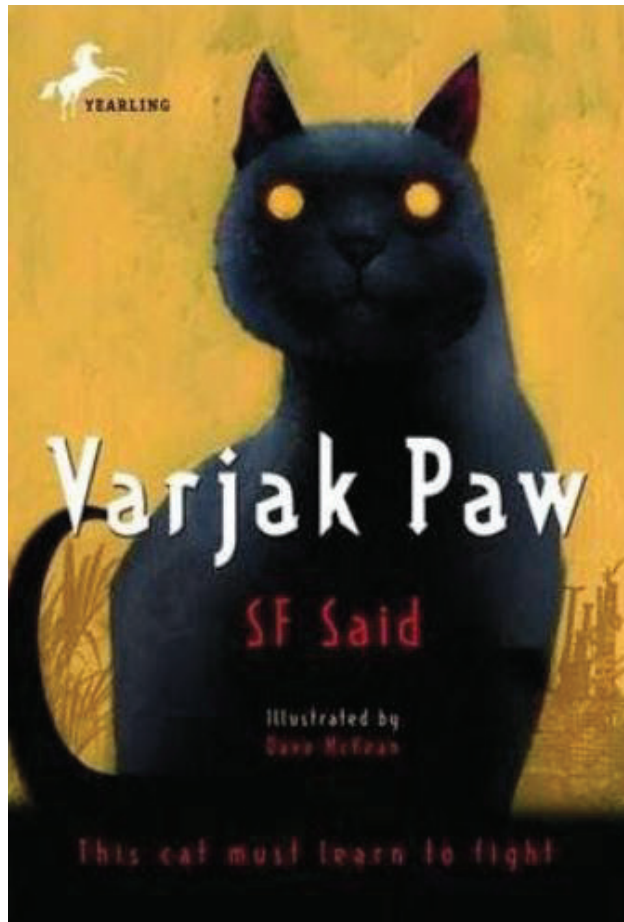


Varjak Paw Chapter Summaries



Varjak's Family

- **Varjak Paw:** A young male Mesopotamian Blue cat. The only one with yellow eyes.
- **Elder Paw:** Varjak's grandfather.
- **Jalal Paw:** The only Mesopotamian Blue who travelled outside.
- **Father Paw:** Varjaks dad.
- **Mother Paw:** Varjaks mum.
- **Julius:** Varjak's older and stronger brother.
- **Jay, Jerome, Jethro:** Varjak's brothers.
- **Aunt Juni:** Varjak's aunt.
- **Jasmine:** Varjak's female cousin.
- **The Contessa:** The old woman who owns the cat family.

Chapter 1

- Elder Paw told Varjak a **tale** about his **ancestor**, Jalal Paw, and how he was a great hunter and traveller. Varjak wished he could have exciting adventures outside, just like Jalal.
- Varjak tried to sneak out into the garden , but Father Paw stopped him, and Mother Paw **scowled** at him, explaining that the garden is a dirty, dangerous place and it wasn't a place for Mesopotamian Blues. Varjak said that he wanted to hunt outside like Jalal, then Julius laughed at him and told Varjak that he was just a weak little kitten.
- Julius always **boasted** how he was loved by the Contessa the most, and **accused** Varjak of causing the Contessa to disappear into her room, because she was scared of his evil yellow eyes.
- All the other cats started laughing at Varjak, which caused him to yell at Julius. Father scowled at Varjak and told him to be kind to his brother. Julius kept **taunting** Varjak, so Father told him that he shouldn't tease Varjak too much, and that the Contessa was upstairs because she's ill.

- Father also told Varjak that he should act more like a proper Mesopotamian Blue, because they are **noble**, special cats. Varjak was angry and didn't respond, so Father told him he couldn't have dinner. All the cats went to have dinner, leaving Varjak alone near the front door.
- Suddenly the front door swung open, and two big, shiny black shoes appeared. It was a huge man and with him were two strong, **sleek**, black cats. The man walked upstairs to where the Contessa was, while the two black cats **guarded** the stairs

Tale— a story that is told with more exciting parts than there really was

Ancestor— older family members who are dead

Scowled— to look angrily

Boasted— to show off or talk like you are the best

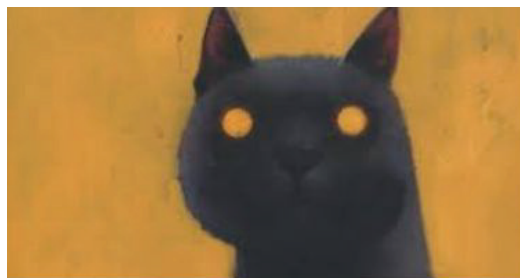
Accused— to say someone has done something wrong

Taunting— to tease or annoy someone

Noble— to be very important like a king or queen

Sleek— smooth, shiny

Guarded— to stop someone from passing



Chapter 2

- Varjak saw a **mysterious** man with 2 black cats go in the house and up to the Contessa's room, there were also other strange men who came into the house.
- Varjak told his family what he had just seen, thinking that they would help him and give him **advice** on what to do, but they didn't believe him.
- Father got very angry with Varjak for telling tales and not behaving properly.
- Varjak led his family to the corridor, but they missed the cats and the other men. They only met the tall man with shiny shoes. Mum called the man '**The Gentleman**' because he gave the cats some **fine** food called 'caviare' and gave them a mouse toy.
- Elder Paw called for a Family Council, a very important kind of meeting, where everybody should attend including the kittens.

Mysterious— secret, unknown

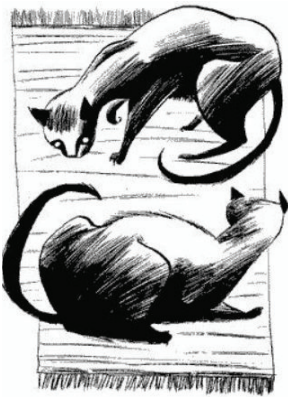
Advice— information

The Gentleman— kind man, polite man

Fine food— delicious, expensive food

Chapter 3

- Elder Paw told the family about his thoughts and memories:
 1. He believed that the Contessa was dead.
 2. He remembered that this man had been in the house years ago.
He wanted to take all the cats away, but he left the house after he got in an **argument** with the Contessa.
 3. He thought that their Family was in danger and they needed to get help from the Outside.
- Only Varjak believed Elder Paw.
- Father **defied** Elder Paw's authority and his capability to make decisions for the Family.



Argument— fight

Defied—refused, challenged

Chapter 4

- Varjak was **rejected** by his Family, except for Elder Paw, and he was blamed for all the bad things that were happening to them in the house.
- Julius and Varjak almost had a fight, but in the last minute Varjak **backed down** and stepped away.
- Varjak and Elder Paw met in the garden.
- Elder Paw asked Varjak if he was ready to learn the 7 skills in the 'Way of Jalal'. The grandfather was **certain** that they needed help from some monsters, called Dogs.
- Varjak felt trusted with the **mission** his grandfather had given him. He knew that he must do something to help his Family, so he accepted the mission.
- Unfortunately, Elder Paw only knew 3 of the 7 skills: Slow-Time, Moving Circles and Shadow-Walking. Varjak repeated these words, until he **memorised** them, but he didn't really know what they meant.

Rejected— not wanted

Backed down— gave in, stopped

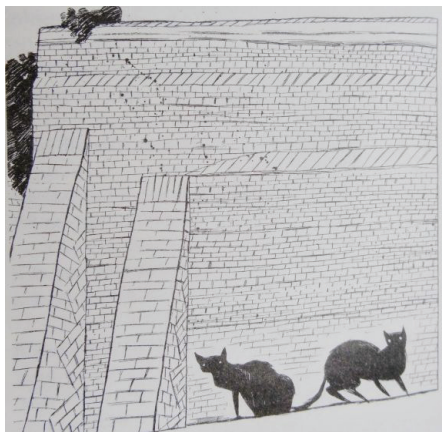
Certain— sure

Mission— very important job, task

Memorised - remembered

Chapter 5

- The Gentleman sent his black cats to the garden, where Varjak and Elder Paw were talking.
- Varjak and Elder Paw waited nervously as the cats got closer to them, but Elder Paw **commanded** Varjak to run for help, while he stayed back to keep the black cats busy.
- **Against his will**, Varjak climbed the huge wall that separated the house from the outside world, leaving his grandfather alone with the cats. He heard a howl, but it was time to begin his mission, he couldn't look back...

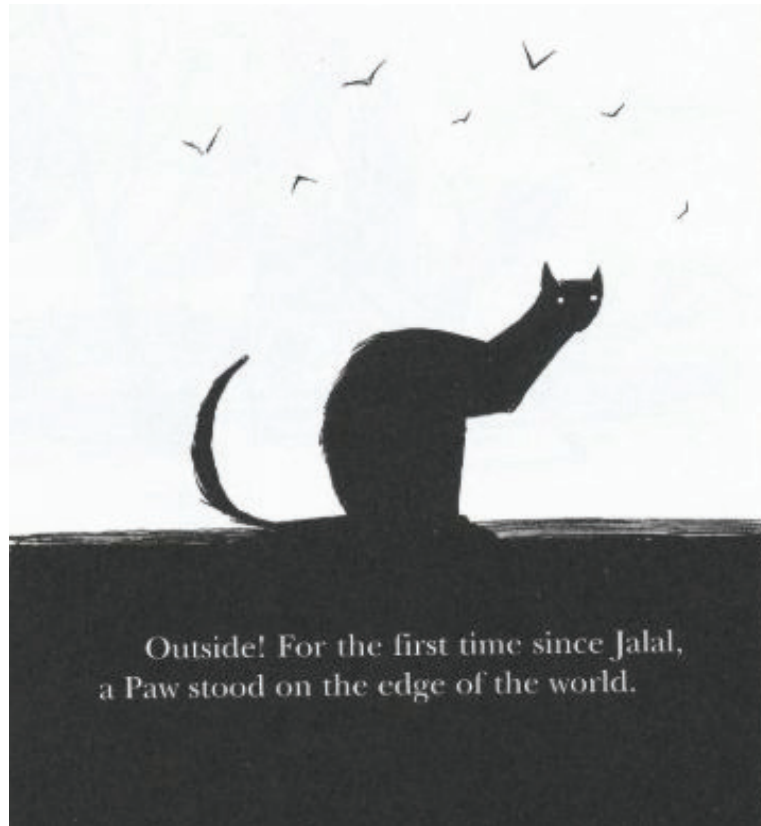


Commanded— ordered, told, made

Against his will— not wanting to

Chapter 6

- Varjak was Outside! He could see the city, the roads, the buildings...
- But he had a huge problem. The wall was too high to jump off, so he used the branches of a tree, but they cracked and he fell down... everything went black.



Chapter 7

- Varjak had a dream. In his dream, he was in a different place that smelled of **dates** and **cinnamon**; he met Jalal, or who he thought was Jalal, and Jalal started teaching him ‘The Way’.
- The first skill Jalal taught him was “Open Mind”, which meant: Only when you **admit** that you know nothing, you can truly know anything.



Dates— sweet fruit

Cinnamon— spice for cooking

Admit — accept, believe

Chapter 8

- Varjak woke up **in pain**, at the bottom of the wall.
- Everything around him was new, the gardens, the buildings...
- He felt sad for Elder Paw, but excited because he was on an adventure and he was **unclean**.
- He saw some kind of monsters with bright lights, that made a **deafening** sound. He thought they were Dogs.
- Suddenly, it started to rain and he remembered that he had nowhere to go. He couldn't go back to the warmth of his living room. **Desperate**, after a long time running and getting very wet and tired, he found a **hut**!

In pain— hurting

Unclean — dirty

Deafening — very loud

Desperate — ready to fail, tired

Hut — small shelter or house