

# IvyClan's Destiny

## Part 8

"Are you coming, or not?" snarled Scar. "I... I'm coming!" called Dapplepaw, racing after him. Scar was going to show Dapplepaw around BloodClan camp and she was so excited. She hadn't been there long, and Dapplepaw had already made a new friend.

Scourge had decided to stay back at camp and wait for the other's to get home. Apparently, they wandered off some days and never came home until Sun-Down. He'd talk to them about Dapplepaw and ensure that they didn't think she was a trespasser. Dapplepaw didn't even *want* to know what they'd do to her if Scourge didn't give them a warning.

As Scar showed her the ropes of BloodClan camp, Dapplepaw received many false warnings from Flamepaw. He, of course, denied saying anything. It was very strange.

BloodClan was a bit like ThunderClan, but not much, which made her home sick. She missed the forest, the river, and the trees. She missed Sunning Rocks and the grassy flooring beneath her paws. But most of all, she missed Firestorm. She wished Sandstar hadn't gotten so angry with her. What if she never got to see her mother and father again?

"This," Scar grunted as he led Dapplepaw into a dark den, "Is the where we all sleep." Dapplepaw flicked her ear. She'd have to sleep in the same den as the BloodClan warriors? Or did they have an apprentices den? "Is there an, um, Apprentices Den?" asked Dapplepaw awkwardly. Scar turned to her and gave a snort of amusement. Dapplepaw felt her ears grow hot. "Ha! We'll find a place

for you to sleep, apprentice.” Scar laughed and Dapplepaw flicked her tail in embarrassment.

Dapplepaw knew Scar meant no harm, but she was a bit hurt by his mockery. Why was it so funny that she was an apprentice? Were there any other apprentices in BloodClan? What if she was the youngest cat in BloodClan? She knew if she was, she’d get pushed around for sure, unless Scourge protected her.

“There isn’t much to show you inside the camp... I’ll just show you the territory.” Scar grunted as he led Dapplepaw away from BloodClan camp. Dapplepaw followed quietly behind him, her paws quiet on the forest floor.

There was something strange about BloodClan territory, but Dapplepaw simply could not place a claw on it. It had a bit of forest, but the rest looked like Two Legs had destroyed the rest with their foul Monsters.

A bright light made Dapplepaw squint as she looked for the source. She saw a large Two Leg Monster warming itself in the sun, the light glinting off its shiny pelt. There was a foul stench in the air, but it was slightly stale. “What is that?” Dapplepaw asked, trying to breathe in the scent, but her mew came out awkwardly. “House Folk... or what you call ‘Two Legs’.” Scar hissed.

Scar called them House Folk, but that was the KittyPet term for Two Legs. Does that mean Scar was once a KittyPet? She didn’t want to find out. Scar could easily become offended, she guessed, and the outcome wouldn’t be pretty. Would Scar really hurt her if she offended him unintentionally?

Scar clearly noticed that Dapplepaw hadn’t responded, and looked to her skeptically. “If you call me one of those House Folk pets I’m going to claw your eyes out and-” “DON’T TALK TO HER LIKE THAT!” Scourge leaped out at Scar, biting his neck. “She never said a thing, and

if you *ever* treat her like that again you're gone, banished."

Dapplepaw's eyes widened as she watched the two wrestle. This was the second time they'd fought over her, and she felt guilty. She had the sudden impulse to run, but she knew better. She'd be nothing short of a Kitty Pet, a coward, if she ran. She needed to face the two and tell them they needed to just stop.

Dapplepaw placed one paw on the ground in front of her. "Stop!" she yowled. Scourge froze with one paw over Scar's right eye, the one without a scar, claws un-sheathed. "Please just stop. I'm fine. Honestly. You both are being ridiculous." Dapplepaw snapped. And with that, she raced off in the opposite direction.

She could hear Scourge's furious growl from behind her, but the furiousness turned into exasperation as he chased after Dapplepaw. "Dapplepaw please stop. We need to talk!" his faint mew came, but Dapplepaw showed no sign of slowing down, much less stopping. She was angry and it seemed the only thing she could do was run. She knew it wouldn't help her in the end, but for now at least she could think.

*Flamepaw... I don't know what to do. Didn't you say I had a friend in my future? I feel so lonely.* Dapplepaw thought. She didn't expect Flamepaw to respond so quickly, for he doesn't usually answer at all. *"Are you really lonely Dapplepaw? It seems to me you have friends already. Give it some time. This was your choice, after all."* Flamepaw replied. *Gee, thanks for the advice, Flamepaw...* Dapplepaw thought sarcastically.

At last, Dapplepaw grew tired and began to slow down. Her paws ached, her mouth was dry, and her heart was racing. She rested under a shady tree, knowing Scourge would soon catch up to her. When he did, he didn't look angry as Dapplepaw suspected. He simply looked relieved to find her there, motionless. He padded to her and sat next to

her, wrapping his tail around his body.

“Dapplepaw... I’m sorry, okay. I know it must make you upset when I attack my warriors, but you must understand that if I don’t, they won’t learn any respect for me or for you.” Scourge mewed. He gave a quick irritated flick of his tail. “It’s just... you’re the only She Cat in BloodClan in this period of time. I’m afraid they’ll treat you poorly, and I can’t have that happening, Dapplepaw. You don’t understand. My warriors will know respect and they will show it, too.” he mewed sternly.

Dapplepaw nodded in agreement. She didn’t want to be treated badly if she was the only She in BloodClan. That wouldn’t help her situation. She decided to change the subject. “So, when do we start training?” she asked. A small smile filtered through the scowl on Scourge’s face. “I suppose we *could* begin tomorrow.” he mumbled.

Dapplepaw gave a mew of excitement. This is what she came here for. Scourge had promised to train her and become a better warrior. It was all tied to her Destiny and she knew it.

“Let me show you something...” Scourge mewed, getting to his paws. Dapplepaw obediently followed. Scourge led her deeper into the forest, away from the Two Legs, where the trees looked a darker shade of green. They padded through the forest for what seemed ages before they emerged in a clearing.

Dapplepaw’s jaw dropped as she came to a stop at a cliff overlooking a large body of water that glistened in the sun. A flock of birds gracefully swooped over the water and back up once more. The grass was soft under her paws and the air was fresh. There was no Monster scent, not even a stale one. A slight breeze ruffled Dapplepaw’s fur.

It was so peaceful here and so beautiful. “What is this place?” asked Dapplepaw. Scourge shrugged. “Just a place I found ages ago. I

come here sometimes... when I'm upset or angry. It calms me down." He mewed. Dapplepaw nodded in agreement. She could see how it would calm him down.

"Why isn't BloodClan located here?" Dapplepaw asked incredulously. Scourge shrugged. "I don't know... I guess I wanted it to stay secret... and be a special place. Sounds selfish, doesn't it?" he mumbled. "No, not at all," Dapplepaw argued. She liked the idea of having a secret place such as this. It was so beautiful and shouldn't be disturbed.

"It's beautiful, Scourge..." Dapplepaw murmured and Scourge nodded in agreement. "It sure is, Dapplepaw. And the best thing about it is: it's our little secret. Just a special little place for you and I, okay?" Scourge winked and Dapplepaw smiled. "Okay," she agreed.

There was a sudden rustling in the bramble behind where she and Scourge stood, and Dapplepaw spun around just in time to see a pair of purple eyes flash before vanishing. "I saw them! I saw the purple eyes from the vision!" Dapplepaw exclaimed.