

ELEVEN

Teacher stared at the Biggen raccoon's image on screen.

"Curious? Why you call?"

Raoul did his best imitation of a gigglechitter. "Squirrel Elder, mate your great grandpup try call you. Call me instead. I help. I leave, he come on."

His image was replaced by Elder to sunset, his great grandpup's mate. He looked at the viewer nervously, wigwagging his tail side to side.

"Is good to see you, mate of great grandpup, forest Elder."

The other squirrel grabbed his tail briefly trying to calm his fear. "Is good to see you, old Elder Teacher." He looked down in embarrassment a moment. "I touch wrong symbol with claw. Call Biggen when try call you. Biggen raccoon who make squirrels sleep answer. I scared. He try to no scare me. He speak good chitterspeak for Biggen raccoon. Help me call you. My mate bare," he held up five claws, "five?" he hesitated at the word, trying to remember it. Teacher nodded and he continued. "Five healthy pups at sunrise. She ask I call, tell you. She show me how use Biggen viewer tool before when we call you last."

Teacher smiled. "Is good. Forest needs more squirrels. I happy for you both."

"I tell mate you happy. She tired resting with pups now. Elder Teacher know with pups take much time, energy. She can no call you again for many, many days."

Elder Teacher drooped his tail. "I understand. Will be busy here soon when mate and all other females bare pups."

"This Biggen tool useful. Let me see wise old Elder who far, far away. I still scared of tool."

"Is good you scared, Elder. As warn before, good tool and dangerous tool. Press wrong symbol learn Biggen things. It can teach you hear Biggenspeak if choose. You then become small Biggen like those in my new forest."

His great grandpup's mate wigwagged his tail nervously. "Other squirrels might chase me away then."

"If happen, you and mate come here, join us. Is no all bad."

"No, no all bad. You live. You have mate. You still live in/tend forest."

Teacher wigwagged his tail up and down once in the affirmative.

"I go back to mate and pups now, Elder Teacher. Bring mate food. How I end call?"

“I can end call from here. You and Great Grandpup take care.”