

Forbidden Paths and A Devastated Truth

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*This is RON and my Warriors fanfic. The prolouge was written by both of us, then we are gonna alternate writing chapters!! =P
Hope you like!! =D*

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1 - Prolouge

Starlight illuminated a large clearing ringed by trees and ferns. A little black she-cat with striking blue eyes wound her way through the crowd of starry pelts. A grey and white tom waited for her in the center. "Stonemask!" purred the black cat as she approached the starry tom. The two cats touched noses and the she-cat buried her nose in her old mentor's fur. "Does StarClan have anything to share with the clans?" As she spoke, the clearing went dark, the stars and moon shone no more and Stonemask got a faraway look in his eyes.

"Icegaze", he said

"Troubled times are coming,

'The four shall unite,

Sun and Moon will travel in dreams,

Ice and Snow will melt together,

And Death will take the lake"

Stonemask started to fade, along with the rest of the cats.

"Stonemask! Don't leave me yet! Who are the four? And who, or what, is Death?" Her words were spoken in vain, for the StarClan cats were gone already, leaving Icegaze alone in the dark clearing.

Icegaze sat up abruptly. Her ice-blue eyes snapped open. She looked around, none of the other medicine cats were awake yet. She was sitting at the edge of the Moonpool, a pool where stars were clearly reflected. Around her the others were stirring. Spottedtail of ThunderClan was the next awake.

He looked troubled and his paws kneaded the floor impatiently. Soon Riverpelt from RiverClan and Ravenwing of ShadowClan were up as well and the four cats padded down the path back to their clans.

Back in WindClan, Icegaze rushed to her leader's den and called out a greeting at the entrance,

"Goldenstar! I have received a prophecy from StarClan. For the sake of all the clans we must figure it out!"

"Come in then!" replied Goldenstar. Icegaze padded into the den. Before her sat a ginger she-cat with beautiful hazel eyes. Icegaze wrapped her white-tipped tail around her paws and started telling Goldenstar all about her dream.

A celebration caused a vigil. Two cats sat down watching their Clan mates sleeping. The glossy white tom almost fell asleep but his friend kept waking him up. She was a black she-cat with one green eye and one silver eye. She was too excited to sleep. A moment later, their leader, a grey-blue she-cat, padded out of her den and gave them a signal that it was okay for them to talk now.

"I thought I would never taste air again!" the white tom exclaimed.

"You mouse brain! We were not supposed to talk, not to breathe!" she commented. "At least try to make some sense..."

"You're one to talk!"

"True," she agreed. They got up and then walked toward to the fresh-kill pile. She grabbed a large rabbit for them both. They shared it with gulping bites and finished it off quickly.

"Don't you feel like anything is missing in your life?" the black she-cat asked. The white tom looked at her with concern. "Well? Do you?"

"Kind of. If I knew what you are talking about..." he trailed off, trying to sun himself.

"Did you even listen?" She asked in an irritated tone.

"Yes no, maybe so..."

She was disgusted by her friend's attitude. He was acting just like if he were still an apprentice! "Whatever, I'm gonna go sleep." She almost went to the apprentice's den, then realized that she earned her warrior name and went to the warrior's den.

"Hey, Mouse-brain," laughed a brown-red she-cat. "You should've never earned your warrior name. You know why?" The black she-cat flinched. During gatherings, the brown-red she-cat always gave away ThunderClan's secrets. "You're the one that always faints. I bet a mouse that in right of the middle of a battle, you'll pass out again and they'll take your life as we know it, well I won't miss you though," As she finished, she got and stalked away to get a piece of fresh-kill.

The black she-cat sighed. She lied down, thinking if she were right to earn her warrior name... She let her dreams take her to a star-filled night. She felt the wind whispering in a soft voice.

"MoonLotus, drink the water..." She jumped, trying to find the voice that spoke to her. She did as she was told. As she drank, a shaft of moonlight shone upon her. She felt something tucked around her throat. MoonLotus awoke finding a collar around her neck. She tried to take it off. It didn't break. Was she destined to be a kittypet? No, StarClan would be more reasonable than that... All that she knew, was that that the whole clan would be staring at her...

2 - The Gathering Night

It was the sacred full-moon truce. Everything was peaceful except for the sound of excited apprentices. MoonLotus yawned. After her vigil, she received a strange gift that had made everyone stare at her. She went embarrassed, the other clans would be just as curious as her own. Her heart started to beat faster every time she took a step.

"Yuck! The stench of ShadowClan," MoonLotus tried to calm herself. Snowclaw wiped his nose with his paws. "At least we'll only see or smell them at Gatherings, right?" MoonLotus looked at him, acting like if he were still an apprentice.

"We can see them in the middle of a battle too. Don't you think?"

"ShadowClan may be clever, but they don't have strength," he stiffened. He jumped up on the log to the Island. I wonder if Snowclaw could be a little smarter. MoonLotus then remembered her apprentice days. Her mentor was her own father, Rah, quite unusual in clan life. He was a bright tortoiseshell tom, but had stayed at camp for this gathering. MoonLotus remembered the one time she had forgotten the mouse-bile to take care off the elder's ticks and almost got her ears clawed off by Snowclaw's mother, Rosemarybreath. She chuckled. Good times, but now I'm a warrior! She soon smelled all the four Clans. She sat in the clearing, a little embarrassed. She thought everyone was looking at her Collar.

"Hi," a black she-cat with a white paw startled MoonLotus out of her thoughts. MoonLotus gulped. Is she thinking about my Collar?

"Oh, hi," MoonLotus trembled with embarrassment.

"How's the prey running?" the black she-cat asked. Her piercing blue eyes sparkled and made MoonLotus' fur stand straight.

"Fine, how about yours?" MoonLotus asked.

"The rabbits are running plentifully, thank you. My name is Icegaze by the way," the black blue-eyed she-cat answered. She smiled. Icegaze didn't seem to really care if MoonLotus wearing the Collar. Every other cat was looking curiously at her...

"My name's MoonLotus," she tried to smile. "Hey! Have you met Snowclaw?" she asked. Icegaze tilted her head, as if she were confused.

"No, but is he here?" she asked. She looked around the Island.

"Yes, but he's really not that hard to find... oh there he is, Snowclaw!" MoonLotus yelled out his name. The glossy white tom turned his head. His pure red eyes didn't meet MoonLotus'. He walked towards her and Icegaze.

"Hi," he greeted. "I guess MoonLotus told you my name," he smiled. His eyes glowed with red flames that made Icegaze twitch. She seemed to recognize Snowclaw's red eyesight. MoonLotus sensed something between them. She then turned around and saw another black figure. It was a tall tom, looking around with his golden eyes, then they stopped at MoonLotus. Oh no! She turned herself from his golden gaze. She felt embarrassed because she was the only cat who was wearing a Collar. She then heard hisses.

"Shut up!" Her eyes widened with horror. "Ha! Look what StarClan brought to us! A half-Clan kittypet!" laughed a brown tom with a red under-belly.

"I'll make you regret for saying those mouse-brained words!" hissed a bright tortoiseshell tom. He has a Collar just like me! MoonLotus thought, but, he can't just fight in the middle of a Gathering! A black tom with a brown under-belly stepped in between them. He must be Flystar, she had never seen ShadowClan's leader before.

"Stop this at once! You two know that this is a scared truce! So StarClan help me, you will stop and we will talk about this at camp!" Flystar spoke with a firm voice. The two toms gave one final glare at each other and turned around themselves.

"Whoa," MoonLotus was surprised. The black tom with golden eyes went to sit besides the bright tortoiseshell. He seemed to be calming him down. MoonLotus couldn't move her eyes away until the black tom turned his head. MoonLotus looked away and joined into her friends' conversation.

"...your eyes look so cool. No wonder they call you 'Icegaze.' It suits you," Snowclaw complimented. Icegaze smiled.

"Your pelt seems shiny. How do you keep it so white, living in that forest?" she asked. Snowclaw chuckled.

"That's why they call me Snowclaw," he explained. Icegaze blinked while she was still smiling.

"Do you two have apprentices yet?" she asked. MoonLotus looked at her.

"No. We both were made Warriors yesterday," she answered.

"The vigil was terrible!" Snowclaw mentioned. Icegaze purred in amusement. "I didn't have a vigil, I'm a Medicine Cat, but the trip the Moon Pool was terrible! It was last leaf-bare, my paws nearly froze off!" she added. Snowclaw licked his paw.

"Wow. Was it warm enough to fall asleep at the Moon Pool?" he asked. MoonLotus rolled her eyes.

"If you had fallen asleep, I would've gotten a hive of bees, you mouse-brain," she joked. Icegaze's eyes were glued to Snowclaw.

"Yes. The cold was awful but StarClan sent me sleep," she answered. Snowclaw smiled as his eyes glowed even more. MoonLotus noticed and whispered in his ear.

"No I don't!" he spat. MoonLotus purred in amusement.

"You know you do," she giggled. Icegaze tilted her head, confused.

"What?" she asked. MoonLotus grinned.

"Well, it's clear tha- ow!" Snowclaw pawed at her, eyes flaming in anger.

"I told you mouse-brain to keep quiet!" he hissed.

"Well, sorry!" MoonLotus apologized. Snowclaw went on talking to Icegaze. MoonLotus turned her head to see if the black tom with the unusual glowing golden eyes was there. Where is he? MoonLotus thought. She kept on turning and then saw a black she-cat with brown paws, talking to him. MoonLotus lowered her head in despair. MoonLotus suddenly heard a voice behind her. She turned around and saw Snowclaw's former mentor, Burdockface.

"What's going on here?" he asked. MoonLotus looked at Icegaze and Snowclaw. "Come on now. We're going, unless you want Skystar to yowl a special invitation for you to go back to camp," he explained to MoonLotus and Snowclaw. MoonLotus nodded.

"Well, we are going to have to go anyways," MoonLotus told Icegaze.

"Icegaze! Let's go," a brown she-cat cried out from the other side of the clearing.

"Coming Rabbitfrost!" Icegaze shouted to her, "Snowclaw, tell me. I won't tell anyone," she promised in a quieter voice. Snowclaw couldn't stop looking at her. His eyes glowed, not in anger anymore as he walked up to her without anyone looking, he whispered softly and sweetly in her ear. Icegaze looked at Snowclaw like she hadn't just met him at all. She smiled at him and followed Rabbitfrost as a cream-golden colored she-cat yowled for WindClan to gather and go back to camp. MoonLotus knew what Snowclaw had said to her. She turned around and flicked her tail at him. He saw her and ran up beside her. MoonLotus looked around for the tall black tom with the pure golden eyes. She didn't find him. MoonLotus sighed. It wouldn't work out between us anyway, he has that she-cat with the brown paws, she thought, bitterly. She then heard of a voice, singing. She looked up to see the moon. She then collapsed to the ground, passed out...

"Is she okay?"

"What happened?"

"Is she dead?" Eyes stared at MoonLotus as she was in a coma.

"Everyone out, MoonLotus is just in a coma! She'll be fine!" a brown tom with a white paw explained.

"Oh MoonLotus, this wasn't the first time you've fainted," he said in sorrow.

"Spottedtail?" a voice asked.

"Yes Skystar?" he asked.

"Is MoonLotus going to be all right? Scarredface keeps on gossiping that MoonLotus will die if she's not turned into an elder right away," the leader told him.

"Scarredface? She's always grumpy. You should remember that from when she and I were apprentices. She might not like MoonLotus, but she does in her heart, way, way, way deep in her heart," he explained.

"I hope you're right. A cat is friendly at first, it is who they hang with that change their attitude.

Burdockface never had an attitude with me," she responded. Spottedtail lowered his head. He was always vouching for his sister's side.

"I guess you are right. What's her punishment for offending a warrior of her own Clan?" he asked, while he was still getting MoonLotus to take her medicine.

"Apprentice work and no Gatherings for 2 moons," Skystar answered, "I think her attitude doesn't come from someone in our Clan. But, maybe from another, come with me to my den," she ordered.

MoonLotus opened one eye.

"What happened?" she asked. Spottedtail lowered his head, again.

"You fainted... again," he told her, "please stay here. I'm going to talk with Skystar," he told her. He turned himself and padded out to follow Skystar to her den. I fainted... again? MoonLotus wondered. She snuck without being seen to hear what Spottedtail and Skystar were going to talk about.

"...what about the prophecy?" MoonLotus recognized Spottedtail's voice.

"That is what I was going to ask you. Do you think that MoonLotus is one of the Four?" Skystar asked.

MoonLotus gasped and Skystar and Spottedtail whipped around.

"Hey MoonLotus! What are you doing?"

3 - Border Skirmish

The Gathering patrol, led by Goldenstar and Petalflutter, padded back to the silent WindClan camp. The cat on watch nodded at her leader and walked over to Icegaze.

"Hi, Scarletwhisker. What's going on?"

"You tell me. You were the one at the Gathering, so what happened?" Scarletwhisker licked her shoulder.

"Oh, it was fine, nothing out of the ordinary." Icegaze replied then looked down at her paws, smiling to herself.

"Really? I heard that ThunderClan gave up some of its territory to ShadowClan." Scarletwhisker was beginning to get impatient with her, she wanted a detailed answer, but Icegaze just shrugged and said, "Oh, yeah, they did." Scarletwhisker flicked her tail in annoyance and asked again,

"and I overheard Willowmoon telling Honeywing that the ShadowClan queen Shadowfrost has two kits now." Her tail waved from side to side. "Were you even paying attention?!" She paused and lifted her nose to the air, "Hey, do you smell that?"

"Smell what?" She asked. "I smell you, the camp, our Clan-Mates..." Icegaze trailed off, thinking about what Snowclaw had said.

"I'm not a mouse-brain, and neither are you, well, most of the time you're not, it's not a WindClan scent." As Scarletwhisker scented the air again a brown-green cat burst into the camp. "Thornpaw! You look like a fox clawed you! What happened?!"

"RiverClan! On our territory!" Thornpaw panted as he fought to catch his breath. "Petalflutter, Rabbitfrost and Yellowfoot are fighting off Bloodstream, Waterheart, Wingedfur, Brightpaw, Falconflight, and Silverpaw! We scented them while on patrol and they ambushed us! We smelled rabbit blood and found RiverClan feasting on our territory! The mouse-brains didn't even bother to take it back to their camp!" Scarletwhisker spat in disgust,

"I'll go help, I could use a good fight!" She turned to face Icegaze again, "Now who owes me a mouse after we drive out RiverClan!" She yowled triumphantly. Icegaze just grumbled and padded to her den, "Just go help already, I'll get some herbs ready and meet you there in a moment." Her white tail-tip disappeared into her den. Scarletwhisker called for her apprentice, Adderpaw, while Goldenstar, who had come out of her den when she heard the commotion, nodded at Thornpaw and said,

"Do you think you can lead them back to the fight?"

"Of course! I've always got extra energy for the clan!" said Thornpaw, who was still a bit out of breath. Scarletwhisker reappeared with a yellow-green apprentice following her. Thornpaw smiled a bit at the sight of the apprentice, "Hey, Adderpaw!" She smiled at him as well, Scarletwhisker stood impatiently at the camp entrance,

"Are we leaving yet? No hurry, I expect that our three warriors are faring quite well against the six RiverClan intruders!" She looked sternly at the apprentices. Thornpaw shook his head and ran out of the camp,

"Sorry, Scarletwhisker, I'm going!" He raced off across the moorland, towards the RiverClan border. Adderpaw flashed a guilty smile at Scarletwhisker and sprinted after Thornpaw, Scarletwhisker ran after them.

Thornpaw launched himself into battle as soon as he arrived at the fight. The WindClan warriors were badly outnumbered, Petalflutter was holding her own against Waterheart, the RiverClan deputy, and Wingedfur, Yellowfoot was fighting Falconflight and Silverpaw, and Rabbitfrost was clawing at

Bloodstream and Brightpaw. The scent of freshly killed prey lingered in the air. *Hunting on our territory?!* Thornpaw thought, *I'd like to see them leave with all of their whiskers, let alone any fresh-kill!* He slammed into Brightpaw in midair as she leaped for Rabbitfrost's back. As they fell to the ground, Thornpaw pummeled his belly with unsheathed claws. Adderpaw screeched her battle cry and leapt on Silverpaw. She gripped on tightly with her claws and refused to let go. Scarletwhisker ran to Petalflutter, took a position on her right side and slashed at Waterheart and Wingedfur, matching Petalflutter for every step. Brightpaw managed wriggle out of Thornpaw's grasp, turned on him with teeth bared, and slashed at his feet with well aimed claws. Thornpaw was caught unaware and fell to the ground, Brightpaw was on him in a instant, clawing at his belly just as he was doing to her a few moments ago. He felt blood seeping out of the new scratches, he gritted his teeth against the pain and heaved his body upwards, sending his smaller frame flying. Thornpaw leapt to his feet and faced his opponent, lip curled to show bloodstained teeth. Brightpaw shook his head to clear away the throbbing, and lunged at Thornpaw. He sidestepped quickly and let him charge past, he raked his claws along his side as he flashed by. Brightpaw yowled as Thornpaw cut open his side. He skidded to a stop and growled at Thornpaw. He leapt at him, aiming for his paws. He was pushed off balance and tumbled to the ground, Thornpaw leapt on him before he could get to his feet. He pinned him under his greater weight, as he struggled to free himself, he nipped viciously at her ears and neck. He went limp, but Thornpaw was not fooled by his trick. He merely dropped his weight harder on him. Brightpaw attempted to lunge at his throat, but his greater size and weight made his struggle useless. He snapped at his neck again and he yelped in pain. He knew he had hit a tender spot and bit down harder. When his movements became desperate, rather than aggressive, Thornpaw opened his jaws and lifted himself from his body. Brightpaw stood, turned tail and ran off, in the direction of the RiverClan border. Thornpaw sprinted after him, making sure he didn't change direction and head back to the fight.

Across the little valley, Silverpaw and Adderpaw were still clawing at each other. Silverpaw shook herself as much as she could to dislodge her attacker, but Adderpaw just tightened her grip each time she was shaken. Finally, after Silverpaw had begun to tire, she dropped to the ground and rolled over, hoping to crush Adderpaw beneath her. Adderpaw jumped clear at the last moment, though, and waved her long tail side to side as she crouched in front of Silverpaw. As soon as Silverpaw's eyes left hers, to see Brightpaw

and Thornpaw flash by, Adderpaw charged straight underneath her belly, raking her legs with sharp claws. She unbalanced Silverpaw and shot out from under her before she hit the ground. Silverpaw got up again and snarled fiercely at her. Adderpaw just unsheathed her claws, darted to her, and raked them down her side. Silverpaw managed to catch her ear with her own claws as she attacked. Adderpaw screeched and flicked the droplets of blood from her face. As Silverpaw charged her again, Adderpaw kicked out with her back legs and felt them slash through fur and skin. She finished her attack by ducking down, rolling over and pushing Silverpaw away with all four paws. Adderpaw spat at Silverpaw as she raced away.

Rabbitfrost yowled as she fought Bloodstream. She had narrowed her eyes in concentration as she clawed at him. She was bleeding from a cut over her eye and long slashes down the length of her body. Bloodstream just smirked and continued slashing at her. Rabbitfrost was not about to give up, however, and for every strike Bloodstream got, she lunged at him with mouth wide open.

Meanwhile, Petalflutter and Scarletwhisker slashed and clawed at Waterheart and Wingedfur. They used old techniques they had learned as apprentices together. Petalflutter bunched her hind legs and soared over the two RiverClan warriors. Scarletwhisker held their focus by fighting twice as hard as before. She pushed them a couple steps back and into Petalflutter's open jaws. She grabbed Wingedfur's tail and yanked as hard as she could. He screeched and yanked his tail back. Scarletwhisker ripped her claws through Waterheart's fur. She yowled and called to her remaining Clan-Mates,

“RiverClan! Retreat!” Thornpaw appeared at the fight scene once more, out of breath, but a grin spread across his face. Petalflutter loosened her grip on Wingedfur and he slithered away. Bloodstream was still fighting with Rabbitfrost, as if he hadn’t heard Waterheart’s order. It was then that Icegaze ran up to the fight, a bundle of herbs in her mouth. She saw Rabbitfrost struggling against the larger warrior, dropped her herbs, and leaped with claws outstretched at Bloodstream. Together, the two she-cats drove him back, “Enough!” Waterheart glared at Bloodstream, “I told you to retreat, as your deputy you will listen to me!” Bloodstream sprang back and snarled at Rabbitfrost,

“You and me Rabbitfrost! Or do you need a medicine cat’s help to match up to me?”

“Bring it on, you piece of Fox-Dung!” Rabbitfrost spat the words at him.

“Leave it, you wouldn’t want to set a bad example for Thornpaw.” Icegaze spoke gently to Rabbitfrost. She sneered at Bloodstream, turned her back, and stalked off. Waterheart growled at the WindClan cats,

“Don’t think this is over! We will take your hunting grounds!”

“Just try it! Just know we won’t take any prisoners!” Petalflutter shot the words back. The RiverClan cats limped off. Icegaze grabbed her herbs again and started checking the most serious wounds, putting a paste on Rabbitfrost’s side, a deep wound in Thornpaw’s leg and wrapped cobwebs around Adderpaw’s ear.

“We’ve won, looks like you owe me a mouse!” Scarletwhisker twitched her whiskers at Icegaze.

“What’s this about a mouse?” Rabbitfrost asked. Icegaze just grumbled and finished smearing the salve on Rabbitfrost’s wound.