

Cats of the Forest

It was winter and the silver-snowy she-cat, Snowfur was trotting back to her den, carrying a vole in her mouth. She dropped it to sniff the air, "HmMMM that's strange", she meowed. She scented another cat. "There shouldn't be any cat in the forest except me!" she snarled. She was very territorial. Suddenly she heard a big yowl from across the forest. She ran to see what it was. Then she saw a cat with a white coat, one black ear and one black paw.

Her paw was stuck in a metal trap.

"What are you doing here?" Snowfur meowed. She was very confused. Why was the she-cat here? And why here in the middle of winter? So many questions to ask, "I...I was here to get food. I was hungry." the young cat meowed. Snowfur knew the rest. "I'll free you" Snowfur meowed. "Then you'll go to my den. You'll rest and recover." "Thanks, by the way, my name is Windtail."

Snowfur got a stick. She put it inside the top of the trap, then put the other end of the stick to the ground. The trap opened and Windtail got her back paw out of the metal trap. Then she carried Windtail to her den and put healing herbs on her paw. It will take months to heal. The wound was very deep, but Windtail could still walk. Snowfur got the vole and a mouse. When she got to her den, she saw that Windtail was already asleep. Snowfur made her bedding and went to sleep.

When Snowfur woke up she saw that Windtail was gone. When Windtail got back Snowfur noticed that Windtail's back paw was healed and she got Snowfur some food. "Let's go for a walk around the forest. We can know more about each other." Snowfur meowed, "okay."

As the cats were walking in the morning sun, a big gust of wind ruffled their fur. "So how did you get in that trap again?" Windtail let out a long sigh. "I was born as a house cat and I could heal myself. Then I ran away, because I was different." And then the next paw step they took, they fell down a hole and landed on soft grass. Right in front of them was a cave. Then a big echoey voice began to speak, "You will pass these challenges: agility and strength." Well let's

go” meowed Windtail. The two cats went into the cave. They ended up in an arena. “I think this is strength” meowed Snowfur. She was right.

A big cat with a long tail appeared. “Fight me and pass.” Without a word the two cats sprang into action, but the big cat dodged the attack, swung his tail and hit the cats across the arena. “What will we do!!!” meowed Snowfur. “I know, you go to the other side, then we will charge at him and whirl around him and then spring on to him.” meowed Windtail. Then Snowfur dashed to the other side of the arena. They charged at the big cat. And whirled around him and jumped on to him. Windtail ripped off part of the big cat’s ear and Snowfur scratched his neck. Soon the big cat faded away.

Then the cats went through the tunnel and ended up in a grassy field. This rock-like thing appeared with big fists. The two cats sprang into action. The big rock monster swung its fists at the two cats, but they dodged the attack. They climbed up the rock monster’s arms, jumped off the rock monster’s head into the air and darted down at an accelerating speed towards the rock monster’s head with claws unsheathed and cracked the rock monster’s head. The rock monster screamed and faded away.

Windtail and Snowfur went through the cave entrance and there they saw a big rock with a lion, jaguar and tiger standing on top of it. “Wow”, meowed both Windtail and Snowfur. The lion stepped up front first. “You fought well, with bravery and strength, now I will give you the power of ultimate strength.” The lion touched the cat’s foreheads. Then a sting of bitterness went through them. “Aaahhhhhh!!!” the cats yowled. The tiger stepped up front. “With this power, (Snowfur scents Windtail already has this power) I will give you healing. Use it well with others and yourself.” A pang of sympathy went through Snowfur. Then the jaguar stepped up front, “With this power I will give you speed, you will need it when you are in trouble”. A cold breeze went through the cats. Then the three big cats on the rock said together, “We will now send you to the surface and there you will discover the new you”. Snowfur and Windtail found themselves standing on a cliff. They both looked at each other and smiled. They both had a pair of eagle

wings. “I think now I know what we are” meowed Snowfur. “Yes” replied Windtail. “We are cats of the forest!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!” they both meowed.

Cats of the Forest by Anna Franks, inspired by Warriors by Erin Hunter.