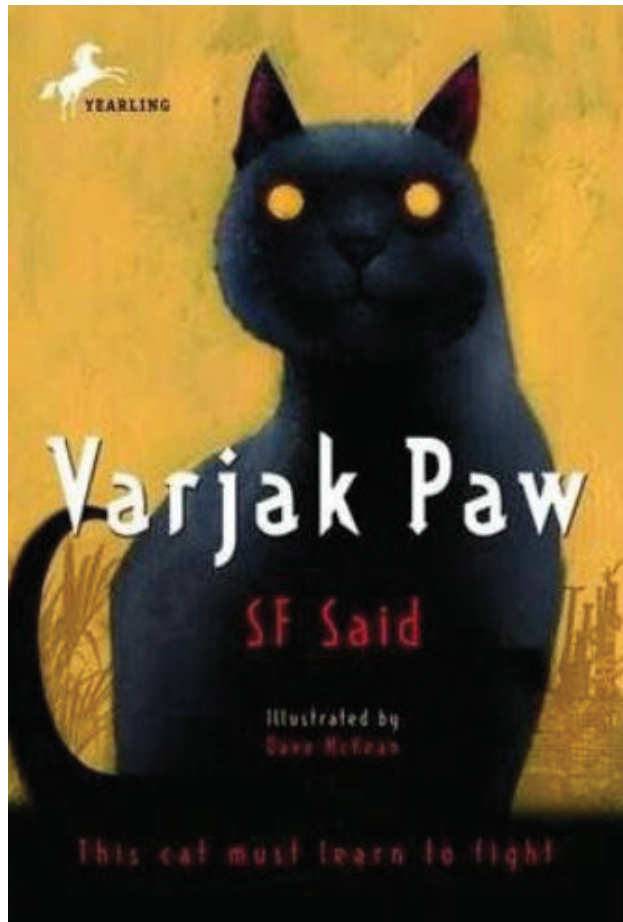


Varjak Paw Chapter Summaries



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

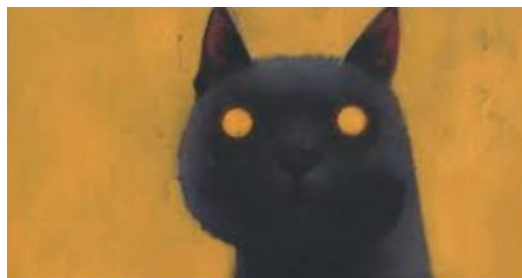
Accused— to say someone has done something wrong

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

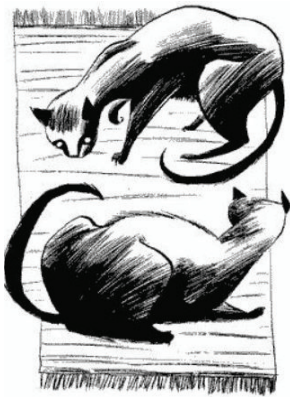
Advice— information

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

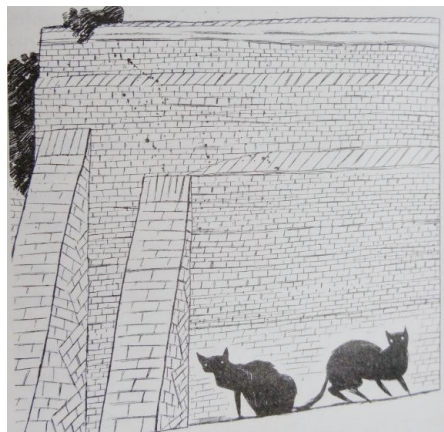
Certain— sure

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...

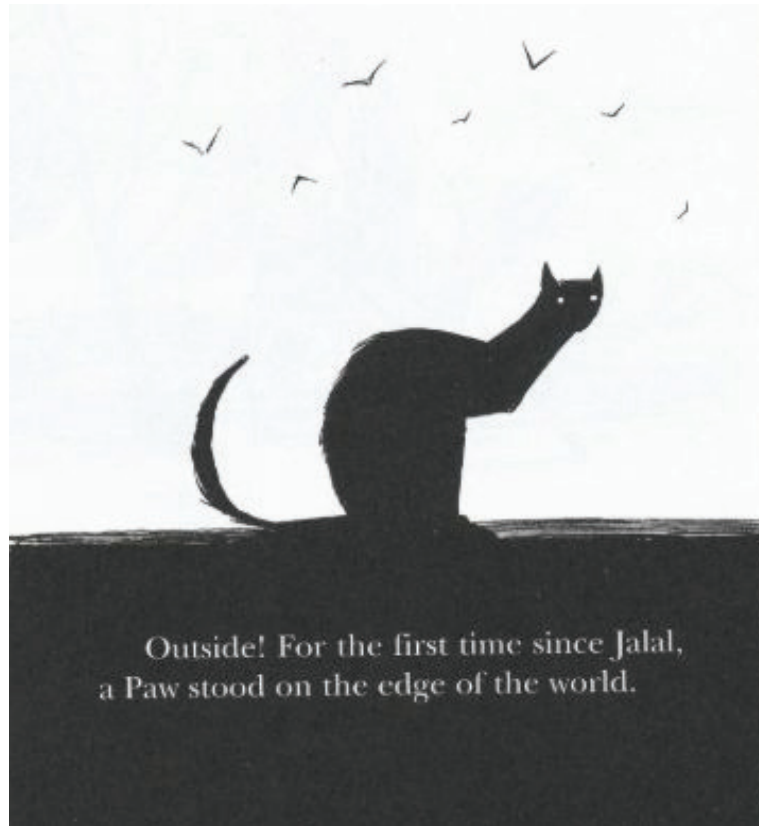


Commanded— ordered, told, made

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

Chapter 9

- The hut was as dark as midnight. It belonged to a female (girl) cat, with black and white fur, who had never seen a Mesopotamian Blue before. She was a black and white cat who lived in the streets and never had an owner.
- She told Varjak that cats who lived on the streets belonged to **gangs** and didn't have **collars**, like he did.
- Varjak wanted to know if she could talk to Dogs, as Elder Paw told him Dogs could help the Family. She **warned** Varjak that cats didn't talk to Dogs.
- The female cat let Varjak sleep in the hut during the rain, although she wasn't very **welcoming**.

Gangs— groups

Collars — a strap worn around the neck

Warned — told

Welcoming — friendly

Chapter 10

- Varjak dreamed again. He dreamed he was in Mesopotamia and Jalal was walking next to him.
- Jalal **taught** Varjak the Second Skill of the Way. It was called “Awareness”.
- **Awareness** meant that to survive in the world you need to be know what is happening around you. You need to open your senses and observe the world: what it looks like, what it sounds like and what it tastes like.
- After practising and trying many times, Varjak became so aware of his surroundings that he could ‘smell fear’ and knew when he was being watched.
- Finally, his **whiskers** could **notice** changes in the air and even very small movements.

Taught — past tense of the verb ‘teach’

Awareness — to know that something exists or something is happening

Whiskers — long hair that grows from animal’s noses

Notice — to observe or pay attention to something

Chapter 11

- Varjak woke up wet, cold and hungry.
- Holly, the black and white female cat, had been out trying to catch breakfast.
- There was a new female cat with shaggy, chocolate-brown fur in the hut. Her name was Tam and she seemed friendlier and than Holly.
- Varjak told Tam and Holly his story and that he needed to find a dog to help him and his family from some danger, but the girl cats laughed at him. However, Varjak didn't mind this **teasing**, it was different than being bullied by Julius.
- Tam and Holly let him stay with them, because they knew he was lost and didn't belong to any street cat **gangs**.
- Tam mentioned that Varjak reminded her of Luka and all of a sudden the hut went silent.
- Luka was a male friend cat, who joined a gang, and shortly after that he **vanished**.

Teasing (tease) — to make fun of something'

Gang — groups of people (in this case -cats-)

Vanished — past tense of vanish. To disappear.

Chapter 12

- Varjak walked through the city - alone. He had never felt lonelier.
- But, he still had a promise to keep, a mission to **accomplish**: find a dog, take it home, beat the Gentleman and his cats and save his Family.
- The night was full of strange, unknown sounds: bells ringing, sirens wailing, things rumbling.
- Varjak saw some shiny, metal monsters racing along the road. Finally! Dogs! He went closer and tried to talk to them.
- Varjak touched the monster (car), it was cold, like death.
- A pack of monsters were coming towards him quickly and Varjak thought he might miss his chance to talk them.
- Varjak gathered all his strength and **courage** and stepped onto the road. Fierce yellow eyes glared at him. Varjak begged one of the 'dogs' to stop, but the monster didn't listen.
- The monsters got closer to Varjak with their deafening sounds, smoky breath and blinding lights. If he moved, the cars would run over him.
- This was a life-threatening experience for poor Varjak. After all his efforts, he had failed to talk to the dogs (cars).

Accomplish— (verb) to finish successfully

Courage — (noun) to be brave

Life-threatening — (adjective) you could die

Chapter 13

- After the violent chapter with the ‘dogs’ (cars), Varjak lost hope about talking to them. He was **certain** that he had failed his family, Elder Paw and Jalal. But he couldn’t think about going back.
- He walked into a narrow, dark **alley** and noticed it was empty, except for lots of black bags with rotten smells. In the distance, he could smell meat. He was so hungry!
- He followed the scent of meat deeper in the alley. The place made him nervous. He felt danger. But the smell of meat was stronger! It was silent and shadowy. Something brushed against his shoulder. The meat didn't smell so nice close up. He moved towards the bin and suddenly 5 big **tom cats** jumped at him!
- Varjak was ready to defend himself, but they were too fast and easily pinned him to the ground. The biggest and strongest cat, a **ginger cat**, ripped his cheek with claws as sharp and white as lightning.
- The ginger cat yelled at Varjak, “THESE ARE OUR BINS, STAY OUT!” He asked, “What do you know about the vanishings?”
- Varjak knew nothing. The cats didn’t believe him and continued to claw him. He thought he was going to die... Until a voice said “Leave him alone!”. It was Holly. Varjak faded into black.

Certain - (verb) to be sure

Alley— (noun) a narrow path between or behind buildings

Tom (cat) — (noun) male/ boy cat

Ginger (cat) — (adjective) orange coloured cat

Alley - (noun) narrow passage or small road at the back of buildings

Chapter 14

- In the darkness, Varjak dreamed. Jalal walked beside him. He led Varjak to the riverbank where there was a fire and a group of men. There was the tastiest smell coming from the pan. Varjak drooled, as he was still hungry.
- Varjak thought they were going to join the men, but Jalal shook his head. “You must learn to hunt and to be free. Free cats are not **scavengers**. Those tomcats are not true cats. They have forgotten how to hunt.”
- Varjak asked, “But what do you do if you are hungry and there’s nothing else but rubbish?”. Jalal answered: “A true cat is free and cannot be tied down. A free cat hunts. It never depends on anyone. It only depends on itself”.
- Varjak **confessed** to Jalal that he had failed his mission. However, Jalal taught him that it is not a failure to make a mistake. The important thing is what you learn from your mistakes.
- Varjak said confidently, “I want to learn how to hunt” and in that moment Jalal started teaching him the Third Skill: Hunting.
- Varjak sensed the **crickets**... Breakfast! His legs were tight, tight like springs. His claws slid out smoothly, he trapped his prey, he opened his jaws, prepared his teeth to chew... But Jalal stopped him, “ENOUGH!”, he said, “You may only cause harm when there is no other alternative and your life is in danger”.

Scavenger - (noun) an animal that feeds on waste or other dead animals.

Confess(ed) - (verb) tell someone that you have done something wrong.

Cricket - (noun) an insect that makes a loud noise.



Chapter 15

- A rough **lick** woke up Varjak from his dream. It caused Varjak some pain. He started to open his eyes, but he could see a white and black **blur**. He was still hungry.
- Varjak could see Holly and Tam. They were in a quiet, narrow alley. He could see something **glimmering**, but it was night. He could hear fearsome metal monsters (cars) in the distance. He could taste the smoke in the air. Fortunately, he couldn't see the ginger cat who almost killed him.
- They were in the city centre, where they were safe from the gangs. Holly and Tam told him that Ginger's gang were in control of the East side of the park, and Sally Bones was the boss of the West. They warned him about Sally Bones, a white cat who should be feared.
- Tam was scared of Sally Bones, because she thought that Sally could become invisible and that's why nobody could beat her in a fight.
- Holly and Tam were hungry too, so they invited Varjak to go hunting. The girls didn't believe that Varjak could hunt because he was a pet cat. But he was going to prove that he could and they went to the park. 'Real hunting, like Jalal had showed him...' thought Varjak excited.

Lick - (verb/noun) touch with the tongue (for example: a **lick** of ice cream)

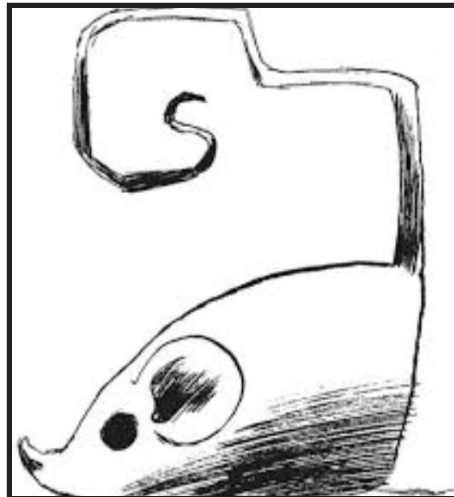
Blur - (noun) something that looks unclear or a smudge

Glimmering - (verb) shining softly

Chapter 16

- Holly instructed Varjak to keep his head down in this part of the city. It was louder here, Varjak could hear the cars and people too. Tam **stated**, “This is where a lot of the Vanishings have happened”. There was that word again... **Vanishings**. Varjak had to ask, “What is a vanishing?”
- Tam whispered, “Cats disappear, one day they are here and another day they are gone, with no trace. Some cats think it’s *her*... But she didn’t finish the sentence, because she didn’t like saying *her* name. (Sally Bones). The truth was nobody knew why the cats were disappearing or who was responsible.
- Varjak enthusiastically commented he could create his own gang with Tam and Holly. A gang where cats were not bullied, but where they could help each other and do whatever they liked. But Holly told him that he had no idea about how to survive in the city, that he was just a *pet cat*.
- Varjak was **stung** by Holly’s words and left them to go hunting and prove her wrong! He let his Awareness flow out, he could smell food, but there was something that stood out. He continued through the alley. He felt the movement of something out there in the dark... It was a mouse.
- This was going to be his first real **prey**, not a toy, not a dream. *Hunting, the Third Skill*, he could hear the words of Jalal.
- He followed the tiny creature, the slightest movement, almost reading its mind and... CRACK! His paws shot out. Stunned it. Held it down. Teeth sank in... he had killed for real. Varjak thought, “I’m, sorry, but I have to eat!”. He gave silent thanks and crunched his breakfast.

- It tasted different to anything he had eaten before. Real food, fresh and warm. He was satisfied.
- Holly and Tam witnessed the whole scene. They were surprised of his ability and Tam was quite proud of Varjak. Tam was still hungry and could smell a tasty meal. It reminded Varjak of the Gentleman's caviar - he would never eat that now! Holly warned that they were in Ginger's territory, a dangerous place, so they should go.
- They all left the alley hungry - except for Varjak.



Stated - (verb) past tense of to state, to express something definitely.

Vanishing - (noun/verb) when something or somebody disappears.

Stung - (verb) past tense of to sting, to be hurt

Prey - (noun) an animal that is hunted and killed by another for food

Chapter 17

- That night in his dreams, Varjak was back in Mesopotamia near the riverbank of the Tigris river.
- Jalal seemed to **shimmer** when he talked to Varjak, “What was that?, asked Varjak puzzled. Jalal answered, “I can move faster than you can see.”
- Jalal taught him the Fourth Skill: Slow-Time. He started: “First of all, you must learn to breathe. Count your breaths. You must breathe more deeply, use all your lungs. After that, you must breathe slower and slower. Once you are in Slow-Time everything will seem to slow down, but you will be **fast. Faster** than anything!”

Shimmer - (verb) similar word for 'glimmer'

Fast (adjective) - faster than (comparative adjective) - the fastest (superlative adjective)- to be quick, to move at high speed

Chapter 18

- During that night, Tam, Holly and Varjak were still hungry. Holly had a plan for dinner. However, Holly was worried that Varjak was so unclean. He had to wash up or else her plan would be ruined.
- Finally, he cleaned up. But in order to look like a street cat he had to stop using the **collar**. It was such a relief!
- Holly's plan was to get food, but they would have to go near Sally Bones' territory. So they set off silently, through the back streets, soon they were in the loud, **harsh** city. "Hide!" **hissed** Holly.
- There were 7 confident cats. At the head of the group was a **brawny** tom cat with **stripy** fur. His face was covered in scars. His name was Razor, one of Sally's soldiers.
- Finally, the road was clear and they could continue their way to a part of the city with tall, white buildings arranged in a square, with a water fountain in the centre and a huge stone column pointing up at the sky. There were statues of lions, magnificent and fearless, made of bronze.
- "We can only come here at night. It is too busy during the day.", said Holly. "This is neutral ground, which means that the gangs leave it alone".
- Varjak was so amazed at the statues, that he didn't notice the square was full of pigeons. He had never hunted a bird before, but Holly challenged him. He was going to do it!

- He remembered Jalal's training, got ready, but he failed. Birds were much harder to catch than a mouse. Then Holly had a brilliant idea. They would try to hunt the bird all together, all three at the same time. But Tam wasn't engaged and decided to go to sleep instead.



Collar - (noun) belt-like object around an animal's neck

Harsh- (adjective) Unpleasant, rough.

Hissed- Past tense of to hiss, make buzzing sound

Brawny - (adjective) Physically strong; muscular

Stripy - (adjective) with stripes

Chapter 19

- They woke up Tam. The plan had been made: Tam would **distract** the birds, whilst Holly and Varjak would attack.
- Unfortunately, they didn't **count on** the pigeons being so quick, noisy and strong with their beaks. Suddenly, the birds surrounded Holly and started pecking at her with their sharp beaks. Holly stood bravely, but Varjak could see the **panic** growing in her face.
- Varjak thought about the Fourth Skill: Slow-Time. He breathed slowly, he breathed in-two-three-four. Out-two-three-four. And the birds' wings... slowed... down. He dived after Holly making the birds fly away for a moment, Holly ran **towards** Tam and they were out of danger.
- Varjak had saved Holly! Slow-time really worked!
- Tam could smell the same fishy scent from the day Varjak caught the mouse. She was still hungry. She wanted to follow the smell, but Holly wanted to plan the next hunt. She warned Tam, "If you go, you are on your own." Tam stayed behind...

Distract - (verb) To draw the attention to something or cause to lose concentration

Count on - (verb) to trust

Panic- (noun/verb) fear

Towards- (preposition) in the direction of

Chapter 20

- Tam didn't return that day, or the next morning. Holly began to worry, so she went with Varjak to the last place they saw her. It was that alley where Varjak caught the mouse. Both Varjak and Holly had a bad feeling about this place.
- They went to more places. They even went to Ginger's territory, but nobody had seen Tam.
- In their search, they met Razor. At first sight, he didn't like Varjak. Razor was sure that Tam had not been near Sally Bones' territory, because that was his job.
- Razor invited Holly to their gang, **insisting** that she could come with him, but Varjak wasn't going to accept this and he stood in his way. Varjak felt a paw as hard as a rock on his face! SLAM! Varjak wanted to fight, but he couldn't get on his feet.
- Razor left. Blood trickled out of Varjak's mouth. Holly said kindly, "It was brave, but you can't win a fight with Razor."
- "I will beat him one day." **vowed** Varjak.

Insisting- (verb) to ask for something many times or with emphasis

Vowed - (verb) Past tense of to vow - to promise

Chapter 21

- Days passed, Varjak's **wounds healed** and still no news of Tam.
- Varjak and Holly decided to search for Tam everywhere, including Sally Bones's territory.
- Varjak stopped in front of a toy shop and stared. He had never seen a toy before. His sense of awareness told him to search for something. He wasn't sure why or what. He found the source of the strange feeling: it came from a box..
- " I am very well thank you please" said a voice, that sounded like a robot. It was a weird cat that looked like Tam. But it wasn't a real cat. Holly knew it was a toy cat that children liked to play with.

Wound - (noun) An injury, such as a cut, stab, or tear, to a part of the body.

Healed - (verb) Past tense of to heal - to get better or to cure a disease

Chapter 22

- Varjak dreamed again. He was walking by the Tigris with Jalal by his inside. Jalal spoke, "Your body is only a part of you. You are more than your body. You can make it do anything, if you know how. This the Fifth Skill and we call it Moving Circles."
- Jalal's body curved and became a figure of the number 8. Then he melted into a circle. Varjak copied Jalal, but his body shook in pain. After practising, the power started building up.
- "Use your power to direct the force, like this!, said Jalal, suddenly striking his paw at Varjak. Varjak's eyes widened. If he could master this Skill, he could beat anyone.

Chapter 23

- Varjak woke up. He and Holly had slept during the day. He went to the toilet and felt like he was being watched.
- Out of nowhere, a thin white cat sat, licking her paws and looking at him with one ice blue eye. Her fur was clean, but she had the smell of darkness. It was Sally Bones!
- There were a dozen street cats by her side. “You shouldn't be here. This is NOT your territory! said Sally. Varjak could hear his heart thumping in his throat. Then she instructed her cats, “Get some information out of this new cat. I have a feeling he knows about the Vanishings.”
- Razor questioned Varjak, but when he answered he was a pet cat from Mesopotamia the cats laughed at him. Varjak decide to stay silent, only making Razor angrier and angrier.
- Varjak was determined to win the fight this time. Razor cut his face again with his claws. He thought about the Fifth Skill. He started to breathe slowly, the energy started flowing through his body. Moving circle. Razor missed.
- Razor bared his teeth, coming in again. Varjak let loose of this energy and hit Razor right between the eyes.



Chapter 24

- Varjak had **struck** his target! But it was only strong enough to daze him. Nobody could believe it.
- Sally Bones shouted, “Enough! Where did you learn that? Varjak couldn't hide, “Jalal” he cried. “Jalal the Paw? He’s been dead for a hundred years! What could you know of Jalal? scoffed Sally. Varjak gasped, “Slow-Time... Moving Circles...”
- A long growl filled the air. A new kind of monster was at the top of the alley, blocking the way out. It was black and **bristly**, its mouth was full of pointed yellow teeth with dripping **drool**. It barked loudly, and took a step towards the cats.
- Sally and her gang **fled**. Holly and Varjak were alone with the monster. Varjak focused. What would Jalal do? He kept looking at the beast. He thought this one was friendly compared to the metal monsters. “Don’t be afraid” he said to the monster in a calm voice. And then it **sprang** at him...
- Slow-Time! Moving Circles! ... wrong. The monster smashed into him and everything went black again.



Struck - (verb) Past tense of to strike. To hit.

Bristly - (adjective) covered with hair.

Drool - (noun) Saliva falling from the mouth.

Fled - (verb) Past tense of to flee - to run away from a situation of danger.

Sprang - (verb) Past tense of to spring - to jump or leap.

Chapter 25

- “There are times when it is useful to **disappear**...” said Jalal.
- Varjak was back in Mesopotamia. He was happy to be back. Jalal stood beside him in the shadow of a wall. And then, suddenly, he was gone.
- Varjak could hear Jalal talking to him, but couldn’t see him. “That’s **impossible**.” said Varjak shaking his head and his **ancestor** appeared again next to him, “Nothing is impossible. Believe in yourself and you can do anything.”
- Jalal started teaching Varjak the Sixth Skill: Shadow-Walking. “You must let go of yourself and become nothing at all. You join with the shadow, become one with the air and join the ground.”
- Varjak tried and tried, but he couldn’t. His mind was thinking and thinking, he was trying too hard.



Ancestor - (noun) older family members who are dead

Disappear - (verb) can't be seen or found

Impossible - (noun) opposite of possible, it can't be done

Chapter 26

- Varjak woke up in the alley with the giant monster towered above him, with its big red tongue and bad breath. He tried to disappear... Shadow-walking... but he was in so much pain. There was no escape.
- “Cludge” said the deep voice.
- “Is that your name?” asked Varjak. The dog smiled shyly. “Varjak. I’m Varjak”.
- “VARJAK, VARJAK” barked Cludge. Varjak was beginning to like this creature.
- Holly came back and was amazed to see Varjak with the giant beast. “You did it, Varjak. You talked to a dog!
- “A dog? said Varjak **puzzled**. Cludge barked in agreement. “But he’s not like the metal monsters. Those dogs that make that noise!
- “That’s a car! barked Cludge.
- Varjak **frowned**. He was confused. After a long explanation about cars and dogs, and a lot of laughter, Varjak said “Cludge, I need your help. I need to scare the Gentleman. Can you do that?”
- “Cludge scare everyone.” affirmed the great dog.
- “Then let’s go!”, said Varjak leading the way up the hill. “We are going to save my family!”

Puzzled (verb)- past tense of to puzzle -

Frowned (verb) - past tense of to frown -

Chapter 27

- The three friends headed for the hill at top speed. Varjak explained about the Gentleman and his black cats on the way.
- The sky was violet with the threat of a storm. He remembered how hard it had been to climb the wall as they reached the hill.
- They climbed the hill. Rain began to fall. Once at the top the giant wall that once stood there was just a little stone wall. Could this be the same wall that once seemed impossible to climb? Was this the place he had left?
- He recognised it now. It was the same place. It was *him* who had changed.
- But Cludge couldn't climb the wall. "Dogs can't climb?" asked Varjak. "Wait for us here!". Varjak and Holly stormed to the top of the wall. "This is the Contessa's house." whispered Varjak.