

Chapter 3

Jack Sprout Meets Sawdust Miller

I asked Sawdust about the woods and forests and about his job. He leaned back and started to unwind a long story.

“Well for starters, the woods and forests are alive and they keep us alive.”

“How do they keep us alive?” I asked.

“The trees, plants and grasses breathe like we do,” he said. “They breathe in the carbon dioxide that we breathe out. We breathe in the oxygen that they breathe out. So you see, we need each other to stay alive.”

“The woods and forests are also home to most of my friends,” said Sawdust. “That’s where all of the owls, eagles, bobcats, cougars, chipmunks and foxes live. They make their homes in the trees, bushes, rocks and even underground. My other friends the deer, elk and moose need the trees for food and shade. Even my big ol’ buddies the bears need trees to scratch on whenever they have a big itch.”

“There’s also a red-tailed hawk named Redtail McCallister.