

Glenys stood up and tugged at Rordan's arm. "Come on. I'll watch over you. Our problems will still be here in the morning."

Felan said, "Good night and pleasant dreams Rord. I haven't forgotten our predicament. We shall be together for our next encounter, I assure you."

Eshe and Nyah shared a look.

Vacia said, "Goodnight you two."

Rordan rose from his stool and let Glenys lead him out of Nyah's room. Borus stirred. She stretched, then followed behind them. They passed by Manissa's closed door and into Rordan's room. Stig's half-unpacked baggage hadn't been moved.

Rordan sat on the bed and realized his grimy clothes smelled like smoke. He watched Borus retire to the closet and wrap herself in his bedding. Rordan sighed, and grabbed a pillowcase. He jammed some unused clothes into it.

Glenys took the lamp on Rordan's desk into the hall and returned with it lit. She put it back and dialed it down.

"There. What are you doing?"

Rordan looked up from the floor. "I'm getting ready to sleep. Felan gets the bed."

"No. He doesn't."

Rordan sat on the bed again. "What are you going to tell him when he comes in?"

Glenys said, "Shush. You let me worry about that. Here, take Nuzzler. Where's Tedder?"

Rordan accepted the stuff-friend, then took off his shoes and jacket. "Still packed. I didn't get everything out yet." He rested his head on the makeshift pillow and pulled his jacket over him.

Glenys snatched the jacket off of him and tossed it on the desk chair. She spread her own blanket over him and said, "Stop doing whatever Felan wants. Take my blanket and get some rest. You'll need it."

"What will you use?" Rordan found her resolution a reassurance, and he relaxed.

Glenys tucked him in. "I'll take one of Felan's. Something tells me he could use the discipline. And I mean it, I'll keep watch over you."

Her presence brought a dull ache to his next breath. He wanted to confess to her now. "I didn't know you could fight. You cut that bugbear good."

She lowered her head, and the tresses of her hair fell over her face. "My father taught me. I didn't ever think it would come in handy."

"You know so much. You're so capable, and resourceful, and you're smart too. I'm glad you're on my side."

Glenys closed her eyes and basked in his praise. "You're like a dispensary."