

FOURTEEN

Teacher wigwagged his tail in greeting when his great grandpup answered the call. She did likewise. He smiled widely.

“Is good to see you, Great Grandsire Teacher.”

“And you, Great Grandpup. Tassel is tending to our pups. They grow quick.”

“Is same here. My mate tending to our pups. They healthy and strong.”

“Is good. I glad you answer. I have news to speak. No good news. News must speak to Elders. Must be wary of Biggens.” Teacher’s tail wigwagged back and forth in warning.

“I always wary of Biggens. Only trust Biggen squirrel with no chitterspeak name who take you to healer and give me viewer, Small Biggen Elder Butternut, and her mate, Biggen Raccoon Curious. I no see no chitterspeak Biggen squirrel lately. So, no choose name for him.”

Teacher nodded. “Is good. Trust no others unless they call out to speak to you in chitterspeak: ‘Butternut send me.’ Is very important. If they no call out ‘Butternut send me,’ touch this symbol on viewer and then flee!” A purple symbol appeared in the bottom left corner of the viewer. “If touch symbol, it will tell Biggen Elders bad Biggen in your forest. They send help.”

His great grandpup chittered nervously. “I will speak to other Elders. Why must they speak ‘Butternut send me’?”

“So you know they Biggen you can trust. Remember before pups born, I speak about martin attack colony? And Biggen Elders send other Biggens to search forest, help us? Biggens found empty trap. Trap big enough for martin. Let some in colony sniff trap. Trap smell of martin. Biggens say martin brought here in trap. A Biggen bring martin here to hunt us!” Teacher’s tail wigwagged back and forth rapidly. “Biggen Elders mad a Biggen disobey new rules. Biggen Elders ask I no speak about this until now. They no know who Biggen is. They try hunt for Biggen who do this. They no find Biggen. They fear Biggen try hurt squirrels in other forests.” Teacher drooped his tail. “No all Elders other forests accept Biggen Viewer. I can no warn all other Elders. I warn those I can. Take care, Great Grandpup.”

“You too, Great Grandsire Teacher.”