

## **Daniel's Reluctant Regression**

A cooperative story by Swift Fox and Tails230

### **-Chapter 3-**

#### **"Wednesday"**

After the previous two days Alyssa was taking no chances. After finishing Danny's lunch she walked down stairs, turned the knob on the door to her son's room and walked softly in. She gently laid her paw on her son's shoulder, giving it a little shake. "Danny?" She said softly, "Danny boy, time to get up."

Danny gently roused to his mother's soft call and gentle shake. He yawned and stretched and his mom stepped back to give him room.

"How's the bed today Danny?" She asked, hope and concern mixed in her question.

Danny's paws instantly went down to the sheet around his midsection, the look of concern etched on his face. The look changed to a smile as he turned his head to look up at her. "I'm dry this morning." He said proudly, just like a pre-school kid would have.

"Oh honey I'm so happy for you." His mom told him, as she sat next to him on the side of the bed, brushing a paw through his mussed up head fur and kissing his forehead. She got back up and made for the door to give her son the privacy he needed to get changed and ready for school. "See you upstairs for breakfast Danny." She told him before she shut the door.

Waking up dry put Daniel in a great mood this morning. The only bump he experienced was when he opened up his underwear drawer and pulled out another pair of briefs where his boxers should have been. But he recovered quickly, got showered, dried and dressed and was up stairs at the table in twenty minutes.

He hopped into his chair at the dining room table and looked to his mother. She smiled at his entrance and couldn't help but remember how he used to do that very same thing when he was eight years old. She brought him over a plate of waffles and bacon and a glass of orange juice, and then she took her usual seat across from him and sipped at her coffee while he ate.

The young fox wolfed down the food set before him and his mother chuckled to herself as she watched. Ten minutes later Alyssa was at the door watching Dan run down to the corner; his books on his back and his lunch in paw. She shut the door and walked into the living room, picking up the "Parenting" magazine she'd brought back from the Vet's office. Walking with it into the kitchen, she sat back down at the table, flipped open to the article on bedwetting, and read the passages again while she finished her coffee.

When Danny arrived at school, he noted the pang that told him he needed to pee. It wasn't insistent and besides, he was with his buddy Carl and the raccoon had offered to get Dan a donut at the cafeteria before homeroom. By the end of Daniel's second period however, that pang had turned into a very real urge. The bell rang and the silver fox held back to hook up with Carl. As they passed into the din of the busy high school corridor, Dan leaned in and said, "Carl, I need to use the bathroom, will you come watch my back?"

"What?" Carl turned and asked, having heard very little of Dan's request.

"I need to go to the bathroom." Dan said, louder, causing some girls nearby to giggle.

Carl, understanding what his friend wanted, sadly couldn't help him. "No can do buddy. I've got to hoof it if I'm going to get to my next class on time." He replied honestly, "Do what Ben

suggested. Go see the nurse."

"Right." Daniel smiled, "Thanks for reminding me."

The two friends parted company and Dan weaved his way down the hall to the center stairwell. The steps were killer. Each step jostled his bladder like the road bumps did on the bus. The students around him were walking incredibly slowly and there was no where to go but to stay within the flow of foot traffic.

The young fox traversed the swirl of bodies in the central core and then headed desperately to the nurses office. Suddenly, his legs left the floor and Dan came down on his chest and stomach. His books spun and clattered across the floor of the hall in front of him as the wind was knocked out of his lungs. As he gasped for breath he lost control of his bladder and soon a puddle of urine formed around his waist line.

"Hey! You should watch where you're goin' Freshman!" Shouted a familiar voice. It was the same bully who had shook him down in the bathroom yesterday.

Then laughter ensued. "Look't the little baby. He's wet himself." A voice pointed out.

More laughter as people in the hallways joined in.

"Does'um want his mommy lil' baby?" Someone jeered.

"I think someone needs a diaper." Another voice observed, laughing.

The laughter echoed in the hall all around him for what seemed like an eternity. Then a powerful, authoritative voice shouted above it all. Within seconds Danny was alone in the hall, picking himself up off the floor and reaching to retrieve his books. Tears were forming at the corners of his eyes, but he fought to bite them back. A strong paw grabbed him under the right arm and hoisted his light form to his feet.

"Go to the nurse boy." The black bear told him, "I'll get someone to bring your books to you after I get a custodian here to mop this up."

Dan didn't need to be told twice. The voice had an air of practiced authority to it; the kind a kid doesn't question. It was only twenty feet to the school nurse's office. He turned the knob and walked in to a room with about a dozen students already there. Instantly the snickers started and the nurse, a grey rabbit, turned to look who had walked into her office.

The snickers continued and she said absently, "Find a chair and sit down." But as the chuckles turned into laughter she realized what they were laughing at and amended her direction. "Go into the examination room and shut the curtains behind you." She said, "I'll be with you in a moment."

Danny did as he was told and whipped the curtain across the track behind him. The laughter settled down to whispered murmurs about the new kid who wet his pants. The young fox was fuming while he tried to piece together what had just happened in the hallway. He traced his memory back and could only surmise that he'd been tripped by the bullies as he was walking by. The realization increased his growing ire at the circumstances of his humiliation.

The curtain swept back and Danny turned in surprise to see the gray rabbit looking him over. "I'm sorry about that dear, it's been so busy today." She apologized, carrying a clip board with a small form on it and a pen, "If you could fill this out I'll have someone at the office call your parents and have them bring you a change of clothes and take you home."

Daniel took the clip board and managed a weak smile which the nurse returned; then she left him alone, pulling the privacy curtain closed behind her. He looked at the form. It was fairly simple: Parent's Name, Address, Phone number, Cell phone, Work phone. The first field left his

paw frozen in place as he held the pen. "She was so proud of me this morning." His mind remembered, "Heck, I'd been so proud of myself this morning." Now he realized he was setting in motion the call that would let his mother know that he'd once again wet his pants. "But it was because of those guys." the thought ran through his mind, as if it would provide comfort, "If they hadn't have tripped me I'd have made it."

"Have you finished?" The nurse's voice broke him out of his thoughts.

"Ummm..." Dan stammered.

The gray rabbit looked at the unfilled out form. She took the clipboard and the pen out of the fox's paws. She flipped the pen over and asked the fox sternly, "Parent's Name?"

"Alyssa Morgan." Daniel replied robotically and he watched her write it down.

"Address?" The nurse inquired and when Daniel answered she wrote it down and asked, "Is she home now or at work?"

"She should be at wor...you're really gonna call her?" Dan began and then asked.

"Mister Morgan, you have wet your pants and honestly, it's becoming more and more rank in here the longer you are in them." She told him flatly, "Now, your mother's cell phone number please?"

Dan sighed and rattled off the ten digit number and the nurse finished taking it down.

"Thank you." She smiled a knowing smile and left him.

Five minutes later Alyssa's cell phone rang in her purse. "Hello?" She answered, "Yes, this is Mrs. Morgan. Is everything alright with Daniel? Oh? He did? Yes, I can be there in about 15 minutes, I'll need to stop at home to get him a change of clothes. No, no, no, it's no problem. Thank you." Calmly she closed the phone, saved what she was doing on the computer and shut it down. She packed what she needed in her purse then got up and stuck her head in her boss' office.

"Roger, Danny's sick and I have to go pick him up from school." Alyssa mentioned, "I'll be back once I get him home and comfortable."

"Take whatever time you need Ally." He told her.

The grey fox left the supply house and drove home. On her way however, she stopped in at Greenwall's Pharmacy and grabbed a hand basket. Her first stop was the cub aisle where she picked up a bottle of Johnson's baby powder and lotion. While she was there she glanced at the packages of Goodnights and Pull-ups, but the sizing was confusing and she wasn't sure if the largest size in either brand would fit her son.

A sales associate caught sight of her as she perused the absorbent articles designed for cubs and inquired, "Can I help you?"

"Yes." Alyssa began. She paused as she assembled in her mind what she wanted to say. When she was satisfied, she explained, "My pre-teen son is having some issues at night and I'm not sure these products will fit him."

"Oh! Not a problem." The associate brightened, "You will probably need something larger with more absorbency than these for an older child. We have more appropriate products for his age in with the adult incontinence products. Follow me." The associate, a brown furred squirrel in a short lab coat and jeans, led the way two aisles over. Once there she explained, "Depends is a national brand and their disposable underwear is okay. Our low end store brand is also made by them. They're okay if you're awake and leak a little on the way to the bathroom. Our

premium brand is the same price as the Depends but is manufactured by TENA. For a bedwetting problem this is the best we have short of absorbent briefs."

"Wow, this woman was well informed." Alyssa thought as she looked over the packaging. There were 18 pair of underwear per package, plenty to start and at under \$10 a bag it was more economical than replacing clothes or a mattress. She took the bag down and was about to thank the woman when the squirrel interrupted her politely.

"You may want to get a package of these too." She told the fox, reaching up to pull down a bag of 24 disposable bed liners. "Those may still leak, but together with these it should keep the bed and sheets dry." The associate added.

The bag of liners was \$4.98 and Alyssa gave a curt nod and uttered a, "Thank you."

"They pay me to know a little about the products we carry and to help folks." The squirrel smiled, carrying the bed liners as they walked to the check out counter. "Do you need anything else while you're here?" She asked Dan's mom.

"I don't think so." Alyssa answered with a genuine smile, then she had a stray thought and asked, "Should I get some wipes?"

"Baby wipes?" the sales associate asked as she began to ring up the powder and the lotion. Alyssa nodded and she replied, "No. Just use a wash cloth. Better for the environment and more surface area to clean with."

Alyssa paid for her products and carried them to her car in two bags. She knew Danny would protest, but she hoped he might see that this is a better alternative to waking up in a wet bed or worse wetting his pants in school or out in public. She stopped at their house gathered up a change of clothes for Daniel, opened the bag of protective underwear and slipped one between his shirt and pants. Until she was sure he was over this "phase" Danny would wear a pair of these at all times.

The bell between periods had rung again. Danny should have been on his way to lunch now, grabbing a seat with Carl and Ben. The nurse's office had slowly cleared out as students were checked out and sent to class with a note, or parents came to take their sick children home for the day. The change in periods also brought half dozen new students into the nurse's office with a similar array of complaints and ailments and the rabbit went to work assessing them.

Alyssa had signed in at the high school office and the vice principal who had helped Danny off the floor escorted her down to the nurse's office. He was quite friendly and open with the gray fox which helped put her a little more at ease. She thanked him gratefully and then walked into the office. The gray rabbit looked up, smiled and seeing the bundle of clothes pointed to the curtained off room. Alyssa got the hint and walked that way.

Daniel looked up as the curtain was pulled back and saw his mother walk into view. "Mom!" He stood up and cried out, "I...I can explain!"

"I'm sure you can." She said calmly, "In the car on the way home. First, I brought you a change of clothes, get yourself changed." She put the pile on the examination table and backed away, shutting the curtain again.

Danny did as he was told; glad to get out of his smelly clothes now. He left his jeans, his shirt and his undies on the floor in a pile as he took them off. Then he turned to the neatly folded pile of dry clothes, looking for the dry pair of underwear. When he moved the shirt and found them, his jaw nearly dropped. There, tightly folded, was a cloth-like, white garment with a thick, rectangular, section of absorbent material which was sure to run from the bottom of his tail to above his sheath. Dan was aghast and he just stood there dumbly looking at it.

Alyssa was aware of the silence behind the curtain as her son simply stopped moving and she suspected what was going on. She asked idly, "Is everything alright Danny?"

This shook the young todd out of his stupor and he answered, "Um...everything's okay." A shaking paw reached out to take hold of the pair of disposable underwear. Now in his paws he looked it over to see how to open it up. He folded the thick absorbent pad down noisily and he cringed. He could see the wings at the waist needed to be unfolded also and he did these more slowly but no less noisily. Next he opened them up at the waist and looked down into the thirsty padding that was there to keep his clothes dry.

He stepped in with one foot, then the other and hiked them up his legs and over his hips. The padding was stiff between his thighs and he wiggled his hips to see if he could adjust the fit; but there was no adjustment to make it any less awkward feeling. He closed the back of the waist band over his tail with the odd tab so the garment was tight around his midsection. He put the clean jeans on and pulled his shirt on over his head. Dressed in clean, dry clothes with his shoes on, Dan pulled the curtain back and his mom was there with a plastic grocery bag.

She handed the bag to him and instructed, "Put your clothes in this, grab your books and let's go." She turned to the nurse and with a smile thanked the woman for her help.

"That's what they pay me for." The rabbit smiled back and added, "Good luck Danny."

The halls were deserted now and Dan was thankful for that. They stopped at his locker and grabbed all of his books and his uneaten lunch; then they went to the office to sign out. As his mother took care of signing him out for the day, Danny was handed a slip of 8x11 paper with his assignments on it from the classes he missed. The silver fox sulked at the realization that he wasn't getting out of his homework.

The tactile sensations between his legs were a continual reminder of what he was wearing. At thirteen years old, a freshman in high school, he was reduced to wearing pull-ups like a four year old. As they walked to his Mom's car, he tried adjusting his gait to lessen the feel, but when he realized he was waddling he thought it better to just walk normally and bear the discomfort. He was certain that anyone who might look could see the extra bulk in his pants.

As his Mom began to drive away, she asked, "So, what happened this time?"

"I was almost to the bathroom when these upper classmen tripped me." He explained, "When I fell it knocked the wind from my lungs and as I was trying to catch my breath I wet myself."

"It's almost like you're waiting until the last minute to use the bathroom." His mother stated.

Dan remained silent on that, but eventually piped, "There's not enough time between periods. And...well I got shook down by some upper classmen when I used the bathroom yesterday. So we can't really use the bathrooms in the halls and we have to be very careful when we use them in the locker..."

"Then you'll be wearing those pull-ups from now on so you don't wet your pants," She interrupted him, "or your bed like a four year old kid." She paused then added, "And, I want you to keep using the bathroom where ever you are, when you need to. No arguments."

"You're making me wear these to..." Daniel began to protest.

"No arguments young todd." She cut him off again, "You'll wear them until I'm satisfied you don't need to wear them. Do we understand each other?"

"Yes mother." Dan answered glumly.

Alyssa felt badly for having to be so stern. She knew it wasn't Danny's fault. A young boy doesn't go out of their way to wet the bed AND wet their pants in public. So it's not like he's

rebelling or he wants to be put back in pull ups. The stigma he'd have to live with over the next few months or even years while in high school would be an added stress to an already difficult period of life for a teen. Understanding that she was genuinely sad for her little kit.

"I'm sorry Danny." She said, "I just don't know what else to do...to maintain your dignity. I realize it's going to be hard for you at school now, and maybe with these you won't have to worry about wetting your pants again...or your bed. That's got to bring you some peace of mind."

"I dunno." Dan answered as they were pulling into their driveway. Mother and son entered their home and shut the door behind them.

"Whatever happens," She told him as they stood in the entry, "I'll always love you."

"I know that Mom." He replied back, stepped forward and gave her a big hug. Then his stomach growled and that made his mom laugh.

"How about we eat our lunch?" She said, "Then I need to get back to the office. I can leave you home to clean yourself up and do your homework. Looks like you've got a bunch to do."

"Yeah." Daniel acknowledged looking down at his backpack.

"I want you to promise me you'll stay in those pu...protective underwear when I'm not around Danny." She looked at him hard, her paws on his shoulders, "Promise?"

"I promise Mom." He responded with a defeated sigh. Dan knew he'd stick to it the moment he said it too. Living with his mom without any deception between them had made living a whole lot easier these last few years; and that's something he was smart enough not to give up, even with the current hardship. Besides, it's nearly impossible to make a lie stick when your Mom's a fox.

His Mom gave him a kiss on the forehead before leaving for work and Daniel was left alone to clean himself up and start his homework. As much as he hated it, he stayed true to his word and put the pair of disposable underwear back on after a quick shower. Per his mother's instructions he's sprinkled a dash of the baby powder onto the padding to help cut down on the sweat and chafing that would invariably occur.

He brought his books into the kitchen and started on his homework. He took the list out that his teachers had sent for him and started on reading the sections he was missing while not in class. He kept shifting in his seat as he read; trying to find a comfortable way to position the padding, but nothing seemed to help.

He got up to use the bathroom when the urge arose and when he returned to the dining room he picked his book up and went to read in the living room. The softer cushions on the couch applied less pressure on the absorbent padding which made sitting in them less distracting. Comfortable on the couch, Daniel went back to reading his text books. Without the constant wiggling and discomfort to keep him awake, the dry reading material of History 1 caused his eye lids to droop. Within minutes Dan had nodded off to sleep.

The phone rang and roused him from his unplanned nap. The history book clattered from his lap to the floor as the bewildered fox rolled off the couch and ran across the room to answer the phone. "Huh...hullo?" He asked into the receiver.

"Dan?" Carl's voice inquired on the other end.

"Yeah. Hi Carl." Dan replied, rubbing the sleep from his eyes and genuinely pleased to hear his friend's voice.

"Hey. I heard you went home from school." His friend mentioned.

"Yeah." The fox answered, "It's kinda a long story."

"A long story that's now all over school." Carl confirmed, "I'm not sure how much to believe of it though."

"W...why?" Dan asked, "What have you been hearing?"

There was a moment of silence on the other end, then Carl finally shared, "That you wet your pants and cried like a cub as you ran to the nurse's office."

"THAT'S A LIE!" Danny barked into the phone, referring to the part about "running to the nurse's office crying like a kit."

"Easy bud. That's what I thought." Carl tried to calm his friend, "So what DID happen?"

Daniel took a breath then relayed the events as he could piece them together for his friend.

"So you did wet your pants?" Carl asked after absorbing Dan's telling, "Are you sick?"

"Yeah, I was on the way to the nurse's office to use the bathroom there and when I fell it just sort of let go." Dan repeated, "I was at the vet yesterday and Dr. Ott didn't find anything wrong. He said it's probably something physiological and it will pass."

"I hope so." Carl told the fox, "It's gonna be bad enough at school for you after today. You don't wanna have to wear diapers or something."

"I know Carl. Believe me I know." Dan replied, "I appreciate you callin' though." The fox let out a little laugh then added, "I fell asleep on the couch catching up on the reading for History."

The raccoon chuckled along with his friend on the other end of the phone line. "Well I'll let you get back to that." Carl told him, "If you get your homework done, you wanna come over and play some Modern Warfare with me and Ben tonight?"

"I'll try and get my homework done early and ask Mom when she get's home." Dan said.

"Awesome!" Carl exclaimed, "Call and let me know before you come over."

"Will do. Bye!" Dan concluded.

"Later." Carl said and the connection was cut.

Dan hung up the phone then reached down between his legs to scratch an itch. That's when he realized the absorbent pad, in the pull ups he was wearing, was a bit softer, heavy and saggy.

"No." he breathed, "No, no, no, no, no." He raced into the bathroom opened up his pants and let them drop around his ankles. He pulled the elastic waist band away from his stomach and looked down at the yellow stained padding around his sheath. The scent of it rose up to his nose to confirm what his eyes had seen. "Shit." He said, very upset with himself, "I don't even know if Mom has another one to change into."

His joy at going to Carl's tonight to play video games quickly melted away as he realized he was going to have to tell his mother he'd wet his trainers and he needed another one to change into. Figuring she'd be happier if she came home to find that he'd finished his homework already; and hanging onto the hope that she'd still let him go to Carl's even though he had an accident; Dan went back to the dining room table and got his homework done.

He was nearly done when the door opened and his Mom walked in. She was carrying the bags containing what she'd bought at Greenwalls earlier in the day. "Honey could you take a break and give me a hand with these?" She asked him. Danny hopped off the chair and was at her side in a flash. She handed him the bag of bed liners, powder and lotion and said, "Take these down and put them in your room." The two foxes parted ways, each heading to their respective

bedrooms.

When Danny opened the bag he saw a package of disposable bed liners and the bottles of baby powder and lotion and knew exactly what they were for. He went back up stairs and called for his mother, "Mom? Did you get any more of these...pull ups?" At the moment he couldn't think of a better term for them.

"Yes, I have a whole pack, with the exception of the one you're wearing." She answered back from her bedroom.

Dan walked down the hall past the bathroom and stood in the doorway. There on the floor at the end of the bed was the open, pale green bag with a picture of what he was wearing clearly on it. "I need another one please." He admitted quietly.

"Aww Danny?" She said despondently, "When?" She was referring to when he had wet himself again.

His ears fell flat out to the sides. More and more he was feeling more and more like a little kid again as he admitted to the accident, "A little more than an hour ago now Mom." He admitted, "I fell asleep on the couch while reading my history homework."

"Did the couch get wet?" Alyssa asked.

"No." Dan answered, surprised that she didn't scold him, "I checked. It was dry."

"Well at least they work." She said absently, "Okay, here's the rules. I'll give you a pair of these underwear each morning. You'll carry one in your backpack to school so you'll have a change if you need one. If you wet the pair you're wearing you'll have to ask me for another one. Same goes if you need to replace the one in your backpack. Got it?"

"Yes mom." He muttered quietly, looking down at the floor.

"A little less like a five year old and a little more like my young todd." She chided, trying to get him to repeat himself a little louder and less sullen.

"Yes Mom." He repeated, looking at her.

She stepped over to the bag, pulled out a fresh pair of disposable underwear and handed it to him. "Clean yourself up with a wash cloth, apply some lotion to your privates and sprinkle some powder onto the padding as before. Roll the used one up and I'll get you an old grocery store bag to tie it up in before putting it in the trash." She instructed.

Danny washed up as he was told and put the dry pair of protective underwear on. He rolled the used pull up into a ball and his Mom gave him a bag as he left the bathroom. He dutifully tied it up in the bag and tossed it in the trash. Then, in nothing but his shirt, he took his pants and went downstairs to rub some lotion in around his sheath and balls and powder up the padding. He pulled the absorbent underwear back up, cinched the back over his tail, put his pants back on and returned to finish the last bit of his homework.

At dinner Daniel mentioned, "Carl called after he got home from school today to see how I was doing. That's what woke me up." He gave his mom an amused smile.

She looked up at him and returned the smile, "That's nice of him. What are they saying about you at school."

"How does she know these things?" Dan thought for a moment. "Word around the school is I wet my pants and ran crying to the nurse."

Alyssa frowned and thought, "Children can be so cruel." "I'm sorry honey." She said in response, "You know that's not all true."

"Yeah." Dan answered, "It's not the way I wanted to start out my first year of high school though."

"It'll pass." His Mom tried to share, hoping to lift her son's spirits a little but knowing at the same time it will haunt him for the next four years if things don't improve with this problematic little growth spurt.

Hoping to change the topic, Danny mentioned, "Carl and Ben are getting together tonight to play some video games. Would it be okay if I went over for a couple hours to play too?"

"Is your homework done?" She inquired, taking the hint.

"Yep! I finished it while you were making dinner." He stated proudly, "Remember?"

"I guess I do." She smiled at him, "Okay then. Give Carl a call and let him know you'll be over after you give me a hand cleaning up from dinner."

Danny called his friend and told him he'd be over in about a half hour. He helped clear the table, dried the pots after his Mom had washed them, and put them away. When they were done he left to use the bathroom. When he came back out his mother met him in the hallway with a pull up in her paw.

"Since you're going out, here's the spare pair to put in your backpack." She told him, handing the underpants to him, "Take your backpack with you, so you have them just in case."

"Okay Mom." He assured her, his face serious. Dan turned and walked over to his backpack. He placed the absorbent underwear in the outside pocket and put his Mustelid text book in the main compartment, as an excuse to have taken his backpack in the first place. He put his windbreaker on, donned the backpack and opened the door. "See ya later Mom!" He called back to her, excitement in her voice.

"Have fun. Be home by 9:30." She shouted back to him, "I love you."