

TWENTY-FIVE

The short time Brave had with Blossom at The Refuge seemed like a blur. All the squirrels he met were friendly. The evening after their arrival, Brave had mixed feelings as he prepared to nest down for the night because he knew Blossom needed to return to the Biggen learning place in the morning. They had discussed that during the day. He had agreed he would be better off healing here rather than return with her and nest with her among all those Biggens.

Blossom bounded in carrying two of the small Biggen viewers on her back. She set one aside and then presented the other to Brave. He nervously wigwagged the portion of his tail not constrained by the cast as he hesitated to touch the Biggen tool.

“My sire got this for you, Brave,” she said as she held it out for him. “This way after I go back to Biggen learning place, we can talk to each other before sunset if you wish.” She pointed to the camera on the front of the device. “This tool work like an eye and ear. It will see and hear what you point it at.”

Brave stopped her. “I see one before, Blossom. Your sire used one with me in healing place. Eldest Elder speak to me through it. We speak a long time about my dame’s sire. Is very special Biggen tool.”

Blossom nodded. “Good. I was no sure how you would react to it. As you understand, I show you how it work. We call Energy,” she said and tapped a symbol on the pad. After a moment, Saniel and Moselyn appeared on screen.

“Hello?” Saniel spoke in Common. There was a brief pause and he switched to chitterspeak. “Oh, Blossom and Brave! I no recognize symbol identity.” He repeated what he had said in Common for Moselyn. “She no know much chitterspeak. You and I will need to teach her.”

Moselyn waved from behind Saniel.

“She did well on her first climbing lesson yesterday.”

“But my claws started aching,” Moselyn added. “I saw the nurse. It’s normal for someone who hasn’t climbed before. She said I need to give it a couple days rest before I try again.”

“That’s wonderful, Moselyn,” Blossom replied. She then repeated the conversation in chitterspeak for Brave. She continued in chitterspeak. “This new Biggen viewer sire got for Brave. I show him how it works. I will be back to school before midday tomorrow.”

“Wonderful! See you then!”

Just before Saniel could cut the connection, Moselyn nuzzled his cheek startling him, but in a good way based on the smile that appeared on his muzzle before the image went dark. Blossom gigglechittered.

Brave continued to wigwag the tip of his tail nervously. “Energy with another female.”

Blossom flicked her tail up and down once. “Yes. I share Biggen learning place nest space with Biggen squirrel,” she switched to Common for the next word. “Moselyn.” She sighchittered. “Her name no translate to chitterspeak. Energy agree to share me with you, so I agree to share Energy with her. He can no sire pups with me.”

Brave’s eyes widened. “Yes, so he told me the day he helped me harvest nuts for the winter.”

“So, I hoping she wins him over so when the time comes, he may sire pups.”

Brave’s tail tip flicked up and down once. “She,” he hesitated a moment, “she have nice fur pattern. I no see squirrel with fur like that before.”

Blossom nodded. “Yes, I no see any squirrel like her before either. She is a nice Biggen. I hope it work for the two of them.” She showed him how to turn the flatpanel on and off and pointed out three icons in the lower left corner. “The blue one will call me. The green one will call Energy.”

“What is the orange one?” Brave asked.

“As an Elder, your dame has a Biggen viewer. Press the orange one to call her.”

“Really?”

“Go ahead. Try it.”

Brave carefully tapped the orange icon. There was a pause and there was his dame on the screen. Her muzzle lit up when she saw him.

“Brave, my pup!” She greeted wigwagging her tail in excitement.

“I arrive safe at The Refuge, Dame. Blossom’s sire give me Biggen Viewer. Blossom teaching me how to use it.” Brave beckoned Blossom to get next to him. They nuzzled each other on the neck.

“Brave is settling in, Second Dame. He will be safe here as he heals. I return to Biggen learning place tomorrow.”

Brave’s dame nodded. “Is good. I happy you continue to heal, Brave, and will see third winter soon. Blossom, thank you,” she bowed, “again for helping save my pup’s life. When the time comes, may you two raise many pups together. I need to end call. I very tired. Was very busy day today.”

The screen went dark. Brave followed the steps Blossom had shown him and powered down the flatpanel. He carefully set it to one side outside of the nest.

They snuggled down in the nest.

“I will thank your sire when I see him. Is good tool. Very special gift. He very kind.” He nuzzled her again on the neck.

Both were quickly asleep.