Mouse's Friend

by Judith Nolan

F"You stay with Mouse?" The boy seized Vincent's sleeve. "Always..."

He looked back to the people grouped at the far end of the tunnel. His thin body froze in fear. He tensed to run, despite all the reassurances spoken.

Vincent clasped the small hand. "I will never leave you. You must believe that."

"Vincent, my friend...." The words trembled. Rushed words pregnant with meaning. It took a lot of trust just to say them.

"I am your friend. No matter what happens, or what comes. I will be with you."

"Mouse can't stay here?"

"No, Mouse..."

"Okay good... okay, fine..."