

***The Fourth Apprentice (Warriors: Omen of the Stars #1)***

**Erin Hunter**

**Reviewed by: Sophia Cheng, Age 15**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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“There will be three, kin of your kin, who will hold the power of the stars in their paws.” As prophesied, three cats from the four clans inhabiting the area around the lake have been gifted with powers that surpass those of their warrior ancestors in StarClan, who guide them through signs and dreams. Jayfeather, Lionblaze, and Dovepaw have been chosen by forces beyond theirs’ or even StarClan’s control, for a destiny they have yet to fulfill. However, before they can figure out what their mysterious destiny is, they must focus on the more immediate problems at hand. Tensions are running high between the four clans due to an insufferable drought that has deprived the clans of prey and fresh water, and a lake that is becoming more of a mud puddle as the days pass by.

Dovepaw, a lively and energetic apprentice, realizes that she has the exceptional ability to sense things around her no one else can. For example, she is aware that the lake is shrinking because a group of beavers have made a dam far upstream, preventing the water from reaching the lake. Firestar, the leader of ThunderClan, proposes to send a group of cats from all four clans, upstream to deal with the threat. In the end, eight cats, including Lionblaze and Dovepaw, are chosen to journey to the site of the blockage and bring the water back to the clans. Meanwhile, back in ThunderClan, Jayfeather is determined to learn the truth behind their powers and their destiny, because to have a power beyond the stars means that they have a foe whose powers can challenge the stars themselves, too.

*The Fourth Apprentice* truly sets the stage for the following books in the series, introducing new characters by smoothly incorporating them into the plot while building up the main plot for the series. Not only that, it also ties up loose ends from the preceding series, and acts like a transition from the previous series. Even so, the book is written so that the reader is still able to understand what is happening without having to read the previous series. However, it would be slightly more difficult for a reader that has not read the other Warriors books to understand the implications of the problem the protagonists face at the end of the story. There would also be a reasonable amount of confusion at the beginning, which is rather cryptic and vague. To compensate for the confusion though, the ending will leave chills running up your spine.

I would recommend *The Fourth Apprentice* to kids from fourth to sixth grade or even for older kids as a light read. It is full of suspense, action, and adventure. Animal lovers, especially cat lovers, will adore this book as it leaves you feeling like a cat after reading the book. It will also leave you wondering if this is how cats actually behave.

**Recommended Titles**

Other books similar to *The Fourth Apprentice* that might be of interest to you include: *Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George, the *Guardians of Ga’Hoole* series by Kathryn Lasky, the *Animorphs* series by K.A. Applegate, *Survivors* by Erin Hunter, and *Charlotte’s Web* by E.B. White.