

Sunrise

Erin Hunter

Reviewed by: Sophia Cheng, Age 17

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Following Squirrelflight's confession that she is not the three cats' mothers, Jayfeather, Hollyleaf, and Lionblaze are left reeling with uncertainties concerning their parentage, their place in Thunderclan, and their part in the earthshattering prophecy promising unrivaled power to Firestar's descendants. They begin to openly investigate their past, which only reveals betrayal upon betrayal. Before long, the effects of dark secrets that preceded the three cats' births begin to penetrate Thunderclan's current state. The cat that forces Squirrelflight's concession is murdered, and a cat dangerous due to the secrets he has obtained, as a prime suspect in Ashfur's death, is brought back to Thunderclan. Unable to bury the past when it suffocates them in the present, affecting their actions, the three cats, by individual means, seek out the truth of their heritage. However, the truth may bring about unforeseen consequences for them and for the clan, especially when it cannot be contained anymore.

Sunrise by Erin Hunter is just as exhilarating a tale as any other of his *Warriors* series' books. The distinctive feline character comes through despite the story being portrayed in the human world, and each of the cats stay true to the qualities they have been established with in the previous books, responding properly to their characters throughout the numerous revelations that occur in this book. Furthermore, Hunter crafts his stories so that without reading the previous books, it would not be difficult to grasp the situation and be absorbed into the plot. There are always smaller storylines playing out against the larger picture, the driving force behind the series. Hunter also finds ways to incorporate aspects of the *Warriors* series from previous sets, including Firestar's journey and the quest to the sun-drown-place. The book demonstrates no sign of being an extension of a lengthy series being dragged on for too long; instead, it entices readers to dig out the next book of the series.

The *Warrior's* series has always had parallels to a human community, which made it seem very realistic. However, as seen in *Sunrise*, the *Warriors* series has begun to develop an inclination towards magic and the supernatural, which is leaving the series with traces of a fantasy novel. This development, however, is not negative, only different.

I would recommend this book to older children and preteens. It is well within their reading levels and it contains the nonstop shifts between action, suspense, and humor throughout the book that would entice anyone with a vivid imagination. Moreover, animal lovers would be enthralled by this novel, told through the perspectives of the creatures we think we are familiar with typically padding around the neighborhood. Other books to look forwards to include *Guardians of Ga'Hoole* by Kathryn Lasky, *Blind Beauty* by K.M. Peyton, *Julie's Wolf Pack* by Jean Craighead George, *The Pirate Pig* by Cornelia Funke, and *Half Magic (Tales of Magic #1)* by Edward Eager.