

EIGHTEEN

Consciousness came quicker this time. The Biggen raccoon was by his side again. It offered him water which he lapped. A Biggen hedgehog stood nearby.

“How long?” the squirrel asked.

“You sleep seven days,” Raoul held up seven claws, “Elder hungry?”

“How I eat? Healer take tooth.” The squirrel poked around with his tongue and made a painful expression when he poked at the area where the teeth had been.

“You can no chew, Elder. Mouth need heal more. You must eat like young pup.” Raoul opened a small tub of butternut paste. “Biggen squirrel bring you here give you same food. Lick, no chew.”

The squirrel slowly licked at the paste. “Dame warn me long ago, trust Biggens be like pup forever. Is good trade. I no trust Biggens, I die. I trust I be like pup forever and live.”

Raoul chuckled again. “Elder, you will no be pup forever.” He pointed to the hedgehog. This Biggen healer. He make new tooth soon. He make you sleepy again. While sleep healer put in new tooth. You will need to lick paste like this to eat for two tens more days.” Raoul held up all ten claws and then held up all ten again.

Elder’s eyes widened briefly. He then flicked his tail up and down once. “Do what must do.” He licked at more of the paste.

“Biggen Elders wish speak with Elder. They at Biggen Elder meet place. Will you go?”

“Biggens save me. I go talk to Biggen Elders.” The squirrel looked towards the hedgehog. “I go when healer say I go.”

He listened as the two use Biggenspeak. The raccoon then turned again to him. “Healer say Elder wise to ask healer when you go. He say you go soon or go after new tooth. You choose.”

“I go soon.”

“Very well, Elder. I will speak to Biggen Elders.”