

# IvyClan's Destiny

## Part 4

*Scourge returned in 3 days, just as he promised. He asked again for a private talk with Dapplepaw.*

"Have you thought about my offer?" Scourge asked, wrapping his tail around his paws. "Are you kidding? It's been clawing at me like hunger!" Dapplepaw exclaimed. Scourge laughed. "All is settled then? What's your answer?" he asked. Dapplepaw stared at her paws. "Well..." she began. The truth was, she hadn't actually made a decision. "If your answer's no, I'm afraid I'll have to kill you." Scourge muttered.

Dapplepaw looked up at him in surprise. "I'm kidding! I'm only kidding, Dapplepaw" Scourge insisted, laughing. Dapplepaw's eyes widened and her heart pace slowed. She took a deep breath. "That wasn't funny." She hissed. Scourge purred. "Lighten up, Dapplepaw." He laughed. "So, about that answer?" he added quickly.

"Well... I've thought hard about your offer and... Will I ever get to come back home? Even to visit?" asked Dapplepaw. Scourge gave a toothy grin. "Of course... I can see how close you are to your father..." he mews. "Then... I'll go with you to BloodClan. As long as I may return any time I need." says Dapplepaw. "Then it is settled!"

"Dapplepaw, you *traitor!*" snarled Sandstar. "I knew there was something about you... I should have listened to the others..."

"Please Sandstar! You don't understand! I must do this... it's for the best." Dapplepaw pleaded. She knew her clan wouldn't take this lightly. How could she face her father? "Leave Dapplepaw, do not return to ThunderClan territory. You are no longer welcome." snarls Sandstar.

Dapplepaw's heart sank. How could she ever see her father again? They'd have to meet between borders... but Firestorm could get in huge trouble for doing so.

Sandstar padded away angrily. At last, her father slowly walked up to her, his head and tail drooping. "Dapplepaw..." he mewed, not looking at her. "Dad, please!" Dapplepaw sobbed. "You don't understand! I... I have to do this. Please don't think a traitor of me! I am still loyal to you... and mom... and Flamepaw." She cried. "I love you, Dad..." she couldn't bear to see the hurt in her father's eyes. "I don't understand, Dapplepaw.... Why?" her father muttered.

Scourge padded up to them from behind. "Dapplepaw... it's time we got going. Say goodbye..." he mewed softly. Dapplepaw looked to him, and sadness washed over his face. "You can stay if you want..." he added. Dapplepaw shook her head. "No... I gave you my word. We're leaving... goodbye Father..." Dapplepaw mewed, licking her father's ear. Firestorm stopped Scourge at the camp entrance. "Treat her well, Scourge. Don't hurt her..."

Scourge and Dapplepaw padded through the forest. When they reached the edge of ThunderClan territory, she turned around to face it. "Goodbye ThunderClan... goodbye forest. Goodbye trees... goodbye Four-Trees... goodbye StarClan..." she murmured. *Goodbye StarClan?! Will StarClan still be with me... even though I'm leaving the forest? Will Flamepaw still speak with me?* She thought desperately.

"What's BloodClan like?" Dapplepaw asked once they left ThunderClan's territory for good. "That's for me to know and you to find out." Scourge replied.

Suddenly Dapplepaw didn't feel like going to BloodClan anymore, but she knew she couldn't go back. She wasn't weak and she needed to prove it. ThunderClan called her a traitor and a kit. She didn't need them. She didn't need anyone. She'd get the training from Scourge and... what *would* she do next? Would she stay with BloodClan for the rest of her life considering she couldn't return to ThunderClan? Would she ever get to see her father again?

Dapplepaw didn't want to think about those questions right now. She could worry about them later. "Will I be happy there?" asked Dapplepaw, only trying to break the silence so she wouldn't think about the questions. She needed to distract herself. "That's your decision." Scourge answered, looking around as if he needed to watch his back.

Dapplepaw was sure he did need to watch his back considering the things his father had done. He more than likely wasn't welcome around here. "Scourge?" Dapplepaw asked. She knew she was getting on Scourge's last

nerve, but she needed reassurance. "Yes..." Scourge gave an exasperated sigh. But before Dapplepaw could speak, a loud noise made her jump back a few feet. "What was that?!" she exclaimed, her ears ringing. "It sounded like it was coming from the ThunderPath... let's check it out." said Scourge, racing off.

Dapplepaw was surprised Scourge hadn't told her to stay put, that it was too dangerous for her. She happily followed closely behind him. She was actually getting used to the tom, even if he was a bit grouchy at times.

*I never got to say goodbye to mom, Flamepaw...* Dapplepaw thought, sadly. Flamepaw never replied. *Flamepaw... please, did I make a wrong choice? Oh please help me!* She begged.

Finally, she and Scourge came to the ThunderPath, a strange place Dapplepaw had never been before. And what was that awful stench? Scourge stopped abruptly at the edge of the forest. He held his tail out in front of Dapplepaw. "Don't go any closer... those monsters show no mercy." He hissed, keeping his eyes locked on the flooring ahead. "What mons-?" Dapplepaw began but she was cut off by a loud roaring and a large creature rushed past them, its belt gleaming in the sunlight and eyes glowing bright white.

"Yikes!" Dapplepaw screeched almost getting knocked off her feet. She hid behind Scourge, her fur bristling in fear. "What'd I tell you?" Scourge asked amusingly. Dapplepaw was too shaken to reply.

"So... I wonder what caused that noise..." Scourge wondered aloud. He waited silently for a while before he turned to Dapplepaw. "Shall we continue then?" He asked. Dapplepaw nodded solemnly.

"We just have to cross the ThunderPath and we'll be on our way." Scourge says cheerily. He smirked at Dapplepaw, who stared at the ThunderPath with wide eyes. "T-there.... Cross there...?" she whimpered, giving a large gulp. "Of course, there's no other way... unless, of course, you can fly." He teased. Dapplepaw didn't reply, but stared ahead.

"Off we go, then!" says Scourge, padding past Dapplepaw. "Come on!" he urged her, flicking his tail. Dapplepaw obediently padded forward.

*Dear StarClan... please be with me...* Dapplepaw prayed silently.

