

Dark Light

Chapter I

It was early in the morning. Grass, trees and rocky fields all greeted Gummy when he left the lair, that kept him warm the night before. The wind was blowing softly. Rustling leaves flew right along his legs. The combination of the fresh air on his skin and the sound of stones crushing under his feet made him realize he was awake.

His eyes met the sunrise, which was enforcing the vibrant nature of his surroundings. A 'rocky forest', that is what he thought of his home. As he looked upwards, he was the sky above him burning again. Pink shades surrounded the subtly blue clouds. It all seemed to come from a huge fireball, which could be spotted almost every day. At least during his first years, Gummy started to notice that.

Slowly, he walked away from his den and soon, he was off the beaten path. He knew he had to cross the river to get there. Nervously standing in front of the wavering water wouldn't help at all. White sparks of blue rushed their way past Gummy, who, over the past few days, grew afraid of the broad stream that blocked his path. It just went too fast.

A fallen tree served as a bridge, but up until this point, there were two times he almost fell into the water. Because of his build, he wasn't the most agile creature alive in the forest. Whenever he made a mistake near the tree, it took everything of himself to get him back on land. He waited a moment and closed his eyes. 'Grandpa would be so angry if he saw me here. But I have to do this. I need to see what's out there for me. Staying where I am, that won't help me.'

Gummy was battling himself, but he figured he would win in the end, so he started grabbing the log. Within a single moment, he lunged himself onto the fallen tree. Carefully, he took a few steps, but then felt he couldn't hold himself on his feet. Instead of panicking like a fool like he used to do, he held still, spread his arms and bent his legs till he was on his knees. Before long, he brought his hands down and under his palms, he could feel the barely dry bark, offering the rough ground onto which he decided to crawl.

Eventually, he got on the other side of the water. His hands on his knees, he took a deep breath while gazing at the tree that seemed to have permitted him to cross the water. He kept staring at the side of the trunk. The water level looked like having risen an inch compared to yesterday. Gummy remembered the thunder and the heavy rain drops. It was a living nightmare. Although he had trouble sleeping then, he couldn't think of that now. The discovery was right at hand, lurking around the corner. It was waiting for him and every effort would make it worthwhile.