

Final Distance Book 2: Dust To Dust

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The story of Robin and Dusty and how their lives change when they discovered the truth about their real parents.

Book 1: Revolution

Book 2: Dust to Dust

Book 3: Broken

Book 4: Break Out

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1 - The Familiar Stranger

Robin crouched with her belly brushing the ground awkwardly as she crept up on her brothers Dusty and Tomy. She squealed in delight as she came crashing down on Dusty's head. The no longer sleeping ginger tom spat angrily as he picked himself up out of the dirt.

"What did you do that for?" demanded Dusty.

"Fun! Why else would I jump on you?" giggled Robin licking her paw.

"I don't know to get on my nerves!"

"Hey hey no fighting you two," mewed their mother Meena.

"Sorry mom..." sighed Robin.

Suddenly Dusty noticed something out beyond their fence and in the woods. Only it wasn't a thing, it was a cat! He whispered to Robin who quickly agreed to go with him to check it out and away they went. The forest was much larger up close than either of them had ever imagined.

"Earth to Dusty!" hissed Robin breaking her brothers trance, "Aren't we looking for somecat?"

"That would be me," mewed a grayish white tom approaching the two young cats.

"Who- Who're you?" stuttered Dusty defensively fluffing out his fur and standing in front of Robin.

"Why you don't remember me? I'm Bandit! I'm a friend of your mother's," the tom meowed sitting down.

Now that he mentioned it he did seem rather familiar. But then again he sure wasn't a friend of Meena's... Who was this strange tomcat? And how did he Dusty and Robin?

2 - Was It All A Lie?

Dusty looked at Robin and then at Bandit, "What do you mean?"

"I am a rogue who lives in BloodClan... my leader Flare is your real mother," muttered Bandit carefully. He seemed so nervous.

"What!!!" hissed Robin her fur bristling.

"Wow your really are just like your father..."

"My father?" she asked curiously.

"His name is Phantomflight, he had a short temper as well."

Dusty glanced back towards his twolegs' nest. Was everything this cat said true? Could his entire kithood have been a lie? All he knew for sure is that he and his sister had to meet this 'Flare', "Please Bandit... take us to meet her!"

Robin looked shocked at her brothers decision. She was always the more cautious one when it came to difficult choices. She watched as Bandit nodded and beckoned with his tail for them to follow. As they padded on Robin pressed against Dusty as she caught a glance of a white cat following them. Her brother obviously didn't see it or he gave it no second thought... Suddenly as soon as he'd appeared the strange cat was gone. Was it a ghost? No... It couldn't be.

"Hey sis!" mewed Dusty, "Do you really believe this cat?"

"Well Dusty... I know it sounds silly but yeah, yeah I do..." her aqua colored eyes were completely serious compared to how they were just a short while ago.

Dusty now had know doubts, Bandit must be telling the truth. He had to find out more about his parents and this 'BloodClan'...

3 - Neon Dust

Flare lay in anticipation for what lay ahead. Tomorrow would be the day Bandit brought her kits home. Dusty and Robin... she missed them dearly. But there was only one cat that her heart constantly called for but she knew he could never come home. Phantom was dead and there was nothing she could do about it...

Suddenly Flare's daydream was cast aside as Joel came bounding into her sleeping place. He looked rather frantic but she kept her cool as she spoke to him, "Yes? Is there something I may help you with?"

"Um... yes Flare. One of Firestar's daughters just had a recent litter! As far as Kioni and I could see there are two kits. Both are male. I believe their names are Neonkit and Dustkit," meowed Joel his fur standing on end.

"Really? Hmm... thats interesting. Dustkit you say?"

Joel nodded.

"ThunderClan must be feeling rather triumphant over their last encounter with us to go off and name that kit Dustkit when I named my son Dusty. We mustn't let this get to us so for the moment advise the others to lay low okay?"

Joel nodded once again then stalked off. As she watched him go Flare thought about how lucky Joel was to be able to go on patrols with his mate. Claw had told her to move on but as far as she was concerned her brother is a mousebrain. She would never take another mate not even if the fate of the whole world were at stake.

4 - Reunion

Flare's heart swelled with pride as she watched Bandit lead her kits into the barn. Dusty's cautious green eyes and Robin's beautiful white pelt reminded her so much of Phantomflight. Both of them seemed rather dazed and she wondered if she should have fetched them sooner rather than waiting till now when they were "apprentice" age but that quickly changed as she noticed a young she-cat named Danger approached Dusty and welcomed him warmly. The look on Robin's face made Flare laugh it said "Stay away from my little brother!"

Danger brushed her off walked up past Dusty whispering in his ear, "Don't worry I'll make sure the others here are nice to you."

Robin pushed past her and toward Flare and meowed, "So you must our mother?"

Flare nodded and smiled, "Yes that is correct. Thank you for coming today."

"Of course, we would never pass up a chance to meet our real mother. Although we also wanted some answers on our father Phantom... flight I think it was?"

Dusty sensed Flare's heartbreak as Robin spoke, something really bad must have happened to Phantomflight... could that be the reason they had been given to Meena as young kits? Or it could just be that Flare didn't want them growing up here, in this barn that was filled with scrawny, battle scarred cats who all looked ready to tear each other limb from limb.

"So Dusty, Robin how would you two like to live here? With BloodClan?" mewed Flare hopefully.

Robin glanced at her brother who nodded rather energetically, she guessed he wanted to help these cats, after all that was how he is always wanting to help those less fortunate than himself, "Flare! We accept!!"

5 - Change Of Heart

A few moons later...

Dusty and Robin are now full fledged warriors of BloodClan but Dusty's collar had far more trophy teeth than Robin's which only had one. The now full grown ginger tom was skilled in combat and lacked the "stop and think" state of mind that his sister had.

Flare had trained her kits well but Robin was beginning to question her life in BloodClan. She felt rather out of place and sometimes she thought of herself as downright useless. She didn't even have any friends in BloodClan like Dusty had...

"Hey sis," mewed Dusty as he stalked over to Robin proudly displaying a new scar on his shoulder blade, "What do you make of that? Pretty cool huh?"

Robin smiled and nodded, "Oh yes Dusty its very cool, I bet Danger loves it..."

"Oh yes she... wait a minute... hey!!!" his mew turned defensive suddenly.

"Say Dust... I've been thinking. I'm going to leave BloodClan and find a new home somewhere else."

"What are you talking about? Don't be silly sis! You belong here beside me and mom and the others too!"

Robin sighed and flicked him in the nose with her tail, "Farewell Dusty my beloved brother. I will miss you."

Dusty had to clamp his mouth shut to stop from wailing as his sister padded away. How could she just throw her life away? He followed her with his eyes till she had completely left the barn and then turned to go back to his nest and get some sleep.

Robin kept on walking till she came to the border that led towards ThunderClan territory. She had been told that Firestar killed Phantomflight but she had forgiven him. Phantomflight had lost sight of what really mattered and perhaps it was best that he'd been killed. She pushed these thoughts away as a patrol walked by.

"You there what do you want?" asked a cream colored warrior his pelt fluffing out.

"Hush Berrynose, I am the deputy therefore let me handle this. Please state your business," meowed a broad shouldered tabby tom.

"My name is Robin and I wish to join ThunderClan!"

6 - Firestar's Blessing

After telling Brambleclaw and the others that she wanted to join ThunderClan Robin was quickly taken into the heart of ThunderClan's camp. Obviously they took in strays on a regular basis from the look of it...

"I see we have a visitor," meowed a large ginger tom who Robin guessed was Firestar.

"Yes this is Robin and she wishes to become a ThunderClan warrior," explained Brambleclaw using his tail to point at her.

"I've got full combat experience," she mewed.

"Oh yes I do believe that Flare's daughter would get good training. So Robin... why do you wish to join ThunderClan rather than stay in BloodClan where you were raised?" asked Firestar curiously.

"Well Firestar, I do not feel that I belong there like Dusty does. My entire life I've had to struggle my way to the top while he basically slept his way there. I think my skills will be more useful here where killing is not a necessity..."

"Of course you have my full permission to join ThunderClan. Come I will start your ceremony!"

Robin watched with interest as Firestar's voice rang throughout the clearing, "Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey gather below the highledge for a clan meeting. This is Robin and she wishes to join ThunderClan. I call upon StarClan to commend her to you as a warrior in her turn. Robin from this day forth you shall be known as Robinstream. ThunderClan welcomes you!"

Robinstream smiled proudly as all the other cats began cheering her name. There was one in particular though that seemed to be cheering loudest and that was a ginger tom by the name Foxwhisper. Apparently he was the son of Ferncloud and Dustpelt. Then she felt as though someone's gaze were burning through her pelt. When she turned around she saw Cinderbrush eyeing her enviously for some reason she herself couldn't place. Oh well at least she felt like she belonged here in this clan.

7 - Back At Home

"What?! What do you mean she left?" hissed Flare with her fur spiking out.

"She left BloodClan because she said she didn't belong here," mewed Dusty.

"Robin... How could you do this to me? Let alone father... Oh Phantomflight, I'm so sorry I've failed you!"

Dusty's heart ached to see his mother so hurt. He could feel Danger's pelt pressing against his as Flare's stormed off.

"Do you think she'll be all right?" asked Danger with concern showing in her oddly colored eyes.

"Who Robin or my mother?"

"Both..."

"Robin will be fine, she's strong and can take care of herself. As for mom well I hope she doesn't do anything rash..."

Then out of nowhere a group of apprentices bounded up to Danger and whispered something in her ear. Dusty recognized them as Frostbite, Ember, and Spark. When they'd finished speaking to Danger she padded over to where he was sitting and said, "They say Robin has officially joined ThunderClan!"

"Really?" said Dusty turning his head curiously.

"Yeah her warrior name is Robinstream and she was seen patrolling there border this morning along with Squirrelflight's sons Dustfang and Neonbeam as well as a cat named Foxwhisper..."

"Well isn't this an interesting development. Please Danger keep me informed..."

The pretty she-cat nodded, gazed at him admireingly and then padded away.

8 - We Meet Again

Robinstream crept silently along the border of ThunderClan territory with Foxwhisper at her side. The young tomcat sure was loyal to her despite the fact that she had told him she just wanted to be friends. As they reached the trail that led into BloodClan territory they were greeted by a low growling that seemed to be coming from the shadows.

Foxwhisper puffed out his fur to make himself look threatening but it was no use whatever it was was coming straight at them. The brownish ginger tom squeaked like a kit in fright as their "stalker" exited from its hiding place.

Robinstream was shocked to see that it was none other than Dusty's snooty mate Danger. The gray and white she-cat looked rather angry but her claws remained sheathed and knowing how testy Danger was that was always a good sign.

"So I see we meet again Robin..." hissed Danger.

"Oh yes I knew we would, and it's Robinstream now!" retorted the white she-cat her fur bristling.

Then Danger cast her glance on Foxwhisper, "Is this overgrown kit your mate? Wow you really got the bottom of the barrel huh? No wonder ThunderClan lives within the warrior code, they're too meek and defenseless to do anything else!"

"So why don't you tell me what you want with us? We've done nothing to start a fight with Flare."

"Not with Flare, but with me... Your betrayal has caused Dusty to doubt whether or not he should stay with BloodClan or return home to live with Meena, Tarnish, and Tomy!"

Robinstream looked at her paws afraid to respond, was her brother really considering that? He had his entire future in BloodClan while her destiny lay with ThunderClan. Perhaps he didn't understand now but someday he would! As she turned to head back to her camp Robinstream hissed one last time at that bad tempered furball that was Danger. This hiss was responded to with nothing but a glare but that single glare told Robinstream that her brother truly needed her help. Tomorrow she would venture to the barn and talk to him but for now all she and Foxwhisper could do is go home

9 - Living Dream

Dusty twitched his tail angrily, why did Flare insist on remaining stationary while ThunderClan had Robin with them? He had to get her back! She was his lifeline without her he was lost. Perhaps that was the bond between a brother and sister?

Danger lay beside him her gray and white pelt rising and falling with each breath she drew. The pretty she-cat was the only one he could count on now as he knew she would do anything he specified. The two of them had spent countless days keeping an eye on Firestar's ranks ever since Robin had joined ThunderClan but nothing seemed different and Dusty began to wonder if Robin still cared about him.

Dusty lifted his head as Bandit and his sister Hail came bounding through the camp with BloodClan's newest recruit Frozenheart at their side. Bandit looked worried (as usual), Hail looked interested, and Frozenheart seemed completely unphased. The battle scarred blue she-cat's cold eyes met Dusty's as Bandit explained that she'd scented a trespasser near the border. Those eyes made Dusty shiver as he listened intently.

"From what I could tell it was male, possibly a kittypet because he had that pampered scent to him... I don't think it's a threat to us but I think you and Flare should go check it out..." her voice was as bone chilling as her eyes.

Dusty nodded and took off towards Flare's den. The spiky ginger she-cat lifted her head with excitement, "What is it Dusty? Is it Robin? Has she come home?"

Flare sighed when her son shook his head, "No but Frozenheart suggested you and I go check out an intruder at the border..."

"Alright I'm coming," she meowed unenthusiastically.

As Dusty and his mother padded toward where the cat had been scented he heard something in the bushes behind them. Flare's fur stood straight on end as she hissed at the sound. Dusty flexed his claws and braced himself for attack.

"Oh and here I thought you would be happy to see me..." mewed a voice from the bushes.

Dusty's ears rang as Flare's overjoyed screech split the air, "Phantomflight! You're alive!!!!!!!!!!!"

10 - Whole Again

"Of course I'm alive my dear," mewed Phantomflight purring and nuzzling her.

"But but I saw you dead!" sighed Flare.

"No I was merely injured but a twoleg took me in and helped me, I guess there not all bad huh?" The smile on his face was warm and loving.

"You seem different than you were before... I like it."

"Different? Me? Yes I am different the twolegs kindness melted the ice in my heart and showed me that enemies may be forgiven..." his gaze turned toward Dusty, "So is this my replacement?"

"No Phantomflight," murmured Dusty, "I'm your son."

The white tom looked confused but then he smiled, "Of course. I should of known!"

Flare purred and took a step toward her mate, "Phantomflight... I'm glad your back. Now I can be a whole cat again!"

Dusty's heart swelled with joy as he watched them. Aside from a few extra scars Phantomflight was the exact cat he'd imagined in the stories. A strong willed, small but feirce, goofy tomcat. Now there was only one issue standing between Dusty and his complete happiness. He must get Robin back!

11 - Bones Shatter

Dusty watched as all of his clanmates swarmed around Phantomflight except for himself and Frozenheart. Obviously she had no reason to be overjoyed (not that she ever was) because she didn't know this cat. Her tail was flicking impatiently but other than that he couldn't read any emotion in her gaze. He could only imagine the terrible things those cold eyes had seen...

Phantomflight took his place atop Flare's bonehill and began projecting voice above those of the others, "Cats of BloodClan! Its good to be home and I appreciate your welcome but now we must focus on the issues at hand. The largest of these issues goes by the name Firestar... we must make peace with ThunderClan!"

Gasps of astonishment rose from the cats in the barn. Dusty watched as Frozenheart dug her claws into the dirt raising her yowl to match Phantomflight's, "What?! How can you say that? Firestar is a tyranny that must fall! He threw me from my home and you from yours and don't you think for one moment I don't know where those scars came from!"

Phantomflight's fur bristled but then lay flat as he looked his challenger in the eyes, "What can Firestar do to us now that we haven't lived through?"

Frozenheart reply was harsh and sounded as though it had been rehearsed, "But tell me Phantomflight, wouldn't it be thrilling to sink your teeth into the neck of the only cat whose ever hurt you?"

Dusty turned his gaze behind him to where BloodClan's ex-leader Fira was standing. He found himself half hoping she would step in and settle this. Then as if she could read his thoughts Fira pushed her way among the crowd and stepped up beside Phantomflight on high rock.

Her mew was hoarse but her eyes had a firm gaze as she spoke, "Phantomflight may have had a shaky past with Firestar but their kin perhaps we should give this truce a chance..."

Suddenly the meeting was interrupted as Robinstream burst into camp her eyes full of fear, "Dusty! Firestar's grandson Dustfang has taken mother captive!"

Phantomflight looked around the clearing frantically for Flare but she was nowhere to be seen, "Cats of BloodClan! I do not know this 'Dustfang' but whoever he is he will rue the day he even dared to take Flare!"

12 - Shadows In The Night

Dusty crept along behind his father's patrol with Robinstream at his side. The other cats with them included Danger, Frozenheart, Volcali, Joel, Hail, an apprentice named Shetani, as well as a fairly young warrior named Rue. There was frost on the ground but Dusty's pelt was hot with anxiety. Would this end up as a repeat of last time? Could there still be a chance for peace? What in Scourge's name was Dustfang thinking?!

Robinstream looked at her brother nervously, "You know Firestar had nothing to do with this... it was all Dustfang's idea!"

Dusty couldn't help but snarl as he spoke, "Oh yes I'm sure it was! A traitor like you is one to talk..."

His hiss was cut short as she stepped in his walking path and looked him straight in the eyes, "Is that what you think? That I'm a traitor? No... I simply found where I belong! Firestar isn't evil... he was just threatened by Phantomflight's falling in love with Flare!"

"So he kidnapped her?!"

"I told you already! It was Dustfang's idea!"

Suddenly their argument was interrupted as a patrol of cats filed out of the bushes. Phantomflight's pelt bristled as he hissed, "Russetfur!"

The gray she-cat's eyes gleamed in the moonlight. Her claws were clearly unsheathed as were her warriors', "Yes Phantomflight that's me... I'd heard you've come back from the dead. Dustfang tells the members of ShadowClan that BloodClan is now the only thing standing in the way of returning pure blood to the clans. We were told to give you two choices when we found you. Choice one: We can kill all of your clanmates right here and now as well as go to the barn and kill those cats. Or the alternative: You join Dustfang in his plan to fulfill Tigerstar's wish... We will be TigerClan once again!"

Phantomflight looked at his paws then back up at Russetfur, "Fine... we'll join you..."

13 - Don't Ever Underestimate!

Russetfur smiled with satisfaction as she looked at the BloodClan warriors who were all staring at Phantomflight in shock. Her tail flicked calmly "Come let me take you to Dustfang."

Suddenly Phantomflight's battle cry split the air as he lunged himself at Russetfur. His claws dug deep into her side as he sunk his teeth into her throat. when she hit the ground in terror and began gasping he watched with pleasure as her body began shaking violently. He licked the blood from his lips as he spoke, "I will always be a BloodClan cat and you and any other cat who tries to change that are seriously mistaken. Mark my words 'TigerClan' cats... Dustfang's rule will be short lived!"

Dusty looked at Russetfur's body with terror. He'd never seen a cat, especially not a clan deputy go down that easy... And Phantomflight was tiny! He truly was built for killing... Robinstream's expression was twice as shocked while Frozenheart glanced half-admiringly at the blood soaked white tom. She glanced coldly at Dusty before padding off after the other BloodClan cats.

As the BloodClan cats continued to follow the path that led to ThunderClan's camp they were greeted by a friendly looking brown tabby. Robin gasped, "Neonbeam!"

The tom smiled then looked down, "Firestar asked me to fetch all of you... he really needs your help! Especially you!" He said looking at Dusty.

14 - What Makes Me So Special?

Before they entered ThunderClan's camp Dusty was greeted by Jayfeather and Leafpool. The other BloodClan cats continued to follow Neonbeam while they left their companion with the two medicine cats. Dusty had already heard that Jayfeather was completely blind but he wasn't prepared for the blank stare that seemed to go straight through his body.

Leafpool looked Dusty in the eyes firmly and cut straight to the chase, "Jayfeather has received a vision of you from StarClan..."

Dusty sneered at the very mention of the supposed heavenly cats, "What do THEY want with ME?"

Jayfeather's fur bristled, "Well if you just shut your trap perhaps we could tell you!"

"Well get on with it then please, while I'm still young..."

"Very well then what the prophecy says was this, 'Tooth and claw, blood and bones, all shall be forever preserved in dust'. And being that this is obviously a good omen we knew it had nothing to do with Dustfang..." Jayfeather's meow was monotonous.

"Preserved in dust... does that mean that your future, no the future of all forest cats even BloodClan, lies in my paws?" Dusty asked.

Jayfeather nodded.

Dusty burst out laughing, "My you must have bees in your brain! Pfft I'm no hero! If anything I should be a villain! But I'm not because it would break poor Robinstream's heart..."

Speaking of his sister Dusty turned to see her, "Dusty... you've called me a traitor, you've humiliated me many a time but I will tell you this... This is your destiny so believe it!"

15 - It Will Rain Blood

Phantomflight stalked through the all too familiar camp with anxiety. How fitting was it that he heard the distant cracking of thunder? As he approached Firestar he could feel his entire body shaking. There were murmurs of unease throughout the entire clearing from both sides.

Firestar gazed calmly down at the BloodClan cats. But that wasn't what bugged Phantomflight. He could feel Cinderbrush's gaze searing his pelt. Was she still upset that Flare was his mate? Some she-cats just never give up.

"Greetings cats of BloodClan, I am glad we've finally agreed that a truce is necessary... I only wish that I could say this at a happier time... As you all know Dustfang has decided to resurrect Tigerstar's plan to join all of the clans into one. Only this time I ask BloodClan to help the forest cats who stand for truth!" Firestar's words seemed well rehearsed.

Phantomflight's ears buzzed. He wasn't angry anymore but he couldn't understand why if ThunderClan stood for truth the warriors still didn't know how he had truly gotten his scar, "Well Firestar being that Flare is not here I will speak on behalf of BloodClan. We will join you but mark my words it is only because I want Flare back..."

"Very well then, TigerClan had best beware because a storm's approaching!"

"Oh yes," chimed Phantomflight, "It will rain blood!"

16 - Honor?

Flare flicked her tail angrily as Dustfang circled her. His scarred ears and crooked smile somewhat reminded her of Phantomflight only darker. This cat had no soul, his eyes were blank and emotionless.

"So this is the great leader of BloodClan? Hah I've seen scarier mice!" spat Dustfang flicking her nose with his tail. The other TigerClan warriors cheered him on.

Flare unsheathed her claws which by BloodClan tradition had been reinforced with dog teeth. Her icy blue eyes flashed angrily as she hissed, "Don't mess with me Dustpelt! I've *killed* things bigger than you!"

"Ooh touchy aren't we? Very well then at least do me the courtesy of telling me how your mate came back from the dead?"

"Imbecile! He never was dead! We only thought he was... but now I see that he was given back to BloodClan because we still need him..."

"... 'given'? I thought you didn't believe in StarClan!"

"No but I do believe that my father, Scourge, would never abandon his clan even in death, at least not until the forest was rid of every last one of Tigerstar's demented kin such as yourself..."

"Demented? I'm sorry my dear Bloody but I am a cat of honor! You on the other hand are the demented one," his words were harsh and ruffled Flare's fur.

"'Honor'? Is that right? Then tell me why a cat of your potential need kidnap another clans leader?"

Then from the back row one cat's voice rose above the rest, it was Tawneypelt's daughter Dawngem, "Because Phantomflight is the true leader of your clan! Dustfang is a coward and would never directly attack your mate so he took you so as to leave Phantomflight defenseless. But I along with Flamewhisper and Tigerstreak will stand at BloodClan's side! We will help you..."

17 - Welcome To My Life

"How dare you defy me?" growled Dustfang, "I am the only cat capable of running all four, no five, clans."

"You'd never rule BloodClan," retorted Flare her fur standing on end.

"Please Dustfang, tell Flare why your doing this..." mewed a ShadowClan cat named Cherryblossom.

"Fine," he sighed, "If you must know... I'm doing this to prove that I can be better than my goody-goody brother. All my life I've been in his shadow listening to 'Oh but why can't you be like Neonbeam' or 'Neonbeam is so cool, I wanna be just like him'. You have no idea what my life was like trying to prove myself. ThunderClan seems to have lost sight of whats really important, treating all cats as equals. Sometimes I just wanted to scream until my lungs gave out..."

Flare looked at the cat that she'd just as soulless now in a different light, he wasn't evil, he was just like Phantomflight. In fact she knew now that there must be some way to prevent the tradgedy that was fast approaching.

"My brother never understood me. He just thought I was the 'not-so-fun twin'. He never knew the torments I went through on a daily basis. And also my other siblings didn't exactly stick up for me... well Jayfeather seemed to understand me but not Lionblaze or Hollyleaf. I, I'm lost..."

Flare watched in shock as the strong willed tomcat suddenly allowed himself to fall to the ground as if his legs had given out. Cherryblossom ran over to his aid with the help of some warriors named Brushfire and Ferretfur. Somehow she knew that something would happen soon...

18 - Conflict

After consulting Firestar, Phantomflight and his warriors headed back to barn along with the ThunderClan cats: Robinstream, Foxwhisper, Neonbeam, Cloudtail, Sandstorm, Brambleclaw, and despite his protest Cinderbrush.

The BloodClan cats that were to be coming were: Dusty, Danger, Volcali, Joel, Bandit, Hail, Scarlet, Claw, Fang, and a young warrior in training named Paisley.

"Are you sure this patrol will be large enough to take on TigerClan?" asked Sandstorm with concern.

"Of course. One of our warriors can fight as well as ten of yours," sneered Dusty his tail flicking. Danger pressed against his side cautiously.

Phantomflight turned and slashed Dusty across the flank with his claws unsheathed, "Shut up you mousebrain! Can't you see we're having enough problems without you causing an uproar among our allies and us?"

Dusty hissed at his father before padding ahead of the group. He tripped Foxwhisper on his way past. The cinnamon colored tom spat angrily but just looked at Robinstream and walked ahead.

"You know he's just like you..." this statement caused Phantomflight to jump, he turned around to see Scarlet looking at him with a grin, "Only concerned about getting revenge. Not seeing the true cat that lies beneath the blood... You've changed, perhaps you should help your son do that as well."

Phantomflight nodded, Scarlet was right... Dusty was blinded by the desire to get back at ThunderClan. Maybe it was a mistake to bring him along on this trip. But the prophecy said "Dust"...

19 - Drowning In You...

Flare pricked her ears and quickly ran over to the edge of the TigerClan camp being careful not to leave its borders. She knew she must remain here until BloodClan arrived. And then almost as if it were an answer to her prayers Phantomflight filed into the clearing with an assortment of BloodClan warriors as well as some ThunderClan cats following him. The white tomcat's eyes lit up as he caught sight of her.

"Flare! Oh I was afraid I'd never see you again..." mewed Phantomflight meeting her gaze, "Are you alright? Did that wretched fleabag lay a paw on you?!"

"I'm fine. Dustfang never touched me. In fact I want the others to wait outside the camp while I talk to you," her response was polite and serious.

"No mother!" hissed Dusty unsheathing his claws, "Dustfang will die at my paws! I assure you this..."

Flare watched in astonishment as she watched her son fling himself toward where Dustfang lay calmly. The ginger tom latched on to the tabbies neck. She shivered as a shriek of pain split the air but then turned to a battle cry. Surprisingly no cat moved to attack except Phantomflight who had pushed Dusty off the TigerClan cat and hissed defiantly, "Dusty what do you think your doing?!!"

Dusty snorted his lips curling into a snarl, "Oh but father I'm fulfilling both prophecies! Yours and ThunderClan's! Tooth and claw, blood and bones, all shall be forever preserved in dust but then it will rain blood and we shall start anew! Be rid of the clan cats!"