



A Familiar Friend Came to Visit Today

October 1, 2021

The trees above me change their coats and offer up their leaves as a blanket to warm the ground. The air is cool but moving just softly enough to carry distant voices. The children are coming back to me! *I wonder what offerings they will bring me today. Sticks to watch races over my waterfall and between the rocks? Vessels to scoop me up and send me on an exhilarating fall to the ground? Will they notice how strong I am today?* The recent rains have caused me to swell and added power to my flow. It makes me sad to think I might be too cold today and the children may perhaps shy away.



The adults say, "It's so cold! Brrr!" But Alder makes no mind. As his blue-clad feet enter, I embrace him. I churn around his ankles as I hug my familiar friend. He has something, a bottle! I'm ready for my ride! Alder plunges the bottle into me taking a piece. *Did he notice the bubble I made for him?* I swirl into the



bottle then up I go. Alder pauses to look at me. *What was he thinking? Was he hoping for more of me? Did he see something in me?* Down I go but not from above as before. This time, Alder crouches close, turns his bottle upside down and I am once again whole.



Can Alder see his face reflected on my surface? He digs the bottle deeper this time and takes more of me. I brace for elation, but it comes in a way I didn't expect. Alder tosses the bottle and watches me carry it down the creek. *Was he curious about what I would do with it? Did he realize my power would carry it so far, so fast?*

Oh, I hope Alder isn't upset with me. I'm just doing what comes naturally. If I could retrieve his bottle for him, I would because he is such a dear friend. Alas, it's gone, but Alder is not troubled. He reaches down and gently touches me as if to say, "It's ok. I forgive you." In response, I reassuringly enveloped his hand. We are still friends, and nothing makes me happier.

