

Varjak Paw Returns

by Heather Drew aged 9

Chapter One *Varjak Returns Home*

It was summer in the city, everything and everyone was silent. You could probably hear a pin drop, but not for long because Varjak, Holly, Tam and Cludge were all cheering because they had killed Sally Bones. Making their way home, Varjak's awareness started to tingle and his whiskers started to twitch so he started running towards his house. Quickly he finally got there. Out of breath, walking in, seeing Varjak and his friends, his whole family started to hug them excitedly. "Varjak, you're home!" exclaimed the whole family unexpectedly. "Guys I killed her, she's dead!" shouted Varjak. "Who's dead?" asked Jasmin puzzled. "Yeh who's dead?" muttered Julius "Oh I really don't want to say this name." said Varjak suddenly feeling very scared and looked up at Tam "Sss...aaa...lll...yyy Bbb...ooo...nnn...eee...sss."

"Why did you have to say that Varjak? It still gives me the shivers every time you say it," shivered Tam. "How did you beat her?" asked Jasmin. "Oh well I just used the way!" exclaimed Varjak. "The way? What way?" questioned Julius. "The way of Jalal of course!" stated Varjak. "Can you teach it to us?" asked Holly. "Yes of course, we will learn the first skill tomorrow," said Varjak.

Chapter Two *Open Mind*

It was the next morning; every cat in the old house was excited because they were going learn the first skill of Jalal. Gathering the cats together, it was as though an angry elephant had stomped through the house. All the cats in the living room waited patiently for Varjak to start talking. "Do you want to learn the first skill?" asked Varjak enthusiastically. "YYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEESSSSSSSSSSSSSS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" shouted Varjak's family and friends. "It's called open-mind," said Varjak. "Open-mind is where you have to admit that you know nothing." "I already know everything!" interrupted Julius with a smug laugh and stormed off. Mother, father and Aunt Juni all chased after Julius. Jay, Jethro, Jerome and Varjak's friends. stayed behind so they could learn more. "This is how you do it, you need to erase everything from your mind and keep telling yourself that you don't know anything," explained Varjak softly. Varjak's family and friends all chanted **I know nothing I know nothing.**

Chapter Three *A whistle in the Wind*

It was nightfall and everything was silent. It was the witching hour. The wind blew in an uncertain direction to Varjak's room. Varjak could feel it brushing against his fur like someone was stroking him. He woke up suddenly. His heart racing, his breathing started to quicken, his paws started trembling like he was a little scared kitty again. Hearing Varjak's loud breathing, Holly woke up. "Varjak are you ok?" she whispered in a panic. But by this time, he had already

started moving to the window. Hypnotised by the whistling wind, he looked outside. Everything was silent. Cautiously he looked around. The lightbulb started to flicker...on...off....on.....off ...on...off. It was like a horror movie. Varjak got back into his bed. But just when he thought he was safe, a shadow appeared and crept over him. Slowly.....slowly.....slowly.....ITPOUNCED...!

Chapter Four *The second Skill - Awareness*

It was the next morning and Varjak`s fur had ruffled from that dreaded night. He slumped slowly down the stairs, one paw after another. He was exhausted. "Are you ok Varjak?" asked Cludge feeling worried. Varjak thought for a moment and then gave a heavy sigh. Varjak moved slowly towards the elder paws chair. He sat down and started to tell the dreaded story that happened last night. When he had finished, he was still shaking from the thought that someone or something was coming to get him.

"Cludge want to learn more way of Jalal, Varjak" he said enthusiastically. Feeling more relaxed, Varjak sat down and began to tell them about the second skill, awareness. "We need to go outside," Varjak explained to his friends and family. "I`m not doing this," shouted Julius. "It`s too cold out there, we`ve never been out before, we`re going with Julius," said mother, father and Aunt Juni softly as they curled up in front of the fire. Once again Jasmin, Jay, Jethro, Jerome and Varjak`s friends were left to learn another skill. Varjak led his learners into the back garden. "You need to know what everything is around you, every smell, every taste, every sound and everything you see. Just walk around and become aware."

Chapter Five *He Only Comes out at Night*

It was the witching hour and every cat in the house was going to bed except Varjak. He looked out of the window, all he could see was pitch black, except something or someone was lurking in the shadows, watching, waiting for that right moment to pounce. Varjak felt terrified, so he immediately ran downstairs, closed all the blinds and hid behind the couch in total horror. Suddenly there was a loud banging at the door one after another, BANG! BANG! BANG! Varjak ran upstairs and checked if any cats were awake, but to his surprise they were all in a deep sleep. Whilst Varjak was checking to see if anyone was awake, the shadow found an open window in Varjak`s bedroom and he climbed through it. Varjak walked slowly back to his bedroom and saw the same dark shadow as he did the other night. They were now face to face and Varjak`s fur stood on end. Varjak said in a terrified voice, "what do you want from me?" "My name is Shadow and I want to get you, your friends and family. But I only come out at night," he hissed, and in a flash he was gone.

Chapter Six *Hunting*

As the sun rose, every cat in the house was waking up yet Varjak didn`t sleep so he had big bags under his eyes. Wearily he began to walk down the stairs one paw after another. As he

dragged his tail down the stairs Varjak gave a big yawn and all the cats said “Varjak you look exhausted, what have you been doing all night?” “The bed was uncomfortable,” lied Varjak. Varjak was scared and he didn’t want to tell them the truth just yet, and that’s why he kept on making up silly excuses. “Moving on, let’s learn the next skill, hunting,” said Varjak. “First things first you have to move like the prey, sound like the prey, think like the prey and become the prey.” Varjak ran to get a toy mouse. Once he had it, he brought it into the circle and attached some string to the tail. Varjak showed them what to do and told them they had to take it in turns to hunt. First it was Holly’s turn. Varjak pulled the string so it would look realistic and harder to catch. Holly started stalking the mouse. As Varjak yanked the string, Holly pounced and missed the mouse by inches, then slipped on the mat and skidded into Varjak. “What did you do that for?” Holly said frustratedly, “I did everything you told me.” “You need to be faster and more agile. Next time become the prey and don’t pounce too early!” said Varjak.

Next up was Tam. All the others started laughing because she was not fast enough. “You are too slow,” said Varjak in a firm but fair voice. “You didn’t become the prey, maybe next time you should focus more and keep off the treats.”

Jasmin in her clumsiness stepped forwards and stumbled over Cludge’s big fat hairy legs.

“**Jasmin** with moves like that the prey will scurry away, that is not moving like the prey, and Cludge could you please move out of the way!” said Varjak and he gave a big sigh.

After that the triplets; Jay, Jethro and Jerome all had a go together and pounced at the same time. Banging their heads together, they ended up in a heap in front of Varjak, with a piece of toy mouse hanging out of their mouths. Varjak looked down at the three of them and said sarcastically, “well boys I think you’ve got it.” All the cats enthusiastically tried again and again with Varjak’s positive feedback.

After a while Cludge waddled up to Varjak and asked him “is it my go yet?” Varjak turned around and said in a soft voice, “sorry Cludge there’s nothing left of the mouse, why don’t you practise on this tennis ball?” Cludge happily went off to practise munching on the rubber ball.

As soon as they had mastered the skill, Varjak decided that they could go and hunt for real live mice in the city, but mother, father, Aunt Juni and Julius said it was too dangerous.

Jasmin, Jay, Jethro and Jerome were nervous about the dangers of the big city as they had never been outside before. However, they trusted Varjak and his companions and realised there’d be nothing to be afraid of after all. Soon enough, everyone went to the city and headed straight to the dump to look for mice. “Here we are,” said Varjak, “go and practise what I have taught you.” After lots of pouncing, the cats eventually found plenty of mice to eat and everyone tucked into the juicy goodness.

After that the triplets; Jay, Jethro and Jerome all had a go together and pounced at the same time. Banging their heads together, they ended up in a heap in front of Varjak, with a piece of toy mouse hanging out of their mouths. Varjak looked down at the three of them and said sarcastically, “well boys I think you’ve got it.” All the cats enthusiastically tried again and again with Varjak’s positive feedback.

After a while Cludge waddled up to Varjak and asked him “is it my go yet?” Varjak turned around and said in a soft voice, “sorry Cludge there’s nothing left of the mouse, why don’t

you practise on this tennis ball?" Cludge happily went off to practise munching on the rubber ball.

Chapter Seven *Ready and waiting*

It was twilight, and Varjak his friends and family were all heading back home. Varjak felt as though he had a stone in his stomach for he had been keeping a deep dark secret to himself about Shadow. "Guys I need to tell you something, there's a cat called Shadow and he keeps on coming to scare me in the middle of the night, he is a Mesopotamian blue and he is part of Sally Bones's gang," said Varjak anxiously. Now that he had told his friends and family he felt as though a weight had been lifted off him. "That's why Varjak was so exhausted," woofed Cludge, "Cludge exhausted too!" "Guys I've got a great idea, we can sleep outside and wait for Shadow to come and then stop him," said Varjak confidently. They were all a little bit scared but they knew they could trust Varjak. It was now 3am and Varjak had to wake everyone up because he saw a cat shadow. It looked so dark yet it was a Mesopotamian blue. Varjak, his friends and family all stood up. Varjak cautiously crept towards Shadow. They both circled each other slowly, their tails wagged from side to side. Shadow hissed and showed how sharp his teeth were. His fur ruffled to make him twice the size. Varjak was ready to pounce. He tried to get into moving circles but Shadow was much quicker....

HE POUNCED!

Scratch! Scratch! Scratch! Shadows claws dug into Varjak's back. His fur went in every direction. He tried to fight back but Shadow had already had him on the floor his body was pinned down. There was no escape for Varjak. His family watched from the sidelines in total horror. They felt helpless and didn't know how to help. "I won, but I'll be back again someday," whispered Shadow. Varjak knew on this occasion he'd been beaten. "Yes but I'll be ready and waiting when we meet again," he added. With that, Varjak and his family silently walked home.

Chapter Eight *Thinking Hard*

Months went by and there was no sign of Shadow. Varjak felt safe, yet since Shadow, he'd been so caught up with him that he'd missed everything to do with his family. Now was the time to spend quality time with them and teach them the rest of the ways of Jalal. However, since the fight with Shadow, been thinking about how his inability to get into moving circles quick enough had let him down. He'd been practicing day in day out, but he still wasn't quick enough. He was getting very frustrated, but he knew he needed to perfect it otherwise he wouldn't be the fighter he once was. Varjak had been stuck in his room alone now since the fight. His family kept on banging on the door pleading for him to come out. "Varjak I'm worried about you, why are you in here all alone, please come out," pleaded

Mother in a worried voice. "We miss you Varjak," said Holly. "Please, please, please come out," said Jay, Jethro and Jerome together.

"Cludge miss Varjak." said Cludge. "We all miss you, please come out Varjak, we want to learn more of the way," said Tam.

"Give me a minute," said Varjak excitedly. Whilst practicing really hard something clicked. All he needed to do was not to make himself too dizzy. "Guys I did it, I really did it!" exclaimed Varjak. "What did you do?" asked his friends and family together. "I've finally mastered moving circles!" and with that he jumped to his feet, opened the door and said in a cheerful voice, "come on what are you waiting for, let's learn moving circles!"

Chapter Nine *Moving Circles*

Immediately, all the cats followed Varjak into the living room. He sat on the Elder Paws chair and began to speak. "Moving circles is one of the hardest skills to learn so pay attention," explained Varjak. "Not getting dizzy is vital," he added. "It's very important that you don't get distracted, because then you will loose a fight like I did. Do you remember that dreadful night when I could not get into moving circles? So you all have to listen up!" Varjak stood up and showed them what to do. He pretended that a mouse was attached to his tail. He got into moving circles and he looked like he was making a tornado, but he didn't get dizzy. Varjak asked his friends and family if they wanted to join in, but Julius said, "I'll get dizzy and feel sick, don't like that." Mother, Father and Aunt Juni agreed with Julius and went upstairs for a lie down. However, Jay, Jethro, Jerome, Jasmin and his friends all wanted to join in. Unfortunately they all rushed at once to try this new skill and started turning and turning and turning. "Argh I've lost my tail. Which is my tail? Where's the mouse? I think I need a bucket and fast, I feel sick! I'm in a never ending loop! Birds are tweeting over my head! Why is the room spinning," shouted all the cats. "Can you please just stop!" demanded Varjak. In a split second all the cats stopped. "What are you lot doing?" asked Varjak impatiently. "Why don't you try doing it slow and get faster and faster, but don't do it all at once!" explained Varjak. "Oh," said the cats together. "So, who's first?" asked Varjak. Jasmin tried the new idea first, "beautiful Jasmin, so graceful." Next up was Jay, Jethro and Jerome. They did it together, however they were further apart than last time. "Well done guys," said Varjak. After the triplets it was Holly's turn. She really impressed Varjak. "Brilliant Holly, I can't wait to see what you can do in a real fight." Tam was up next. Clumsily she swirled and swirled and swirled getting faster and faster. She got really dizzy and fell face first into Varjak. "Watch out Tam!" said Varjak in a soft voice. "Maybe work on your agility next time." "Cludge turn....Cludge turn," panted Cludge ecstatically. He'd been watching the cats and couldn't wait for his go. He got up and immediately began to turn and turn. However, he nearly knocked all the cats over with his hughmongest tail. "Cludge watch out!" shouted the cats. "Sorry guys, but it will be great for knocking Shadow over," laughed Cludge. The other cats all joined in laughing and they fell on the floor!

Chapter Ten *Slow-time*

As dawn broke, all the cats were waking up and slowly came downstairs and sat by the fire like they usually did. It was time to learn 'slow time.' Varjak stood on top of the Elder paws chair and shouted at the top of his voice to get all the cats attention. "Listen up gang, it's a new day and now we're going to learn a new skill!" "What is it Varjak, tell us please?" said Cludge enthusiastically. "Please tell us the tension is killing us," said Tam. "Ok, fine, but you all need to listen very carefully. It's all about the breathing...in 2,3,4 out 2,3,4 in 2,3,4 out 2,3,4." "Why do we have to count again?" asked Julius showing a little bit of interest. "It's to help you concentrate Julius..." exclaimed Varjak in a very impatient voice. "Also it will help you slow down," added Varjak. "How does that work?" questioned Julius, doubting this new skill. Varjak stood up and gathered his family and friends around him. "Watch me." Varjak started breathing, in 2,3,4 out 2,3,4. His friends and family noticed immediately that his breathing was getting slower and slower. They decided to join in, in 2,3,4, out 2,3,4, in 2,3,4, out 2,3,4. Varjak stopped and watched his family proudly. He gave a little smile to himself, and said, "that's my family, we're going to be the best Mesopotamian blue fighters." At that moment everybody stopped and smiled. Varjak told everyone that they had to go outside if they wanted to learn this skill properly. They all followed him without a fuss as he lead them off to the alley way.

When they got to the alley way, everyone stood around him in a circle. "Holly, punch me!" stated Varjak, "Why? I don't want to hurt you," said Holly in a caring manner. "Just do it!" snapped Varjak. Holly immediately tried to punch Varjak, but just as quick Varjak dodged her. "Wow Varjak, I didn't know you could move so fast," exclaimed Holly surprised. "It's only because of slow-time, if I didn't know this skill I wouldn't be able to move that fast, said Varjak. Varjak approached his family "Now, in turn I'm going to try and punch you, and you guys have got to try and dodge it, just like I did with Holly, said Varjak. "I don't want you to try and punch me....my own child punching his mother, how dare you!" shouted mother dramatically. "I don't want to get punched! I don't think anyone wants to get punched, come on guys let's go home, are you coming Father? Mother, Father Aunt Juni followed Julius back home muttering about the thought of their favourite son trying to punch them. Everyone else remained with Varjak. "Are you sure we're not going to get hurt?" asked Holly. "I promise," whispered Varjak. One by one they approached Varjak cautiously. His paw only just touched them until he knew they had finally mastered the new skill slow-time.

Chapter Eleven *Shadow walking*

As the sun rose, Varjak was the last one to wake up. All the other cats had already had their breakfast and were waiting for him downstairs. Today is going to be a hard day, he said to himself. This next skill was the hardest skill you could ever learn. Varjak sat on the Elder paws chair as usual and told them the next skill. "Shadow walking is the hardest skill, you need to erase everything from your mind, you cannot think about anything otherwise you will not be able to walk like a shadow and the skill will not work," announced Varjak looking very worried. "How are you supposed to erase everything from your mind?" asked Julius already doubting this new skill. "Julius, give your brother a chance please," snapped Mother. "I'll show you, but you have to try it first." With that, Varjak began to close his eyes and

meditate “I’ve got better things to do than this stupid thing!” scoffed Julius and he went off to leave the rest of the gang to it. After a few minutes Varjak opened his eyes. “Who’s going to join me.... come on guys,” said Varjak. “Honey, I’m going to have a nap. Father, Juni are you coming?” asked Mother. “Y...e....s,” yawned Father and Aunt Juni, “this meditating thing is making us tired.” “You guys haven’t even done anything,” argued Varjak feeling disappointed. Varjak was left with his usual crew who always loved to learn the skills of Jalal. Immediately they moved closer to Varjak and began to meditate. “This is just like sleeping,” stated Cludge, who had almost started snoring. “Yes it is, but you’re not falling asleep,” laughed Holly. “Guys, concentrate,” whispered Varjak. Shortly after, Varjak decided that they weren’t concentrating enough, and he realised he had to try a new approach with them. “Ok guys, it’s all about your breathing....remember slow time.....in 2, 3, 4, out 2, 3, 4.” The other cats remembered this and started chanting in 2,3,4, out 2,3,4 in 2,3,4, out 2,3,4. However almost immediately the cats started to think about things that were on their mind...caviar....mummy.....hungry.....caviar...mmmmm. “This is so hard,” whined Jay. “I don’t think I can do this, all that is on my mind is food.....” said Tam dramatically. “Believe in yourself, you can do it, you’ve already come so far, don’t give up now,” said Varjak encouragingly. “We can fight Shadow together only if you don’t give up,” he added. “Let’s try once more, please!” pleaded Varjak. The cats all closed their eyes again and soon enough the whole room was silent. Varjak opened one eye slowly; the cats were concentrating so hard. This was it. They were finally beginning to understand this new skill. One by one they opened their eyes and noticed Varjak’s proud smile. “Guys, you’ve almost got it, all you’ve got to do now is walk from the end of the hallway back here without being spotted,” announced Varjak. One after the other they tried to do this. However their first attempt was unsuccessful, but after a few attempts they’d finally got it. They could run from the end of the hallway back to the living room without being spotted or heard. “Well done everyone....I’m so proud of what you guys have all achieved. Now only one more skill to learn.....what will it be?.....”

Chapter Twelve *Trust Yourself*

Jay, Jethro, Jerome, Jasmin and all of Varjak’s friends waited again in the living room, hoping to learn the final skill. Once again Varjak sat on the Elder paws chair. “The last skill is trust yourself. There, the training is complete,” announced Varjak. “What??? You haven’t even taught us anything yet!” spluttered Holly looking puzzled. “I cannot teach you this skill. The only thing I can tell you is that you need to think you can do anything you put your mind to.” “Varjak what’s that mean?” asked Cludge also looking very confused. “Walk with me,” pronounced Varjak. All the family and friends followed him outside. “What’s going on?” muttered all the other cats as they were walking. He led them to a puddle on the floor. They looked into it. “Look, we’re all different in our own way. Julius used to tease me and say that my eyes were the eyes of danger and that I wasn’t worthy to be a Mesopotamian Blue, but Jalal has the same colour eyes as me and he taught me all of this. If you do not believe in yourself you are sure to not succeed.” Varjak finished talking and the cats continued to look

in the puddle still feeling confused. "You need to look harder," continued Varjak, "look deeper into yourself. Only then will you understand the true meaning of this skill." The cats looked again and slowly began to see themselves as noble cats. "Mesopotamian cats can be whatever they want to be. They don't have to be the noblest of cats all the time, any type of cat can do that!" exclaimed Varjak. "But, we are different because now we know the way of Jalal. It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from. The only thing that is important is what you do. So make it count."

Chapter Thirteen *A Gust of Wind*

Many weeks passed, and the cats were still practising the seven skills Varjak had taught them. They were improving their speed, breathing, shadow walking, hunting, awareness, and learning how to believe in themselves. They had forgotten about Shadow and that dreaded night when he last visited them.

One night Varjak felt a gust of wind that he never ever wanted to feel again but he knew what it was. It was coming back to haunt him. It was coming back to fight. He immediately woke up and shouted to his friends, "guys it's time, he's here. The time has come for you to use your skills in a proper fight." "Shadow!" they all shouted back in unison. A gust of wind hit Varjak again and echoed through the house.....Whoosh.....

All the family and friends gathered quickly in front of Varjak. He was already poised, ready and waiting to tell them the plan. "Shadow's here. We have to use our skills that we have been practising for the last couple of months. I know together we can beat Shadow once and for all. Let's do this guys!"

Chapter Fourteen *The Graveyard*

Varjak knew he had to get the cats to the place where he had last fought with Sally Bones. It wasn't going to be easy. He had to find a way to persuade them, even though they were petrified of meeting Shadow. Varjak spoke in a firm voice, "we must go immediately to the graveyard." "I'm scared," said Tam. "Do we have to go to the graveyard at night Varjak? why do we have to go there anyway?" whined Jasmine. "Sh everyone, everything is fine it's going to be ok. Stop whining!" snapped Varjak.

Eventually they all decided to go and follow Varjak into the unknown. Shaking, trembling, nervousness clashed in between their bodies making them feel sick, but they had faith in Varjak and they knew they'd be ok. Soon enough, they arrived at the graveyard. It was pitch black. The air was cold and it sent a shiver down everyone's spine. The wind gushed and made creepy noises. OOOOOeeeeeeee oooooeooooo

Cludge whispered "is he coming?"

"I'm here! Varjak you're going to" came a voice from the darkness. The cats were terrified and shook in fear. "Don't show your fear, we can do this. Remember your training," whispered Varjak to his family and friends.

First the cats tried the breathing. In 2,3,4 out 2,3,4 in 2,3,4 out 2,3,4. This helped them to concentrate and prepare themselves for the worst to come. From out of nowhere, Shadow pounced and hoped to scratch Varjak, but he managed to dodge him. "You're good!" said Shadow in an eerie gruff voice. "I'm better than you and I'm coming to get you and your stupid friends. Miewow." This made the cats feel very angry and they believed they were

good enough and better than Shadow and certainly not stupid. They immediately formed a circle to surround Shadow and started walking slowly towards him. Each paw got closer and closer. THEY POUNCED. Shadow had scratches all over his head and body but he couldn't give up. He thought he was the most powerful one. He was outnumbered but he had to try and hide to get his own back. Shadow started walking up the tower where Sally Bones had fallen from. Varjak followed up the stairs but lost track of where Shadow was. Suddenly he saw a dark silhouette in the darkness. It was time for him to show Shadow who he really was.

Chapter Fifteen *The Fight*

The family followed Varjak up the stairs. On reaching the top, they all surrounded Shadow again. Each cat knew one skill better than the others and now it was their turn to shine. Tam was first. She began to breathe in slow time, in 2, 3, 4 out 2, 3, 4 in 2, 3, 4 out 2, and 3

POUNCE!

Shadow did not expect this and he fell onto the floor in complete shock. As he picked himself up, Holly started lifting herself onto the tip of her paws and made her fur puff up and ruffle out which made her look bigger and stronger. She began to think like the prey, look like the prey and sound like the prey. Suddenly she threw herself onto Shadow. He bounced back quickly. Jay started turning round. First slowly, then he got quicker and quicker and quicker. Shadow watched as his eyes spun around and around and sent him into a trance. Cludge got up and said to himself, "I can do this." Feeling brave, he moved towards Shadow, yet Shadow didn't even notice him. He was still caught up in a trance. With all his force, Cludge pushed Shadow onto the floor. Shadow got up, feeling really sick and ever so dizzy. He couldn't give up. Jethro slowly started moving. Getting closer and closer yet Shadow did not notice. Jethro was a shadow. Shadow felt something brushing against his fur but he couldn't see anything. He was freaked out. Jethro moved again, this time a bit closer. "Prrrrrrrr" he purred. And with all his power he scratched Shadow everywhere. "Mieow!" screamed Shadow, "what was that?" It was now Jerome's turn to prove to his big brother that he could help to defeat Shadow once and for all. He got up. All the fur pricked his body. He was aware. He smelt the danger but knew what he had to do. Suddenly, he pounced on Shadow. Again Shadow was taken by surprise and fell onto his back. Covered in scratches, feeling dizzy, almost ready to give up, but not yet, with difficulty Shadow got up and sighed a deep, deep sigh "Phoooo!" Who was next? Jasmine started chanting "I know nothing, I know nothing, I know nothing. The rest of the cats started chanting back in unison "you can do this, you can do this. Go on, we believe in you." Shadow hissed. "hisssssssss!" He was almost beaten. From out of nowhere Jasmine pushed Shadow. The force was so hard that it pushed Shadow off the top of the tower.

"Mieeeeeooooooooowwwwww!"

Chapter Sixteen *The Epilogue*

“Jasmine, I didn’t know you could do that?” exclaimed Tam. All the cats looked at one another in total shock. What had just happened? They stayed motionless for a couple of minutes going over in their minds what *had* just happened. “Well done guys, I’m very proud of you all” announced Varjak. “I knew you could do it, but I didn’t think you could do it that well.” They moved slowly down the stairs to check if Shadow was still alive or not. They saw the cat’s body lying still as if it were sleeping peacefully in front of the fire. “He’s dead!” said Varjak seriously. “Well done Jasmine, I’m very proud of you all.” All the cats cheered, “we’ll never see him again, hurray!!”

Varjak now felt at ease as if a dark shadow had been lifted off his shoulders. “Come on guys, let’s go home.”