

TWENTY

Teacher's great grandpup wigwagged her tail in greeting when Teacher answered the call. He did likewise, smiling.

"Is good to see you, Great Grandsire Teacher," she said.

"And you, Great Grandpup. How are the pups?"

"They do well, Great Grandsire. They keep mate and I busy. Will be summer soon. Pups will be more on own then."

"Same here, all three keep us busy." Teacher sighed. "I call to speak about bad Biggens. Biggen Elders think they catch bad Biggen who hunt/kill Nimble's first mate. Biggen skunk who work for Curious. Nimble go speak to Biggen Elders. Friend help, speak biggenspeak to Elders for Nimble and chitterspeak back to Nimble from Elders. Nimble very scared but speak what must. Many others speak. Biggen Elders consider all speak to them. They decide Biggen skunk no Biggen who hunt/kill Nimble's first mate. They continue hunt for bad Biggen."

"When Nimble flee to me after predator bird hunt/kill second mate, he speak first mate die of sickness. Sickness make her hotter than rock sit all day in summer sun."

"Biggen Elders say a bad Biggen make Nimble's first mate sick. Biggen Elders think bad Biggen try hunt/kill Friend. But no want others know he try hunt/kill Friend. Is why he make Nimble's first mate sick. She give sickness to Friend. Friend almost die from sickness. Biggen healer take blood from Butternut, give to Friend. Save Friend."

His great grandpup's eyes widened as she shuddered at the implications of what Teacher said.

"Biggen Elders think bad Biggen who try kill Friend also send martin here. Biggen Elders very angry. When they catch bad Biggen, they put bad Biggen in trap until die. We speak before, Biggens live long, long time. Like cornered animal, bad Biggen dangerous. Is why must be careful, be wary of Biggens. If no call out 'Butternut send me!' you must flee. Call Biggen Elders if can. Flee first! If you see Biggen skunk with Biggen squirrel with no chitterspeak name..."

"I give him name, Helpful, and he accept."

"Good. If you see skunk with Helpful no need call Elder Biggens. He safe but no hear/speak chitterspeak. He now helping Elder Biggens try find bad Biggen. He angry he blamed for death of Nimble's first mate."

"I warn other Elders, Great Grandsire. I must go. Take care."

"You too, Great Grandpup."