

Tales of Red and Gray War Omnibus Trilogy

Tales of Red and Gray War, Volume 4

Maxwell Hoffman

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TALES OF RED AND GRAY WAR OMNIBUS TRILOGY

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Written by Maxwell Hoffman.

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TALES OF RED AND GRAY WAR



OMNIBUS TRILOGY



BY



Maxwell Hoffman

MAXWELL HOFFMAN

TALES OF RED AND GRAY WAR BOOK 1
WAR OVER BURYING NUTS

by
Maxwell Hoffman



Part One



Prologue

Summer of 2025



It's the summer of the year 2025 in the French city of Lyons; two packs of squirrels fight over territory where to put their nuts for the winter. On one end were the gray squirrels being led by Evan and his brother Thomas. Evan believed it was the right of the gray squirrels to be wherever they pleased to be. The red squirrels were led by Matthys and her brother Romaine. The red squirrels knew the ground squirrels could be the only faction to determine who would get the spot to bury their nuts.



EACH OF THE TWO GROUPS of rodents were debating in their dens within the bark of the trees. Evan was drawing an outline of the map. A squad of at least a dozen or so gray squirrels had gathered.



“OH, THAT’S A LOT OF land!” cried one of the gray squirrels.



“I KNOW, AND IT WILL be ours” said Evan, “this is our right as gray squirrels to exist!”



“AND WE CAN STORE AS much nuts as we want!” added Thomas.



THERE WAS CHATTER AMONG the gray squirrels — those pesky red squirrels always stood in their path. Matthys had a plan of her own.



The Red Squirrels



MATTHYS WANTED TO BE sneaky about the plan — her brother Romaine was in contact with one of the ground squirrels — Marius. Marius and Romaine often played with each other when they were squirrel pups growing up. It was only natural that it made sense for Matthys to get permission from the ground squirrels to use their territory to bury their nuts for the winter.



“NOW, ROMAINE, ARE YOU sure all the ground squirrels agree to help the red squirrels?” asked Matthys.



“UH, YES I CHECKED MARIUS stated that every ground squirrel supports us” laughed Romaine.



MATTHYS COULD TELL her brother wasn't bright at all, by the way he looked he failed to recognize all of the ground squirrels. She knew otherwise — there was one particular ground squirrel who had been more vocal in supporting the gray squirrels — Lily. Lily was in contrast to her brother's upbringing she had grew up with Evan and Thomas as a squirrel pup. She was more than eager to embrace their ideals. When she heard of Marius siding with the red squirrels she would be having none of this.



“HOW DARE YOU SIDE WITH the red squirrels!” cried Lily.



LILY WAS OUTRAGED AS she paced back and forth in their den underground.



Unhappy Lily



LILY WAS HAVING NONE of the red squirrels on her turf. She remembered how mean Matthys was as a squirrel pup. Always picking on her, and encouraging her fellow squirrels to tease and poke fun of her.



“THERE WILL BE NO RED squirrels in our territory burying their nuts for the winter!” bellowed Lily.



“BUT LILY, I HAVE RED squirrels who are friends” said Marius.



“FRIENDS, FRIENDS, I have no red squirrels who are friends!” cried Lily.



LILY’S TEETH WERE SHOWING, she was enraged at how her brother was betraying her.



“IF THAT’S GOING TO be the issue, then I will get the gray squirrels to be on my side, and we’ll divide the territory up for our own use!” bellowed Lily.



MARIUS GASPED OVER the thought, he couldn't believe that there was such a big disagreement between siblings like this.



"PLEASE, THERE'S PLENTY of land for the both of us, I'm sure we can work something out" said Marius.



"NEVER!" BELLOWED LILY.



LILY'S OUTBURST THREW Marius off balanced, he couldn't believe his sister was so worked up with the intrusion of the red squirrels. No doubt Marius was disappointed, he had to turn towards Romaine for comfort.



One Problem



MARIUS CLIMBED THE tree where the red squirrels were stationed, Lily watched from afar seeing the betrayal from her brother.



"DON'T YOU DARE!" CRIED Lily.



BUT MARIUS IGNORED Lily's comments and continued to climb up the tree towards the stump where Matthys and Romaine were stationed. As he knocked on the door — Matthys answered.



“MARIUS, WE WERE JUST talking about you, come in, come in” said Matthys.



MARIUS WANTED TO WARN them about his sister’s anti-red squirrel behavior but the words couldn’t come out right for the moment. Matthys’s insisting behavior prevented Marius from sprouting out any warnings. Romaine could clearly see there was some distress over his ground squirrel friend’s face.



“PLEASE, LET HIM RELAX, I think he needs to tell us something” said Romaine.



“THANK YOU MY FRIEND” said Marius.



MARIUS CAUTIOUSLY SAT down in a log he was exhausted from all the yelling his sister did towards him.



“SO, WHAT’S ON YOUR mind?” asked Matthys, “Is it about your sister?”



MARIUS HAD A SAD FACE on him as he nodded.



“SHE WON’T LET ANY RED squirrel place their nuts in our territory for the winter” said Marius.



THE RED SQUIRRELS ALL gasped with such terrible news — and so begins the red and gray squirrel war.



Chapter One

Matter of Lily



Marius was undoubtedly shaken by his sister's contrast over her ill comments about the red squirrels. Marius felt there was enough room for both squirrel groups to bury their nuts for the winter.



“SO FROM WHAT YOU ARE saying, your sister has never forgiven me for anything?” asked Matthys.



“NO” REPLIED MARIUS, “she has stood very firm against all red squirrels.”



“THAT WOULD PRESENT us with a unique problem on our hand” said Matthys.



MATTHYS COULD SEE THAT Lily would be the obstacle in the path for the red squirrels. For Lily, she couldn't wait any longer for her brother to return. She headed out of her den and towards the gray squirrel tree. As she knocked on the door — Evan answered.



“LILY, COME IN, COME in what brings you to our humble home?” asked Evan.



“THE RED SQUIRRELS, they want to bury their nuts in my territory” said Lily, “I would not stand for it!”



“DEAR ME, WE CAN’T LET that happen, why not this, I will get Thomas to gather at least four dozen gray squirrels to assist you in this defense” said Evan, “it would show the red squirrels a show of force.”



LITTLE DID EVAN REALIZE this was the beginning of the Gray-Red War.



Gathering Gray Squirrels



THOMAS SCAMPERED OUT of the tree, he then headed over towards the neighbor trees where the other gray squirrels were being housed. He quickly was able to rally the troops — at least four dozen or so gray squirrels began to follow him. Evan was impressed with the display.



“MY, THOMAS, THEY FOLLOW every word” said Evan.



“WHEN I TOLD THEM ABOUT what happened to Lily, they were moved by my story” said Thomas.



“YES, IT’S RATHER DREADFUL that those red squirrels will have a say with anything” said one gray squirrel.



THOMAS AND EVAN BEGAN to train the gray squirrels — meanwhile over at the red squirrel territory — Marius felt it wasn’t necessary to create a large number of red squirrels as a response. But Matthys saw this as an opportunity. She got her brother Romaine to head towards the trees the red squirrels occupied. At least four dozen or so red squirrels agreed to the message about the warning of the gray squirrels.



“SURE, WE’LL LOVE TO help” said one red squirrel.



THE RED SQUIRRELS BEGAN to follow Romaine back to the tree where Matthys and Marius were located.



Training the Squirrels



BOTH SIDES BEGAN TO train the squirrels, whether they were red or gray it didn’t seem to matter. Each side would have their own unique set of weapons. The gray squirrels were able to hold mini-sticks as their weapons. While the red squirrels would use the shells of the nuts they had formerly gathered. Enough shells were made good use as armor.



“YES, THAT’S THE THINKING” said Matthys.



MATTHYS WAS PREPARING for battle, she knew the gray squirrels wouldn't give up so easily. She could see all the hard work her fellow red squirrels had done.



“MY FELLOW RED SQUIRRELS, today we defend the honor of Marius!” said Matthys.



MATTHYS WAS READY FOR battle, unaware of how long things would pan out. The red squirrels then headed out following Marius. Marius was already having regrets meeting with the red squirrels. He just wanted to provide safety for any squirrel burying their nuts in the ground squirrel territory. But as the red squirrels gathered in one area — Matthys could see a sea of gray squirrels emerging from the opposite end led by Evan, Thomas and Lily. Lily was flabbergasted by this.



Flabbergasted Lily



LILY SHOOK HER HEAD unsure what to make of it — she only wanted the gray squirrels in the ground squirrel territory. The brother-sister were no doubt divided on what to do next. It felt more like a tense standoff where neither two sides were budging for the moment.



“WHAT ARE YOU DOING carrying those sort of contraptions?” asked Lily.



“I SHOULD SAY THE SAME thing about YOUR side” said Marius.



MARIUS AND LILY ANGRILY glared at each other — the two ground squirrels were divided on supporting the grays and the reds. It was going to soon turn very violent, very soon especially for squirrels. For a moment — there was nothing but silence in the tense moments.



“MARIUS, I DEMAND THAT you and your red squirrel friends leave” said Lily.



“BUT THIS TERRITORY should be for every type of squirrel to bury their nuts not just gray squirrels” said Marius.



“I DON’T CARE, I DON’T like red squirrels they were mean to me as a pup” continued Lily.



LILY REFUSED TO BUDGE — war was inevitable between both sides. Evan and Thomas could see tensions were boiling over on their side.



Chapter Two

Tensions Increasing



The gray squirrels were getting restless, neither of them really wanted to be there but had to follow the orders of Evan and Thomas. Likewise on the red squirrel end — Matthys and Romaine called the shots.. The red squirrels were more than eager to cause trouble. Matthys saw this as an opportunity to boost herself.



“CHARGE!” ORDERED MATTHYS.



THE CHARGING COMMAND caught Marius off guard — he ducked around some rocks and hid as the onslaught of red squirrels charged towards. Likewise, Evan and Thomas gave the the command in charging. The red squirrels and gray squirrels finally clashed with each other. The sticks and the strange armor from the nuts continued to make odd clashes. Lily and Marius had never imagined their feud went so far.



“THIS, THIS IS SO WILD!” cried Lily.



LILY HAD MANAGED TO hide underneath her den, she ducked around underneath the table doing her best trying to hide from the fighting above her

den. The red and gray squirrels continued to fight each other. Matthys even confronted Evan, the leader of the gray squirrels. Matthys was having none of Evan's nonsense and the two squirrel leaders were locked in combat.



Matthys Fights Evan



MATTHYS WANTED TO ASSERT her dominance in the ground squirrel territory with the permission from Marius. But the gray squirrels had received similar permission from Lily.



“YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE to bury your nuts in ground squirrel territory” said Matthys, “this is our turf!”



EVAN HELD A SMALL STICK in his hand and was ready to use it as a melee weapon.



“YOU THINK YOU HAVE the guts in taking me on?” laughed Evan.



MATTHYS CHARGED, SHE didn't seem to care about the tool he had in his paws. As the two squirrels went at it — Evan was able to smack Matthys with his stick a few times. Matthys didn't seem to care if she was injured. She kept on going.



“YOU THINK YOUR STUPID weapon is going to stop me?” laughed Matthys.



MATTHYS WAS BRUISED but she was willing to continue and keep going. She charged towards him using her claws and managed to deliver a few scratches here and there. Evan was pulled away by two of his gray squirrels who defended him during the attack.



“WE HAVE TO REGROUP!” cried one of the gray squirrels.



EVAN SADLY AGREED WITH the assessment.



Regrouping Gray Squirrels



THE GRAY SQUIRRELS regrouped, Lily managed to come out of hiding once the red squirrels made a strategic retreat themselves. Lily was no doubt shaken by her experience with the red squirrels assaulting her home territory. She wanted them gone, gone for good.



“MATTHYS IS RATHER A frightful red squirrel leader, we have to take her out” said Lily.



LILY WAS RIGHT ON MATTHYS being a full motivator for the red squirrels, she was a deadly force. Already so many gray squirrels had been injured thanks to her own minions. They were surprised by her fierce behavior on how she commanded other red squirrels to do her bidding.



“WE HAVE TO GET MORE gray squirrels” said Lily.



“THAT CAN TAKE A FEW days, but I think I will be able to handle it” said Evan.



EVAN KNEW IT WOULD take sometime to bring up the moral of the gray squirrels. The gray squirrels were all but exhausted from their first major battle from the red squirrels. Though it wasn't clear on who won the battle. On the red squirrel end — there was similar sentiment. Marius finally came out of hiding and met up with the red squirrels.



Exhausted Red Squirrels



THE RED SQUIRRELS LIKEWISE, were exhausted from their first battle. Matthys felt they had won or at least make their mark against the grays pretty clearly. Marius still felt he had doubts about using such a large force against the gray squirrels.



“ARE WE DOING THE RIGHT thing?” asked Marius.



“YES, DO YOU HAVE DOUBTS about my red squirrels?” asked Matthys.



“NO, I DON'T HAVE DOUBTS, but all of this just so that one side can bury more nuts?” asked Marius.



“IT’S NECESSARY TO SHOW them strength” said Matthys.



EVEN HER BROTHER ROMAINE agreed with the assessment, being in second in command had its perks. He got to recruit more red squirrels.



“ROMAINE, BE A DEAR and head towards the trees where the other red squirrels stay see if they’re willing to join in on the fight” said Matthys.



ROMAINE NODDED AND scampered off. Marius still had his own doubts about everything. He couldn’t believe that this silly feud all started with her sister’s hatred for red squirrels. Not letting them bury their nuts in ground squirrel territory would surely be very costly but also for the rest of the park.



Chapter Three

Humans Observe



But while tensions were brewing between the red and gray squirrels the local humans were puzzled what was going on between the two groups of critters. Particularly the park's main grounds keeper Anthony Bernard was perplexed by the behavior of the two groups of squirrels.



“I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING like it, squirrels fighting over territory!” laughed Anthony.



JONATHAN POND, A CANADIAN tourist could see it possible that squirrels could behave just like humans. And even local resident to Lyons — Pauline Bergeron couldn't agree more.



“THOSE SQUIRRELS ARE just acting like us people always fighting over land that we don't understand” said Jonathan.



“YOU'RE RIGHT, MAYBE we should just sit back and watch everything unfold” laughed Pauline.



MATTHYS DID HER BEST trying to ignore the human onlookers, she had her brother Romaine and her ground squirrel ally Marius setup dummies for the red squirrels to fight.



“WE’RE GOING TO NEED to work on our fighting skills” said Matthys.



IT WAS SO CUTE SEEING the dummies all lined up. The humans who observed them could only describe it as being so cute.



“JUST LOOK AT THEM, pretending they’re training” laughed Jonathan.



IT WAS QUITE A SIGHT to see — Anthony then gazed at the gray squirrels they too were setting up their training course.



Gray Squirrels Train



EVAN ALONG WITH THOMAS and Lily did their best to setup the training course for the gray squirrels. They could see that they needed so much work to be done. Evan did his best to instruct the gray squirrels, they were struggling more than their red squirrel counterparts.



“THIS IS INSANE, WE should be ahead of the red squirrels but from the looks of it, they’re more disciplined!” cried Evan.



EVAN WAS FEELING THE frustration of being the gray squirrel leader. The humans all thought it was cute seeing an angry gray squirrel yelling at his fellow gray squirrels.



“AW, LOOK HOW CUTE HE is” laughed Anthony.



THE HUMANS SAT BACK and watched the two sides chatter at each other. Evan did most of the chattering against the gray squirrels who were all but incompetent. Lily couldn't believe her own allies would fail this easily.



“COME ON, WE HAVE TO do it, if we don't we won't have any space during the winter” said Lily.



THE GRAY SQUIRRELS knew what was at stake, but their boss Evan was expecting way too much from all of this spat.



Second Skirmish



AFTER A FEW HOURS OF training, Evan felt confident enough to send Thomas, his second in command out with at least a dozen gray squirrels. Likewise, Romaine on the red squirrel end was instructed to head out by Matthys with a dozen red squirrels. The gray and red squirrels headed towards the ground squirrel territory the main cause of the conflict.



“LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING is in the clear” whispered Thomas.



THOMAS WAS BEING CAREFUL not to end up as a failure, Evan was expecting so much from him. The stress levels were getting to the other gray squirrels. For Romaine, not much pressure was brought upon him by Matthys. But she did expect him to gain territory. Romaine sniffed the air, his fellow red squirrels were on alert.



“CAREFUL, I SENSE SOME gray squirrels nearby” said Romaine.



A LONE RED SQUIRREL agreed to be the scout and headed off first. The lone red squirrel was unaware of how strong the gray squirrels were. As the lone red squirrel scampered around the ground squirrel territory — it spotted the perfect digging site where nuts could be buried.



“COME ON FELLAS” SAID the lone red squirrel.



THE RED SQUIRRELS INCLUDING Romaine gathered around that particular area.



Into the Conflict!



THE GRAY SQUIRRELS saw their chance in the hopes of taking the ground squirrel territory for themselves.



“CHARGE!” ORDERED THOMAS.



THE GRAY SQUIRRELS were armed with their sticks, they were prepared for a fierce battle. The red squirrels could see Thomas and the other gray squirrels approaching.



“READY TO DEFEND THE territory!” cried Romaine.



THOMAS LUNGED AT ROMAINE and began to bite him, the other red squirrels responded by lunging back at the oncoming gray squirrels. They didn't care they were caring weapons. They had teeth and claws, and were ready to use them. The grounds keeper of the park — Anthony was in disbelief over the carnage.



“JUST LOOK AT THAT!” cried Anthony.



JONATHAN AND PAULINE both gasped in horror.



“DEAR ME, THEY'RE BITING each other!” cried Pauline.



“I DON'T KNOW IF WE should call animal control or just let this play out” said Jonathan.



STAKES WERE HIGH FOR the two groups of squirrels fighting over the territory. Lily and Marius who were on their respective ends couldn't believe the carnage. The fierce biting and the scratches the squirrels caused to each other. But when the skirmish was over, Thomas and Romaine were both injured in the fight.



Part Two



Chapter Four

Draw Status



The second skirmish led to a major draw instead of a victory from either side. Thomas and Romaine were helped up by their respected sides heading back. Neither side had managed to gain ground in the ground squirrel territory. Evan wasn't surprised by this, he could sense that the red squirrels were determined to keep at it.



“WHAT’S THE STATUS?” asked Evan to one of the gray squirrels.



“THOMAS WAS BITTEN BY the leader of the other side” said one of the gray squirrels.



EVAN DECIDED TO INSPECT Thomas’ injuries, they were not fatal. He could sense that Thomas would live.



“YOU’LL HEAL FROM YOUR injuries in due time” said Evan.



“BUT I CAN’T LEAD ANYMORE gray squirrels” said Thomas.



EVAN THOUGHT FOR A moment — he then turned towards Lily.



“SAY LILY, WOULD YOU like to get even against those red squirrel bullies for a change?” asked Evan.



“YES SIR, I WOULD” SAID Lily.



“GOOD, THEN I WANT YOU to lead the next wave” said Evan.



LILY SWALLOWED SHE had never led gray squirrels before. Perhaps a training session would be wise for her to go through before leading the charge.



Matthys' Assessment



MEANWHILE ON MATTHYS' end, she was inspecting Romaine who was injured by Thomas.



“YOU'LL RECOVER NOTHING life threatening” said Matthys.



“THOSE GRAYS WON'T QUIT!” cried Romaine.



“ALL THE MORE REASON why we must show them we can do anything” said Matthys.



MATTHYS WASN'T GIVING up, however she knew she had to sought out new allies. She turned towards Marius for assistance. Unlike Evan, she was going to be smarter she was going to enlist some of the park's birds to assist them. A few robins were nesting around the red squirrel territory — it would be wise for her to recruit them for their cause.



“MARIUS, I NEED YOU to be the diplomat in getting the robins on our side” said Matthys.



“I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL agree” said Marius.



“THEY WILL ONCE THEY see how imperialistic the gray squirrels are” said Matthys.



MATTHYS WAS SPECIFIC, she showed where the main robin nest resided — in the very same tree that they were living in. Marius agreed to the mission he scampered up towards the top of the tree. He had never climbed so high in his entire life. But once he reached the top he could see rows of robin nests laid out.



The Robins



THE ROBINS FOR THE most part wanted to stay out of the conflict as long as the gray squirrels didn't bother their nests. Victor noticed Marius, the ground squirrel was far from his own territory.



"I SAY, WHY ARE YOU up here with us robins?" asked Victor.



"PLEASE, I KNOW YOU robins don't want to be involved but the gray squirrels if they get the territory might move onto your trees" said Marius.



MAEVA, VICTOR'S MATE was worried for the safety of her chicks. They had just hatched and she knew that squirrels in general would eat just about anything.



"WE SHOULD INTERVENE supporting the red squirrels" said Maeva.



"BUT RED SQUIRRELS CAN eat chicks too" said Victor.



"YES, BUT THE GRAY SQUIRRELS would be so much worse" said Maeva.



VICTOR THOUGHT FOR a moment.



"WE'LL THINK ABOUT IT, give us sometime" said Victor.



“THANK YOU SIR, FOR listening to me” said Marius.



MARIUS THEN SCAMPERED down back to where the red squirrels were stationed.



“WELL, WHAT DID THEY say?” asked Matthys.



“THEY SAID THEY’LL WAIT because they want to think about it” said Marius.



MATTHYS GROANED BUT she was hopeful it’d be all worth it.



Another Raid!



MEANWHILE WITH THE gray squirrels, Lily was ready to initiate another raid on their behalf. She was going to stand her ground on her own ground squirrel territory against any oncoming red squirrels.



“COME ON, EVAN STATES I should lead you all for now” said Lily.



THE GRAY SQUIRRELS were pleased to see how excited Lily was as she scampered on the ground leading them to her home. Her home was going to be

the main turf war, as she arrived one of the gray squirrels planted what seemed like a gray squirrel flag on the ground.



“WE CLAIM THIS TERRITORY in the name of the gray squirrels!” bellowed the lone gray squirrel.



THE CHATTER FROM THE gray squirrels brought attention again by the humans who noticed them.



“AW, THAT’S SO CUTE!” laughed Anthony, “They got their own little flag!”



“YEA, THEY’RE MARKING their territory just like a video game” laughed Jonathan.



“I DO HOPE THEY KNOW what they’re doing” said Pauline, “the red squirrels could be on them at any given moment.”



THE HUMANS WATCHED as the gray squirrels with the help of Lily fortified their positions anticipating an attack.



Gray Imperialism!



ON THE RED SQUIRREL end, for the robins, Victor gasped as what he saw. He saw the gray squirrel flag over what use to be neutral territory being the ground squirrel territory.



“MY WORD!” CRIED VICTOR.



“WHAT’S WRONG DEAR?” asked Maeva.



MAEVA ALSO GAZED AFAR and noticed the flag.



“SEE, I TOLD YOU, YOU should have sided with the red squirrels” said Maeva.



“PERHAPS YOU’RE RIGHT, I’ll go see them immediately” said Victor.



VICTOR HEADED TOWARDS the den where the red squirrels were and knocked on it with his feather. Matthys was the one who answered, she could see the robin leader was ready to make a deal.



“THOSE PESKY GRAYS DON’T know what they’re getting themselves into” said Victor, “my flock of robins so long as it’s during the warmer months will gladly side with you.”



“YES, THANK YOU ROBIN leader, we won’t disappoint you either” said Matthys.



MATTHYS WAS PLEASED to see the robin leader supporting her cause. It was a diplomatic victory at best. Victor smiled, he then headed up towards his main branch. The robins were going to prepare for a surprise assault on the gray squirrels as a form of intervention.



Chapter Five

Robins' Bombing Raid



Victor and Maeva knew exactly what to do. Maneva would lead a squad of at least three dozen robins. They were going to intervene on behalf of the red squirrels against their gray squirrel counterparts. Lily was already celebrating a bit too early with her gray squirrel allies feeling that they had won the war.



“THEY’RE NOT ATTACKING which means we won!” cried Lily.



“I DON’T KNOW” SAID one of the gray squirrels.



THE GRAY SQUIRRELS spotted a small flock of robins oddly heading their way. They were unsure what to make of them.



“UH, IS THAT NORMAL what robins do?” asked another gray squirrel.



LILY GASPED — WHAT were those robins up to?



“DUCK AND COVER!” ORDERED Lily.



LILY AND HER GRAY SQUIRREL allies did their best trying to hide from the robins. They didn't know what to expect. But Maeva with all of her might and will from the robins began dropping unfertilized eggs! Yes, that's right! They were dropping unfertilized eggs as part of their ammunition. One egg managed to land on one gray squirrel.



“I'VE BEEN HIT!” CRIED the gray squirrel.



THEN MORE EGGS FOLLOWED.



Egg and Awe



THE CAMPAIGN BY VICTOR and Maeva came as a major shock. But more of an egg an awe campaign. The robins kept on bombarding the gray squirrels with unfertilized eggs. The shell and the impact of the eggs did harm the gray squirrels. Lily couldn't believe what she was witnessing.



“WE HAVE TO RETREAT!” ordered Lily.



“BUT OUR TERRITORY!” cried one of the gray squirrels.



“WE NEED ALLIES OF OUR own!” cried Lily.



LILY COULD CLEARLY see that the red squirrels were not giving up anytime soon. Matthys and Romaine watched gleefully from the safety of their tree. Even Marius could see how effective their campaign had been.



“WOW, THOSE ROBINS REALLY showed those gray squirrels a thing or two” laughed Marius.



“YES, AND THE UNFERTILIZED eggs made great use” laughed Matthys.



MATTHYS COULD DECLARE the battle a victory for the red squirrels. Maeva arrived back at her nest ready to rest. Victor was quite proud of his mate and her companions.



“I MUST SAY, THAT WAS a smashing job!” laughed Victor.



“I’M GLAD YOU WERE PLEASED with my actions” said Maeva.



HOWEVER, THINGS WERE quite chaotic on the gray squirrel end with Evan doing his best trying to figure out who would be the better ally for the gray squirrels.



Hawks or Snakes?



EVAN WAS TICKED OFF at how the robins sided with the red squirrels. He desperately wanted to get even. He paced back and forth as he tried to figure out the next moves. He could see that the gray squirrels returning were covered in yolk.



“GET YOURSELVES CLEANED up, I think getting some snake mercenaries on our side will teach those robins what we’re made out of” said Evan.



EVAN KNEW THE SNAKES would love to eat the robin eggs, or snatch away robin chicks. It would provide a perfect diversion away from any future bombing campaign. Evan brought up a diagram of the park and began to scan the area where the snakes resided.



“THOMAS, I HAVE A VERY important mission for you” said Evan, “I would like for you to recruit the snakes to be part of our sneak attack campaign.”



“BUT DON’T THE SNAKES also eat us squirrels?” asked Thomas.



“TRUE, BUT ONCE WE SHOW them that the robins are traitors they will go after them instead” said Evan.



EVAN WAS CONFIDENT his diversion plan would work — the red squirrels would be too focused on trying to save their allies.



Seeking Out the Snakes



THOMAS SWALLOWED SEEING this as part of Evan's plan. He wasn't so certain knowing the snakes could turn against even the gray squirrels at any given moment. He took with him at least two other gray squirrels. The trio headed towards the area of the park where the snakes resided. The snakes had their own burrow and it wasn't hard for Thomas to find it.



“THIS IS IT” SAID THOMAS.



THOMAS SWALLOWED AGAIN, ever so nervous. The two other gray squirrels were too frightened to go in.



“WE’LL WAIT OUT HERE Thomas” said one of the gray squirrels.



THOMAS SIGHED AS HE headed inside. He could hear the typical hissing noise a snake would often make. As he headed further into the burrow he could see at least a few glowing snake eyes in the distance. Donna, the head snake noticed the lone gray squirrel.



“MY, MY YOU ARE QUITE a tasty rodent what do we have to owe your visit to our den?” asked Donna.



“PLEASE, WE NEED HELP against the robins they have sided with the red squirrels” said Thomas.



THOMAS FROZE IN FEAR when more snakes showed up — Archie, Donna’s second in command wanted to eat Thomas but Donna instructed him not to.



The Dreadful Red Squirrels!



THERE WAS ONE THING the snakes hated more — the red squirrels! The red squirrels knew how to fight the snakes. It was only nature for Donna to accept Thomas’ offer.



“FINE, WE WILL LEAVE you and your gray squirrels alone” said Donna, “plus any allies of yours are allies our ours.”



THOMAS WAS RATHER GRATEFUL that Donna didn’t bother to eat him.



“YES, THE RED SQUIRRELS are a pest” said Thomas.



“WE’LL GO AFTER THE robins, their eggs and their chicks” said Donna.



THOMAS WAS RELIEVED that he could have a diplomatic talk with the snakes. He then emerged from the borrow.



“COME ON, LET’S HEAD back and watch the chaos unfold” said Thomas.



THE TRIO OF GRAY SQUIRRELS arrived back at their own den. Evan was pleased that Donna was going to side with them.



“THE SNAKES WILL LEAVE us alone and focus on the robins and the red squirrels” said Thomas.



“EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT work” said Evan, “if I had a medal, I would give one for you for bravery.”



THERE WAS THEN COMMOTION on the floor of the park — Lily noticed the movement of the snakes on the ground.



Chapter Six

Sneaking Snakes



Those was going to be a sneak attack on the robins for their betrayal in supporting the red squirrels. Donna and Archie led the snakes towards the robin territory. The robin territory was more vast and wide spread making it impossible for the red squirrels to cover so much ground.



“LET’S SPLIT UP, ARCHIE will take one path and I’ll take the other follow me” said Donna.



THE GROUP OF SNAKES split into two — Archie led one group and Donna led the other. It was quite an amazing sight to see. Even the humans watching the show were puzzled by the change of strategy.



“NOW THAT’S NEW” SAID Anthony as he scratched his head, “robins were bombing the gray squirrels with eggs, and now this with the snakes.”



“YEA, IT’S ALMOST LIKE we’re watching their cute little war unfold” laughed Pauline.



THE HUMANS WERE UNAWARE of the carnage yet to follow. Archie and his group sprang first. He spotted some unguarded eggs on a robin nest and began to try to swallow one.



“HMM, FREE MEAL” LAUGHED Archie.



BUT THE MOMENT ARCHIE attempted it — a robin noticed it and began to alert the other robins.



Allies Under Attack!



BACK WITH THE RED SQUIRRELS — Matthys received an urgent report from Victor. Victor flew in, his mate Maeva was protecting her eggs. But other robins were having issues defending their own, even their own baby chicks.



“WHAT’S WRONG VICTOR?” asked Matthys.



“THE EGGS AND CHICKS are being threaten by snakes!” cried Victor.



MATTHYS GASPED IN HORROR, she knew she would have to combat these snakes herself.



“I’LL GET A TEAM OF red squirrels to assist” said Matthys.



MATTHYS HAD AT LEAST two dozen red squirrels gathered. They knew what was at stake.



“I KNOW THIS WON’T BE easy, and not many of you will make it but we need to defend our robin allies” said Matthys.



THE RED SQUIRRELS AGREED and they scampered out following her. Romaine and Marius would remain in the den. Outside, snakes were having a field day. From taking eggs to robin chicks it was free meals! Donna couldn’t believe what a tasty banquet her fellow snakes were attending. So easy for the prey! But that would all change — Matthys and her crew of red squirrels were prepared to save the day and stop them.



Encountering Donna



MATTHYS CAME FACE TO face with Donna, leader of the snakes. She had a few eggs inside of her that were being digested. She was no doubt disgusted by the gray squirrels for daring to hire the snakes as mercenaries.



“HOW DARE YOU SNEAK up on our allies like this” said Matthys.



“I DON’T UNDERSTAND, a snake like me needs to eat and well the robins were easy picking” laughed Donna.



DONNA THEN TURNED HER attention towards Matthys as she opened her wide mouth. She lunged at her, but Matthys was too fast for her. The red squirrel managed to get onto the snake and use her sharp teeth to bite Donna. Donna could feel the pain of it all. The other red squirrels had the right idea in fighting back against the snakes. Even Archie found himself cornered by at least four red squirrels.



“NO FAIR, FOUR AGAINST one!” cried Archie.



“YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT about that before you decided to join the war” said one of the red squirrels.



THE RED SQUIRRELS THEN all tackled Archie, they didn't care if either of them were going to be eaten. They were helping their robin allies.



Watching the Chaos



MEANWHILE OVER AT THE gray squirrel area, Evan was pleased to see the ongoing chaos spilling over to the robin territory. The red squirrels were stretched thin and Evan knew this was his chance for victory.



“QUICKLY, WHILE THE red squirrels are distracted we can head towards the main ground squirrel area and claim it as our own” said Evan.



LILY COULDN'T BELIEVE what a brilliant plan the gray squirrels had. Evan led the march, he didn't seem to care if the red squirrels would turn the tide of the war — he was living the moment. He grabbed the small gray squirrel flag and began to march forward with his fellow gray squirrels. Thomas felt patriotic and join Evan. Lily joined them as well as they all began to march towards the ground squirrel territory.



“AH YES, NOTHING LIKE pure victory!” laughed Evan.



EVAN FELT CONFIDENT — perhaps too confident with all of this. He marched his fellow gray squirrels towards the ground squirrel territory. Once again, the flag of the gray squirrels were planted. Evan was going to hold his ground he knew the red squirrels would retaliate for this.



Chapter Seven

Returning to the Ground Squirrel Territory



Evan, Thomas and Lily were all ready for the red squirrels to retaliate. Evan planted the flag of the gray squirrels at the center of the ground squirrel area. While fighting off the snakes who were attacking the robins, Matthys noticed the flag. She was ticked off.



“THOSE DASTARDLY GRAYS!” cried Matthys.



MATTHYS KNEW SHE WOULD have to regroup her forces, the robins — Victor and Maeva were able to fend off the snakes. Donna and Archie would have to make a strategic retreat. It was out of pure caution, even though the surprise assault on the robins had been successful — Donna and Archie knew when to quit.



“LET’S GET OUT OF HERE while we still can” said Donna.



DONNA, ARCHIE AND THE other snakes left the robin nests disturbed. They couldn’t believe what a mess everything was. Romaine assessed the damage as he noticed how many eggs and chicks were missing.



“THOSE SNAKES DID DO a number here” sighed Romaine.



ROMAINE REGROUPED WITH Matthys, the other red squirrels and robins. They were ready for retaliation against the gray squirrels. Matthys was pleased to see everyone was regrouped.



Red Squirrels Converge



MATTHYS WAS IN NO MOOD to surrender, she wanted a taste of revenge. Even Marius couldn't help but to empathize with the red squirrels. He could see how hurt their allies — the robins were when it came to the incursion against their nests.



“THIS, THIS IS HORRIBLE!” cried Marius.



“I KNOW IT IS, WHICH is why we're going to have a full on assault against not just the gray squirrels, but also against their main den!” bellowed Matthys.



THE RED SQUIRRELS WERE in an uproar, Matthys had managed to get them into a fever pitched.



“THE TIME TO ATTACK is now!” bellowed Matthys.



MATTHYS SAW THIS AS the perfect opportunity to wage a full on assault. As for Evan, he and his forces were waiting patiently. The gray squirrels had created trenches within the ground squirrel territory anticipating for an assault. It seemed like the grays were following from human history. The humans themselves all thought it was so cute.



“LOOK HOW CUTE THE GRAY squirrels are, thinking they’re just like us” laughed Anthony.



“IDON’T KNOW, WE SHOULD call animal control if things would get out of control” said Pauline.



PAULINE HAD A POINT — this had gone on for too long.



Trench Warfare



TRENCH WARFARE IT WAS, the grays anticipated the onslaught. Surely enough, upon the horizon came the red squirrels scampering towards them in droves. Matthys was leading the charge with Romaine and Marius beside her. Lily couldn’t believe it — Marius was supporting the red squirrels.



“MARIUS IS MINE, LEAVE him to me!” cried Lily.



“DON’T WORRY, WE’LL give you a chance for that reunion of yours” laughed Evan.



THE RED SQUIRRELS DOVE right into the trenches and began to fight the grays. They bite and clawed each one of them as they continued to fight in the trenches. The grays themselves were pleased that they could have this fight. Hoping that the red squirrels lost morale — but then came the robins — Victor and Maeva wanted to get even against the grays for hiring the snakes.



“LET’S BOMB THEM!” CRIED Maeva.



VICTOR SUPERVISED THE assault by the other robins as they dropped more unfertilized eggs upon the gray squirrels — BOOM, went the eggs as they landed on a few gray squirrels. The red squirrels were taking advantage of this and were advancing fast. Thomas could see the onslaught getting closer to where they wree.



Getting Closer



EVAN WANTED THE RED squirrels to get a false sense of victory, but Thomas was starting to realize the cost of the war.



“MAYBE WE SHOULD FALL back?” asked Thomas.



“WE SHOULD REMAIN HERE” said Evan, “we should stand our ground.”



BUT THAT MIGHT BE A mistake on Evan's part — for Lily she would soon get a chance to fight Marius. Marius lunged at her the two ground squirrels found themselves in a trench.



“HOW DARE YOU SIDE WITH the grays!” cried Marius.



“AND HOW DARE YOU SIDE with the reds!” cried Lily.



BOTH GROUND SQUIRRELS began to claw and bite each other. The fighting brought concern by the humans who noticed how fierce things had become.



“WE HAVE TO SEPARATE them!” cried Pauline.



“I DON'T KNOW IF WE should intervene” said Anthony.



“AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T interfere with us” said Jonathan.



HOWEVER, PAULINE WAS right things were about to get out of control. Far from what they already were. She had her phone ready in case if the squirrels from both sides came too close. The ground squirrels fighting, she felt were siblings squabbling over their own territory.



Part Three



Chapter Eight

Sad for the Squirrels



Pauline felt sad for the squirrels that they were involved in this brand of fighting. She knew it wasn't right for any sort of species to fight.



"YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL whether you want to intervene or not" said Anthony, "it's their beef not ours."



BUT PAULINE, KEPT ON looking at Marius and Lily fight, she couldn't help herself.



"I'M SORRY, BUT THERE comes a time where a citizen must put their foot down" said Pauline.



PAULINE MANAGED TO look up the phone number to animal control, she felt animal control was the only neutral party in this that could stop the war. Back with the gray squirrels, a few red squirrels managed to tackle poor Evan in a surprise move. Thomas couldn't watch, but Evan was very vicious on fighting off the two red squirrels.



“STUPID REDS!” CRIED Evan.



THE RED SQUIRRELS SCAMPERED back to the trenches to fight the other grays.



“ARE YOU ALRIGHT?” ASKED Thomas.



THOMAS WAS WORRIED for the leader of the gray squirrels, but Evan wasn't going to back down at all.



“WE SHOULD STAND OUR ground!” bellowed Evan.



THOMAS SHOOK HIS HEAD in disbelief, already he was facing war fatigue.



War Fatigue



THOMAS COULDN'T BELIEVE the exhaustion he was facing with this conflict. It had gone on for far too long and things were already a big mess around the park. Anthony shook his head as he gazed at the mess below.



“GUESS I'LL HAVE TO clean up their little war after this battle is over” laughed Anthony.



IT WAS RATHER SOME dark human to all of this mayhem going on in the world of the gray and red squirrels. But as Evan stood his ground in his stubborn ways — an unfertilized egg soon dropped right on him by one of the robins.



“EVAN!” CRIED THOMAS.



THOMAS SCAMPERED TOWARDS Evan’s aide, he could see that things were about to get from back to worse.



“EVAN, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?” asked Thomas.



EVAN MANAGED TO WAKE up from his ordeal, he couldn’t believe he was caught off guard.



“THOSE BLOODY RED SQUIRRELS!” cried Evan.



EVAN MANAGED TO PICK himself up, he didn’t seem to care if he was covered in yolk. Thomas knew things were deteriorating fast on the battlefield.



“WE HAVE TO LEAVE” SAID Thomas.



EVAN KNEW OTHERWISE, but seeing how many other grays were — it felt only proper.



Retreat!



EVAN DETESTED GIVING the red squirrels the win, he hated it — but knew in his heart if he continued to fight he would surely be more humiliated.



“RETREAT!” BELLOWED Evan.



EVAN’S BOOMING VOICE could be heard throughout the battlefield. Even Lily heard the comment of retreat.



“HA, LOOKS LIKE MY RED squirrel friends get our territory!” laughed Marius.



LILY SAID NOTHING AS she left her brother, she was scratched up from the fighting. The grays followed the command of Evan’s orders and like good soldiers they retreated back to their den. The red squirrels were not finished — Matthys wanted to get even for how they hired those snakes to go after their robin allies.



“WE’LL BARRICADE THEM within their own den!” bellowed Matthys.



MATTHYS IN HER MILITANT views reached fever pitched with the red squirrels. The red squirrels continued to chase the gray squirrels away. Evan knew this was a bad idea — but it was the only idea that made sense. As for the humans — Pauline was already on the phone with an operator for animal control.



“WHERE ARE YOU LOCATED at?” asked the operator.



“THE MAIN PARK IN LYONS” said Pauline.



“WE’LL DISPATCH ANIMAL control right away” said the operator.



PAULINE WAS WORRIED for the safety of the park on how things got so out of control.



Inside the Den



THE DEN WAS RATHER cramped with gray squirrels all injured from the retaliation by the red squirrels. Evan included among the injured. Thomas was worried, even Lily could see the end result of their conflict.



“THIS CANNOT BE GOOD” said Lily.



“NO, NO IT ISN’T GOOD” sighed Thomas, “I do wish we had more of an advantage against the red squirrels but we don’t. Hiring those snakes were a one time move.”



LILY KNEW SOMETHING had to be done, she glanced outside the den and noticed red squirrels were surrounding the tree. There was Matthys, Romaine and Marius. The trio were gathering around the red squirrels.



“VICTORY IS FINALLY in our hands, we will avenge our allies the robins!” cried Matthys.



THE RED SQUIRRELS CHEERED — it felt only moments ago they were helpless victims of a sneak attack by the snakes. But this was something else, the red squirrels were ready to climb up the bark of the tree and even fight the gray squirrel in the den. However, as Matthys continued she noticed a strange truck pulling up to the parking lot of the park — it was the animal control truck!



Chapter Nine

Animal Control



Armin Kal and Dylan Michel were called upon the city of Lyons to handle the situation at the park. Pauline had put a call out for such a request.



“YOU TWO MUST BE WITH animal control” said Pauline.



“CORRECT MA’AM, WHERE is the problem?” asked Armin.



PAULINE SHOWED ARMIN and Dylan the area where the gray and red squirrels have been fighting. Both animal control personal were shocked to see that the gray squirrels had actually dug trenches.



“AW, LOOK HOW CUTE THOSE trenches are” laughed Armin.



“THIS IS NO LAUGHING matter, the squirrels must stop fighting each other so that our park can be safe again” said Pauline.



“WE’LL DO OUR BEST TO figure out what’s going on” said Dylan.



MATTHYS COULD SEE THE two large men observing the main ground squirrel territory.



“WE HAVE TO LEAVE, OR those two humans will ruin everything” said Matthys.



ROMAINE AND MARIUS concurred, even the other red squirrels could see this as a major issue. But for the gray squirrels, Thomas was relieved the animal control officers were there. He could see them as a temporary buffer zone within the ground squirrel territory.



Red Squirrels Leave



NEITHER ARMIN NOR DYLAN saw that many red squirrels in their entire life leaving one particular tree.



“WHAT THE HECK WERE they all doing over there?” asked Dylan.



“THEY HAVE BEEN FIGHTING the gray squirrels, apparently robins dropped eggs on them and before that some snakes attacked their nests” said Pauline.



“YOU HAVE BEEN WATCHING this conflict?” asked Armin.



“SADLY YES, ANTHONY over here didn’t want us humans to intervene” said Pauline.



“ANTHONY BERNARD IS the name, I’m this park’s grounds keeper” said Anthony.



“WELL, IT SEEMS LIKE we have our work cut out for ourselves” said Armin, “those squirrels have made a big mess of the park.”



ANTHONY SIGHED KNOWING that he had to clean up their mess. All of the yolk splattered across the ground would take sometime for Anthony to do his part. For Matthys and the other red squirrels they watched the two animal control officers get to work.



“UH, THEY’RE GOING TO prevent us from getting that territory!” cried Matthys.



MATTHYS WAS CLEARLY frustrated, she knew so long as the animal control officers were there it made her strategy all but impossible.



Feeling Stuck



MATTHYS PACED BACK and forth in her den, unsure what to do with the animal control officers. They knew if they did anything they would surely be caught.



“WHAT IF WE DON’T HAVE to do anything but fight them at night?” asked Romaine.



“THAT’S IT, WE’LL GET a nocturnal animal to help us” laughed Matthys.



MATTHYS KNEW OF A SKUNK that would be willing to come out during the evening. She felt this would be the right method moving forward. After all, the snakes were hired to formerly go after the robins — it only felt more natural for the red squirrels to pull something on their end.



“I WANT YOU TO FIND Fazil, the skunk, if there’s anyone who can end the war it’s him” said Matthys.



MATTHYS WAS LITERALLY going to play dirty knowing that Fazil’s stench could also drive the human barrier away.



“IT’S A RISK, BUT I’M willing to take it up” said Romaine.



ROMAINE THEN HEADED out, the lone red squirrel knew he had to find where Fazil lived. Fazil lived not far from the snakes. Donna and Archie were resting after their surprise assault on the robins.



Asking Fazil



FAZIL WAS FAST ASLEEP when Romaine arrived at his borrow. The skunk could see Romaine approaching as he woke up.



“WHAT DOES THIS RED squirrel want from me?” thought Fazil.



THE SKUNK STRETCHED as Romaine entered his den.



“SORRY TO BOTHER YOU sir, but we do need some assistance with the gray squirrels and the humans” said Romaine.



“YOU WANT ME TO USE my stench to drive them away?” asked Fazil.



“YEA, YEA” SAID ROMAINE.



“FINE, I’LL DO IT BUT only when the evening arrives” said Fazil.



ROMAINE WAS RELIEVED that Fazil was quite friendly. Romaine scampered off, Fazil went back to sleep waiting towards the evening hours. Matthys was pleased that Romaine came back with the good news.



“WELL, WHAT DID HE HAVE to say?” asked Matthys.



“HE SAID YES” REPLIED Romaine.



“THEN THAT MEANS WE’RE going to have to wait until the evening” said Matthys.



MATTHYS AND THE OTHER red squirrels were patient. Even the robins knew something was brewing. Victor glanced over and noticed how quiet the gray squirrels were since they assisted the red squirrels with the retaliation.



“I DON’T LIKE THIS” said Victor to Maeva, “the grays have been too quiet.”



THE GRAYS WOULDN’T know what hit them, and neither would the two animal control officers.



Chapter Ten

Evening Hours Arrive



The evening hours had finally arrived — most of the humans had gone home except for the two animal control officers — Armen and Dylan who were working round the clock trying to figure out what to do next. Neither of them anticipated how brutal and fierce the gray and red squirrel war was going to be or how they inserted themselves in the middle of it.



“APPARENTLY FROM A LOCAL, these two groups of squirrels have been fighting over this territory” said Dylan.



ARMEN AND DYLAN WERE around the ground squirrel territory, Armen could see what appeared to be a flag of some sort planted in the ground squirrel territory.



“AW, AND THEY GOT THEIR cute little flag planted right there” laughed Armen.



EVEN ARMEN COULDN'T believe how “cute” this fierce war was turning out to be between the two groups of squirrels. They were unaware that Fazil the

skunk was approaching them. Fazil knew he had to be quick about it, the two humans would surely try to shoo him away if they spotted him.



“BETTER BE EXTRA CAREFUL” thought Fazil.



FAZIL CRAWLED AROUND the bushes, he was going to do his sneak attack first against the grays.



Lurking About the Grays



FAZIL CONTINUED TO lurk about the gray squirrel territory, he could sense that their den was close by. Evan was still recovering from the yolk that was bombed by the robins from an earlier retaliation assault. Thomas was on the lookout for anything odd along with Lily.



“SEE ANYTHING?” ASKED Thomas.



“NOTHING YET” REPLIED Lily.



BUT LILY SPOTTED FAZIL the skunk trying to be intangible with the leaves around him. She could see the strange movement heading towards the tree.



“SKUNK!” CRIED LILY.



LILY SCAMPERED TOWARDS Thomas.



“SKUNK!” CRIED LILY again.



IT WASN'T NORMAL OF skunks to intervene on either side — however the red squirrels were playing dirty — using the skunks natural stench as a biological weapon!



“BETTER GET EVERYONE out!” cried Thomas.



THOMAS AND LILY HEADED towards the den and got the rest of the gray squirrels and Evan to leave. Evan was already tired from the experience with the attack from the red squirrels. But he knew this had to be the red squirrels all over. Fazil began to climb up the tree heading towards the den, unaware that he had been spotted. He was hopeful he could use his special stench to go after them.



Biological Warfare!



FAZIL GAZED INSIDE the den at first, he could see gray squirrels scampering about trying to flee the impending attack.



“GREAT, THEY SPOTTED me” thought Fazil, “better do it quickly.”



FAZIL THEN TURNED AROUND with his gland for the stench targeting the gray squirrel den. As he prepared — Evan was able to leave the den before it would happen. But there were other gray squirrels inside who were not so lucky. Fazil fired off his stench — the entire den began to smell a terrible odor!



“WE’RE BEING ATTACKED!” cried one of the gray squirrels.



THE OTHER GRAY SQUIRRELS began to cough, doing their best trying to get out of the den. Evan shook his head in disbelief seeing how many gray squirrels he was losing in this sneak attack.



“THOSE NASTY RED SQUIRRELS, they’ll pay!” cried Evan.



THOMAS AND LILY FOUND an emergency den that could be used. The grays that got hit, they would have to stay in the former den to recover. Fazil then began to crawl right down unaware he was spotted by the two animal control officers.



“HEY, WHAT’S THAT SKUNK doing up that tree?” asked Dylan.



THE TWO ANIMAL CONTROL officers wanted to be careful in capturing the skunk.



Fazil Captured!



ARMEN AND DYLAN BROUGHT out their catch poles, as a way to prevent the skunk from trying to spray them. Fazil could see the danger, he hissed and snarled but that didn't stop the two humans.



“THESE TWO ARE SOMETHING else” thought Fazil.



ARMEN AND DYLAN DIDN'T stop, they wanted to keep the park safe.



“DID YOU JUST PARTICIPATE in their war little fella?” joked Dylan.



DYLAN WASN'T REALLY joking, he could smell the skunk stench from where he was. Fazil continued to hiss and snarl at the two animal control officers. He was being handled by the two catch poles. Armen then brought out a cage for the skunk, he could tell the skunk needed to be rehabilitated first before being released.



“DON'T WORRY, JUST STANDARD procedure” said Armen.



FAZIL THEN FOUND HIMSELF in a prison, he couldn't believe joining the red squirrels would cause this sort of harm. The robins were too busy trying to get to sleep to notice it — but Romaine noticed the entire event as he

observed. He headed towards where Matthys was though she was pleased the surprise attack worked it came at a price of losing an ally.



Epilogue

Fazil's Success



Matthys didn't seem to care if Fazil was apprehended by the two animal control officers. She was just relieved the plan worked perfectly.



"FAZIL'S SACRIFICE WON'T go unnoticed" said Matthys.



"BUT HE'S APPREHENDED, he won't probably come out within another week or so" said Romaine.



"THERE, THERE, WE ALL must make sacrifices in this war, the gray squirrels are out for the moment, we should seize this as an opportunity to assault the ground squirrel territory!" said Matthys.



ROMAINE UNDERSTOOD his sister's motives very well, Marius was relieved that the war could be finally over. But he knew the gray squirrels wouldn't give up if they took over the ground squirrel territory. Marius gazed over at the tree that was formerly the headquarters of the gray squirrels — so much skunk stench was all over the place.



“IT’S GOING TO BE QUITE sometime before they get their act together” said Marius.



MARIUS KNEW HIS SISTER Lily was more than resourceful to escape the chaos. He could see that the gray squirrels had a temporary den just a few paces away from where their original den was. He knew Lily wasn’t happy at all with how Fazil tried to do his deed against them.



Don’t Give Up!



BACK AT THE TEMPORARY den for the gray squirrels, Evan gazed around the gray squirrels that had escaped. They were all exhausted and tired from their ordeal.



“WE CAN’T GO ON MY FURTHER” said one of the gray squirrels.



EVAN WASN’T PLEASED with this straight out cowardice.



“WE WILL NEVER GIVE into those red squirrels!” bellowed Evan.



LILY COULDN’T BELIEVE how brave Evan was, she admired his bravery for standing up to the red squirrel bullies. Even Thomas had to admit, even though he felt concern about Evan’s own tactics it was remarkable that Evan wasn’t going to give up anytime soon.



“WE’LL SHOW THOSE RED squirrels what we’re made of, if they think they can take the ground squirrel territory they got another thing coming to them!” bellowed Evan.



THE GRAY SQUIRRELS all cheered in celebration to Evan’s short speech. The gray squirrels were not going to have it anymore with the red squirrels. The gloves were finally off — Evan would surely have to call upon Donna and Archie to participate in the assault this time since the snakes did manage to dwindle the robin numbers.



Regrouping!



WHEN MORNING FINALLY arrived, Evan and the other gray squirrels had regrouped. Evan didn’t care if there were gray squirrels who smelled bad — he needed all the able bodied squirrels he could get.



“I KNOW WE’RE WERE STRUCK down by that skunk, but we’re going to move forward!” bellowed Evan.



EVAN CONTINUED TO MAKE continued inspiring remarks — Thomas was already out on an assignment preparing to meet up with Donna and Archie to see if they were going to participate in the assault on the ground squirrel territory to secure it. Thomas was hopeful the story of the sneak attack would motivate the snakes to continue to be on their side. Will it work? Find out in the next exciting book!



TALES OF RED AND GRAY WAR BOOK 2
ROGUE HUMAN PAULINE

by
Maxwell Hoffman



Part One



Prologue

Thomas' Mission



Thomas the gray squirrel knew he had an important mission for his brother Evan the leader of the gray squirrels — retrieve their snake allies — Donna and Archie for their mission. Thomas knew where their barrow was located, the snakes were resting from their ordeal with the robins — Victor and Maeva earlier. Donna had heard commotion over by the gray squirrel den and knew something was up.



“YES?” ASKED DONNA AS she rose up.



DONNA'S TALL SNAKE-like body was rather intimidating to Thomas still, though they were allies Thomas still felt uneasy dealing with the snakes.



“WE COULD USE YOUR HELP for securing the ground squirrel territory” said Thomas.



DONNA KNEW THIS WAS an important task one that her brother Archie would be up to. Archie was resting cozy with the other snakes. She then slivered over towards his area and got him up by nudging against him.



“WHAT IS IT?” ASKED Archie.



“WE HAVE COMPANY, OUR allies the grays want us to help secure the ground squirrel territory” said Donna.



“SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN” laughed Archie.



THE SNAKES AGREED TO assist the grays and Thomas was rather relieved that his mission was over.



Heading Back to the Gray Den



THOMAS HEADED BACK to the new gray den which was just a few paces away from the old one. The smell from Fazil’s stench still lingered there. There were many other gray squirrels trying to recover from Fazil’s surprise attack.



“WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO report to me Thomas?” asked Evan.



“THE SNAKES AGREE TO assist us” said Thomas.



“VERY GOOD, ONCE WE regroup with them we’ll begin the assault to secure the ground squirrel territory from those dastardly reds!” said Evan.



LILY, THE LONE GROUND squirrel could see how much Evan had changed throughout this war. He was in a commanding lead to make sure the grays would have victory over the reds. Lily watched from the sidelines for the moment, she gazed over at the tree that housed the red squirrels from afar. She knew her brother Marius was plotting with them to have a full on assault. In the red squirrel den — Matthys was rallying her forces knowing that the grays would muster up their snake allies to join them in the assault.



“IT SEEMS THAT THE GRAYS could use the snakes against us if we assault the ground squirrel territory” said Matthys.



ROMAINE AND MARIUS didn’t know what to do if the grays got a hold of the ground squirrel territory.



Next Steps



MATTHYS WAS DOING HER best to draw up a possible strategy for the red squirrels, the reds knew that the gray squirrels would be still smelling of Fazil’s stench. It was enough to put any red squirrel out.



“MAYBE WE CAN CREATE our own masks?” suggested a red squirrel.



“THAT’S A GREAT IDEA” said Matthys.



MATTHYS WELCOMED NEW ideas from any given red squirrel in the audience. The red squirrels went to work and created their own biological masks. Marius could see how busy his red squirrel allies were, they were not going to lose this fight at all.



“WE’LL MAKE SURE THOSE grays won’t know what hit them” said Matthys.



MATTHYS CONTINUED TO inspire the red squirrels as they crafted their own masks preparing to block out the smell. When noon finally came, the snakes had gathered in an area closer to the gray squirrel den. Evan along with Lily and Thomas met up with them.



“SO, WE’RE GOING TO do this?” asked Donna.



“YES” REPLIED EVAN, “with your help, we’ll secure the ground squirrel territory as our own.”



THE GRAYS WERE NOT about to share anything with the reds, but they were unaware of how fierce the reds were going to be.



Charge!



THE GRAY SQUIRREL LEADER — Evan led his comrades on the battlefield. The snakes being led by Donna was the second batch of allies that the grays would rely upon.



“COVER US!” CRIED EVAN.



“NO PROBLEM” SAID ARCHIE.



THE SNAKES WERE THE obvious barrier for the grays as the grays converged towards the ground squirrel territory. For the red squirrels, Matthys led out a battle cry roar towards the grays. Victor and Maeva joined in, with Victor guiding his flock. The robins were prepared to join the battle once again to assist their red squirrel allies. The two squirrel groups then found themselves locked in combat. All the humans could do was watch helplessly as the onslaught continued.



“SIGH, I GUESS THOSE squirrels won’t stop fighting” sighed Anthony.



ANTHONY BERNARD, THE park’s grounds keeper didn’t seem to like this one bit. The war was getting old very fast. Jonathan Pond, the Canadian tourist knew he couldn’t stay much longer in France. He would have to head home to Ontario very soon.



“UH, THIS IS GETTING boring for me anyway” said Jonathan.



PAULINE BERGERON WAS the most flabbergasted of them all, the two animal control officers — Armin Kal and Dylan Michel did little to stop them.



Chapter One

Frantic Pauline



Pauline was on the phone speaking to an operator over the recent incursion between the gray and red squirrels. She couldn't believe what she was seeing — grays and snakes attacking reds and robins. Neither the operator on the other end could believe what she was describing.



“SO, YOU WANT ANIMAL control to come to the park?” asked the operator.



“YES, YES!” CRIED PAULINE, “Those squirrels, snakes and robins won't stop fighting each other!”



THE OPERATOR THOUGHT it was a joke, but animal control officers Armin and Dylan did catch a skunk doing something odd the previous evening to one of the trees.



“FINE, I'LL DISPATCH animal control” said the operator.



PAULINE WAS RATHER grateful, she and the other humans could only helplessly observe the onslaught. One snake was able to strangle one of the red squirrels. Matthys came to the red squirrel's aide.



“HOLD ON THERE!” CRIED Matthys.



MATTHYS TACKLED THE snake, behaving more like a mongoose than a squirrel. The snake slithered away.



“UH, THANKS” SIGHED the red squirrel.



THE OTHER RED SQUIRRELS were still having trouble facing the snakes. Donna and Archie were not letting up anytime soon.



Boomerang the Eggs



WHILE MATTHYS WAS TRYING to fight off the snakes attacking her red squirrel comrades, Evan figured out a sneaky way in boomeranging the eggs that were bombarding them by the robins. Evan whispered his plan to Donna and Archie, the two snakes were attentive in listening to the plan at hand.



“INTERESTING, YOU WANT us to be used like rubber bands?” asked Archie.



“YES, WITH YOUR PERMISSION we can turn the tide against the robins” said Evan.



“INTERESTING PROSPECTS, do me first” said Donna.



TWO GRAY SQUIRRELS grabbed Donna by both of her ends. They stretched her as far as possible, when an egg came down, Donna’s body was used like a rubber band and flung the aide backwards. The egg ended up landing nearly all over Romaine on the red squirrel end.



“I SEE” LAUGHED DONNA, “you grays have our permission to use us as rubber bands.”



THE REST OF THE GRAY squirrels followed suit in applying the same method with the other snakes. Rows of snake-style rubber bands were being setup by the gray squirrels. This caught Matthys off guard, and even the robins above while they were dropping their eggs.



Shocked Victor



VICTOR PAUSED AS HE watched the gray squirrels use the snakes in an odd manner. He could see eggs being catapult backwards towards the red squirrel side instead of the gray squirrel side. The red squirrels were also caught off guard — another egg nearly landed where Marius was. Lily laughed at her brother’s desperate behavior on the battlefield with his red squirrel allies.



“LOOK AT THEM GO!” LAUGHED Lily.



LILY LAUGHED, AND LAUGHED as she could see desperation sinking in further. Matthys knew she had to make a strategic retreat. It was the only way for her side to survive.



“RETREAT!” ORDERED MATTHYS.



THIS CAME OF A SHOCK to the red squirrels since they had made so much progress only to be ruined by the gray squirrels’ new tactic. Donna and Archie were pleased that they could assist with this, as the red squirrels began to scamper back to their territory.



“THEY’RE FLEEING, THEY’RE fleeing!” laughed Evan.



EVAN, THOMAS, LILY, Donna and Archie gave each other one big group hug. It was unity between different species, though the snakes were often predators of squirrels and other rodents in general. Donna felt her kin would be safe with the gray squirrels.



Victory for Now



EVAN COULD SEE THAT the ground squirrel territory had to be soundly secured. He knew the snakes alone wouldn't assist him with this. Even Donna knew it, feeling the red squirrels would return with more help.



“WE NEED TO SEEK OUT more allies to secure the ground squirrel territory” said Evan.



THE SNAKES THOUGHT for a moment on who could assist them — they needed some aerial defense.



“WHY NOT TRY TO SEEK out assistance from the hawks?” suggested Archie, “Though the hawks would often pick our kin up, if we can show them that we own the park the hawks will leave us alone and respect us.”



EVAN COULD SEE POTENTIAL with this odd alliance of species that normally hunted each other. He thought about the security and the safety for the park, driving the red squirrels away would make the most sense.



“VERY WELL, LET'S RECRUIT the hawks” said Evan.



“EXCELLENT” SAID ARCHIE, “I'll go, so long as you send a representative with me.”



LILY DECIDED TO BE brave to volunteer since Thomas was the one who assisted in recruiting the snakes. Evan agreed and both Archie and Lily headed off.



Chapter Two

Off to Recruit the Hawks



Archie and Lily were set off, the hawk nest wasn't far from where the fighting was. Both a snake and a ground squirrel felt like an odd pair walking in the park. Even the humans observing them felt puzzled.



“WELL, IT SEEMS LIKE they're off again” laughed Jonathan.



“AT LEAST THERE'S NO fighting for now” said Anthony.



PAULINE WAS STILL WAITING for the animal control officers to arrive. Armin and Dylan were annoyed that they had to be called to the same park yet again. Neither of them were happy as Armin was at the wheel.



“SEEMS LIKE MORE TROUBLE at the park” sighed Armin.



“YEP” ADDED DYLAN, “THOSE critters won't stop leaving each other alone.”



THEY WERE OUT ON ANOTHER assignment for the city of Lyons, as for Archie and Lily they arrived at the hawk nest. Kat was the main Matriarch of the hawks. Her juvenile son Jason stuck around with his mother after learning how to fly. His eyes were wide open when he noticed a snake and a ground squirrel approaching the nest. Very unusual for two prey animals to just head into their arch predator territory.



Calming Jason Down



KAT COULD SEE HUNGER in Jason's eyes as Archie and Lily came closer towards the nest. The other hawks paused but didn't have the same sort of hunger that Jason had.



“EASY SON, THEY'RE OUR guests I have seen their fighting” said Kat.



JASON REALLY WANTED to eat the two prey animals below, Lily cautiously climbed up the tree where the hawk nest was located. She instructed Jason to move aside, the juvenile had to comply. Once Lily was on the tree branch, she had Kat's full attention.



“YES GROUND SQUIRREL, you may speak to me” said Kat.



“I NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE, the grays need aerial protection from the robins” said Lily.



“SAY NO MORE, MY HAWKS have seen your gray squirrel allies fight over their territory” said Kat, “respect winners in the conflict.”



“SO, YOU’RE WILLING to help us?” asked Lily.



“THE ANSWER IS YES” replied Kat, “my flock will assist you in protecting the territory you have captured.”



LILY WAS PLEASED, AND so was Archie below. The ground squirrel then climbed down the tree meeting up with Archie.



“WELL, WHAT DID SHE say?” asked Archie.



“SHE SAID YES!” LAUGHED Lily.



BOTH WERE PLEASED, they headed back to deliver Evan the good news.



Hawks on Gray Squirrel Side!



LILY AND ARCHIE CAME back with good news, Donna and Evan could see that.



“LOOKS LIKE YOU TALKED the hawks to be on our side, right?” asked Evan.



“YEP” REPLIED LILY, “the hawks will be our aerial defense against the robins.”



“VERY GOOD” SAID DONNA, “I’ll instruct my snakes to assist with guarding the ground squirrel territory.”



THE GRAY SQUIRRELS were in favor of it, even though a number of grays had their own issues in evading hawks. The hawks would leave any gray squirrels alone, so long as the gray squirrels would maintain holding the ground squirrel territory as their own. Evan planted the gray squirrel flag to expose the territory to the hawks. Kat and her son Jason led the flock of hawks to hover over the territory.



“THERE IT IS SON” SAID Kat.



JASON COULD SEE THE animals below, his mouth watered, he did his best trying to listen to his mother.



“WE SHOULD NOT BE HUNTING them since they’re on our side” said Kat, “but we can hunt any red squirrel or robin.”



JASON WAS NO DOUBT disappointed, he wanted a taste of either a snake or a gray squirrel below.



Jason's Appetite Calling



JASON'S APPETITE WAS calling to him, egging him to swoop in and take one of the gray squirrels as his meal. He couldn't help himself, Kat could see this along with the other hawks. She flew to one hawk in particular — Enzo. Enzo was an older hawk who could control his own appetite. He could see how hungry Jason was as he glanced down at their allies.



“STOP MY SON FROM GRABBING anyone of our allies below as a meal” said Kat, “I have agreed to assist them in keeping watch over the ground squirrel territory.”



ENZO LISTENED TO KAT, he knew he had to stop Jason at all cost. As Jason was prepared to swoop down — Enzo approached him.



“YOU DON'T WANT TO RUIN everything for everyone do you?” asked Enzo.



ENZO WAS A TOUGHER older hawk who had gone through such experience in the past. He could see how Jason's temptations were getting the better of him.



“BUT, I’M HUNGRY” SAID Jason.



“BUT THEY’RE OUR ALLIES, so we should respect them” said Enzo.



IT WOULD BE UNEASY for Jason as he continued to fly back and forth in the skies above the snakes and the gray squirrels below.



Chapter Three

Observing the Hawks



The red squirrels were down but they were far from being out of the war. Matthys and Romaine were scanning the skies trying to figure out which hawk would be the weakest. Romaine spotted Jason being talked down from eating the snakes and the gray squirrels below. Romaine had a sinister idea, what if one of the red squirrels were to disguise him or herself as a gray squirrel?



“I GOT AN IDEA” SAID Romaine, “but we’re going to need some gray paint to paint over a volunteer to do the dirty work.”



MATTHYS LISTENED IN on her brother’s devious plan, she liked it very much. She could see how hungry Jason was and it would sabotage the efforts of Evan from ever securing the ground squirrel territory for the gray squirrels.



“I LIKE IT, BUT WHO can we trust that can agree to be a gray squirrel spy?” asked Matthys.



MATTHYS COULD SEE EXHAUSTION and fatigue among the red squirrels but one particular female red squirrel caught her attention — Sabrina was anxious in getting back into the action. She didn’t seem to care if the gray

squirrels had managed to find a new strategy to counter the onslaught of the eggs that were being dropped upon them.



Sabrina Volunteers



SABRINA WAS GOING TO be brave as she noticed Matthys and Romaine approaching her. She could tell it was for something very important.



“LET ME GUESS, YOU WANT me to be involved in a spy mission?” asked Sabrina.



“MORE LIKE A SABOTAGE mission” said Matthys.



“WE HAVE OBSERVED A hungry hawk nearly swooping down and eating one of the gray squirrels, we figured out if we disguised you as a gray squirrel that hawk wouldn’t know the difference!” laughed Romaine.



IT SOUNDED DANGEROUS, but Sabrina was willing to sacrifice herself for the red squirrel cause.



“I’LL DO IT!” LAUGHED Sabrina.



“VERY WELL, MARIUS, please fetch us some gray paint” said Matthys.



MARIUS AGREED TO ASSIST his red squirrel allies, he scampered out of the den and headed towards a shed where Anthony had kept the paint and other sort of tools. Marius grabbed the gray paint can which was already opened and took it up towards the den. It was heavy for Marius to lift, but the ground squirrel was willing to help out his allies. Once he reached the top, other red squirrels assisted him in bringing in the paint.



Painting Sabrina



MATTHYS HAD GRABBED a brush from the tool shed earlier and was preparing to use it to paint Sabrina. Sabrina stood back and closed her eyes. Matthys took the brush and planted it in the gray paint. She then began to use the brush to paint Sabrina from red to gray!



“THERE YOU GO SABRINA, now you are a full spy for us!” laughed Matthys.



SABRINA WAS PLEASED, she could see her formerly red fur now covered in gray.



“I’LL DO MY BEST TO show those gray squirrels what I’m made of” laughed Sabrina.



SABRINA SCAMPERED OFF, she headed towards the ground squirrel territory. She wanted to test out to see if her disguise would work. Archie was on patrol with a few snakes in the area. He did his best trying to sniff the area with his tongue. He and the other snakes slithered about until they spotted a lone gray squirrel approaching them.



“MUST HAVE GOTTEN LOST” said one of the snakes.



“CAREFUL, WE ARE NOT to eat our allies” said Archie.



THE OTHER SNAKES CONTROLLED their appetite as Sabrina approached them. She could see Archie who was in second command of the snakes.



The Lone Gray Squirrel



ARCHIE WAS SKEPTICAL on who this lone gray squirrel was, he couldn't tell if it was formerly a red squirrel at all. His own senses couldn't pick up anything strange.



“WHAT'S YOUR NAME GRAY squirrel?” asked Archie.



“UH, SABRINA” REPLIED Sabrina.



“DID YOU GET LOST DURING the red squirrel assault?” asked Archie.



“UH, YES I DID” REPLIED Sabrina, “and I am just trying to find my way home.”



SABRINA WAS PULLING all the alibis possible, and Archie was buying into it.



“WELL, GO RIGHT ON AHEAD” said Archie.



ARCHIE SAW NO ISSUES with Sabrina, the lone supposed gray squirrel headed into the ground squirrel territory. Sabrina had accomplished the goal of infiltrating the ground squirrel territory which was being barricaded by the gray squirrels. Evan was supervising the gray squirrels barricading the ground squirrel territory. He knew the red squirrels would attack again but he was unsure.



“KEEP UP THOSE BARRICADES” said Evan.



“WE’RE DOING OUR BEST sir” said one gray squirrel.



EVAN HUFFED AS HE PACED around making sure that the gray squirrels would follow instructions. Thomas did his best to be on the lookout with Lily. Thomas got a sense something was off when a lone gray squirrel emerged to their area.



Part Two



Chapter Four

Suspicious Sabrina



Thomas sniffed Sabrina, trying to figure out if she really was a gray squirrel. The paint made it more difficult for Thomas to sniff her red squirrel scent. Lily also did her best trying to figure out if Sabrina was a red squirrel in disguise.



“CAN’T BE TOO CAREFUL” said Lily.



LILY CONTINUED TO SNIFF around her, just to be safe.



“WELL, IT SEEMS YOU’RE in the clear” said Lily.



“THANKS FELLAS FOR MAKING everything safe” said Sabrina.



SABRINA SCAMPERED OFF on all fours. She could see the gray squirrels were setting up the barricades being instructed by Evan. Evan continued to observe his fellow grays. Sabrina then noticed an opening and then the particular hawk above — Jason flying about. Jason was being watched by Enzo who was making sure Jason wouldn’t go rogue on the allies below.



“REMEMBER ANY RED SQUIRREL or robin we can get, but not them” said Enzo.



“BUT I’M HUNGRY!” CRIED Jason.



ENZO ROLLED HIS EYES, he couldn’t believe he was stuck doing babysitting duties for Kat. Kat and the other hawks were spread out making sure no red squirrels or robins would get close.



Sabrina’s Behavior



SABRINA KNEW SHE HAD to get Jason’s attention, she waved at Jason which the hawk did his best trying to maintain patrol over the skies above.



“PAY NO ATTENTION TO the gray squirrel below” thought Jason.



JASON CONTINUED ON with his patrol, but Sabrina kept on egging him from below.



“COME ON HAWK, I’M A tasty squirrel!” cried Sabrina.



SWEAT BEGAN TO RUN down the hawk's forehead, Jason could tell this was a trick of some sort.



“NO, NOT GOING TO FALL for it” thought Jason.



BUT THEN SABRINA PRETENDED to be a plate of a deceased gray squirrel as a meal.



“COME ON, YOU KNOW YOU want me!” cried Sabrina.



JASON COULDN'T HOLD his urge for his appetite any further. He began to swoop right down with his claws ready to grab her. Enzo saw this and rushed in, he grabbed Jason by his tail.



“WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU are doing?” asked Enzo.



“I'M HUNGRY!” CRIED Jason.



ENZO THEN FORCED JASON to turn towards him, he smacked Jason with his feather.



“I'M SORRY TO HAVE DONE this to you, but you left me no choice!” bellowed Enzo.



ENZO WAS GOING TO TATTLE on Jason to his mother.



Jason's Behavior



ENZO FLEW OVER TO KAT, she could get some sense her son was causing some sort of trouble. She rolled her eyes as she noticed Enzo approaching.



“WHAT DID MY SON DO this time?” asked Kat.



“YOUR SON NEARLY SWOOPED down and grabbed one of the gray squirrels below” said Enzo.



KAT GASPED AT SUCH a thought, she then looked over Enzo's shoulder and noticed that Jason was hiding in a cloud not far from them.



“ONE MOMENT, I'LL HANDLE this” said Kat.



KAT MARCHED OVER TOWARDS the cloud where Jason was hiding. She blew the cloud away where Jason was covering before her.



“WHAT WERE YOU THINKING trying to swoop down and grab an ally?!” cried Kat.



“BUT I THOUGHT THE SQUIRREL wanted to be eaten” said Jason.



KAT GAZED BELOW AT that particular gray squirrel — Sabrina. Something was off with her as Sabrina kept on scampering about trying to get other hawks’ attention.



“THIS COULD BE A RED squirrel spy” said Kat.



“A RED SQUIRREL SPY?!” cried Jason.



“I AM UNSURE FOR THE moment, I need to have a word with Evan first” said Kat.



KAT HEADED DOWN WHERE Evan was still overseeing the barricades being propped up by the other gray squirrels.



A Red Squirrel Spy?!



KAT FLEW TOWARDS EVAN, the gray squirrel leader could see that his hawk counterpart had something important to share. As she landed, Evan arrived on the scene greeting her.



“SOMETHING DOESN’T SEEM right about the newcomer over there” said Kat.



KAT WAS REFERRING TO Sabrina, the strange gray squirrel who was trying to get attention of the hawks flying above.



“MY SON NEARLY SWOOPED down and grabbed her, but Enzo stopped him” said Kat.



EVAN CONTINUED TO STUDY Sabrina some more, he knew he had to get comfortable with her if he wanted to figure out she was a spy for the red squirrels.



“ONE MOMENT” SAID EVAN.



EVAN HEADED OVER TO where Lily and Thomas were. They had sniffed around Sabrina but couldn’t figure out if she was a red squirrel spy. Thomas and Lily were flabbergasted at what they saw once Evan showed them.



“THAT’S WHAT SHE WAS doing with the hawks?!” cried Thomas.



THOMAS NEARLY FAINTED because of it, Lily wasn’t surprised. The red squirrels would surely sink low.



“WHY DON’T YOU SWEETEN up to her?” suggested Lily.



EVAN DETESTED THE RED squirrels but if it meant in exposing Sabrina he would do it.



Too Nice Evan



EVAN DECIDED TO APPROACH this with caution towards Sabrina, he could see that Sabrina was doing all sorts of antics trying to get the hawks’ attention but to no avail.



“EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU Sabrina the new gray squirrel?” asked Evan.



“WHY YES I AM” REPLIED Sabrina.



“YOU KNOW, I HAVE ALWAYS admired someone of your manner and skills from afar” said Evan.



EVAN WAS PLAYING HER game, as a ruse to get her to be exposed. Sabrina blushed at Evan’s comments.



“WHY I NEVER THOUGHT the gray squirrel leader would like me so much” said Sabrina.



“MAYBE IF YOU COME TO our den I can show you around” said Evan.



“YES, SHOW ME AROUND” thought Sabrina.



THAT WAS EXACTLY WHAT Sabrina wanted unaware of Evan knowing who she really was. Evan then gave Sabrina a short tour of the barricades. Sabrina could see how sturdy the barricades were as the gray squirrels continued to work.



“MY, I MUST SAY YOUR pack is quite intriguing” said Sabrina.



“THIS WAY TO THE DEN” said Evan.



EVAN CLIMBED UP THE tree with Sabrina, the new den wasn't far from where the old den was. The smell of Fazil's stench still lingered about.



Chapter Five

The New Den



Evan showed off Sabrina to the new den, he wanted to let Sabrina's guard down first. There was a nice hay stack where she could rest.



“JUST FOR A NEWCOMER like you” said Evan.



SABRINA CURLED HERSELF up in a ball on the hay, as she rested Evan headed off. She was already fast asleep. All trying to get that sort of attention from the hawks caused her to be exhausted. Evan then headed down to the ground level where Thomas and Lily were.



“GET ME A HOSE, WE'RE going to flood the area and expose her as a red squirrel” said Evan.



EVAN WAS WILLING TO sacrifice the new den as a way to expose Sabrina. He didn't seem to care it would be getting all wet. Thomas, Lily and a few gray squirrels headed over to where Anthony was busy doing some gardening. He then noticed his hose was being taken by the gray squirrels.



“NOW WHAT ARE THOSE little critters up to now?” thought Anthony.



ANTHONY DECIDED TO follow the gray squirrels, strangely enough they led him back to their new den. There Anthony could see other gray squirrels were building barricades and being assisted by snakes who were watching over them — then he noticed the hawks in the sky. None of them were swooping down grabbing them at all.



Flooding the Den!



EVAN INSTRUCTED THOMAS and Lily to hoist the hose in a hole in the new den. Evan then scampered towards the nob that would turn the hose on. As Evan turned the nob on the ground level, the flow of water began to head towards the den. Sabrina was too much fast asleep dreaming of helping the red squirrels conquer the ground squirrel territory unaware of the impending danger ahead.



“AH YES, I AM SUCH A champion of a spy!” laughed Sabrina in her sleep.



BUT THAT WOULD ALL change, water began to pour right into the den, literally waking her up. She then noticed the gray paint was disintegrating because of the water.



“NO, NOT THE GRAY PAINT!” cried Sabrina.



SABRINA SWAM TOWARDS the entrance of the den, as she opened the door the water flooded right out of the den. She then realized she was exposed by Evan being a red squirrel spy!



“HA, I KNEW IT!” CRIED Evan.



“HOW DARE YOU TRY TO encourage the hawks to eat us!” cried Thomas.



“YEA, THAT WAS A VERY dirty trick!” added Lily.



THE GRAY SQUIRRELS were rightfully angry with Sabrina for trying to trick the hawks.



A Lone Red Squirrel!



JASON SAW HIS CHANCE for redemption the moment he saw the red squirrel fleeing the water being poured into the den. Sabrina was exposed out in the open, she needed someone to find shelter with. None of the animals around her trusted her.



“YOU MAY HAVE PERMISSION to dine on that red squirrel below” laughed Enzo.



“THANK YOU VERY MUCH” laughed Jason.



JASON THEN BEGAN TO zoom towards Sabrina with his claws quite sharpen ready to pick her up. Sabrina scampered, Anthony was the only source she could figure out that would keep her safe.



“HEY, WHAT THE?!” CRIED Anthony.



THE POOR GROUNDS KEEPER saw Sabrina crawl up his pants up into his shirt hoping to hide from the hawk that was after her. Jason swooped around Anthony, all Jason was interested in was just the red squirrel.



“GIVE ME THE RED SQUIRREL human, and I will leave you alone!” cried Jason.



BUT ANTHONY COULDN'T understand a word Jason was saying at all, since he didn't speak hawk. Anthony took a rake and began to swing it at Jason. The hawk was able to get out of Anthony's way.



Leaving Sabrina



IT WAS BEST FOR JASON to leave Sabrina where she was. She was already exposed, and that was more than enough to make sure the gray squirrels would be safe. Sabrina knew she couldn't face the music going back to the red squirrels.



“THERE, THERE LITTLE critter, I’ll make sure you’ll stay safe from that mean old hawk” said Anthony.



ANTHONY HEADED BACK to where Jonathan and Pauline where. Pauline was still waiting for the animal control officers to arrive.



“WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS little one?” asked Pauline.



“IT SEEMS LIKE A HAWK was after this one” said Anthony.



SABRINA WHO WAS ON Anthony’s shoulder headed over towards Jonathan and Pauline. She carefully sniffed both humans before heading back to the top of Anthony’s head.



“AW, SHE’S AFRAID” SAID Pauline, “you should take her back to where the other red squirrels are located.”



“PROBABLY AFTER I’M finished with my shift” said Anthony.



ANTHONY CONTINUED TO do his various chores around the park, as for Jason he was celebrated by his mother and Enzo for chasing Sabrina away.



“THAT WAS A BANG UP job in shooping away that red squirrel spy” said Enzo.



THEY HAD NOTHING BUT praise for Jason.



Praising Jason



JASON HAD BEEN REDEEMED in the eyes of his mother, she was relieved that he was only after the red squirrel spy.



“GLAD YOU WERE ABLE to figure it out first before the gray squirrels could” laughed Kat.



“YES, MAYBE I SHOULD have allowed you to have swoop in sooner” laughed Enzo.



THE HAWKS CELEBRATED as they continued to help defend the skies above the gray squirrels and snakes. Evan was relieved to see how happy Jason was. He felt deceived by the red squirrels on how cruel they were to use Sabrina like that.



“THOSE RED SQUIRRELS are going to regret everything” said Evan.



EVAN GLANCED OVER AT the red squirrel territory, he could see Matthys within her den pacing back and forth. Matthys knew something was up, that Sabrina's mission was a terrible failure. Even Romaine and Marius agreed with her assessment — it was far too long for Sabrina to have been gone for this long.



“MAYBE SHE FLED” SAID Marius.



“UNSURE, THOUGH IT'S possible the hawks got her” said Matthys, “we need to find ourselves some turtle allies. Their shells would be very useful in a future assault.”



YES, THE TURTLES DID reside around a pond near the park.



Chapter Six

Recruiting the Turtles



Romaine decided to do the honors in recruiting the turtles. Since the Robins needed some rest before refueling with unfertilized eggs, the turtles would make perfect sense to protect other red squirrels from being picked up by the hawks.



“I’LL GET THE TURTLE leader to assist us” said Romaine.



ROMAINE SCAMPERED OFF from the den, he headed from the tree towards a pond nearby where a pack of turtles resided. There their leader Madelyn was just resting in the water. She was doing her best minding her own business when Romaine approached the pond. She got up and swam over towards the edge of the pond.



“WHAT IS IT RED SQUIRREL?” asked Madelyn.



“SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU, but us red squirrels could use some assistance” said Romaine.



“WHAT KIND OF AN ASSISTANCE?” asked Madelyn.



“WELL, IT’S RATHER A complicated story actually, you see the hawks and the snakes have joined forces with the gray squirrels” said Romaine.



MADELYN AT FIRST DIDN’T want to get involved, but hearing how the hawks and the snakes were working together worried her.



“VERY WELL, I’LL SEE what sort of forces I can muster up, give me an hour and I’ll meet up with your leader” said Madelyn.



ROMAINE SMILED AS HE headed off back to his den.



Good News for Mattys



ROMAINE HEADED BACK to the den, Matthys could tell he was successful in getting the turtles on their side.



“WELL, WHAT DO YOU HAVE to report?” asked Matthys.



“THE TURTLES AGREE TO assist us” said Romaine.



MATTHYS AND MARIUS were relieved, perhaps now they had protection from the hawks when they were going to initiate another assault. As for Anthony, the grounds keeper spent time with his new little friend Sabrina. Sabrina was recovering from her ordeal with the gray squirrels nearly being flooded out of their den and exposed to their hawk allies.



“YOU CAN RELAX HERE in my greenhouse little one” said Anthony.



ANTHONY HAD A GREENHOUSE filled with so many nuts and berries alike. Sabrina was in paradise when she saw how much food she could have.



“THIS CAN BE THE SOLUTION” thought Sabrina.



SABRINA KNEW MATTHYS would be stubborn in not following her, it would end the war and the gray squirrels could have the ground squirrel territory. While the red squirrels would receive the greenhouse instead.



“YOU CAN SCAMPER ABOUT as much as you want” said Anthony.



SABRINA THEN HEADED off Anthony’s shoulder and began to sniff at the fruit growing around them.



Trying Some Fruit



THE GREENHOUSE GREW all sorts of fruit — but for the moment Sabrina was allowed to nibble on an apple tree that the greenhouse housed. It was enough food for the red squirrels to last for the entire winter.



“THIS IS DELICIOUS!” thought Sabrina as she chewed on the apple.



SABRINA THEN BEGAN to eat the entire apple before Anthony’s very eyes.



“MY, MY, YOU WERE QUITE hungry little one” laughed Anthony.



THE GREENHOUSE WOULD become Sabrina’s new home, away from the red squirrels. But she still felt it could be a resolution to the war with the gray squirrels.



“I’M GOING TO STAY HERE for awhile” thought Sabrina.



SABRINA THEN RESTED under the apple tree, Anthony felt it was best to leave her there since she was safe and had plenty of food. As the grounds keeper left, the animal control officers Armin and Dylan finally arrived on the scene. Armin shook his head seeing Pauline again. He couldn’t believe that it was her again calling the shots.



“THOSE SQUIRRELS ARE at it again, I want you two to stop their war” said Pauline.



NEITHER ARMIN NOR DYLAN knew that would be ever possible even if they caged all the squirrels.



Assessing the Park's Status



ANTHONY MET UP WITH the two animal control officers. He could tell they were already tired of Pauline regularly calling them to come over.



“I SENSE YOU GENTLEMEN are tired of this?” asked Anthony.



“YES, BUT REQUESTS ARE requests” sighed Armin.



ARMIN AND DYLAN WERE shown towards the area where the gray squirrels were constructing their barricades. They even noticed the snakes were on patrol with the gray squirrels and not eating them for some strange reason. Then they spotted the hawks above flying in particular patterns.



“THAT’S ODD, ALL OF these critters really don’t like each other” said Armin, “but why is this territory so important?”



ARMIN LOWERED HIS HEAD towards the gray squirrels — Evan spotted Armin. He couldn’t believe how frightful the two men were in their animal control attire.



“YOU DON’T SCARE US, you won’t take away our barricades!” cried Evan.



BUT ARMIN COULDN’T understand one word the gray squirrel was saying at all. All he heard was just squirrel chatter being tossed right at him.



“AW, THAT’S SO CUTE it seems like this squirrel is their leader and he’s angry at me” laughed Armin.



ARMIN KNEW THERE WAS nothing the animal control officers like himself could do to stop the war.



Chapter Seven

Bad News for Pauline



Armin and Dylan then turned towards Pauline, she could tell that there was nothing they could do to stop the onslaught.



“SORRY MA’AM, BUT THIS is nature’s business it’s best that they resolve their disputes on their own” said Armin.



“YEA, OUT OF OUR JURISDICTION” said Dylan.



“BUT IT’S TOTALLY WITHIN your jurisdiction, you are animal control officers, this is the city park, you should DO SOMETHING!” cried Pauline.



“I’M SORRY MA’AM, BUT from here on out you are just going to have to let nature take its course it’s probably for the best” said Armin.



NO DOUBT PAULINE WASN’T taking no for an answer. She was going to resolve the conflict herself by getting herself involved. Jonathan could see Pauline’s more militant side growing, even Anthony could see it.



“IT’S BEST WE LISTEN to the animal control experts and let things sort out on their own” said Anthony.



“NO WAY, YOU ALLOWED that rodent onto you, I am going to insert myself into this” said Pauline.



PAULINE THEN GRABBED Anthony’s rake, Anthony was doing his best trying to stop her along with Jonathan. Most of the humans around the animals didn’t want to interfere with their politics — except for Pauline.



Fierce Pauline



PAULINE WAS BECOMING the wild card in all of this, the gray squirrels were shocked to see the woman with a rake approaching the ground squirrel territory. They were stunned by this shocking development!



“A HUMAN IS APPROACHING!” cried Thomas.



THOMAS WAS IN A STRAIGHT up panic mode, the stakes were getting quire high, even higher than what the red squirrels were plotting with the turtles. Matthys was observing everything from her end. Madelyn arrived with her pack of turtles, they could also see something brewing.



“IT LOOKS LIKE THERE will be human interference in this” said Madelyn.



“WAIT, WE STILL WOULD need you” said Matthys, “it could weaken the gray squirrels’ hold on the ground squirrel territory.”



MADELYN SIGHED, SHE knew she didn’t want to leave empty handed.



“FINE, WE’LL ASSIST you, but if that human is too much for us, we’ll leave” said Madelyn.



MATTHYS WAS PLEASED, Romaine and Marius were getting the red squirrels ready for their next big assault. Victor and Maeva were on stand by preparing to assault the gray squirrels regardless if there were hawks in the sky protecting them. The hawks would be too focused on the lone human with a rake.



Wild Pauline!



PAULINE SWING HER RAKE around the barricades that Evan and his gray squirrels had already setup.



“MY BARRICADES!” CRIED Evan.



KAT ALONG WITH ENZO and Jason did their best by swooping in trying to stop Pauline. But the rake was keeping the hawks at bay.



“SHOO, SHOO YOU STUBBORN hawks!” cried Pauline.



JONATHAN AND ANTHONY both gasped, there was very little that they could do.



“GET THE POLICE, I DON’T think they’ll enjoy seeing this one bit” said Anthony.



ANTHONY HATED CALLING the police on someone like Pauline, but she had gone too far with the animals and their war. Archie and Donna did their best trying to crawl up to Pauline and squeeze her trying to halt her progress.



“EW, SNAKES!” CRIED Pauline.



PAULINE MANAGED TO fling the snakes off of her, Archie and Donna landed hard on the ground.



“THIS HUMAN IS MAKING things very difficult for us” said Donna to Evan.



“I’LL STOP HER, I PROMISE” said Evan.



EVAN DIDN’T WANT TO bite the human, but what other choices did he have left? Pauline wasn’t giving him a fair choice at all. The craze woman was still swinging the rake at his fellow gray squirrels.



Evan’s Unthinkable Ploy



EVAN WAS PREPARING to bite the rogue human that was trying to harm his comrades on the battlefield. It was his only card he could play left.



“DON’T WORRY, I HAVE a solution!” cried Evan.



DONNA AND ARCHIE WERE both skeptical, the two snakes observed Evan being ever so brave scampering towards Pauline. They could see how fierce Pauline was, no hawk, gray squirrel or snake could get close enough to her. She was violently swinging her rake back and forth.



“CAREFUL, ONE OF THOSE critters are going to bite you if you don’t stop” said Jonathan.



JONATHAN WAS DOING his best trying to calm Pauline down, he could see how Pauline loved the park that she missed the peace and quiet that she once thought it had. She continued to swing nearly hitting Thomas. Evan grew more impatient with this rogue human and headed up towards her leg.



“EW, ONE OF THOSE FILTHY rodents is up my leg!” cried Pauline.



EVAN HAD NO TASTE FOR meat, this was going to be a one time thing. He found a soft spot where he could land a bite and surely it would stop her.



Part Three



Chapter Eight

Biting Pauline



Evan already regretted his strategy with Pauline, the rogue human. But he was doing it for the safety of his comrades and allies alike. With one bite, Pauline screamed.



“THE SQUIRREL BIT ME!” cried Pauline.



PAULINE ROLLED AROUND the ground trying to squash Evan, but Evan managed to scamper to safety. Evan knew he had screwed up as the leader of the gray squirrels by being so abrasive with his approach. He could also feel the animal control officers would return trying to pick him up for what he did to the human.



“CALL AN AMBULANCE!” cried Pauline.



ANTHONY IMMEDIATELY called 911 emergency services for the city of Lyons.



“911, HOW MAY I ASSIST you?” asked the operator.



“WE HAVE OURSELVES AN emergency at the park” said Anthony, “I’m the grounds keeper and one of the locals was bitten by an animal. But she was swinging a rake against the other critters.”



“HMM, THAT CRITTER MUST have bitten her in self-defense” said the operator, “I’ll send a team of medics over right away.”



JONATHAN DID HIS BEST trying to calm Pauline down after being bitten by the gray squirrel.



Pauline’s Trauma



IT WAS QUITE A DRAMATIC event for Pauline, she was on the ground with Jonathan and Anthony by her side when the medics appeared.



“WHAT HAPPENED?” ASKED one of the medics.



“A GRAY SQUIRREL BITE me!” cried Pauline.



THE MEDICS SHOOK THEIR heads when they noticed a rake was on the ground.



“WHAT WERE YOU DOING with this rake?” asked another medic.



“SHE WAS SWINGING IT at some of the critters” said Anthony.



THE MEDICS WERE IN disbelief, it was their duty to bring Pauline to the hospital to get herself checked up.



“WE’LL PATCH HER UP and make sure she doesn’t have rabies” said one of the medics.



“THANK YOU SIR” SAID Anthony.



THE MEDICS BROUGHT out a stretcher and lifted Pauline onto it with Jonathan and Anthony assisting them.



“THIS IS TOO MUCH” SAID Jonathan.



“I KNOW IT IS” SAID Anthony, “but we have to do our best to keep the park safe.”



ANTHONY AND JONATHAN gazed at the stretcher as the medics moved Pauline towards an ambulance. They knew it would be sometime before

Pauline would recover. As for the two animal control officers, they were still in the area when the commotion happened.



Gary Squirrel Not Guilty



ARMIN SIGHED AS HE noticed the ambulance leaving the park. He shook his head in disbelief to what might have happened moments ago.



“COME ON DYLAN, WE SHOULD see what happened to her” said Armin.



ARMIN AND DYLAN HEADED back to the area where they formerly inspected the park. They could see that Pauline had destroyed most of the barricades the gray squirrels had setup. Then they noticed Jonathan and Anthony recovering under a tree.



“WHAT HAPPENED HERE?” asked Armin.



“PAULINE, SHE TOOK MY rake and tried to swing it against the gray squirrels and their other critter friends” said Anthony.



“I GUESS ONE OF THE critters must have bitten her” said Armin.



“YEP, WARNED HER NOT to, but she didn’t listen” said Anthony.



ANTHONY FELT SORRY for the gray squirrel that had to bite Pauline, it was the only way to stop her. Armin and Dylan decided to check out the area one more time before heading off. The two animal control officers knew they couldn't apprehend the gray squirrel since it was a wild animal.



"HERE LITTLE CRITTER" said Armin.



ARMIN THEN SPOTTED Evan perched on a tree, Evan was fearful the animal control officers were going to take him away.



Fearful Evan



ARMIN COULD SEE FEAR in the gray squirrel's eyes, he could get a sense this particular gray squirrel was the leader. Thomas and Lily were just a few feet away watching them.



"DON'T WORRY LITTLE critter, I am not going to take you in you did defend your territory rightfully so" said Armin.



EVAN WAS SURPRISED by these words from the animal control officer. He was relieved that he wouldn't be taken away and put down.



“IT WASN’T YOUR FAULT, you had to do something but let me tell you I don’t know if you can understand me but you have to stop this war” said Armin, “it is dividing everything and everyone here. Including us humans.”



ARMIN’S SPEECH TO EVAN was important — this feud needed to cease. But Evan knew there wasn’t enough space for the ground squirrel territory for both the grays and the reds. It was quite a complicated situation for Evan to be in. The animal control officers then headed off, hopefully not to return since Pauline was out at the hospital.



“COME ON, LET’S HEAD home” said Armin.



DYLAN NODDED AND FOLLOWED Armin out.



Chapter Nine

Second Thoughts



Matthys, the red squirrel leader also noticed the commotion with the animal control officers and Evan. They were shocked at what just happened.



“WE CAN STILL CONTINUE the assault if you’d like” said Madelyn to Matthys.



“JUST HAVE A MEETING with the gray squirrel leader” sighed Matthys.



MADELYN KNEW THEY STILL had to remain cautious, Evan headed down as he spotted the red squirrels approaching. Something inside Evan had changed with that experience with the rogue human Pauline. He glanced over and was willing to open negotiations with Matthys.



“HALT!” CRIED EVAN, “I don’t want to fight anymore.”



IT WASN'T REALLY A surrender, but the two sides still didn't have any resolution to their issue on how they'd bury their nuts for the winter. Madelyn could see this was a complicated matter as Donna and Kat arrived near Evan to back him up. Matthys then got off of Madelyn's shell and headed to greet Evan.



"THERE'S NOT ENOUGH room for all of us on the ground squirrel territory" said Matthys.



"I KNOW THERE ISN'T it" sighed Evan.



MATTHYS GAZED AROUND at the destroyed barricades, she could see that Pauline had done far more damage than any of her red squirrels or assaults could ever do.



Assessing Pauline's Damage



THE DAMAGE WAS QUITE extensive and vast, Matthys could see what went wrong with Evan's train of thought. Thomas and Lily then arrived, they were ever so cautious. This wasn't a peace treaty at all, but rather an assessment.



"WHERE IS OUR SPY SABRINA?" asked Matthys.



"AH YES, HER, WE EXPOSED her for being a spy she fled with that human lying near the tree" said Evan.



EVAN WAS POINTING TOWARDS Anthony, Matthys was intrigued by this development. She headed over towards the human who was just trying to rest. Anthony could see a lone red squirrel approaching him.



“WHY, HI THERE LITTLE critter” said Anthony.



ANTHONY WAS FAMILIAR with the red squirrels since his encounter with Sabrina. He then gazed over and noticed rows of red squirrels were rushing towards him.



“UH, I DON’T SPEAK RED squirrel but can I help you all with something?” asked Anthony.



MATTHYS DID HER BEST to speak about Sabrina, but all Anthony could make out was typical red squirrel chatter. Jonathan was puzzled with this development, he had never seen so many red squirrels gathering in one area.



“UH, IS THIS NORMAL?” whispered Jonathan.



“HAVE NO IDEA” LAUGHED Anthony.



ANTHONY WENT ALONG with what Matthys had to say even if he couldn’t understand one word.



Where's Sabrina?!



MATTHYS KEPT ON ASKING Anthony where was her friend Sabrina in this chaos. She knew Anthony was the human that she had left.



“OH, YOU MUST BE SEARCHING for your friend” said Anthony.



ANTHONY KNEW HE HAD to lead the red squirrels towards the greenhouse. It was the safe haven for Sabrina where he rescued her from the hawk that was chasing her. Anthony led the pack of red squirrels the way. Jonathan shook his head at how surreal it was seeing a bunch of red squirrels following the grounds keeper.



“I HAVE TO SEE THIS” thought Jonathan.



JONATHAN FOLLOWED THE rest of the red squirrels and Anthony towards the greenhouse. Matthys was impressed seeing the greenhouse before her. Once inside, there was Sabrina resting under an apple tree where she was quite full and content.



“SABRINA!” CRIED MATTHYS with joy.



MATTHYS ALONG WITH Romaine and Marius joined her.



“YOU FOUND ME!” CRIED Sabrina.



SABRINA THOUGHT THE red squirrels would be angry with her with her exposure. But instead, they were quite happy and content seeing that she was safe and sound.



“I MUST SAY, YOU CRITTERS are happy being together” said Anthony.



THEN ANTHONY HAD AN idea on how to settle their dispute.



Anthony’s Idea



ANTHONY LOWERED HIMSELF towards Matthys’ level, he got a sense this was the red squirrel leader.



“I KNOW HOW TO END YOUR little feud with the gray squirrels, you can have the entire greenhouse, I will just have to get everything prepared for you critters” said Anthony.



MATTHYS COULDN’T BELIEVE the words the human was speaking to her — the solution was right in front of her! She didn’t need to waste anymore time fighting the gray squirrels. The gray squirrels could keep the ground squirrel territory while the red squirrels would get the greenhouse. There was

plenty of room to bury nuts for the winter in the greenhouse and to keep the nuts warm.



“THIS PLACE MAKES PERFECT sense!” laughed Matthys with joy.



“YES, YES IT DOES MAKE sense!” laughed Romaine.



EVERYONE WAS IN AGREEMENT with Matthys on what to do next. All that would come would be a peace treaty between the gray squirrels and the red squirrels. It was a necessary way in ending the war. However just because their feud was over didn't mean trouble would be. Pauline was recovering from the hospital, lucky for her Evan didn't have any rabies on him when he bit her.



Chapter Ten

Pauline Recovering



At the hospital scene, beside Pauline were her husband Charles; her adult daughter Zoe; Zoe's husband David Bourq and Zoe's rebellious daughter Lana. Lana was the most intrigued on what happened to her grandmother Pauline at the park.



"YOU USED A RAKE AGAINST some naughty critters grandmother?" asked Lana.



"DEAR PLEASE, YOUR GRANDMOTHER is recovering from her injury she received" said Zoe.



"AH, LET HER BE DEAR" said David.



DAVID WAS MORE RELAXED about Lana's rebellious behavior, since Lana got her behavior from the father's side of the family. Charles was dumbfounded by how a gray squirrel bit his wife. The animal control experts who were at the park refused to take in the gray squirrel only because it was defending its territory and Pauline was obviously in the wrong.



“THIS CAN’T BE, WE CAN’T let that gray squirrel get away with this” said Lana, “where’s the park, I want to take the gray squirrel down myself.”



CHARLES WOULDN’T BE so certain that would be right — suing the park on the other hand made more sense.



“I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE civil matters” said Charles, “this injustice will not stand.”



PAULINE DID HER BEST trying to get up from the bed but a nurse who was there prevented her.



A Few Days in the Hospital



PAULINE WOULD SADLY be told to stay a few days in the hospital. It was upsetting to her family that she was in this predicament. It affected Lana more, because she wanted justice done against the gray squirrel who bit her.



“DON’T WORRY GRANDMA, I’ll get even against that gray squirrel for you” said Lana.



“THAT’S NICE OF YOU dear” said Pauline.



PAULINE RESTED AS THE nurses continued to observe her. Charles didn't want his granddaughter doing anything rash at all. But he sensed she was going to try something anyway.



“YOU BETTER NOT DO ANYTHING you'd regret” said Charles.



LANA KNEW SHE WOULD have to go behind her parental figures' backs if she wanted to get even. As the family left the hospital, they passed the park where the incident took place. Lana gazed out of the window — the park itself wasn't far from where they lived — they lived in an apartment complex not far.



“I WILL GET EVEN AGAINST that pesky gray squirrel” thought Lana.



THE BERGERON FAMILY headed back to the apartment, they were laying out a welcome back party for Pauline when she would make a full recovery.



Noticing the Odd Animals



BUT WHILE LANA WAS being forced back to the apartment, she did catch a glimpse of the red and gray squirrels gathering. It wasn't normal for the critters to behave like this at all. She knew she had to get a few friends if they wanted to get even against the gray squirrel for biting Pauline.



“JUST PAY NO ATTENTION to those critters” said Charles, “it’s for the best.”



CHARLES AND THE REST of the family then got out of the car and headed back to their apartment. Most of the focus would be on Pauline’s return home, but Lana was going to go an extra mile. She was going to bring in the gray squirrel responsible for biting her and even possibly punish the gray squirrel.



“JUSTICE WILL BE DONE” thought Lana.



LANA HAD DARK THOUGHTS in her about what she’d do to the pesky gray squirrel unaware of the internal politics of the animals of the park. As the day progressed, evening arrived and after dinner she rode on her bike towards the park in question. She wanted to figure out where the gray squirrels lived before striking.



Evan’s Disbelief



WITH THE GRAY SQUIRRELS, they were relived the war was dying down. They were victorious in securing the ground squirrel territory without fighting the red squirrels that much at all. But they were unaware they were being observed by Lana as she arrived at the location.



“I’M SO PROUD THAT WE can have the ground squirrel territory to call our own” laughed Thomas.



“YES, MY HOME WILL BE your home” added Lily, “the red squirrels will have the greenhouse. Everything will work out!”



“I DO HOPE SO” SAID Evan, “I do regret biting that human who tried to use a rake on everyone.”



“BUT YOU HAD NO CHOICE, and even those scary animal control officers agreed with your position” said Lily.



“I KNOW THEY DID, BUT I just get the feeling not everyone agrees with me” said Evan.



THERE WAS DOUBT WITH Evan’s victory, and he was right — the gray squirrels were being watched by Lana. She could see the ground squirrel territory as she walked her bike around it. She could see the carnage her grandmother had caused by destroying their barricades. Then she noticed the den where the gray squirrels were.



Epilogue

Gray Squirrel Den



Lana wanted to get the gray squirrels attention, she searched for some rocks and tossed it towards the tree. The rocks could be heard within the den itself.



“WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?!” cried Thomas.



THOMAS AND LILY CHECKED outside the den and noticed Lana. They didn't recognize this human but felt she was related to Pauline.



“SHE MUST BE RELATED to the rogue human” said Thomas.



EVAN TOOK A LOOK OUTSIDE and noticed Lana pacing back and forth.



“YOU STUPID GRAY SQUIRRELS, get out!” cried Lana.



LANA PACED BACK AND forth, Evan bravely stepped out of the den.



“YOU, YOU BIT MY GRANDMOTHER, and I am coming after you” said Lana.



LANA WAS DEFIANT WITH her little speech towards the gray squirrel leader. Evan could clearly see Lana as the next big threat towards the safety of the gray squirrels.



“THIS, THIS CAN’T BE happening” said Evan as he stumbled back inside the den.



EVAN RUSHED BACK INSIDE for safety issues, he could see that Lana would surely return. Lana then rode on her bike back to her family’s apartment complex. She was determined to show her grandmother how it was done.



Arriving Home



LANA’S FAMILY WERE unaware of what just transpired at the park. They were ready to head to bed. Charles thought his granddaughter was just out on a bike exercise.



“DID YOU ENJOY YOUR exercise?” asked Charles.



“UH, YES I DID” SAID Lana.



LITTLE DID CHARLES realize Lana was preparing for war with the gray squirrel leader. This was going to be her fight, and her fight alone. As the rest of the family got ready for bed, Lana headed towards her bedroom, but not to head to sleep. She had drawn up a diagram of the gray squirrels' main tree and then a diagram of the leader — Evan.



“THIS PATHETIC GRAY squirrel thinks it can be clever, but I’m smarter” laughed Lana.



LANA KNEW SHE WOULD have to get a few of her friends to apprehend the pesky gray squirrel. She didn't seem to care about the consequences of her actions at all. Lana would have to wait until the morning to call up her friends to assist her with her campaign. As for the gray squirrels, they would also have to wait until the morning. A peace treaty with their red squirrel counterparts would be necessary.



Peace Treaty Draft



AS FOR THE RED SQUIRRELS, Matthys was already preparing for a draft of the peace treaty. Evan would overlook it in the morning.



“I DO HOPE THERE WILL be peace” said Romaine.



“I’M SURE THERE WILL, we’ll have the greenhouse as our new territory, the gray squirrels can have whatever they want” said Matthys.



MATTHYS WAS CERTAIN this would work — that there would be no more interference. However, she couldn’t be any further from the truth. Lana and her friends were going to prepare for a major assault that was going to take place in the coming hours. Will Lana’s plans ruin everything? Find out in the next exciting book!



TALES OF RED AND GRAY WAR BOOK 3
THE LAST CONFLICT

by
Maxwell Hoffman



Part One



Prologue

Lana Sends a Few Text Messages



Lana Bergeron was out for revenge against the gray squirrel leader Evan for previously biting her grandmother Pauline Bergeron. While her grandfather Carhles rested in the master bedroom; Zoe, Charles and Pauline's adult daughter slept with her husband David Bourg. Lana was making a few text messages to her friends on social media. Among her friends were a French-Algerian teen Zaire Kerkour; a local French teenage girl KJ Sprigs and former British national teenager Lucas Allen.



“ARE YOU NUTS THAT WE'RE going after a gray squirrel for biting your grandmother?” asked Zaire in a text message.



“I'M SORRY, I'M VERY close to my grandmother I will do anything to impress her” said Lana.



“BUT DON'T YOU THINK you're going a bit too far with this?” asked KJ, “Throwing rocks at their den like that was that necessary?”



“YOUR GRANDMOTHER USED a rake, there are social media posts of it everywhere” said Lucas.



“IT’S THE PRINCIPLE of the matter” said Lana, “I will not let some rodent ruin my grandmother’s life.”



LANA WASN’T BEING TALKED out of this, KJ was the only one who agreed to be supportive of her friend while Zaire and Lucas refused to go along with it.



KJ Arrives at Lana’s Apartment



KJ ARRIVED AT LANA’S apartment complex, everyone was just waking up. Charles woke up first, he heard the chains of someone parking their bike just outside the apartment.



“NOW WHO COULD THAT be this early?” thought Charles.



CHARLES OPENED THE door revealing it to be KJ, one of Lana’s friends.



“DO YOUR PARENTS KNOW where you are?” asked Charles.



“THEY SAID IT WAS OKAY I can visit” said KJ, “how’s your wife doing since being bitten by the squirrel?”



“SHE’LL BE RELEASED from the hospital within a few days standard procedures” said Charles.



CHARLES WELCOMED KJ into the apartment, Lana was already up. She was pleased to count at least on one friend. Zaire and Lucas obviously wanted nothing to do with the incident in question. They had other activities to attend.



“AT LEAST I CAN HAVE one trustworthy friend” said Lana.



“SO, WHERE IS THIS SQUIRREL” said KJ.



“NOT SO LOUD, THEY’LL hear us” whispered Lana.



LANA WANTED TO KEEP it a secret, as the family sat down for breakfast, Charles brought out some bagels from the other day for everyone to have. As the Bergeron family ate — the scene shifts towards the park where a nervous Evan is anxious to sign the peace treaty with the red squirrels.



Heading Out



EVAN, HIS BROTHER THOMAS and their ground squirrel ally Lily headed out with the other gray squirrels. Matthys, the leader of the red squirrels was right over the ground squirrel territory with a small peace treaty for them to sign. Beside here were here allies — Victor the robin; his mate Maeva and also Marius the ground squirrel with Matthy’s brother Romaine. Madelyn the

turtle was also present; on the gray squirrel end Kat the hawk and Donna the snake arrived.



“LOOKS LIKE WE MADE it just in time” said Donna.



DONNA WAS RELIEVED the conflict would be over, and so was Kat. They all could go back to their normal lives. Evan was ever so cautious as he headed over to where Matthys was. The gray squirrel leader was given the peace treaty where he skimmed a few pages here and there.



“I GUESS EVERYTHING checks out, I will sign it” said Evan.



THERE WERE NOTHING but cheers all around the park, the animals that didn't participate in the war were relieved the conflict were over. A few mice decided to be observers of the signing of the peace treaty.



Signing the Peace Treaty!



SOME GRAPE JUICE FROM a mashed grape was used for the ceremony. Evan placed his paw in the grape juice and so did Matthys with her paw. They then placed their paws over the peace treaty ratifying it. Again the animals burst out with cheers!



“YES, THERE'S PEACE!” laughed Lily.



LILY AND MARIUS RAN towards each other and hugged each other. They had missed each other for quite sometime.



“DON’T WORRY, I WILL take great care of our former home” said Lily.



“YES, AND I WILL TAKE great care of the greenhouse” added Marius.



THE RED SQUIRRELS WERE going to move to the greenhouse within a few days. Anthony Bernard, the human grounds keeper was preparing everything for them. He was pleased to see peace finally had arrived to the park. There was a change of heart with all of the animals that he observed ranging from the birds to the squirrels of various types and even the larger animals. Fazil was returned to the park by animal control officers — Armin Kal and Dylan Michel.



“HERE YOU GO FELLA, don’t cause anymore trouble” laughed Armin.



FAZIL WAS ALSO RELIEVED the conflict was over, the skunk could finally be in peace.



Chapter One

Peace for Now



Peace was finally achieved throughout the entire park, the animals and humans alike could all sense it. Jonathan Pond was on his last day touring Lyons, France. He could feel the peace in the air as he walked a small paved road.



“AH YES, FINALLY NO more conflicts with those little critters” laughed Jonathan.



JONATHAN GLANCED OVER and noticed the red squirrels were packing their belongings in their den. Matthys along with her brother Romaine and their ground squirrel ally Marius were preparing to leave for the greenhouse that Anthony was preparing. Matthys didn't even bother to pay attention to Jonathan as he walked past their tree.



“IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU little red squirrels getting along instead of fighting for a change” said Jonathan.



MATTHYS CONTINUED TO instruct her red squirrels to continue packing. She hadn't the slightest clue of Jonathan's presence. Jonathan then

glanced over at the gray squirrel tree — the gray squirrels were preparing to move into the former ground squirrel territory that they were allowed to claim during their conflict. The snakes were doing their best to assist the grays. Donna and Archie were observing the gray squirrels packing up their belongings.



Watching Over the Grays



DONNA FELT COMPELLED to assist the grays, after how long of an ordeal both species have been through. The snake leaders attentively watched over Evan and Thomas packing up their belongings. Lily, the ground squirrel ally of the gray squirrels was pleased to help them along the way.



“IT’S NICE THAT THERE’S finally some peace and quiet in the park” said Evan.



“YEA, BUT I JUST CAN’T help wonder what happened to that crazy human you bit” said Lily.



THE GRAY SQUIRRELS were unaware that they were still being stalked and monitored by Lana and her friend KJ as they rode on their bikes towards the park. Lana didn’t want to try anything towards the gray squirrels yet. She could get a sense they were letting down the guard.



“THOSE PESKY RODENTS won’t know what hit them” said Lana.



“ARE YOU SURE ABOUT what you’re doing, you don’t want Zaire or Lucas to be right” said KJ.



KJ WAS BEING SUPPORTIVE of her friend, Lana didn’t care what Zaire or Lucas thought. As they parked their bikes they began to stalk the gray squirrels as the grays continued putting their luggage from their den to the former ground squirrel home.



Stalking the Grays



LANA AND KJ CRAWLED on the grass, they were hopeful the rodents wouldn’t see them. The two teens noticed a few snakes were helping the gray squirrels.



“NUTS, THOSE GRAYS HAVE snakes on their side” said Lana, “how are we going to get past them?”



KJ THOUGHT OF THOSE catcher poles that the animal control officers had to use to capture the skunk.



“I THINK WE NEED TO borrow a few of the animal control tools” said KJ.



THE TWO TEENS HEADED off, the two animal control officers — Armin Kal and Dylan Michel were on another assignment in the park. Apparently there was an issue with Angel a Huskie breed of a dog was acting wild around

some wild animals. Sarah Petit, Angel's owner and her husband Adam called upon animal control officers to control their dog.



“THAT’S RIGHT OFFICER, our dog is fighting with a badger!” cried Sarah.



ANGEL GROWLED FIERCELY at the badger, the badger could see the Huskie as a threat to its territory. Armin and Dylan arrived on the scene with their catcher pols.



“HERE WE GO AGAIN DYLAN” sighed Armin.



DYLAN SIGHED AS HE joined his partner in trying to wrestle the Huskie dog.



Observing the Animal Control Officers



LANA AND KJ WERE CAREFUL not to intervene too much in the incident, but they observed how Armin and Dylan were using the catcher pols to strengthen the small ring around the neck of the Huskie. Angel yelped, doing his best trying to free himself.



“YOU TWO JUST CAME IN the nick of them” laughed Adam.



“PLEASE TRY TO CONTROL your dog next time that you’re at the park” said Armin.



ARMIN AT LEAST WAS relieved it wasn’t about the crazy gray and red squirrels who formerly fought over territory. But perhaps Lana and KJ found a creative way on handling the snakes who were protecting the gray squirrels. The two teenage girls cautiously headed towards Armin’s truck and grabbed a pair of catcher pols.



“THESE SHOULD COME IN handy” laughed Lana.



“BUT WE NEED A BAG FOR the snakes” said KJ.



“YOU’RE RIGHT” SAID Lana.



LANA BEGAN TO LOOK around and noticed that Anthony had a pile of black bags lying near the greenhouse.



“WE’LL USE THESE BLACK bags to put the snakes in” said Lana.



THE TWO TEENAGE GIRLS knew what they had to do next — apprehend the protectors of the gray squirrels.



Chapter Two

Observing the Snakes



Lana and KJ headed back to where the gray squirrels were, but this time they were going to concentrate on the snakes. Donna and Archie were oblivious to what was going to transpire to them. The two teens cautiously began to approach them with Lana holding the black bag with them.



“EASY, WE’RE GOING TO show those snakes who’s boss first any animal defending the rodent that was involved in putting my grandmother in the hospital deserves to be punished” said Lana.



THE TWO TEENS CONTINUED to cautiously approach the two snakes. Donna and Archie did not sense anything wrong. That is, until both teens used their catcher pols to grab the snakes!



“WHAT’S THE MEANING of this?!” cried Donna.



NEITHER HUMAN COULD speak snake at all making Donna’s words so meaningless. Donna and Archie struggled but were placed in a black bag by the two teens. The two teens then promptly did the same to the other snakes in the surrounding area who were watching over the gray squirrels. Each snake was

unprepared to face them, they had never encountered such humans like these two before.



Captured!



BOTH DONNA AND ARCHIE knew something was up once they were both inside the black bag. They did their best trying to wrestle their way out but to no avail. Then more of their comrades were placed in the bag.



“WHAT THE HECK IS GOING on?!” cried one of the snakes.



“YEA, ONE MINUTE I WAS watching the gray squirrels the next minute we’re in here!” cried another snake.



“WE’LL FIGURE A WAY out of this” said Donna.



DONNA AND ARCHIE DID their best trying to find a way out of the black bag. But Lana and tied it quite tight. She wasn’t going to let those snakes go at all.



“THERE, NO MORE SNAKES to protect those pesky gray squirrels!” laughed Lana.



BUT UP ABOVE — KAT and her juvenile son Jason witnessed everything. The two hawks knew they had to scramble to get the flock to their side.



“QUICKLY DEAR, WE HAVE to get Enzo and the others” said Kat.



THE HAWKS ZOOMED RIGHT off towards the nests where the hawks resided. The hawks felt some calm at first since the peace treaty was signed by the gray and red squirrels. But that was going to be shattered due to a new threat.



Alerting the Hawks



ENZO WAS RESTING IN a nest, he noticed Kat and her son Jason approaching him.



“WHAT’S THE ISSUE?” asked Enzo.



“GATHER THE OTHER HAWKS, the snakes are under attack by two humans!” cried Kat.



ENZO GASPED AT THE thought, Enzo then flew over to the other nests where the hawks were resting. The hawks were on high alert, they knew they had to defend their allies. Back on the red squirrel end — the robins — Victor and his mate Maeva noticed commotion over in the gray squirrel territory. They witnessed the snakes being placed in the black bag by the two teenage girls.



“WHAT THE HECK WAS GOING on there, I thought there was finally some peace and quiet!” cried Victor.



MAEVA WAS EQUALLY INSULTED by this incursion by the two human teens. The robins knew they had to act now. The two robins then left their nests and began to warn the other robins about the two human teens. The robins were on high alert again, but this time they were going to assist the gray squirrels instead of fighting them.



“HURRY, WE HAVE TO HURRY!” cried Victor.



VICTOR WAS ABLE TO quickly mobilize the robins to action unaware the hawks were going to join them.



Joint Rescue!



VICTOR LED THE ROBINS on one end while Kat led the hawks on the other. The two different bird species often saw each other as foes. But in this special case they noticed the human teens were up to no good. Lana felt confident that the snakes would no longer be a threat. She could focus on apprehending the pesky gray squirrel that had placed her grandmother in the hospital.



“NOW THAT THAT’S SETTLED, let’s go after the gray squirrels!” cried Lana.



“BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY of them, which one is the guilty one?” asked KJ.



LANA SCANNED THE GRAY squirrels, the grays paused noticing the two human teens before them. Thomas especially stood back, he didn’t want to move at all being too afraid of them. Lily also spotted them she was just as afraid as Thomas.



“WHAT DO WE DO AGAINST them?” asked Lily.



“I’M NOT SURE” SAID Thomas.



THOMAS COULD SEE THE catcher pols, they were tools used to wrangle animals like them in cages. Evan knew they were after them, he bravely stepped forward.



“YOU DON’T HAVE TO DO this” said Thomas.



“IT’S ME THAT THEY WANT” said Evan.



EVAN WAS PREPARING to sacrifice himself for the safety of the park.



Chapter Three

Evan Steps Forward



Evan decided to be brave, unaware of the pending rescue effort by Kat and Victor. He could clearly see that the two teen humans wanted him.



“HEY HUMANS!” BELLOWED Evan.



EVAN’S WORDS WERE NOTHING but typical squirrel chatter to Lana and KJ as they glared down. Lana could tell this was the gray squirrel that put her grandmother in the hospital.



“THAT’S HIM, HE’S THE guilty one and he’s admitting it to us!” cried Lana.



“ARE YOU SURE ABOUT that?” asked KJ.



“I’M SURE, LET’S GRAB him!” bellowed Lana.



LANA AND KJ PROMPTLY prepared the catcher pols, Evan gasped ready to accept his fate.



“DON’T DO THIS!” CRIED Thomas, “You don’t have to do this!”



THE COMMOTION BROUGHT the attention of the red squirrels, especially Matthys who noticed the commotion. Her former foes were having an issue with the two human teens.



“RED SQUIRRELS, CHARGE!” cried Matthys.



MATTHYS WANTED TO DISPLAY unity for the park after signing the peace treaty with her gray squirrel counterparts. The other red squirrels stopped packing their belongings and began to follow suit. The two human teens were going to be in for one big surprise!



Under Assault!



LANA AND KJ IMMEDIATELY found themselves being pelted with unfertilized eggs by the robins. Victor was instructing a major bombing campaign against them trying to prevent them from capturing Evan and saving the snakes.



“BOMBS AWAY!” ORDERED Victor.



THE ROBINS CONTINUED their bombing raids, as for the hawks, Kat let the hawks to swoop down using their sharp claws. They were hopeful to show the two human teens what happens when you mess with the entire park.



“OUCH, A HAWK SCRATCHED me!” cried KJ.



KJ GAZED UP AT THE hawks who were flying and circling them, the two teens knew they had to seek shelter and fast!



“HURRY, WE HAVE TO ESCAPE!” cried Lana.



LANA AND KJ COULDN'T get to their bikes, Kat had swooped down and freed the snakes that were trapped in the black plastic bag. Donna and Archie were relieved that they finally found freedom. Now all that was left was chasing down the two pesky human teens!



“HURRY, THE GREENHOUSE!” cried Lana.



LANA AND KJ FELT THE greenhouse was the only safe haven for them. Anthony was still busy stetting everything up when he noticed the commotion of animals scampering and chasing the two teens.



Racing from the Horde!



THE HORDE OF ANIMALS showed the unity of the park, they were not going to let their peaceful lives ruined again. Lana and KJ signaled help from Anthony the main grounds keeper of the park.



“PLEASE LET US IN, LET us in!” cried both Lana and KJ.



ANTHONY SHOOK HIS HEAD as he noticed the horde of animals following them.



“WHAT ON EARTH DID YOU two do?!” cried Anthony.



ANTHONY THEN REALIZED Lana was related to Pauline Bergeron. Pauline had caused commotion at the park the other day that landed her in the hospital. Anthony promptly allowed the two teens into the greenhouse which was supposed to be a safe haven for the red squirrels.



“THEY’RE IN OUR NEW home!” cried Matthys, “GET THEM OUT!”



MATTHYS WAS TICKED off, she couldn’t believe the humans would betray her like this especially the grounds keeper! Romaine did his best to try to calm down his sister. But she wasn’t letting up at all. Matthys paced back and forth unsure what to do next.



“HOW ABOUT WE GET THE moles to dig a hole to the greenhouse?” suggested Archie.



THE MOLES LIVED NOT far from where Fazil and the snakes were — it made sense to get help from them.



Recruiting the Moles



LUCKY FOR THE RED SQUIRRELS, the moles didn't like the disturbance of the two teens themselves. Ebony, the Matriarch leader of the moles was busy just trying to mind her own business. Archie along with Romaine agreed to meet with them. Ebony welcomed the two into their den.



“WHAT BRINGS YOU BOTH to our humble den?” asked Ebony.



“WELL, THERE'S A SITUATION involving two teen humans that captured me and the other snakes and harassed the gray squirrels” said Archie.



“I WAS HOPING THAT THERE would be some peace and quiet at the park, but sadly not the case” sighed Ebony, “I will help with your plan.”



EBONEY GATHERED HER moles and headed out towards the greenhouse. Once there, they assessed what was going on first.



“GREAT TO SEE YOU” SAID Matthys.



ALL THE ANIMALS WERE waiting outside, hawks and robins were circling the greenhouse. As for Anthony he was busy calling the two animal control officers Armin and Dylan to come out again. He knew neither of them would enjoy hearing it. As for Lana, she was calling her parents and grandfather Charles. She knew she would be grounded for this behavior towards the park's animals.



Part Two



Chapter Four

Calling for Help



Anthony managed to get the contact information for Armin's personal cellphone. Armin promptly picked it up recognizing the grounds keeper's phone number.



"YES GROUNDS KEEPER?" asked Armin on the other end.



"WE HAVE A SITUATION at the park, but this is a rather unique one, it appears all the critters have joined forces together in attacking two teenage girls" said Anthony.



ARMIN SIGHED HE WAS tired of going back to the same park. Dylan overheard the conversation between them. Dylan was also tired of going back to the same part repeating the same thing over and over again.



"WELL, HERE WE GO AGAIN Dylan" sighed Armin.



ARMIN THEN HEADED TOWARDS his truck with Dylan, the two animal control officers then headed off. They had a job to do — bring safety to the park. As Armin drove his truck, back at the park Ebony was scanning the area trying to see which would be the right area for her moles to dig. The moles could see a soft spot in the greenhouse.



“THERE, THERE” SAID one of the moles.



EBONEY GLANCED INSIDE and noticed the soft spot — it would be perfect for the moles to dig right through.



Starting to Dig



THE OTHER ANIMALS STOOD back as Ebony and her moles began digging. Matthys especially was impressed along with Evan. The two red and gray squirrels stood back in unity for the first time. They were hopeful to drive the two teenage girls away from the park.



“GIVE US A FEW MINUTES, we’ll get this done” said Ebony.



EBONEY AND THE MOLES kept on digging and digging. They did their best trying to navigate throughout the tunnel system they were creating. Eventually one of the moles finally made it into the greenhouse. The mole in particular could see the two human teens with the grounds keeper.



“IT’S THEM, IT’S THEM!” cried the mole.



“EXCELLENT, LET’S GO back and tell the other animals the good news” said Ebony.



EBONEY AND HER CREW of moles headed back to the main entrance, as Ebony emerged Matthys wanted an update.



“WELL?” ASKED MATTHYS.



“WE’VE MADE IT TO THE greenhouse, you can go after those two pesky human teens” said Ebony.



THE MOLES SAT BACK and watched, the red and gray squirrels began to squeeze through the tunnel that the moles had created for them.



Into the Tunnel



IT WAS DARK AND RATHER cramped for the squirrels, both gray and red alike did their best trying to squeeze through.



“HOW DO THESE MOLES do this?!” cried Matthys.



“I DON’T KNOW” SAID Romaine.



“YEA, ME EITHER” ADDED Evan.



THE RED AND GRAY SQUIRRELS cautiously emerged on the other end. As they poured one one by one, they were lining up ready to tackle the two human teens. Lana and KJ glanced around them and noticed the red and gray squirrels had found their way inside the greenhouse! Lana pulled on Anthony’s sleeve alerting him of their presence.



“IT’S THE SQUIRRELS, they found us!” cried Lana.



ANTHONY GLANCED OVER, he could see that the squirrels were not interested in a peaceful negotiation for the time being. He could see Evan, the leader of the gray squirrels wanted to be first against the two human teens while Matthys agreed to be patient as her red squirrel counterparts stood by.



“YOU PESKY HUMANS BETTER stand down!” bellowed Evan.



EVAN’S WORDS WERE NOTHING more than squirrel chatter to them, but Anthony could tell Evan was pretty ticked off. He knew only the grounds keeper like himself could try to calm him down.



Anthony’s Intervention



ANTHONY KNEW SO LONG as Lana and her friend KJ were at the park the animals will not like it. He could see tensions continuing instead of blowing over. So the grounds keeper inserted himself in between Evan and Lana.



“I’M SORRY LITTLE FELLA, I know you are upset and unhappy for what these two teens did to you and your fellow critters but you can’t be like this towards them either” said Anthony, “you would end up being no different from them.”



EVAN STILL WAS UNHAPPY, the gray squirrel leader continued to boast himself with his squirrel chatter.



“WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY that, you’re the grounds keeper you can stop them!” cried Evan.



EVAN CONTINUED WITH his squirrel style chatter, Anthony did his best trying to understand each word Evan was trying to say. Armin along with Dylan finally arrived at the park yet again. They could see all of the commotion from the animals surrounding the greenhouse.



“UH, THAT DOES NOT LOOK good” sighed Armin.



“NO, NO IT DOES NOT” added Dylan.



BOTH ANIMAL CONTROL experts did their best trying to move through the animals.



Protective Fazil



FAZIL THE SKUNK WAS there backing up the other animals using his odor as a defensive tool trying to ward off the two animal control experts. Fazil hissed and snarled at them.



“DON’T YOU DARE DISRUPT them, this is their fight!” cried Fazil.



NEITHER HUMAN ANIMAL control expert could understand the skunk, as the skunk stood in their path.



“HOLD UP LITTLE FELLA, we just want to get through that’s all we’re not going to harm you” said Armin.



AFTER WHAT HAPPENED to Fazil the last time, the skunk wasn’t moving at all. The skunk stood firm right in the path. Anthony and the two teens could see the skunk just lurking outside ready to spray them if they tried to escape.



“GREAT, THAT STUPID skunk is blocking our path!” cried Lana.



“ZAIRE AND LUCAS WERE right, we shouldn’t have meddled with them” sighed KJ.



“DON’T SAY THAT, WE deserve justice too you know” said Lana.



LANA COULD SEE HOW fierce Fazil was outside the greenhouse, pacing back and forth. Once an adversary to the gray squirrels, Fazil was now fully supporting both squirrel groups. Fazil paced back and forth ever so fiercely.



Chapter Five

Bergeron Family Arrives



Charles along with his daughter Zoe and her husband David received Lana's frantic text message. They were in their car, as they arrived.



"QUICKLY, WE HAVE TO get them out of that greenhouse!" cried Charles.



CHARLES, ZOE AND DAVID emerged from the car and headed towards the greenhouse. They could see that the animal control experts were being blocked by a rogue skunk. Fazil then spotted more humans and began to snarl at them. The hawks and robins above were on standby unsure what to do next.



"GREAT, MORE HUMANS!" cried Kat.



"THIS IS A RATHER PREDICAMENT for all of us" laughed Victor.



THE BIRDS CONTINUED to buzz above, hovering over the greenhouse. As for the ground animals, the snakes stood with Fazil ever so protective of the greenhouse.



“STAY AWAY!” HISSED Archie.



ARCHIE AND DONNA DIDN'T care if the humans couldn't understand them. They were there to protect the greenhouse from being assaulted.



“LOOK, WE JUST WANT to talk, we don't want to harm you” said Armin.



ARMIN DID HIS BEST hoping to reach the animals, but to no avail. They wouldn't budge. As for Anthony he was able to finally get Evan to calm down.



Anthony's Wise Words



ANTHONY COULD UNDERSTAND how the two teenage girls had caused such a commotion at the park for the animals around them. Especially in regards to Evan the gray squirrel.



“LISTEN, YOU DON'T WANT to chase after these two tell you what I will get these two home safe and sound you will not have to do a single thing” said Anthony.



EVAN CAUTIOUSLY WAS optimistic in agreeing with the grounds keeper. He could see how Lana and KJ were rather afraid of the surrounding animals.



“FINE HUMAN, YOU BETTER do your end of the bargain” said Evan.



ANTHONY SIGHED WITH relief as the gray squirrel leader was backing down, the other gray squirrels also agreed with the sentiment along with Matthys and her red squirrels.



“COME ON, LET’S GET out of here” said Evan.



EVAN LED THE GRAY SQUIRRELS back into the tunnel that the moles had dug for them and came out on the other side. Fazil paused his aggressive behavior and spotted Evan.



“WHAT HAPPENED?” ASKED Fazil.



“THE HUMAN GROUNDS KEEPER agreed to take away those pesky human teens” said Evan.



THAT WOULD BE A GOOD thing, Fazil decided it was best to back off.



Backing Away



FAZIL DECIDED IT WAS best to lower his aggressive stance now that the gray squirrels were leaving the greenhouse. The skunk cautiously took a step back away from blocking the entrance. Anthony, Lana and KJ sighed with relief. So did Lana's parents and grandfather.



"THAT WAS SO CLOSE!" cried Charles.



CHARLES COULDN'T BELIEVE the sort of troublesome business that Lana nearly got herself involved with. The red squirrels decided to stay in the greenhouse since it was officially their safe haven.



"WE'LL MOVE OUR LUGGAGE in later" said Matthys.



"LET'S CHECK OUT WHERE we can place them" said Romaine.



ROMAINE ALONG WITH Marius decided to scope out the greenhouse trying to find out the perfect storage area. As for Anthony he opened the door to the greenhouse once Fazil stopping blocking the exit. Lana came running out hugging her parents Zoe and David.



"OH, WE WERE SO WORRIED sweetie!" cried Zoe.



"AM I GOING TO BE GROUNDED?" asked Lana.



“THERE’S THE MATTER of your punishment” said David.



DAVID WAS TRYING TO figure out a proper way to punish Lana without being so harsh. Anthony had a better solution for Lana’s redemption.



Anthony’s Suggestion



ANTHONY APPROACHED Lana’s parents with a major suggestion that would change the course of her life. He would train her to become a protege of his as a fellow grounds keeper of the park.



“THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN excellent punishment” laughed David, “she will fix what she tried to break.”



“YES, THAT’S AN EXCELLENT lesson for her” said Zoe.



EVEN LANA HERSELF WAS okay with this punishment, she felt she deserved it. The other animals around them were still nervous as they continued to leave the area. Donna and Archie had overheard the humans of trying to promote Lana.



“UH, TYPICAL HUMANS always promoting themselves once they try to harm us” sighed Archie.



“WE SHOULD TRUST THE grounds keeper” said Donna, “it’s the right thing to do.”



ARCHIE STILL FELT SOMEWHAT hurt after what Lana did to the rest of the snakes. As the snakes slithered away, KJ headed off on her bike home.



“SEE YOU AROUND LANA” said KJ.



KJ WAS RELIEVED THAT Lana wasn’t going to be punished for what she had done. But still felt that Zaire and Lucas were right that Lana shouldn’t have messed around with the animals.



Leaving the Park



LANA DECIDED FOR NOW it was best to leave the park with her family, she grabbed her bike and placed it on top of the car and tied it down to the roof of the car.



“COME ON, LET’S JUST go home and relax, Pauline is going to get out of the hospital within a few days” said Charles.



CHARLES COULDN’T WAIT to see his wife home, as he drove off he took one look in the mirror seeing the park itself.



“AH YES, I THINK SINCE you will be working with Anthony from now on you should start respecting the animals around the park” said Charles.



“YES, THIS WILL BE A very good lesson for you to learn” said Zoe.



LANA WAS RELIEVED THAT her parents were not angry with her that much as she thought they would be. They were just relieved that no more harm came towards her nor her friend KJ. Lana began to send text messages to Zaire and Lucas about what happened.



“THE GROUNDS KEEPER is going to make you his protege, this is good news!” cried Zaire in the text message.



LUCAS WAS VERY SUPPORTING of Lana after this episode. They were relieved she didn't harm the animals that much.



Chapter Six

Resting at Home



Charles drove the family back to their apartment complex, there Lana and the rest of the family rested for the rest of the evening. Lana was tired from her ordeal at the park. She was relieved everything was finally over.



“I THINK WE SHOULD REST from what happened, so many animals were after you” said Zoe.



“I AGREE MOTHER” SIGHED Lana.



LANA FELT SOME REGRET trying to avenge her grandmother for what her grandmother previously did at the park a few days ago. Charles didn't know if he should sue the park, he didn't know if a judge would accept the case at all regarding his wife. Charles headed towards the master bedroom and began to rest for the evening. Zoe and David decided to make dinner while Lana sat and watched some television in French.



“I HOPE NOTHING BAD will happen” said Zoe, “Lana is rather fragile back there.”



ZOE WAS WORRIED FOR Lana's safety at the park, and David concurred. But David felt that the grounds keeper could be trustworthy. As the evening progressed it was finally dinner time. Charles woke up ready to head to eat his meal.



Checking on Pauline



CHARLES WAS ON THE phone with his wife who was still in the hospital. Pauline stated that she could go home on Tuesday.



"THE DOCTORS STATED that everything is fine, I just need to stay in the hospital for a few days" said Pauline, "standard procedure."



"YOU KNOW, OUR GRANDDAUGHTER nearly got herself into trouble at the park today, she tried to avenge what happened to you with that pesky gray squirrel that sent you to the hospital" laughed Charles.



"OH DID SHE, PUT HER on the phone" said Pauline.



CHARLES HANDED HIS cellphone over to Lana, Lana could tell Pauline was intrigued to see how resourceful she was.



"SO, YOU NEARLY GOT the gray squirrel did you?" asked Pauline.



“WELL, YES AND NO” REPLIED Lana, “you see all the animals were trying to form a horde against me and my friend KJ.”



“TSK, TSK, THE ANIMALS must have saw you coming a mile away” sighed Pauline, “they probably wanted some peace and quiet.”



PAULINE HAD HEARD FROM the nurses how there was a small peace treaty by the red and gray squirrels at the park. She laughed at such a thing.



Forgiving Evan



PAULINE FELT COMPELLED to Lana to let her anger go on the park animals in question. Especially the gray squirrel that landed her in the hospital.



“I THINK I SHOULD FORGIVE that gray squirrel it’s the only proper thing to do” said Pauline.



PAULINE HAD ALREADY felt her mistake by attacking the gray squirrels with the rake earlier. That only made matters worse for her. Lana could see that, she agreed with her grandmother’s assessment over this.



“YES GRANDMOTHER, I guess you’re right it wasn’t right for me to be involved in avenging you either” said Lana.



“PERHAPS WHEN I AM WELL enough I can give the gray squirrel a treat to forgive him” said Pauline.



“I WOULD LIKE THAT TOO grandmother, I will help you pick out a favorite treat” said Lana.



PAULINE SMILED ON THE other end. The phone conversation ended and the family continued with their meal. As for Lana, she headed to bed with other members of the household doing the same. Once she got ready, she then had a deep sleep. She then woke up in the park but this time as the grounds keeper, Anthony’s former position.



Tending to the Dream Park



LANA COULD FEEL HOW real the dream felt, being the grounds keeper, and doing Anthony’s various chores around the park. She could see how complicated things were and how many critters were lurking about. She spotted the gray squirrels and waved to them. Though these were not the same gray squirrels in real life, they waved back.



“DON’T WORRY LITTLE ones, I am just here to help” said Lana.



LANA USED A LEAF BLOWER and began to blow away the leaves, cleaning up the park. She then placed the pile of leaves in a bag and took it to the green

bin. Just like that, the dream ended. It was more of a peaceful dream. As the day continued, Lana did her best to stay focus in her primary school with her friends. Zaire and Lucas could see something had changed with Lana from her experience. They were able to catch up to her after class.



“LANA, KJ TOLD EVERYTHING what happened, are you alright?” asked Zaire.



“YES, I’M FINE, THANK you for asking” replied Lana.



“YOU SHOULD PROBABLY think about this as a future career” suggested Lucas.



LANA WAS PLEASED TO see her peers being rather supportive of her actions.



Chapter Seven

Picking Up Pauline



Monday came and went and it was finally Tuesday, after school Lana was picked up by her grandfather Charles. Zoe and David were prepared to head towards the hospital.



“YOUR GRANDMOTHER IS going to be released, we should do our best to welcome her home” said Charles.



CHARLES TOOK OFF ONCE Lana was inside the car. As they drove off, Lana waved at her friends Zaire, Lucas and KJ as they were heading home. The hospital was just a few paces away from the primary school that Lana stayed at. Once there, the family emerged from the car and headed towards the hospital. A nurse was wheeling out Pauline in a wheelchair.



“CHARLES!” CRIED PAULINE with joy.



PAULINE COULDN’T GET up from the wheelchair since she was still on the hospital premise. The nurse cautiously rolled her out of the hospital where Pauline was slowly helped up by Charles and her daughter Zoe.



“LET’S BRING YOU HOME mother” said Zoe.



“I WOULD LIKE THAT VERY much” said Pauline.



PAULINE WAS HELPED into the car by both Charles and Zoe. Once a seatbelt was strapped onto her, Charles headed into the car after everyone got into their seats.



Heading Off



CHARLES DROVE OFF FROM the hospital, he felt accomplished after picking up his wife. He gazed back in the mirror seeing her rather safe and sound with Zoe and David in the back seats.



“COME ON FAMILY, LET’S head home” said Charles.



IT WAS GOING TO BE a rather happy ending for the entire family. Charles arrived back at the apartment complex and helped with his wife getting out of the car. Once outside, they headed back into the apartment. It was some fresh air for Pauline being back in the safety of her own home.



“HOME SWEET HOME!” LAUGHED Pauline.



PAULINE AND LANA SPENT their time together watching some French television while Charles headed towards the master bedroom to rest. Zoe and David made dinner for the rest of the family.



“I HAVE TO ADMIT, YOU had some guts going after that gray squirrel yourself with your friend” said Pauline.



“YES, I DO HAVE GUTS, but I sadly regret my actions” added Lana, “all the gray squirrel was doing was keeping the peace. And I nearly ruined it all.”



“SO DID I, SO DID “ sighed Pauline.



AFTER A FEW MORE MOMENTS together, Zoe called the family for dinner.



Full Table



ZOE AND DAVID WERE pleased to finally have a full table at the dinner table. The entire family together.



“AH YES, IT’S RATHER nice that everyone is here safe and sound” said Zoe, “like how things should be.”



“NO MORE CHAOS” ADDED David.



THERE WAS NOTHING BUT silence as the family ate together. Pauline was cautious and optimistic about Lana’s future. She wanted to keep her promise in getting some treats for the gray squirrels at the park to show them that they were not bad guys after all. Lana wanted to figure out the sort of nuts that the gray squirrels liked. Lucky she had Anthony’s cellphone number with her.



“I AM GOING TO TEXT the grounds keeper” said Lana.



ANTHONY WHO WAS BUSY back at his apartment received the text message.



“AH YES, THE SORT OF treats that I would recommend for the squirrels at the park would have to be peanuts” said Anthony in a reply text message, “you can find them at any local pet store.”



“GLAD TO RECEIVE YOUR help” said Lana.



ANTHONY WAS PLEASED that things were finally calm at the park.



Getting the Treats



THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON, after school Charles and Pauline decided to pick up Lana from school. Charles was excited that his wife was trying to do the right thing when it came to the gray squirrels. As they pulled up, Lana was picked up by her grandparents.



“GLAD YOU COULD MAKE it” said Pauline.



LANA THEN GOT INTO the backseat.



“LET’S GET THOSE GRAY squirrels their treats” said Pauline.



PAULINE WANTED TO SHOW her charitable side to the gray squirrels. Charles drove off to the nearest pet store. Once there, the trio headed towards the aisle where the grounds keeper had recommended. A bag of nuts meant for squirrels was displayed.



“THERE, THERE” SAID Lana.



PAULINE GRABS THE BAG of nuts and the trio check out with Charles paying for the treats. The trio then head back to the car.



“LET’S HEAD TO THE PARK” said Charles.



CHARLES THEN DROVE off, the park wasn't that far from the store. Once they arrived at the parking lot, the trio then emerged. This was the moment they had been waiting for — redemption. Pauline was hopeful that Evan would forgive her for what she had done.



Part Three



Chapter Eight

The Gray Squirrel Area



Much had changed since the gray and red squirrel war was over. The red squirrels had already moved into their greenhouse home leaving their trees behind. The gray squirrels dominated most of the area. Thomas couldn't believe there were so much resources for them.



"I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, so many nuts!" cried Thomas.



EVAN COULD SENSE SOME humans nearby approaching. His ground squirrel ally — Lily spotted the three humans.



"IT'S THEM, THE HUMANS from before!" cried Lily.



EVAN WAS CAUTIOUS, unsure what to make of it. Pauline and Lana then brought out what seemed like a bag of nuts. Evan and the other gray squirrels scampered towards them.



"AH, YES, IT'S BEEN a long time since I got to do this" said Pauline.



CHARLES OPENED THE bag of nuts for Pauline and Lana. The two then grabbed some nuts from the bag and began to toss them on the ground.



“WAIT, THEY’RE GIVING us nuts?!” cried Evan.



“YEA, MORE NUTS FOR us to bury!” laughed Thomas.



THE GRAY SQUIRRELS were thrilled. They were overjoyed to see more supplies flowing their way. Pauline and Lana could see nothing but happiness with the gray squirrels.



Observing the Charitable Act



ANTHONY SPOTTED THE trio giving the gray squirrel the nuts he recommended. A tear trickled down Anthony’s face seeing the humanity within Pauline and Lana. He was pleased that his wise words of wisdom were able to reach them both.



“AH YES, THAT’S MIGHTY kind of you to give the gray squirrels some extra goodies for when winter comes along” said Anthony, “but don’t give them too much or they’ll think the humans would always offer them food.”



“YES, WE WON’T, THIS will be just a one time offer” said Pauline.



ANTHONY WAS RELIEVED to see Pauline out and about. He was pleased that she was doing well. As for Jonathan Pond, he had left home for Ontario, Canada. He didn't get to see the kind hearted charitable work that Pauline and Lana had done. But Anthony did manage to capture some video footage of it with his cellphone and posted it on social media. Jonathan responded by liking the footage on social media.



“ALL THE WAY IN CANADA, and he sees it” laughed Anthony.



THE GRAY SQUIRRELS were quite pleased and relieved that neither Lana nor Pauline would be causing them anymore trouble.



Other Animals Witnessing the Act



BUT ANTHONY WASN'T the only witness that day — Kat and Jason spotted the three humans giving the gray squirrels treats. Kat felt it was sweet of the humans to do something like that.



“WELL, I GUESS WE WON'T be fighting them anymore” laughed Kat.



“NO MOTHER, I THINK I'm too tired of fighting them” added Jason.



THE HAWKS FLEW ABOVE the humans observing their actions, and even the robins — Victor and Maeva also noticed the deed. Victor was especially pleased to see this action.



“A CHANGE OF HEART FOR once” laughed Victor.



“YES, I KNOW” ADDED Maeva.



MAEVA WAS RELIEVED along with the other flock of robins who were nestled in their nests. Peace again finally came around to the park. The animals were all quiet for once. Victor flew over towards the greenhouse to give Matthys the good news. Matthys was doing her best trying to set everything up. She had to crawl through the tunnel to speak with Victor on the other side of the greenhouse.



“YES, VICTOR?” ASKED Matthys.



“IT’S THE HUMANS, THEY gave the gray squirrels extra nuts” said Victor.



MATTHYS WAS PLEASED that the humans wouldn’t cause any trouble at all.



Getting Use to the Greenhouse



MATTHYS THEN HEADED back into the greenhouse through the tunnel that the moles had dug for them. Once back inside, the red squirrels were still getting use to being in the greenhouse. They knew once the months were heading into towards the winter they would be better off in the greenhouse than anywhere in the park itself.



“THIS IS A GREAT STRATEGY staying put in doors” said Romaine.



“YES IT IS, BUT WE NEED to make sure we have enough supplies, we can’t just take too much of it for now” said Matthys.



MATTHYS CHECKED THE plants that grew nuts, already these plants were growing quite nicely in the greenhouse. Anthony had thought of everything for them as part of the plan. The red squirrels would have the greenhouse as their territory and safe haven from the outside. The hawks nor the snakes couldn’t get to them that much at all.



“WE’LL STAY SAFE IN the greenhouse for years to come” said Matthys.



MATTHYS AND HER RED squirrel allies were relieved that nothing bad would happen to them so long as the greenhouse stood. The greenhouse would be a symbol of safety for them.



Chapter Nine

Three Month Time Jump



Time passes onward — three months since the gray and red squirrels had signed the peace treaty and since the Bergeron’s made peace with the gray squirrels. Things were back to normal somewhat. Lana was allowed to work after school with Anthony at the park as a protege for the grounds keeper position. It was something even the school was impressed with Lana’s admiration for nature.



“SO MUCH AS CHANGED since you have arrived at the park” said Anthony.



ANTHONY AND LANA WERE sweeping leaves together, Anthony felt like a third father figure to Lana between her grandfather and her father.



“YES IT HAS CHANGED” said Lana.



LANA WOULD OFTEN CHECK upon the gray squirrels in particular, Evan was pleased to see that Lana had a change of heart since his ordeal with her grandmother.



“AH YES, IT’S LANA THE human!” cried Evan.



EVAN WAS ALWAYS THE excited one to see Lana working with Anthony as his protege. She would give Evan a treat here and there. It was a way of Lana showing Evan how much they had grown together. Lana was pleased to see Evan was doing well since his war with the red squirrels.



Checking on the Greenhouse



ANTHONY WOULD SHOW Lana how to plant new nut plants for the red squirrels in the greenhouse. It was something that Lana wanted to do. Anthony grabbed a batch of seeds, and the two headed over. It was quite a peaceful setting once inside the greenhouse. No more hordes of animals after her.



“THE GREENHOUSE IS PRETTY warm” said Lana.



LANA COULD FEEL THE difference of the weather inside the greenhouse and outside. It was getting colder out in the park. The other animals were already preparing for winter to come about very soon.



“YES, IT DOES PROVIDE a good amount of shelter for the red squirrels” said Anthony.



LANA CHECKED UPON MATTHYS, the red squirrel leader. She was nesting cozy in some hay that was laid around the greenhouse. The hay served as a nest for the other red squirrels who used the hay to reproduce their young. Lana could see so many baby red squirrels.



“THEY’RE SO LOVELY” said Lana.



“YES, THEY TRULY ARE” said Anthony.



ANTHONY WAS PLEASED to see the two types of squirrels getting along. No longer fighting, as for Lily and Marius they would often meet outside the greenhouse together.



Ground Squirrel Siblings



THE GROUND SQUIRRELS, though separated were okay being apart from each other. Marius would tend to the red squirrels, while Lily would help with the gray squirrels. Once and a while they’ll meet outside the greenhouse to be with each other.



“IT’S NICE TO SEE YOU again brother” said Lily.



“YES, SO MUCH AS CHANGED already” replied Marius.



MARIUS WAS PLEASED and relieved that things were finally calm around the park. No more conflicts with other animals or humans alike. There was finally peace. The robins sang all day while the hawks hunted above the skies against other prey below. Things were looking on the up for the park.



“NICE THAT THE PARK is so peaceful for a change” said Lily as she looked around.



“YES, IT’S ALMOST PERFECT, perhaps too perfect” said Marius.



THOUGH THE EXCITEMENT was gone, Marius still felt there was something missing in life. Lily did her best trying to figure out what it was. The two ground squirrels were just by themselves. They only knew this specific area of the park. However, Archie the snake knew of where more ground squirrels were.



The Ground Squirrels



ARCHIE HAD BEEN SEARCHING for other possible rodents to hunt besides squirrels — he nearly came across another group of ground squirrels solely upon accident. He didn’t want to attack them, since they reminded him too much of Lily and Marius.



“I THINK YOU TWO WOULD come with me, I have something to show you” said Archie.



ARCHIE SLITHERED OFF, and the two ground squirrels followed him. Archie felt compelled that it should be in the right of the ground squirrels to have a new home of their own. There the trio arrived in another area of the park — a group of ground squirrels similar to their kind were gathering food for the upcoming winter.



“I THINK YOU TWO BELONG here more than with the red or gray squirrels” said Archie.



“THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR bringing us to our kind but we can’t just abandon either of our sides” said Lily.



“DON’T WORRY, I’LL INFORM the” said Archie.



ARCHIE WAS PLEASED that he was doing a good deed by introducing Lily and Marius to a new batch of ground squirrels. The ground squirrel leader — Marion recognized him. She was the Matriarch of the new ground squirrel group.



Chapter Ten

Welcoming Lily and Marius



The ground squirrels were pleased to welcome the local ground squirrels Lily and Marius. Marion's group had fled their own park after a run in with a different batch of red squirrels. These red squirrels were not interested in negotiating with them on their territory and forced them out instead. It was a contrast to what happened with Matthys and Evan.



"THAT SOUNDS TERRIBLE!" cried Lily.



"I KNOW, WE HAD NO CHOICE but to setup in your park" said Marion.



"WELL, THERE'S PLENTY of room for everyone we can make yourselves welcome here" said Marius.



BOTH LILY AND MARIUS felt compelled to give Marion a short tour of the park. She got to greet the robins, the hawks, Fazil the skunk, the moles and the turtles. She was pleased to see that all the animals in the park even the humans would welcome them with open arms.



“THIS WASN’T LIKE OUR park” said Marion, “so many hostile people and animals around us not willing to share anything.”



“I THINK IF YOU STAY with us, we’ll make the park a better place” said Lily.



LILY WAS KEEPING HER word, and even Marion understood it.



Ground Squirrels Thrive Together



EVEN WHILE LILY AND Marius had their allegiances with the gray and red squirrels, they ultimately stayed with the ground squirrels in the very end. Marion was thankful that the local ground squirrels were willing to assist her and her pack to be felt like home. Lana managed to find the new batch of ground squirrels at the other end of the park with Anthony.



“THERE ARE MORE GROUND squirrels?!” cried Anthony.



ANTHONY AND LANA WERE both filled with joy seeing the ground squirrels being together. They knew Lily and Marius had to be with their own kind to feel happy. The two siblings couldn’t agree more with that sentiment as they spruced up Marion’s new den making her feel at home. The rest of her pack thanked them, and the ground squirrels decided to throw an open house inviting the other squirrels. Mattys and Evan accepted the invitation, they were pleased to see that there were more ground squirrels out there who were like Lily and Marius.



“WE’LL COME VERY SOON” said Matthys as she received the invitation.



THE RED AND GRAY SQUIRRELS scampered to the new ground squirrel territory.



Ground Squirrel Open House



MATTHYS, ROMAINE, EVAN and Thomas were all intrigued with the new group of ground squirrels. Marion’s den was open to the rest of the two squirrel species. She was hopeful this would bring unity to the park where she was welcomed home.



“IT’S NICE TO SEE THAT you two managed to get everyone here” said Marion.



MARION COULD SEE HOW crowded her den was, so many red and gray squirrels all sniffing and smelling her new place. The two groups of squirrels stayed together with Marion and her ground squirrels for sometime. Anthony and Lana watched with amazement seeing the three groups of squirrels.



“WELL, YOU’LL LOOK AT that, they’re finally getting along with each other” laughed Anthony.



ANTHONY AND LANA SAT back and watched the three groups of squirrels partying in the den. As the day ended, it was time for Lana to head on home.



“WELL, I GUESS I SHOULD be going” said Lana.



“YEA, YOU BETTER HEAD home your folks are probably worried for ya” said Anthony.



ANTHONY STAYED BEHIND watching the three groups of squirrels celebrating unity. Lana rode on her bike home.



Arriving Home



LANA ARRIVED HOME WITH her bike, Charles was pleased to see Lana was safe and sound when she walked her bike inside the apartment. Pauline was sitting on the sofa watching some television.



“HOME FROM THE PARK dear?” asked Pauline.



“YES GRANDMOTHER, ANTHONY showed me the greenhouse” said Lana.



“DID HE, HOW ABOUT PLANTING some of those nut plants?” asked Pauline.



“HE ALSO SHOWED ME HOW to do that too, we even saw a new group of ground squirrels at the park” said Lana.



“AH YES, ANOTHER BATCH of rodents, I hope they’ll get along with the residents of the park” said Pauline.



PAULINE WAS PLEASED to see that things were calming down for Lana’s life. That Lana was getting the credit and experience needed to become a grounds keeper — or perhaps even something greater such as a ranger for the park. Both Lana and Pauline relaxed the rest of the evening. Back with the park, things were winding down with the three groups of squirrels. Matthys and Evan were pleased to meet Marion, the leader of the new ground squirrel group.



“IT’S SO NICE TO SEE the park this peaceful” said Marion.



MARION WAS RELIEVED that she was welcomed into the park.



Epilogue

Thanking Matthys and Evan



Marion thanked both Matthys and Evan. The two red and gray squirrel leaders were pleased to have a newcomer leader involved in the squirrel politics of the park. Marion especially was overjoyed with the peace treaty.



“I WOULD AGREE TO SIGN it, so that there won’t be any problems with any of our kind” said Marion.



“EXCELLENT, WE’LL HAVE another ceremony in the morning” said Matthys.



MATTHYS AND EVAN WERE pleased that Marion was level headed. No more biased opinions one way or the other in terms of which group of squirrels got what territory. Everyone was on equal footing. As the evening progressed, it was finally morning. It was time for the ceremony, a gathering of all the animals in the park were at the center of the park. There Matthys and Evan met once again with their respectful allies. Donna could see the newcomers arriving so many ground squirrels.



“WHERE DID THEY ALL come from?” asked Donna.



“ANOTHER PARK” REPLIED Lily.



DONNA COULD SEE HOW traumatized the ground squirrels were seeing their own brand of conflict unfolding. They were relieved to meet up with level headed animals.



Marion Adds Her Name



MARION TOOK A GLANCE and skimmed the peace treaty. There was an added addendum to the peace treaty involving her territory.



“AH YES, EVERYTHING seems to be in order” said Marion.



MARION PLACED HER PAW in the grape-like juice and then planted her paw on the peace treaty ratifying it again. This time the ground squirrels had representation in the peace treaty instead of just helping either the gray or red squirrels. Lily and Marius were pleased that they were reunited together.



“PEACE WILL FINALLY be here forever to stay with this park” said Matthys.



MATTHYS WAS RELIEVED that Marion wasn't hostile, she was always on edge ever since the war with the gray squirrels ended. Sure, things had calmed down but then there was the issue with the humans. At least now things were

truly calm. Lana was now the protege of Anthony instead of causing trouble for them. Everything was calm and lovely at the park and people and the animals could all tell the difference. As the day continued it was finally the afternoon and Lana had arrived from after school ready for her job as the grounds keeper.



Working with Anthony



LANA WOULD SPEND MOST of her days working as the protege of Anthony Bernard at the park. Anthony would make sure Lana would do her chores properly and even make sure the animals were at peace. Lana was pleased to see the three groups of squirrels getting along as how nature should intend.



“NO MORE CONFLICTS, it’s nice to see the park like this” said Anthony.



ANTHONY KNEW WINTER was coming up very soon. He could see the squirrels from all of the three groups gathering nuts. The red squirrels had it the easiest next to the gray and ground squirrels in a close second. Pauline, Lana’s grandmother would often assist in giving the gray and ground squirrels extra food when their resources ran low. It was a way of Pauline of helping them and forgiving them for what happened. Well, it’s the end of this story for now.



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