

IvyClan's Destiny Part 2

The next morning, Dapplepaw awoken to see Flamepaw wasn't in his nest. Confused, she groggily padded out of the Apprentices Den to find where he had gone. She saw that her father lay by the Fresh Kill Pile. He laid his head across his paws and his tail covered his eyes. She padded to him.

"Morning, Firestorm..." Dapplepaw yawned. She got no reply from her father. She nudged him with her paw. "Dad, wake up. It's almost Sun-High. We should head out for training..." she mewed. Firestorm feebly raised his head and squinted his eyes in the bright sunlight. His eyes were clouded in sorrow. "Come on Dad..." she repeated, her voice edging with worry.

A loud yowl interrupted her discussion. It was coming from the Medicine Cat's Den. Dapplepaw raced as fast as her paws would carry her. She knew that yowl, it belonged to her mother.

Dapplepaw arrived at the Den to find her mother wailing in agony. "Mother!" Dapplepaw cried. "Are you in pain? What is it?" She asked. Her mother only continued to wail. "My kit! Please StarClan! Don't take him! Please! Not my Flamepaw!" she sobbed.

Dapplepaw turned abruptly to see Flamepaw lying in a nest of grass. Flies swarmed around him. "Flamepaw!" She called, rushing to him. "Don't get too close, Dapplepaw..." a sad voice said. The Medicine Cat padded from deeper within the Den. "What's wrong with him? Is he going to be okay?" Dapplepaw immediately began with the questions swimming through her mind. "He has Black-Cough... I don't think he'll make it. He won't even respond. He came to me during the night..." The she-cat mewed.

Dapplepaw's heart sank. Her eyes began swimming with tears. "You mean... you mean he's to die?" she demanded. "I'm only saying I don't think he'll stay with us much longer... StarClan is calling him." The Medicine Cat replied before padding over to comfort LillyStream.

Dapplepaw fell to the ground in grief. Her brother... best friend... the only cat that ever believed in her... was gone. She closed her eyes to pray. *StarClan...*

StarClan please... Don't take my brother. I need him. Please, StarClan. If not... take me instead. Spare him. She begged.

Dapplepaw lay with her brother until Sun-Down. She refused to leave Flamepaw's side, but she was beginning to feel sleepy. Her eyelids began to droop, and she fell asleep.

She awoke again with a start. Although, she didn't wake up in the Medicine Den next to her sickly brother; she was in a forest, but nothing she recognized. "Dapplepaw..." a soothing voice murmured. She turned, frightened, to see a starry Tom standing behind her. The cat purred. "My sister..." he mewed. "F-Flamepaw...?" Dapplepaw asked, in awe. He chuckled. "Yes, Dapplepaw, it is I. Do not grieve for me, I beg of you. I am with StarClan now. Please do not be upset, I will be watching, Dapplepaw. I will *always* be with you. You have an important Destiny in your path. Happy and yet depressing times lay ahead of you Dapplepaw. You must remember to make the right choices." Flamepaw mewed.

Dapplepaw fell to her brother's paws. "Flamepaw! You're my best friend... I can't lose you. Do not ask me to do something I cannot do..." she cried. Flamepaw frowned. "Dapplepaw... do not be upset. You have not lost me. I am forever with you. I will guide you in times of need. As for me being your only friend... do not fear, my sister. You have a dear friend and soul mate in your future. But please remember to make the right choices." He mewed.

Flamepaw began to grow dimmer and dimmer, until suddenly he was gone.

Dapplepaw woke with a scream of grief, "Flamepaw! No, he's gone! Flamepaw's gone!" she sobbed. Lillystream woke with a start at her daughter's scream. She desperately looked to Flamepaw's lifeless body. "No!" she cried.

Dapplepaw could still hear Flamepaw's voice in her head. *"Please do not grieve for me, I beg of you. I am with StarClan now..."*

She gave one last stifled sob before she got to her paws and left the Den. She passed Firestorm once more, who still lay in despair by the Fresh Kill Pile. He must have been awake with Flamepaw all night. *"Remember to make the right choices, Dapplepaw."* Flamepaw's words rang in her head. *Right now there are no choices, Flamepaw... I don't know what to do next...* She thought in reply.

Dapplepaw raced through the dark forest, her tears and grief streaming

behind her. She was going to Four-Trees; the only place she knew she'd be alone at this time of night. She was going to sit vigil for her brother... until she could sit no more. She wasn't going to let him go that easily, despite what he had asked her to do.

At last she arrived at Four-Trees and began searching for a comfortable spot to sit vigil. "I asked you not to grieve for me, Dapplepaw. This is my destiny, and right now, you should be fulfilling yours." She heard Flamepaw's voice mew. A blur of orange formed into Flamepaw's starry form. "Flamepaw, please, just let me do this." Dapplepaw muttered. He shook his head. "You're too much like mother... can't you just listen to me for a minute, Dapplepaw? I'm trying to help you for StarClan's sake." He hissed in frustration, flattening his ears against his head.

Dapplepaw sighed. "Fine... tell me what to do, Flamepaw. My trust is in you. Guide me." She growled. Suddenly, she felt bad. Her brother was dead and she was here fighting with him... and he was only trying to help.

"Dapplepaw, you need to go back to camp. There's a cat that you need to meet at Sun-Rise tomorrow. Don't forget to make the right choices." He mewed, vanishing from Dapplepaw's sight. "Oh, Flamepaw..." she groaned. "You want to help me... but you're only confusing me."

Dapplepaw awoke the next morning from a yowl of warning coming from a Thunderclan Guard. She leaped to her feet and raced from the Den, remembering Flamepaw's telling of a cat she was to meet.

There, standing in the camp's entrance, was a large black tom, he had a collar as those of a KittyPet's, with teeth sticking from it. "I am the son of the great Scourge... whom the leader of your clan mistakably killed." The tom snarled. Dapplepaw's eyes widened. She had heard stories of this cat's father when she was a kit. Stories of the murders he committed and of his attack on Thunderclan ages before.

"I must meet with your leader... the one with the flaming pelt." Scourge Jr. snarled. It was Sandstar that replied to him. "F-Firestar is dead... it is I that leads Thunderclan..." she stammered nervously. Dapplepaw never saw her leader looking so fearful. Scourge flashed a grin towards Sandstar, showing sharp murderous teeth. "Ah, and who might you be?" he asked, smirking. "My name is

Sandstar..." she replied, her head held high.

"Will you be the one I kill to avenge me father's death?" he asked, chuckling. In a heartbeat, several ThunderClan warriors surrounded Sandstar, growling protectively. Scourge chuckled. "Come on, Sandstar. Can't you fight your own battles? Are you that scared of dying?" he asked, grinning evilly.

Suddenly, Scourge's gaze rested upon Dapplepaw. "Ahh, and what do we have here?" he asked. "My name is Dapplepaw... I never thought the day would come... that I'd meet the old Kit-Tale's son. Last I heard: you wouldn't hunt me down unless I misbehaved. That's too bad, I thought I was doing pretty well." She snarled with a slight smirk.

The look on Scourge's face was enough for Dapplepaw to burst in hysterical laughter. He growled and leaped at her. "Easy, Tiger, I just lost my brother." Dapplepaw warned him. "I took down a ShadowClan apprentice on my first day of being an Apprentice.... Not to boast or anything."

Suddenly, Scourge froze. "Interesting... what else can you do?" he asked, sounding serious. Flamepaw appeared behind Scourge, his starry pelt glittering in the sunlight. Dapplepaw kept her eyes locked confidently on Flamepaw's eyes. "*Make the right choices...*"

"You've heard of me then?" Dapplepaw asked, refraining from smirking. Scourge merely frowned. "Tell me kit... what's your father's name?" he asked. "Firestorm," Dapplepaw replied a bit too quickly. "And your mother?" Scourge asked. "Alright, we know you know I'm supposedly the Chosen Apprentice, alright? Enough with your games, already. And now I know you have something to do with my 'Destiny'." Dapplepaw mewed bitterly. *I really hope he isn't the friend and soul mate you were talking about, Flamepaw...* She thought.