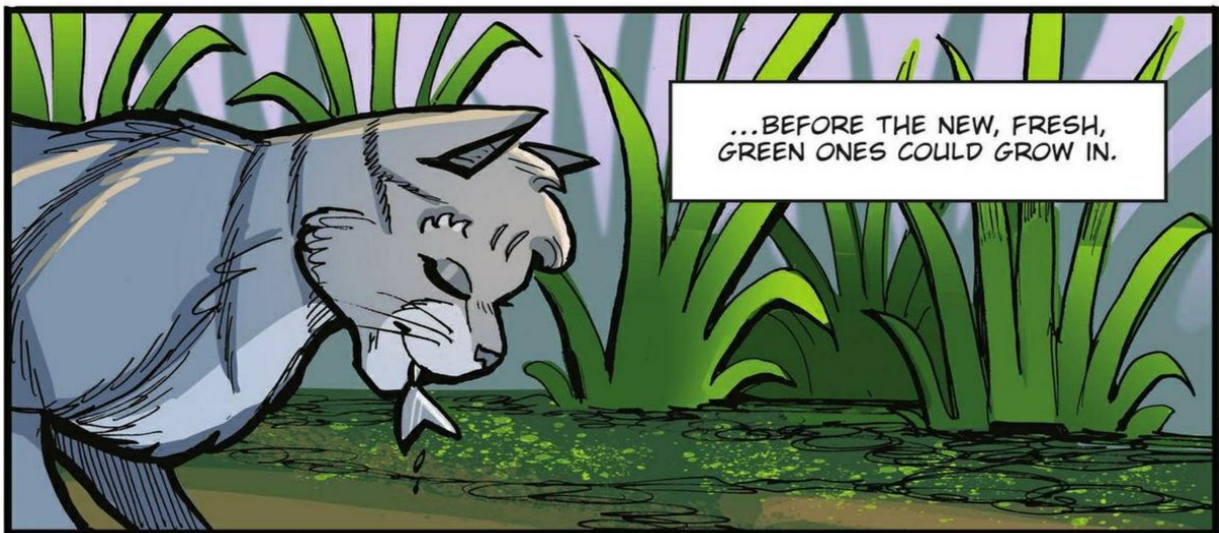
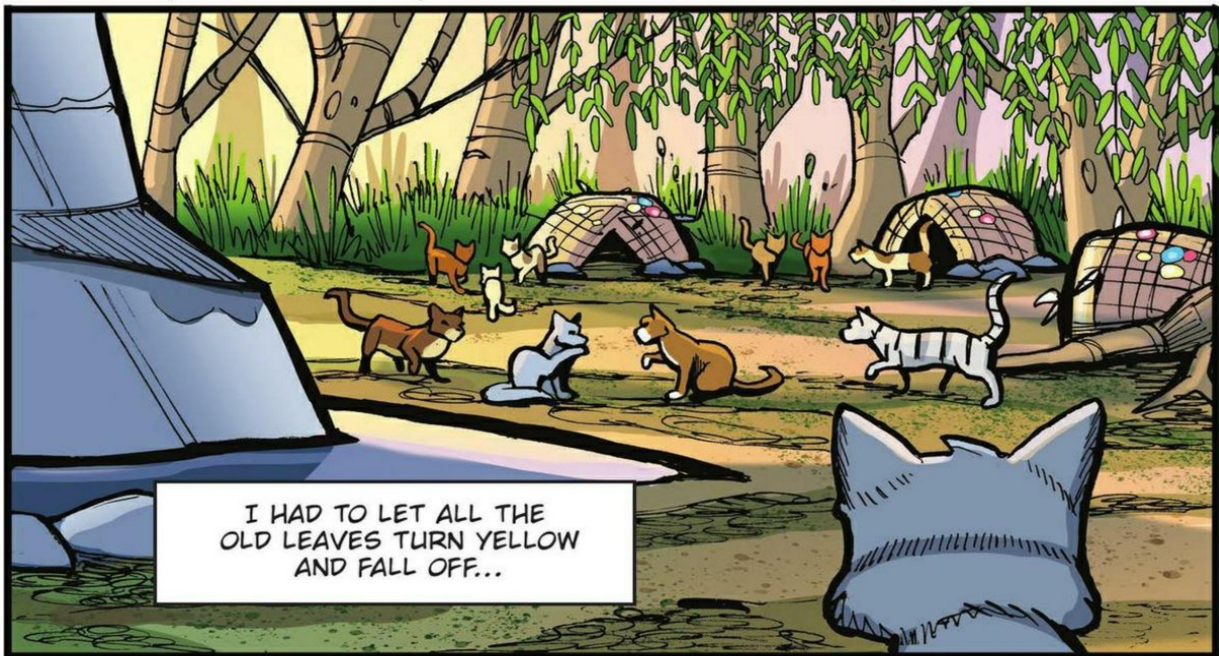


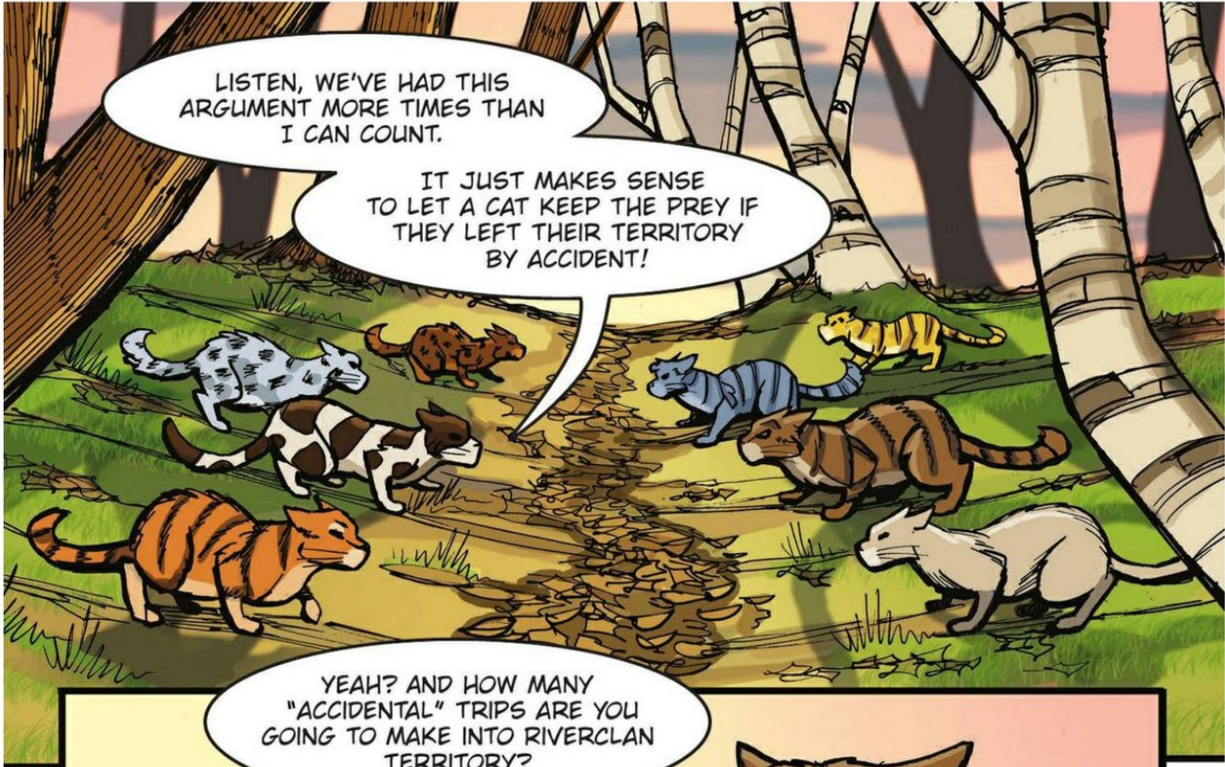
NEW BEGINNINGS.



I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT
I COULD HAVE A NEW BEGINNING.







LISTEN, WE'VE HAD THIS ARGUMENT MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT.

IT JUST MAKES SENSE TO LET A CAT KEEP THE PREY IF THEY LEFT THEIR TERRITORY BY ACCIDENT!

YEAH? AND HOW MANY "ACCIDENTAL" TRIPS ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE INTO RIVERCLAN TERRITORY?



WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? ARE YOU CALLING US LIARS?

ARE YOU SAYING WE'D TAKE YOUR PREY ON PURPOSE?



FEATHERTAIL! YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?

YOU KNOW WE DIDN'T MEAN TO CROSS THE RIVERCLAN BORDER, RIGHT?





NEW BEGINNINGS INDEED.

IT FEELS GOOD TO BE PART OF A CLAN.



TO HAVE FRIENDS...

FRIENDS I CAN TRUST.



TIME TO STOP WATCHING MOTHPAW AND HAWKPAW SO CLOSELY, TOO.

I NEED TO JUDGE THEM AS THE CATS THEY ARE...

...AND NOT BY ANYTHING ELSE.

ESPECIALLY NOT BY WHO THEIR FATHER WAS.



IT'S TIME TO BE THE BEST RIVERCLAN WARRIOR I CAN BE.



WHATEVER THAT TAKES.



WH...
WHERE AM I?

THIS ISN'T CLAN
TERRITORY... IS IT?

OH...

OH, THIS IS...
I'M IN...

E-EXCUSE ME?
IS THIS...

...IS THIS
STARCLAN?

YES IT IS,
FEATHERTAIL. MY NAME
IS OAKHEART.



I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU, FEATHERTAIL. I NEED YOU TO LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY.

O-O-KAY... I'M LISTENING...

A TIME OF TROUBLE IS COMING UPON THE FOREST. A NEW PROPHECY MUST BE FULFILLED IF THE CLANS ARE TO SURVIVE.

AND YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.



THERE WILL BE GREAT DANGER.

AND YOU MAY NOT SURVIVE.



A SMALL PART OF ME WANTS TO SAY, "NO. I'VE RISKED MY LIFE TOO MUCH ALREADY."



IT WANTS TO SAY, "IT'S NOT FAIR TO ASK ME TO DO MORE...."

"ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I'VE FINALLY FOUND MY PAWS IN RIVERCLAN."

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO SAY THAT. NOT TO OAKHEART. NOT TO STARCLAN.

AND NOT TO MYSELF.

I'LL DO ANYTHING TO ENSURE RIVERCLAN'S SURVIVAL. AND IF I HAVE TO FACE THIS UNKNOWN DANGER...

...I'LL FACE IT LOYAL TO MY CLAN.

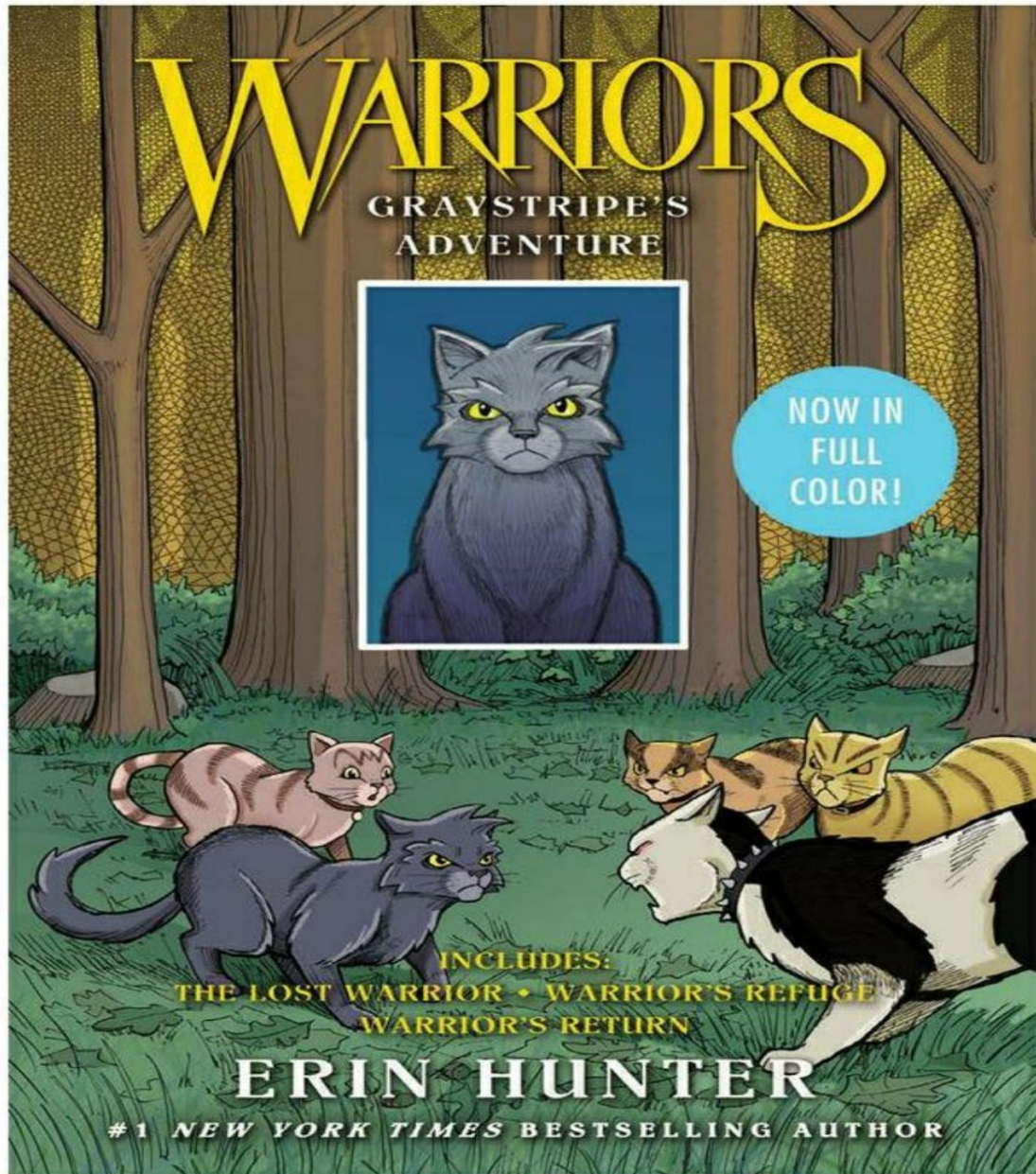


ALL RIGHT.

I'M READY.

THE END

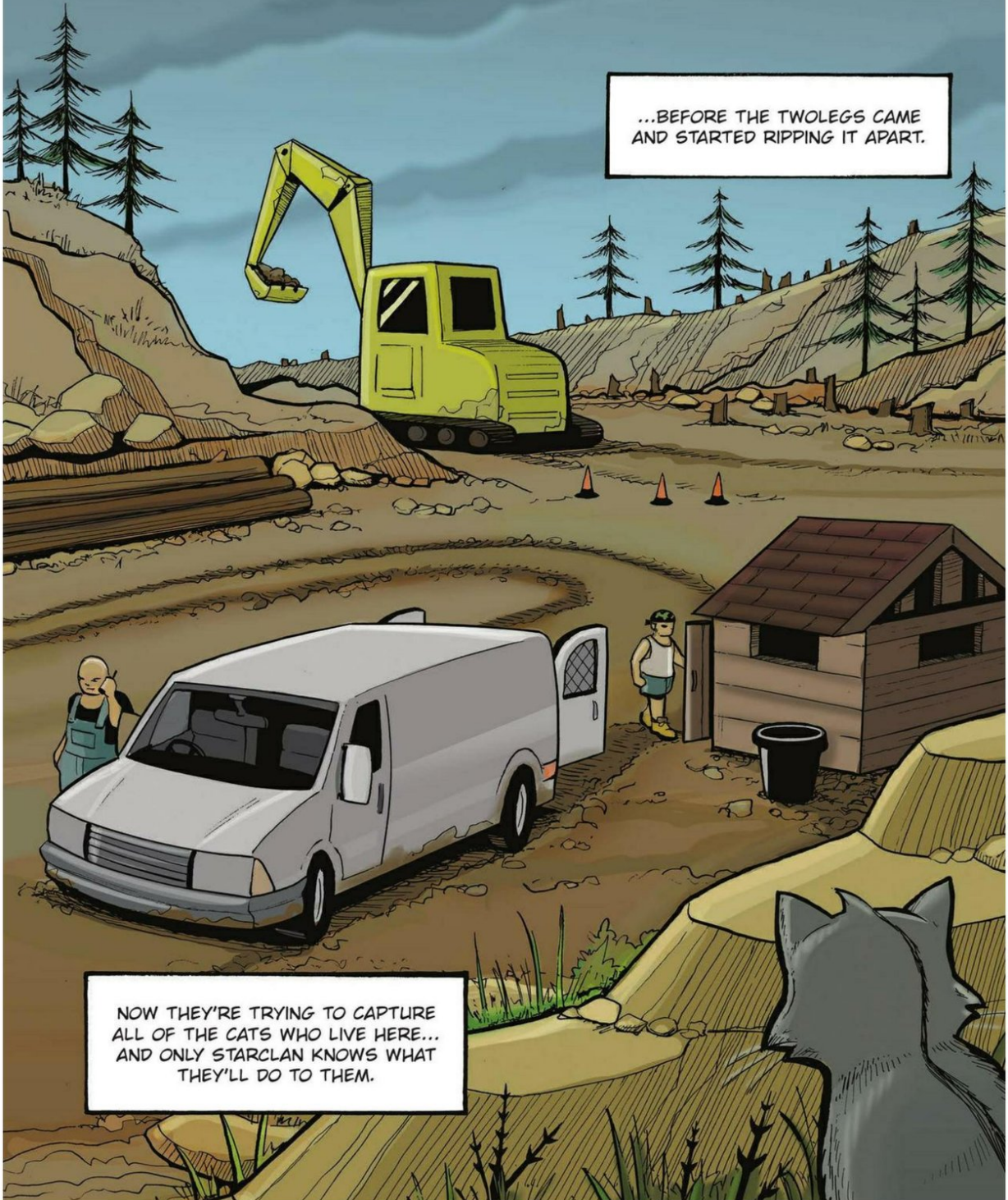
DON'T MISS THIS **WARRIORS**
GRAPHIC NOVEL ADVENTURE



Keep reading for a sneak peek!

THIS IS MY FOREST. MY HOME.
IT USED TO BE BEAUTIFUL...

...BEFORE THE TWOLEGS CAME
AND STARTED RIPPING IT APART.



NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO CAPTURE
ALL OF THE CATS WHO LIVE HERE...
AND ONLY STARCLAN KNOWS WHAT
THEY'LL DO TO THEM.



SOME OF THESE CATS
ARE ROGUES...



...BUT A LOT OF THEM BELONG
TO THUNDERCLAN. MY CLAN.



MY NAME IS GRAYSTRIPE.



I'M A THUNDERCLAN WARRIOR.



AND I'LL DIE BEFORE I LET THESE CATS SUFFER ANY LONGER.



ADW!





THE MONSTER STARTS ROARING, AND THEN RUNS...







OH NO...OH NO!

SLAM

GRAYSTRIPE!

CHAPTER 1

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SAW FIRESTAR... AS CLEAR AS YESTERDAY.

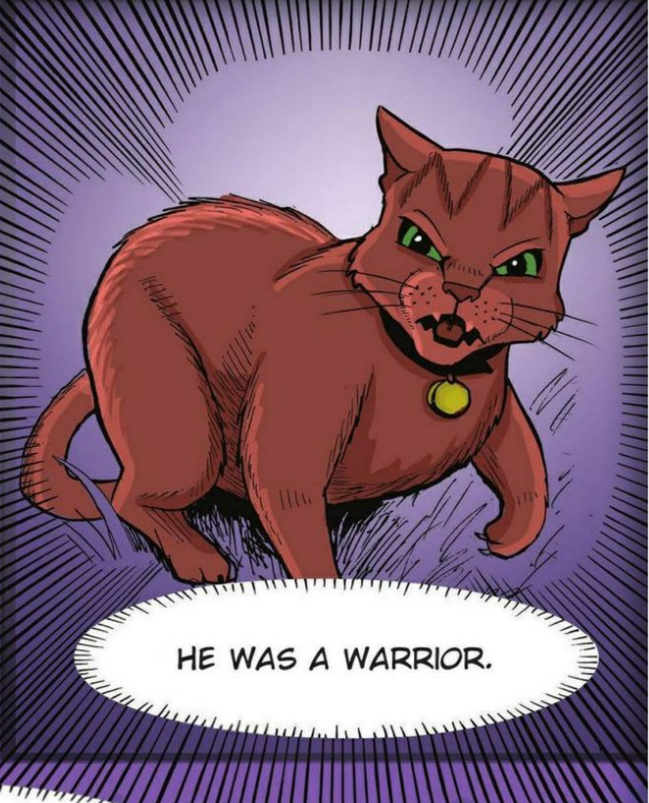
NEITHER ONE OF US HAD SEEN MORE THAN SIX MOONS WHEN I FOUND HIM IN THE FOREST.

HE WAS BORN AND RAISED A KITTYPET...

...LIVING A SOFT, SHELTERED LIFE IN A TWOLEG NEST.



BUT THE WAY HE FOUGHT, THERE WAS NO QUESTION.



HE WAS A WARRIOR.

FIRESTAR AND I BECAME BEST FRIENDS ALMOST AT ONCE.



AND THERE WAS A PROPHECY...A MESSAGE FROM STARCLAN THEMSELVES.





THEY TOLD US THAT FIRE WOULD SAVE THE CLAN.

RUN! RUN, WE HAVE TO STAY AHEAD OF IT!

FASTER, FIRESTAR, WE HAVE TO STAY AHEAD OF IT.

FIRESTAR?



BUT NOW THE CLAN IS GONE...

FIRESTAR!

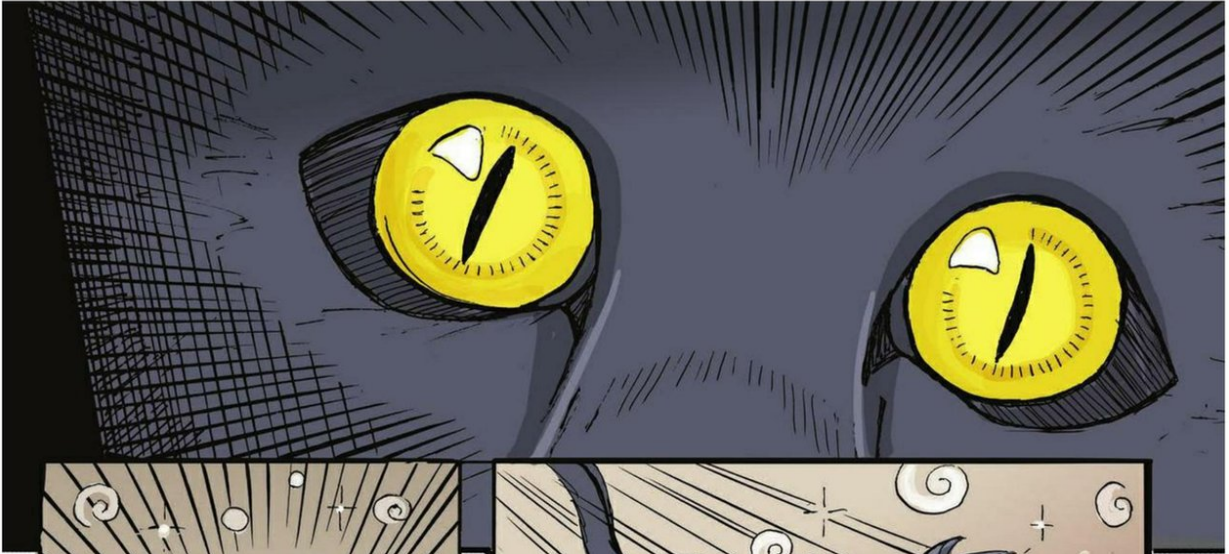
WHERE ARE YOU?
I CAN'T SEE YOU!

FIRESTAR IS GONE...

AND I'VE NEVER FELT
MORE LOST AND ALONE.

WHERE ARE YOU?







OW.

STILL HERE...



IT'S NOT A DREAM.

WHY CAN'T IT BE A DREAM?



I'LL GO MAD IF I HAVE TO
STAY LOCKED UP IN THIS
PLACE MUCH LONGER.





I'VE BEEN HERE, WITH THE TWOLEGS, FOR AT LEAST A QUARTER-MOON.



I'M TRYING TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT.



THE FOOD IN HERE IS TERRIBLE... CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SUPPOSED TO EAT THIS STUFF!



BUT IT'S COLD AND WET OUTSIDE...AND WARM AND DRY IN HERE.

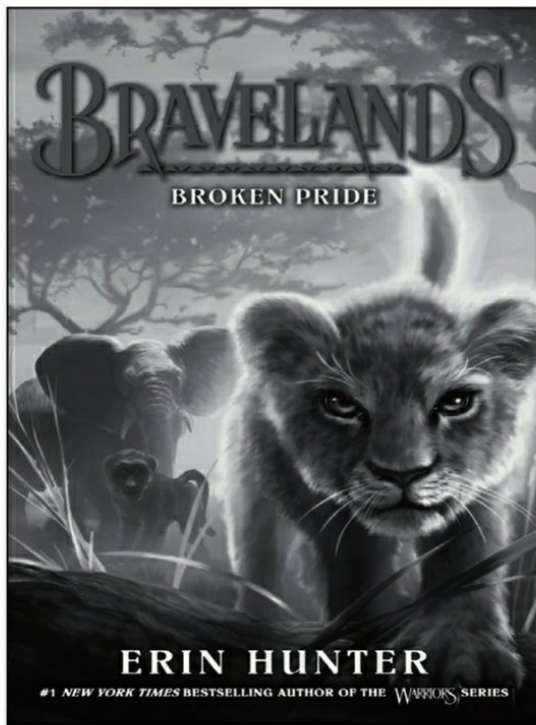
ERIN HUNTER

is inspired by a fascination with the ferocity of the natural world. As well as having great respect for nature in all its forms, Erin enjoys creating rich, mythical explanations for animal behavior. She is also the author of the Survivors, Seekers, and Bravelands series.

Find out more online at
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- #5: The Spirit-Eaters

**Also available as
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HARPER

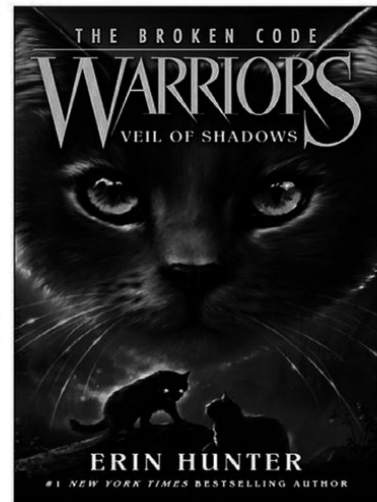
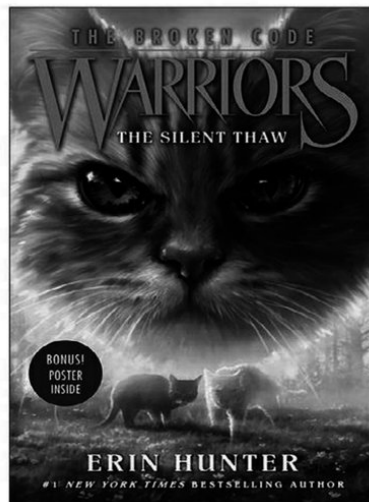
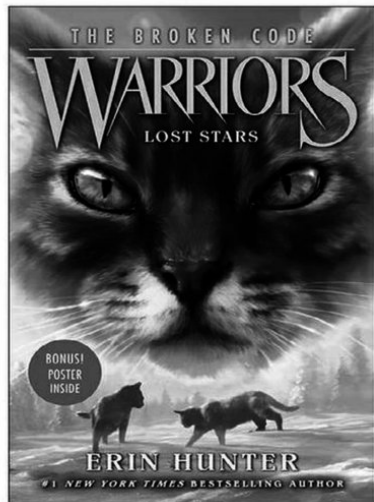
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WARRIORS:

THE BROKEN CODE



Have you read them all?

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- #3: Veil of Shadows

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WARRIORS

How many have you read?



Dawn of the Clans

- #1: The Sun Trail
- #2: Thunder Rising
- #3: The First Battle
- #4: The Blazing Star
- #5: A Forest Divided
- #6: Path of Stars



Power of Three

- #1: The Sight
- #2: Dark River
- #3: Outcast
- #4: Eclipse
- #5: Long Shadows
- #6: Sunrise



The Prophecies Begin

- #1: Into the Wild
- #2: Fire and Ice
- #3: Forest of Secrets
- #4: Rising Storm
- #5: A Dangerous Path
- #6: The Darkest Hour



Omen of the Stars

- #1: The Fourth Apprentice
- #2: Fading Echoes
- #3: Night Whispers
- #4: Sign of the Moon
- #5: The Forgotten Warrior
- #6: The Last Hope



The New Prophecy

- #1: Midnight
- #2: Moonrise
- #3: Dawn
- #4: Starlight
- #5: Twilight
- #6: Sunset



A Vision of Shadows

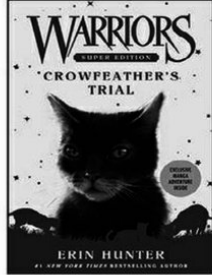
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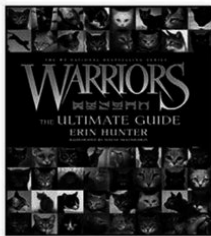
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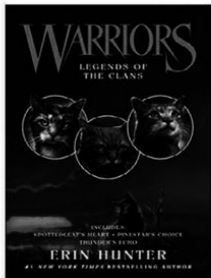


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- Cats of the Clans
- Code of the Clans
- Battles of the Clans
- Enter the Clans
- The Ultimate Guide



- Graystripe's Adventure
- Ravenpaw's Path
- SkyClan and the Stranger
- A Shadow in RiverClan

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Tales from the Clans

- Tigerclaw's Fury
- Leafpool's Wish
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- Mapleshade's Vengeance
- Goosefeather's Curse
- Ravenpaw's Farewell

Legends of the Clans

- Spottedleaf's Heart
- Pinestar's Choice
- Thunderstar's Echo

Path of a Warrior

- Redtail's Debt
- Tawnypelt's Clan
- Shadowstar's Life

A Warrior's Spirit

- Pebbleshine's Kits
- Tree's Roots
- Mothwing's Secret

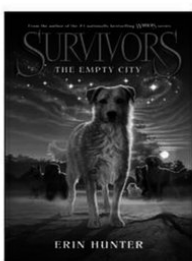
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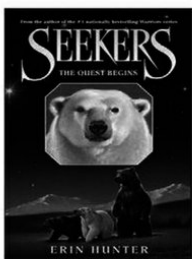


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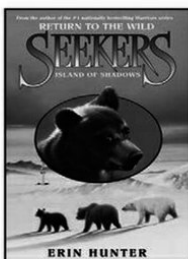
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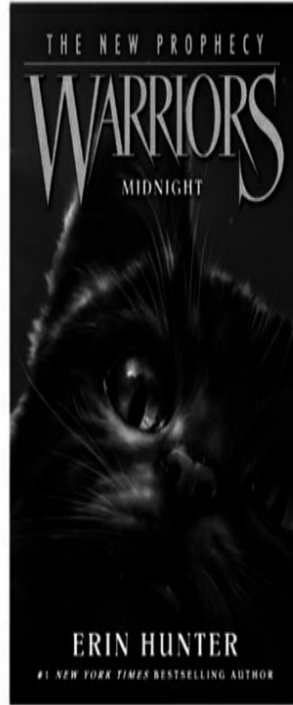
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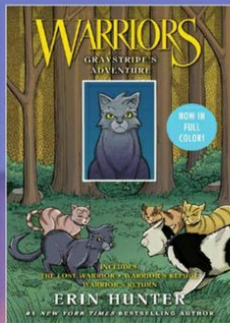
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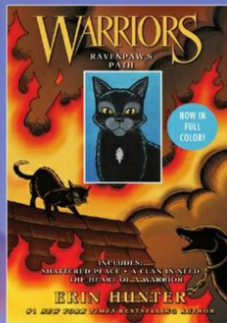
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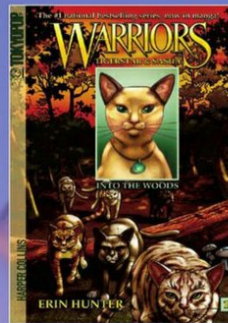
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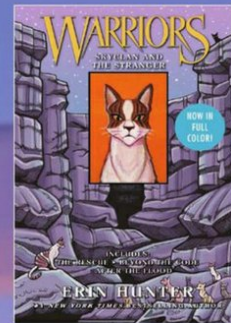
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