

A Sweep of the Wind

By Animus_RainWing

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Prologue

Many, many moons ago, a large WindClan cat named Sweepstar gave birth to a little tawny kit. The kit was a male tabby. "I shall call you Pinekit," Sweepstar murmured. "You shall succeed me one day. I want you to live life to its fullest."

"Sweepstar, is this a bad time?" Garnetshaw poked her head through the door. The leader's young daughter looked worried.

"No, no, come in." Sweepstar was not giving Garnetshaw her full attention, but the warrior knew that. Her mother needed to give Pinekit time. She respected her sister.

"Well, Sorrowtan has bad news. Again. I told Rockpelt that he was jinxed since we named him." Garnetshaw spoke of her mate sadly. "Sorrowtan has given us word that poor Rockpelt is dead. And Heatherclaw, Leapshade, Fernpaw, Littlepaw, and Rufflekit. She is afraid that the rest of the Clan will catch the sickness."

"Mmm hmm."

"Mother, you aren't listening. Your deputy is dead. So are two warriors, two apprentices, and one of our other kits, Rufflekit. The Clan is in danger. We may never rebuild."

Chapter One

Galekit trudged after WindClan's leader. "Please, Pinestar, I wasn't trying to cause trouble."

"That means nothing. It doesn't justify you sneaking over to RiverClan," Pinestar snapped. "If you were caught...you would be a slave! You must stay out of trouble until we can join ShadowClan and ThunderClan."

"Join?"

"Yes. WindClan has never rebuilt. You know it. Our only hope to stand up to RiverClan and get back our water is to join forces. What will we do without water? Die! That's what. RiverClan has already put the dam in position, and their warriors are guarding it 24/7. The other Clans' alliances are our only hope for freedom," he continued. "Littlepaw will look after you," Pinestar finished coldly. Then he stalked away towards the delegation meeting.

Chapter Two

Pinestar, Darkstalkerstar, and Stormstar huddled together, away from RiverClan's spies' watchful eyes. "ThunderClan will bring you an alliance and strength, if you help us overthrow Mossystar and Fernreed. They have not yet dared to attack us. But even ThunderClan, the only Clan as large as our attacker, needs help." Stormstar paced worriedly.

"Mossystar will kill us. I have no idea what got into her," mewed Darkstalkerstar.

Pinestar agreed with ShadowClan's leader. "Stormstar, thank you. We will accept ThunderClan's offer. Our cats will be happy to help support us all." He paused, thinking. "Do you remember the tale of Firestar? When he put all the Clans together against Tigerstar? We should show unity."

Darkstalkerstar nodded thoughtfully. "We ally with Wind and Thunder Clans."

Stormstar then mewed, "Welcome to TigerClan. We will all lead our cats, and get our water back."

Chapter Three

Mossystar laid on her bed of moss. She closed her eyes. "Mossy," a familiar voice greeted her. RiverClan's leader took in the landscape, her eyes fluttering open.

"Stop calling me that!" she cried. "I have done it. I have...I have...I have dammed the river. We control the water."

"Excellent." Flash's eyes glinted with malice. "Now we shall destroy those *weaklings*." He paused. "Battle stance, Mossy."

Mossystar readied herself to defend against the attack, but not soon enough. Flash slashed her throat.

Chapter Four

Mossystar's eyes lay closed. A voice mewed distantly, "Her throat just...became slashed. As if an evil force killed her."

"You don't think..."

"Yes, I do," nodded the medicine cat. "Mossystar has under the Dark Forest's control. Ever since she lost her 2nd life, she was just...evil. Her gifting ceremony...The life she was just on...given to her by a Dark Forest cat. Vengeance."

"It was not her fault, then?"

"No, one cannot do anything against it. But StarClan must be moving her onto her 3rd life."

Chapter Five

Mossystar woke up a field. "StarClan hunting grounds," she murmured to herself. Her guess was confirmed by Lightshadow's appearance. "Mother," she mewed. "Mother. I-is it-is it...really you?"

"Mossystar!" The leader was wrapped in a tight embrace by her mother. "It's me. You are here to move onto your third life. But I have a warning for you:

When the shift comes, one shall rise.

Be warned, for one dies.

Greatness and failure and trouble,

Are along a road where obstacles seem to double.

But change will come,

And the Dark ninth of one,

Will be taken in by the Stars,

And trapped forever behind bars."

Mossystar was shaken. "Was that...a prophecy?"

Lightshadow chuckled. "Yes. Be forewarned, and make it right."

Chapter Six

Mossystar awoke in her den. "Dapplepelt. Please, get the other leaders to come. I need to make it right." Dapplepelt did not hesitate. She ran off to gather LionClan, who was right now training to kill Mossystar and get the river back. "Amberclaw, remove the dam. ShadowClan, WindClan, and ThunderClan must get their water back."

He nodded. Pebbleleap followed him, and twenty minutes later, the river rushed toward the other Clans' camps.

Mossystar assembled the Clan. "RiverClan. I have made a serious mistake. The other Clans did not deserve to lose their water. If you cannot accept that, leave. But I will stop this from getting out of hand. Dominating the other Clans, pish. That's the Dark Forest's job. Not one I want to have. Make this better. Or go, and never be welcome again. Those are your options." Then Mossystar turned on her heel and left.

Chapter Seven

Stormstar, Pinestar, and Darkstalkerstar followed Dapplepelt to Mossystar's camp. This was just what they needed. An opportunity to kill and overthrow Mossystar! Then their water would be safe. They trooped to the camp, unaware of Galekit behind them.

The young kit hid behind some bushes as he tried to sneak quietly. He followed the RiverClan guard who led the leaders into Mossystar's camp. Mossystar was waiting in her den, and yowled in surprise as Stormstar leaped onto her back and pinned the lithe leader down. "Die," he growled.

Mossystar choked. "No. Please! Forgive me!" She lapsed into unconsciousness as Darkstalkerstar bit her shoulder. He lay still moments later. Amberclaw had killed him.

Epilogue

Pinestar and Stormstar both mourned Darkstalkerstar's loss of his final life with Mossystar, finally having made peace with the cat who had nearly ruined them.

Oakleaf ascended ShadowClan's leadership, receiving nine lives from StarClan.

RiverClan made peace with the other Clans, was officially forgiven at the Gathering.

ThunderClan withdrew from publicity for a while, embarrassed after the assassination attempt on Mossystar.

ShadowClan bid farewell to their old leader, and looked towards a new era.

And WindClan looked to a new apprentice. "Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey gather underneath the Sky Rock!" proclaimed Pinestar. "I would have died if young Galekit had not kept me back from trying to kill Mossystar too. It is my honor to apprentice him! Galekit, you have reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Galepaw. I will mentor you myself. I will pass down all I know onto you." Galepaw and Pinestar touched noses.

"Galepaw! Galepaw!" WindClan cheered for the brave apprentice who had save one of their leader's lives.