Kit’s Journey

By Zach Schroeder

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Characters:

Squirrel Family:

Kit

Kat

Kate

Krat

Kip

Father Squirrel

Mother Squirrel

Grandma Squirrel

Bip

Bop

Boo

Parliament of Owls:

Stix

Lethy

Acharon

Pyriph

Kytos

Forest Friends

Cleo

Lyle

Lily

Kyle

Townsanimals

Mrs. Woodpecker

Pip Woodpecker

Mr. Beaver

Mrs. Beaver

Mr. Hedgehog

Mrs. Hedgehog

Henrietta Hedgehog

Mrs. Rabbit

Romina Rabbit

Other Characters:

Moose

Flea

Turtle

Charlene

Dave

Mosquito 3

Mosquito 4

Singing Leave Ensemble, Traffic Ensemble, River Ensemble, Mud Ensemble

Scene 1:

*Forest animals wander about; Mr. and Mrs. Beaver measure a tree, some birds huff about as they pack for the winter, Mr. Hedgehog and Ales, his son, are nesting, Mrs. and Pip*

*Woodpecker knock on trees, looking for bugs. One of them carries a drill. There are a multitude of other forest creatures busily preparing for winter. Kit, Kat and Krat are playing under a big oak tree. They are laughing and chasing a massive acorn around in the autumn leaves.*

***Our Tree***

Kit: Guys, this seems too far. I don’t know…

Kat: C’mon, Kit, it’s your first time out of the nest.

Kate: Let’s go, Kit!

Krat: Don’t you want to live a little?

Kip: Or are you just a *scaredy-squirrel*? *Kat, Kate, Krat and Kip all laugh.*

Kit: Mom said that we shouldn’t go this far from the tree.

Kat: Mom said!

Krat: Mom said!

Kip: Mom said!

Kate: Mom said!

Kat, Krat, Kip, Kate: I’m Kit, I listen to what Mom says all the time because I’m a big scaredy­squirrel.

Kit: Am not!

Kat, Kate, Kip: Are too!

Kit: Am not!

Krat: Oh yeah?

Kate: *(Screams)* ​What’s that over there!?

Kit: What? *Kate, Kat, Kip and Krat steal Kit’s acorn, they race to the Beavers.*

Kit: Guys! Give it back! That’s mine, and I found it and I want to bury it!

Kip: Oh, you want *our* acorn?

Kate: Hm… Well the only way you can get OUR acorn is if…

Kat: If you can…

Krat: If you can find it! *Kat, Kate, Krat, and Kip laugh, knocking over the measuring tape Mrs. Beaver was using. They keep running and make faces at Kip.*

Kit: Guys!

Mrs. Beaver: Excuse me, but we are trying to calculate the correct angle at which to gnaw on this here tree as to maximize the dam building potential.

Mr. Beaver: And you are not being helpful with your­ your­

Mrs. Beaver: Tomfoolery!

Kit: We’re sorry, they didn’t­ uh­ mean uh­ to be­ uh­ *She tries to run after her brother and sister, who are now messing up another animal’s nest, but is stopped by Mrs. Beaver’s sad look*

Mrs: Beaver: It’s okay, honey. We’ll just start all over.

Mr. Beaver: We’ve got a lot of work to do. Those squirrels put us way behind schedule.

Kit: I­ uh­ I’m so sorry!

Mrs. Beaver: That’s okay.

Kit: ​*Fights internally, she decides to stay.* What can I do to help?

Mrs. Beaver: Hold this. *She gives Kit a measuring tape. Kit holds it against the tree.*

Mr. Beaver: Just as I thought. The dimensions are….

Mrs. Beaver: And if we take the hypotenuse of the angle of the sun…*They both begin to draw on the tree. They continue measuring and drawing. Focus shifts to Kat and Krat who have found the Hedgehog’s nest.*

Mrs. Hedgehog: Our nest looks great!

Mr. Hedgehog: All of our hard work finally paid off. I think it is ready to be inhabited.

Mrs. Hedgehog: Just a few more rocks, and I think it will be absolutely perfect.

Mr. Hedgehog: I saw a few good ones over there. Let’s go get them. Henrietta, you stay here and guard the nest.

Kat: This looks like a great spot to bury OUR acorn, don’t you think, Krat?

Krat: Oh yes, I think that this is a marvelous spot to bury OUR acorn. *All the squirrel siblings laugh.* What do you think, Henrietta Hedgehog?

Henrietta Hedgehog: Guys, we can play later. Please! Winter is coming!

Kip: *mimicking* “Guys, we can play later!” You’re no fun!

Kate: No fun! No fun! *All of them begin chanting.*

Henrietta: Oh yeah? Well you guys are the…

Mr. Hedgehog: Oh stop that.

Mrs. Hedgehog: Henrietta is right. Now, you kids get a move on or­ *Kat, Kate, Kip, and Krat run up to the Rabbit’s burrow and start burying their acorn. They laugh at the Hedgehogs from across the stage.*

Mr. Hedgehog: Phew. Those squirrels almost tarnished our nest.

Mrs. Hedgehog: Henrietta, make sure that those brutes don’t come anywhere near it anymore. It’s almost time to hibernate and we need to make sure our shelter is intact.

Henrietta Hedgehog: Okay, Mommy.

Kat: Ha ha ha ha

Krat: Na na na na

Kip: Boo boo!

Kip: We’re Kip

Kat: Kat

Kate: Kate

Krat: And Krat

Kat, Kip, Kate and Krat: And this is our forest!

Mr. Hedgehog: Why those squirrels are the worst behaved ­ *Mr., Mrs. Hedgehog and Henry Hedgehog give up and go back to fixing their nest. Focus shifts to the Beavers. During this, Kat, Kip, Kate and Krat continue to fill in the rabbit’s burrow in an attempt to bury the acorn.*

Mr. Beaver: If I calculate the density…

Kit: Are you almost done?

Mrs. Beaver: Cutting down trees is an art. You should have thought of that before your siblings ran through all of our math! Now SHHHH! We have to do more calculations… *She takes out a calculator and hits random buttons. This continues during the next moment.*

Romina Rabbit: Mommy, those squirrels are filling in our burrow!

Mrs. Rabbit: What?! We just spent all morning digging it! *They both race over to the burrow.* Excuse me, what in the world do you three squirrels think you are doing on our property? *The three squirrels look at each other nervously.*

Kip: Um…

Kat: Well…

Kate: You know… Just….

Mrs. Rabbit: Well, you three better be out of my sight by the time I snap my fingers or *else.*

Romina Rabbit: You heard her. Scram, squirrels!

Krat: Gotta go! *Krat grabs the acorn and starts running away. He is followed by Kat, Kate, and Kip.*

Mrs. Rabbit: Someone needs to control those pesky squirrels.

Romina Rabbit: Our whole morning of work has been ruined by those pests!

Mrs. Rabbit: It’s okay, Sweetie. I guess we will just have to do it all over again.

Romina Rabbit: Well, we better get started. *They both start digging again.*

Pip Woodpecker: I hear the bugs, Mommy!

Mrs. Woodpecker: I do too, now, we have to sneak up on them really quietly.

Pip Woodpecker: Okay! *They both tiptoe towards the trunk of the tree.*

Kat: BET YOU CAN’T CATCH ME!

Krat: OH I BET I CAN!

Kip: NOT IF I GET YOU FIRST! *They scamper about in the tree, cackling.*

Kate: GOT YOU! GOT YOU!

Pip Woodpecker: *(Whispering)* ​Uh, Mom, I think that they’re scaring the bugs away.

Mrs. Woodpecker: *(Whispering)* ​I think you’re right.

Pip Woodpecker: *(Whispering)* ​I think we should go and tell them to be quiet. *They creep toward the tree, as Kat and Krat sit.*

Kat: Hold on. Guys, you know what?

Krat: Yes, Kat?

Kat: Well, I was thinking, maybe we shouldn’t be so mean to Kit. She’s trying really hard, and she did find this acorn all by herself…

Kate: You’re right.

Kip: I think we should do something ­

Kat: Well, what shall we do?

Kip: Well, we should do something nice and thoughtful.

Kat: I couldn’t agree more.

Krat: Or, and hear me out on this one.

Kate: But of course!

Krat: Or, we could take a nap and worry about being nice later.

Kip: My, what a WONDERFUL plan! *Kat laughs. They lean back and fall asleep, still clutching the acorn. Focus shifts back to Kit and the Beavers.*

Mrs. Beaver: And if we divide by the square root of three­thousand and seventy­two…

Mr. Beaver: And carry the one…

Kit: Are you almost done?

Mrs and Mr. Beaver: SH! *Focus shifts to the tree. The Woodpeckers are now right behind Kat and Krat.*

Mrs. Woodpecker: On the count of three…

Pip & Mrs. Woodpecker: One… two…. THREE! *They both take out power tools and begin to obliterate the tree. Kat, Kip, and Krat wake up and hop down.*

Kate: Oh, no!

Kat: Oh dear.

Krat: It seems as if we’re in trouble.

Kip: We should…

Krat & Kat: VAMOOSE *A Moose walks on stage, everyone freezes.*

Moose: Did somebody call?

Kat: Oh­

Kip: No, no…

Krat: Sorry.

Kat: We said vamoose, which means to leave very fast.

Moose: Oh, no… don’t worry about it… it’s fine… it’s not like I stopped everything I was doing… because you called to come and hang out because no one wants to hang out with me, the moose… *The Moose walks offstage very slowly, glumly.*

Krat: Okay, so… well… how about… we… flee?

Kip: Okay, let’s flee! *A Flea bounces on stage.*

Flea: WHADDYA WANT?

Kate: NO!

Krat and Kip: NOT YOU!

Flea: Then who?

Kat, Kip, Kate and Krat: Us!

Flea: You’re squirrels.

Kip: And?

Krat: Yeah, ​*and*​?

Flea: But… you said let’s flea and… well…

Kat: Go.

Flea: But, I thought we could go bouncing around for a bit…

Kat: Just go. Follow the moose out.

Flea: ​*(Sadly)* Oh, okay. *He hops over to the moose. They walk out together.*

Kip: Where were we?

Krat: We were… what?

Kat: Uh… leaving?

Krat: Yeah, what’s going to happen, a bunch of leaves will float on stage and sing a musical number?

Kate: That’s right, we were LEAVING *A multitude of Leaves float on­stage.*

Leaves: Did you call?

Kat: NO!

Kip: AHH! *They run through the leaves off stage, scattering them everywhere. The leaves grumble as they stand up and walk back off stage. Focus shifts back to Kit and the Beavers.*

Mr. Beaver: There we go!

Mrs. Beaver: I think we’ve got it!

Kit: Great! *Mrs. Beaver nonchalantly pushes the tree over.*

Kit: But… But… But…

Mr. Beaver: You can leave us now. *The Leaves from before re­enter, they sing a song as they go race towards Kit and the Beavers.*

Mr. Beaver: (​*Terrified)* They’re coming!

Mrs. Beaver: Go GO GO GO! *The Beavers race off stage, followed by the Leaves who sing:*

The Leaves: ***Leaving Leaves*** *The Leaves make it offstage, we can hear them fade as they go continue to chase the Beavers. Kit stands up from where she’d been knocked over during the Leaves’ Parade. She walks towards the Hedgehogs, who are grumbling while putting their nest back together.*

Kit: Can I help you guys­?

Mr. Hedgehog: NO! No. No.

Mrs. Hedgehog: Sorry, just, please, go.

Kit: Why can’t I help?

Henrietta Hedgehog: Your siblings are the reason we’re putting our nest back together.

Mrs. Hedgehog: We spent hours bringing supplies from the forest to make this!

Kit: Then let­

Mrs. Hedgehog: And now it is all ruined! What are we going to do?!

Mr. Hedgehog: We really would rather you not be here right now.

Kit: But why!?

Mrs. Hedgehog: Just go.

Henrietta Hedgehog: It’ll be faster if we just do it again. Say thanks to Kat, Kip, and Krat for me.

Kit: Oh, I’m so sorry. *Kit walks away glumly, she comes across the Rabbits.*

Mrs. Hedgehog: Just go, little squirrel. Scram!

Romina Rabbit: Mommy, the squirrel is back!

Mrs. Rabbit: Didn’t I tell you and your siblings to get lost? You already ruined my whole morning of work, we don’t need any more damage.

Romina Rabbit: Yeah! *She sticks her tongue out at Kit. Kit walks away dejectedly.*

Pip Woodpecker: LOOK MOM! It’s Kit!

Mrs. Woodpecker: Oh great, another squirrel. They break everything. Let’s go find another tree. *The Woodpeckers fly off in a huff. All the other animals pack up and leave, shooting dirty looks at Kit as they go.*

Kit: Oh, sorry! *Kit is alone. She shuffles through the remains of the Hedgehog’s nest.* ***Our Tree (reprise)***

All I wanted to do was help get ready for the winter. That’s all. And now… *She gestures to the destruction around her.* Look at this! *Kit turns around to look around, she looks up and notices the sun.* Oh no! I’m late! Oh no oh no! It’s my first time out of the nest and I’m already late. *She runs offstage.*

**Scene 2:**

*The Squirrel Nest. A cozy place high in the tree. The rest of the animal village is laid out below them. Their nest is in the USL corner of the stage. It, as well as the Beaver, Woodpecker and Hedgehog homes, is lit. The rest of the stage is completely dark. Inside the homes, animals bustle about, preparing for winter. The Squirrel family Mom, Dad, Kat, Krat, their younger siblings (Bip, Bop and Boo) and Grandma Squirrel all sit and munch on acorns. Grandma knits while Dad stands near the door, looking for Kit.*

Grandma Squirrel: It’ll all be okay. She’s just running late.

Father Squirrel: It’s her first time out by herself! What if she got eaten? Hm?

Mother Squirrel: Don’t worry, she’s a tough nut.

Father Squirrel: Kat, Kip, Krat, did either of you see her follow you?

Krat: No, she was mad cuz we found this acorn and she didn’t find anything.

Kate: Don’t look at me.

Kip: Yeah!

Kat: ​*Guiltily* Yeah, what Krat said.

Mother Squirrel: See?

Father Squirrel: I guess, but it’s almost completely dark out.

Grandma Squirrel: Back in my day, we were conscientious and were never late.

Father Squirrel: Kit, KIT! KIT! *He leans out the door, calling towards the audience*. Bip, Bop and Boo follow suit.

Bip, Bop, Boo: Kit! Kit! Come home!

Grandma Squirrel: There’s a storm coming. I almost feel… oh, no, it couldn’t be that.

**Scene 3**

*Kit is seen walking DS, she is alone and it is very dark. It is the same set as before, but all lights are extinguished. She is exhausted and appears as if she may fall over at any minute. There are three owls (Stix, Acheron, Lethy) shrouded in a tree. They watch Kit walk along for a moment before all speaking in unison.*

Stix, Acheron, Lethy, Pyriph, and Kytos: WHOOOOO are yoUUUUUUU? *Kit is silent.*

Stix: WHOOOOOOOOO ARE YOUUUUUUUUUUUUUU?

Kit: uh… no one

Lethy: Oh, okay.

Kytos: Right, right, right, right.

Pyriph: You make an awful lot of noise for no one.

Kit: Well, I’m a­ a­ poison dart frog!

Acheron: A poison dart frog?

Stix: Well then… What kind of food do you like to eat, my little morsel?

Kit: Ummm… bugs?

Kytos: Bugs, how…

Acheron: cliché.

Lethy: Would you mind being a little more specific?

Kit: Like, you know… bug bugs. With too many legs. And wings and stuff. Bugs. Yup. Bugs. That’s what I eat. Because I’m a frog. And we eat bugs.

Stix: Yes, I understand.

Lethy: You seem very squeaky, for a… What were you again?

Pyriph: A frog, you imbecile.

Kytos: She just said it!

Lethy: Who are you calling an imbicile?!

Stix: Don’t squablle in front of the prey.

Kit: I have a condition.

Acheron: ​*Pretending to be interested* A condition?

Kit: Yeah it makes my voice squeaky, but it doesn’t mean I’m not poisonous!

Lethy: I never doubted it for a second.

Kit: Oh, good. Yeah, good.

Pyriph: This has been a very entertaining conversation, but we fear we must cut it short.

Kit: Well, it has been nice to meet you. I have to get home, my family knows I’m gone and will be looking for me. *She backs away.*

Stix: Oh, and little squirrel­

Kit: Yes? *She gasps and covers up her mouth. She has given her secret away.*

Pyriph: You’d better start running.

Kytos: There are owls around.

Stix: And they’re very hungry. *Kit runs offstage. The owls follow, slowly, silently, and in perfect unison.*

**Scene 4**

*The Squirrel Nest. Mother, Father and Grandma Squirrel sit, waiting for Kit. Kat, Kip, and Krat roll the acorn back and forth while seated on the floor. Bip, Bop and Boo nod off to sleep.*

Father Squirrel: Where is she?

Mother Squirrel: What’s going on? She should have been home by now.

Grandma Squirrel: I’d shut the door if I were you. *Mother shuts the door, as she speaks:*

Mother Squirrel: Kat, Kip, Krat, did any of you see her when you left the creek?

Grandma Squirrel: There’s a storm coming.

Father: DID YOU SEE KIT FOLLOW YOU HOME?

Kat: I don’t know.

Krat: We were too busy.

Kip: Carrying this *huge* acorn home.

Krat: To keep track of our kid sister.

Kate: But, on the plus side, we now have a HUGE acorn, and that makes up for it, right? *All of the siblings smile expectantly.*

Mother Squirrel: I don’t see anything.

Grandma Squirrel: You should shut the windows. *Father shuts the windows.*

Father Squirrel: Why do you want the windows shut?

Grandma Squirrel: You’ll see. *A crash of thunder, all the squirrels lean to the right and then to the left as their nest is blown in the wind.*

Bip: Mom, I’m scared.

Bop: Me too!

Boo: Me three!

Mother Squirrel: Bip, Bop, Boo, everyone, into the tree.

Father Squirrel: Go go go!

Krat: What about the acorn?

Kat: Yeah, what about the acorn?!

Kip: It’s probably the biggest ever!

Kate: MOM, LOOK AT OUR ACORN!

Mother Squirrel: We don’t care about the acorn, one of our kids is missing! Into the tree!

Father Squirrel: Kit Kit Kit!!!

Bip, Bop, Boo: Kit, come home!

Mother Squirrel: Go, Father.

Father Squirrel: I’m not going into the tree without her!

Mother Squirrel: There’s no time! If she’s out there, she’s on her own.

Grandma Squirrel: She’s a tough squirrel, that one. She’ll be okay.

Father Squirrel: I sure hope so. *The whole family exits, carrying whatever they can as they prepare for the storm.*

**Scene 5**

*A storm hits. We see The Leaves swirling and dancing around. They get crazier and crazier. There is lightning and thunder and lots of wind. They pick up Kit, who is onstage, and begin to throw her around. She is hit on the head by debris and faints. The dance continues, getting wilder and wilder. Eventually, they place her down in a log. The Leaves exit. Silence. The storm is over.*

**Scene 6**

*Blackout. Light comes up on Kit, sound asleep, under a fallen log. Cleo and Lily, mayfly sisters, buzz around Kit trying to wake her up. Kit stirs.*

Cleo and Lily: HELLOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOZZZZZZ??????????

Kit: What­ Where am I?

Cleo: Well, good morning starshine!

Lily: How goes it in the land of the sleeping?

Kit: What are you saying?

Cleo: How was your sleep?

Kit: Restful, I guess…

Lily: You don’t look too good.

Kit: It’s been a long night. There were these owls, and then there was this storm and… *Beat* Now I don’t know where I am.

Cleo: Of course you know where you are, you are right here…

Lily: …and here is where you are!

Kit: But where is here?

Cleo: Oh, I don’t know. Geography was never my strong suit. I’m Cleo, by the fly.

Lily: And I am Lily, Cleo’s sister!

Kit: Right, yeah, well, I’m Kit. It’s nice to meet you.

Cleo: The same to you. Now, what we’ve got to do is get you home.

Lily: You squirrels should be squirreling things away right now, not sleeping in logs in the middle of nowhere.

Kit: I didn’t want to sleep in the log.

Cleo: Well, you were in the log. There’s no need to get testy, Kit.*She looks up at the sun.* Ugh, they’re late.

Kit: Who is late? *Lyle can and Kyle be heard singing a tune offstage.*

Lily: You’ll meet them very soon. Their names are Kyle and Lyle.

Kit: Kyle and Lyle?

Cleo: Yup! They’re our best pals. We go just about everywhere together. *Lyle and Kyle enter. THey are frogs.*

Kit: Who is that?!

Cleo: That’s Lyle, he’s my best friend. LYLE!

Lily: And that’s Kyle. He’s my best friend. KYLE! T*HeY hop toward them.*

Kit: Cleo, Lily, get behind me. Run away, I’ll be okay. Go!

Lily: What do you mean?

Kit: They’re frogs!

Lily: …Yeah, your point?

Kit: And you guys are bugs!

Cleo: We are Mayflys, thank you very much.

Kit: Mayflys?

Lyle: Yeah, a mayfly. As in, she may fly, she may not.

Cleo: Exactly.

Lyle: Hello, Cleo and Lily. Who is that that you’ve found, hm?

Lily: This is Kit.

Kyle: How do you do.

Kit: *to Cleo and Lily* Guys, *I’m* not so sure about them.

Lily: They’re fine. They are not going to eat us, if that’s what you’re worried about. *Lyle laughs.*

Lyle: Both of us are vegetarians. No snacking on mayflies for ol’ Lyle.

Kyle: Or Kyle!

Kit: Oh.

Kyle: So, what happened here?

Cleo: This squirrel got blown in by that storm all the way here from… Where are you from, again?

Kit: Elk Spit Crick.

Lyle: ​*Whistles.* That’s a mighty long way to be blown by a storm.

Kit: I was also being chased by five owls.

Lyle: Five Owls. Wow.

Kyle: That’s quite a night you had.

Kit: And I’ve got to get home. Winter’s almost here and I need to be with my family to hibernate.

Lyle: Well, we better get a move on then.

Kit: No, I couldn’t ask you to join me. You all should be getting ready for winter, too.

Lyle: Dont’ need to.

Kyle: Cleo, Lily, Lyle and I just close our eyes and sleep for five months. It’s a pretty great gig.

Lily: Yeah, we just sleep and sleep and sleep and sleep and then we wake up and don’t have to sleep at all!

Lyle: That’s why we haven’t slept since… since… Oh, when was it?

Cleo: Probably July.

Lyle: Yeah. July.

Lily: Not that I’m **not**​​ enjoying all this ​*buzzing*​ around but ­

Kyle: Shall we ​*hop*​ to it?

Kit: Yeah! *They exit. No one is on stage, yet we hear…*

Stix: Whooo Whoooo I see that the little squirrel got blown away in that storm.

Acheron: The poor thing. She must be cold.

Pyriph: Yes. The poor thing. All *laugh.*

Lethy: *Pause.* Who are we talking about?

Kytos: The squirrel from last night.

Lethy: I thought it was a frog?

Acheron: AhhhH! Who cursed me with such an incompetent sibling?!

Stix: Hush. We wait on the other side of the river. She shall come to us. *Blackout.*

**Scene 7**

*A Beaver Lodge. Mrs. Beaver bustles about with Mr. Beaver. They are baking and doing carpentry simultaneously. All other animals are in their respective houses, silently going about their business. From here on, this is referred to as The Town.*

Mrs. Beaver: Have you heard about the Squirrels?

Mrs. Beaver: Oh, it is garsh darn too bad about their daughter.

Mr. Beaver: I know! I heard that she was carried off by an owl.

Mrs. Beaver: An ​*owl*​?

Mr. Beaver: Yep, and owl. A great big one, too, if Roberta Rabbit is right. Or was it five normal sized owls… Ya know, she’s quite a chatter that one.

Mrs. Beaver: Wow. That is too bad. She wasn’t one of the trouble making squirrels, right?

Mr. Beaver: No, what was her name?

Mrs. Beaver: I get them all confused. Kap? Map? Slap? Slip? Slope?

Mr. Beaver: Nah, it starts with a K or something.

Mrs. Beaver: Kitch?

Mr. Beaver: KIT! She was the good one that helped us with that tree.

Mrs. Beaver: She was helpful. Didn’t know the first thing about carpentry, but she was nice enough.

Mr. Beaver: I do wish, though, that it was one of the siblings that was carried off.

Mrs. Beaver: Oh, I completely agree with you. One of those nasty siblings of hers. Kip, Krat and Kat? They’re so disrespectful.

Mr. Beaver: But she was a good egg.

Mrs. Beaver: I hope the family is doing okay.

Mr. Beaver: If only there was something we could do…

Mrs. Beaver: There is! We could bake them a surprise we’re sorry your only good child got eaten cake!

Mr. Beaver: That’s a great idea, Mrs. Beaver.

Mrs. Beaver: Thank you, Mr. Beaver.

Mr. Beaver: We’ll bring it over first thing in the morning.

**Scene 8:**

*Lights up on a busy street. Cars are going back and forth while Kit, Cleo, Kyle and Lyle all stand upstage. They must shout over the noise of the cars.*

Kit: What is this place?

Kyle: We call it the Screech.

Cleo: Because of all the screeching that the metal things do.

Lily: Well, are you ready to cross?

Kit: I don’t know if I can.

Cleo: You’ll be fine! Just follow our lead. *Cleo flies over the cars. Maybe she is picked up and carried by people dressed all in black. She does complicated ballet choreography while in the air. During this moment, all of the cars are frozen in place*

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Kit: Yeah, I can’t do that.

Lyle: Don’t worry. We just gotta be brave.

Kyle: Are you ready?

Kit: I don’t know, I don’t know! It’s so loud and everything is moving so quickly!

Lyle: Be brave. You can do this!

Kit: I can. I can do this! *She starts to run across the street. All the cars stop. Kit makes it across and turns around to see Lyle strolling casually across the street.* What? What happened?

Lily: Didn’t Lyle and Kyle tell you?

Kit: Tell me what?

Lyle: Well, you see, they’ve got these fireflies in three jars and they hang them way up in the sky.

Kyle: When the green fireflies turn on, then all the loud things go really fast.

Lyle: When the red fireflies turn on, they all stop.

Kit: ​*Looking up offstage* What about the yellow ones?

Lily: No one knows. They just seem to ignore it.

Kyle: Well, one adventure down. Shall we keep going?

Cleo: Yeah, I looked ahead while waiting for you. The wood is just on the other side of the stream.

Kit: The stream?

Lyle: Yeah, you know, that place where there’s all this water and it’s going somewhere.

Lily: You can swim right? *Kit nervously looks at them.*

Cleo: Right??

Kit: Oh yeah. For sure. I’m a great swimmer.

Kyle: Let’s get on, then! *Blackout*

**Scene 9**

*The Town. Focus on the Squirrel house. The parent squirrels sit around, waiting for Kit to come home. Kat and Krat are now rolling the acorn dejectedly. Bip, Bop, and Boo lounge. Grandma Squirrel enters with Mrs. Woodpecker, Mr. Beaver, Mr. and Mrs. Hedgehog, and Mrs. Rabbit. Henrietta, Pip and Romina race in before them.*

Pip Woodpecker: Hi, Krat!

Krat: Hey.

Romina Rabbit: Hi Kat! *Kat doesn’t respond, just looks sadly at the floor.*

Pip: Kip? *Kit waves gloomily.*

Romina: Kate? *Kate doesn’t even look up.*

Romina: Do ya guys wanna go out and play?

Kat: No.

Pip Woodpecker: Do you want to go and get a bite to eat?

Krat: Nah.

Romina Rabbit: Do you want to­?

Kip: No.

Pip Woodpecker: But­

Krat: We don’t want to.

Kip: Just leave us alone!

Pip Woodpecker: Aw, come on!

Grandma Squirrel: Go outside, all of you!

Kate: Really, gram?

Grandma Squirrel: Go.

Kat, Kip, Kate and Krat: Fine…

*Pip Woodpecker, Romina Rabbit, Kip, Kate, Kat and Krat all exit.*

Mother Squirrel: Would you care for a bite to eat?

Mrs. Woodpecker: No, thank you. I’ve just come from the pine next door. It’s infested with grubs. The Pip and I had quite a feast.

Father Squirrel:

How is his head?

Mrs. Woodpecker:

Mild concussion. There’s nothing to be worried about.

Mrs. Rabbit: I’m fine as well, the grass outside your house was perfect to graze in.

Mr. Beaver: Penny, do you mind if I nibble this chair? Is it cedar? I brought you a cake. *He presents a cake to Grandma Squirrel.*

Grandma Squirrel: Yes, I do mind. And no, you cannot eat my furniture. Thank you for the cake.

Mr. Beaver: Oh, well. I was just asking.

Mother Squirrel: Not that this isn’t a pleasure, but Winter is coming ­ Why are you all here?

Grandma Squirrel: They were running around telling stories about Kit getting picked up by an Owl.

Father Squirrel: An owl?!

Mrs. Hedgehog: Why didn’t anyone tell us before!

Mr. Hedgehog: That is the first that we have heard of an owl

Grandma Squirrel: Well it might be for you two, but not for the rest. Chatter in the forest says that these guys have been telling everyone that an owl is on the loose. And I thought I’d bring them all back here to sort this mess out.

Father Squirrel: Did you see our daughter get picked up by an Owl?

Mr. Beaver: Well…

Mrs. Beaver: I mean…

Mrs. Woodpecker: Erm…

Mrs. Rabbit: You know…

Mr. Beaver: No.

Grandma Squirrel: So then why were you going around the whole forest saying that you did?

Mrs. Rabbit: Well, funny story…

Father Squirrel: Funny?!

Mrs. Beaver: Okay, so we were wrong. What’s the big problem with that?

Grandma Squirrel: Because she might have been.

Father Squirrel: What?

Mrs. Hedgehog: She couldn’t have been! There haven’t been owls in this part of the forest in ages!

Grandma Squirrel: Well I saw parliament of owls out here last night. They were flying low and fast. Hunting.

Mrs. Woodpecker: Three owls in this neighborhood?

Mr. Beaver: Why didn’t you tell us!?

Grandma Squirrel: Because I figured you already knew, seeing as you were telling every animal from here to the crick that you saw my granddaughter get picked up by an owl.

Mrs. Beaver: Mr. and Mrs. Squirrel, We are so sorry.

Mr. Hedgehog: But please, tell us more. Where were they?

Grandma Squirrel: They flew down by the birch grove. I can tell you more, but I don’t think you’d like it.

Mrs. Woodpecker: What more?

Mr. Beaver: What can there possibly be that’s more frightening than a PARLIAMENT OF OWLS in our BACK YARD!?

Grandma Squirrel: I can give them names.

*There is silence. Mother and Father Squirrel look up and focus on Grandma. Mother Squirrel shuffles Bip Bop and Boo outside to play on the tree with the rest of the kids.*

Mr. Beaver: No.

Mrs. Rabbit: It can’t be!

Mrs. Woodpecker: Please. Stop talking.

Mrs. Hedgehog: How could it be?!

Grandma Squirrel: Do you want to know, or have you already guessed?

Mrs. Beaver: They can’t be back.

Mr. Beaver: No. They can’t be!

Mrs. Rabbit: Please, say that you’re lying.

Grandma Squirrel: *I* ​would never lie.

Mrs. Rabbit: *To Mrs. Woodpecker* Our kids are outside!!

Mrs. Woodpecker: I have to go.

Mr. and Mrs. Beaver: Us too. There is much work to be done.

*They scamper out of the room. As the door swings, Kat and Kate stick their head in. She watches the rest of the moment.*

Mother Squirrel: Mom, no. This can’t be! I’ve got to go get the kids.

Father Squirrel: What is it? ​*Who* ​is it?

Grandma Squirrel: I’m sorry, but it is true.

Mother Squirrel: No! I don’t believe it! I can’t believe it!

Grandma Squirrel: Sweetie, Grace, I’m sorry. But it is true.

Mother Squirrel: You’re wrong. You’re wrong!

Grandma Squirrel: We do not speak their names. Their full names. Their right names.

Father Squirrel: But ​*who are they?*

Mother Squirrel:Don’t say it! Don’t ask!

Grandma Squirrel: He must know!

Mother Squirrel: Don’t. Please.

Father Squirrel: Grace, honey, it’ll be okay. It’s just a few names.

Grandma Squirrel: I will say it. But only because you need to know who your daughter is up against. Their names are Stix, Acheron, Lethy, Pyriph, and Kytos.

Mother Squirrel: Kit’s out there with them! *Mother Squirrel runs out of the room, crying.*

Father Squirrel: There have to be other owls out there too, why the fear about these three?

Grandma Squirrel: Many years ago, before you met Grace, our town was attacked by a giant owl. His eyes glowed red and he could move without being seen. This owl had five chicks. They were five times as bad as their father, for they were trained by him from hatching. Family after family lost members to their appetite. You couldn’t hide from them. Nor could you run. The scariest part was that they weren’t predators, they were hunters. If you hid from them one night, they would go hungry rather than let you get away. If they spotted you, you were done for. The longest anyone made it was my husband, who lasted three days with *Them*​ on his tail.

Father Squirrel: What happened?

Grandma Squirrel: In the end, they threatened to tear apart the nest to get to him. Rather than sacrifice the whole family, he gave himself up. Grace was only a baby. I’m surprised she even remembers.

Father Squirrel: Where did Stix and the others go?

Grandma Squirrel: We don’t know. The father owl died just after that. The children soon disappeared. We haven’t seen nor heard of them since.

Father Squirrel: So, if he has seen Kit… *Blackout*

**Scene 10**

*They reach a river, which is moving lazily. Fish swim in it and a Turtle sleeps on the near bank.*

Lyle and Kyle: Welcome to our home!

Cleo and Lily: You live here?

Lyle: Well of course! When we were just little tadpoles, I would swim up and down this creek all day long. I know it like the back of my hand.

Cleo: It’s quite a beautiful place.

Kit: That is a lot of water.

Kyle: You said that you could swim.

Lily: Yeah, you said that you were a great swimmer.

Kit: Well, I am. Yeah. I was just saying that it was a lot of water that I was seeing here right now. Yeah.

Cleo: Well, I’ll see you on the other side.

Lily: See you soon, Kit! *Again, they are carried by people dressed in black as they fly over the creek. This time, dramatic music is playing as they do an interpretive dance.*

Lyle: Come on, you just have to hop on in! *He jumps into the creek.*

Kit: Wait! I can’t swim!

Kyle: That’s what I thought.

Kit: It’s deep and wet and damp and cold and wet and I don’t like it.

Kyle: Well. We’ll just have to think of another way around this.

Cleo: What’s the hold up?

Kyle: Kit can’t swim.

Lily: What?!

Lyle: Kit can’t swim. She fibbed earlier.

Cleo: Well that’s just great.

Lily: We’re going to have to go all the way around the stream to get you across.

Lyle: Or you could build a boat.

Cleo: With what tools? I’m a mayfly! We can’t exactly lift a hammer!

Lyle: Good point.

Kyle: Hm… Well.

Kit: It’s getting dark. Do you think we should find camp for the night.

Lily: What’s she saying? I can’t hear, because I’m all the way over here.

Lyle: Just come back.

Cleo: Ugh.

Lily: Okay. *They back up, the dramatic music starts, the people dressed in black come out to carry her across. She holds up a hand.*

Cleo: We don’t have time to go through all that again. *She instead just jumps over the river. The music stops suddenly. The figures in black walk off glumly.*

Kyle: Graceful.

Cleo: So, what’s the dealio?

Kyle: Kit can’t swim, and we can’t exactly carry her across and ­ *It goes immediately dark*​. It’s nighttime.

Lily: So?

Kit: Some people need to sleep.

Cleo: Ugh. Fine.

Lily: Lyle, should we all go ahead and see what’s going on?

Lyle: Yeah, that’s a good idea.

Cleo: Are you okay being alone here?

Lily: You can go and sleep in that hollow log.

Kit: I’ll be fine. When will you be back?

Lyle: We’ll be back by morning.

Kyle: Sleep tight, don’t let the bed­bugs bite.

Cleo: And if they do, you just tell them that cousins Cleo and Lily says to leave you alone.

Kit: Will do. *Lyle, Cleo, and Lily begin to exit.*

Lyle: I didn’t know that you two had bedbugs as your cousins.

Lily: We don’t like to talk about them much.

Cleo: Family reunions are a mess.

Kyle: I can only imagine.

Cleo: ​*Exiting with Lyle* They all stay up super late the night before eating and then come to the reunion in the morning full and sleepy and grouchy and then they get into a fight with the dragonflies who think’s that they’re being irresponsible ­

Kit: *Kit is alone on stage.* Well. This is… lonely. *Blackout. We hear crickets and other nighttime sounds. An owl hoots ominously. Time passes.*

**Scene 11**

*The Squirrel House. Everyone is asleep. Kat is restless. She get’s up. Begins to pack her things. Krat, Kate and Kip wake up.*

Krat: Where are you going?

Kip: Guys, go back to bed.

Kat: Shh.

Kate: Kat, where are you going?

Kat: have to go find Kit.

Krat: She’ll be fine. Little baby probably just got lost on her way home, that’s all.

Kip: Guys, can’t we do this in the morning?

Kat: No, Kip. This is serious. I don’t think Kit is just lost.

Kate: Stop kidding around.

Krat: What else could have happened?

Kat: Do you remember when the Beavers, Mrs. Woodpecker and Mrs. Rabbit just showed up and gran was really angry?

Kip: Yeah?

Kat: Well, I was listening and they said that there was an evil owl out there.

Kate: I heard them say that too.

Krat: So why are you leaving?!

Kat: Because, they said that it was hunting Kit.

Krat: That’s not your fault.

Kip: She should have come home on time.

Kat: But it is my fault! I asked Henrietta Hedgehog, Pip Woodpecker, and Romina Rabbit and they all said that Kit stayed behind to help clean up.

Krat: Clean up what?

Kat: The mess that WE made.

Kip: So, you’re saying that because we were having fun, our sister is about to get eaten by an owl?

Kat: Yeah.

Krat: That’s crazy, Kat.

Kip: Go back to bed.

Kat: Guys!

Krat: No. Go back to bed. I’m not listening to any more of this crazy talk from you.

Kat: Krat!

Kip: Let it go, Kat. She got lost.

Kate: That’s no reason to be risking your neck. Even ​*if* ​(and that’s a big if) there’s some big magical owl that’s out there, what are you going to do against a bird of prey? Hm?

Kat: I don’t know...

Kate: See? I’m right again. As usual. Please, go back to bed. *Krat and Kip go back to bed.*

Kat: Okay. Sweet dreams.

Krat, Kate, and Kip: Yeah you too. *A beat.*

*Kat then springs up and slips out the door. Krat shifts but does not wake up.*

***S*cene 12**:

*It is early morning. Kit sleeps. Lyle, Cleo and a Turtle enter.*

Kyle: Can you please just ferry her across?

Turtle: I don’t seeeeee whyyyy sheeeee caaaaaaaaan’t swimmmmmmmmm.

Cleo: Because she’s too scared.

Lily: She’s scared of everything.

Turtle: I underrrrrrrrrstaaaaaaaannnnnnnnnd.

Cleo: So, you’ll do it?

Turtle: Of courrrrrssssssseeeeeeeeeee. *They pick Kit up and carry her over the river. She wakes up just as they set her down.*

Kit: What, what happened? Where am I? *She sees the Turtle.* Who are you?!

Turtle: Youuuuuuu maaaaaaaaayyyyy calllllllll meeeeeeee turrrrrrrrrrtlllllleeeeeee

Kit: Hi, Turtle. Where am I?

Lyle: You’re on the other bank of the creek.

Lily: We carried you across, with the help of Turtle, of course.

Turtle: Offfff couuuuuuuurrrssssssssse. It was the leaaaaaasssssst I coullllllld dooooooooo.

Kit: What do you mean?

Turtle: Theyyyy helllllped meeeeee out offffff a nasssssstyyyyyyyy situaaaaatiooooooon involvinnnnnnng a stork annnnnnd a bearrrrrr.

Lyle: It was nothing.

Cleo: Just a little bravery.

Kit: Wow. Thank you for carrying me across.

Turtle: Gooooooodbyyyyye. *Turtle slowly exits.*

Kyle: We’ve just got to go through a bog and then we’ll be in your woods again!

Kit: Okay, let’s go. *They exit. We hear an owl hoot.*

**Scene 13**

*The Town. Mrs. Woodpecker flutters in and lands center. She is looking for her son.*

Mrs. Woodpecker: Pip! *Nothing.* PIP! *Still nothing.* PIP!!! *Pip hops out from behind a tree.*

Pip Woodpecker: Fooled you!

Mrs. Woodpecker: Where have you been?

Pip Woodpecker: Just hanging out with Romina and Henrietta! *Romina and Henrietta pop out from behind the tree.*

Romina Rabbit: Hi, Mrs. Woodpecker!

Henrietta Hedgehog: Hi, Mrs. Woodpecker!

Mrs. Woodpecker: Hello, Romina. Hello, Henrietta. *Aside* Pip, don’t you ever do that to me again. Do you hear?

Pip Woodpecker: What’s the big problem?

Mrs. Woodpecker: There are… bad birds out there that are eating other little birds. And I don’t want anything to happen to you.

Pip Woodpecker: It won’t. I promise.

Mrs. Rabbit: *Enters* Romina! There you are! I have been looking all over for you!

Mrs. Woodpecker: Looks like they have been out playing together. Henrietta, you better scurry home to your nest and stay close to your mother, you hear?

Henrietta: Okay, Mrs. Woodpecker.

Pip Woodpecker: Mom, can I walk Henrietta home?

Mrs. Woodpecker: I don’t think you need too, here are her parents now! *Mr. and Mrs. Hedgehog come rolling in.*

Mr. Hedgehog: Mrs. Woodpecker!!

Mrs. Hedgehog: Mrs. Rabbit!!

Mrs. Woodpecker: Mr. and Mrs. Hedgehog, what an unexpected surprise. I didn’t expect to see you out here.

Mr. Hedgehog: Have you both heard?

Mrs. Woodpecker and Mrs. Rabbit: What?

Mrs. Hedgehog: You haven’t heard?!

Mrs. Woodpecker: I haven’t.

Mrs. Rabbit: I don’t know what it is that you’re talking about.

Mr. Hedgehog: Another Squirrel is missing.

Mrs. Woodpecker: No.

Mrs. Hedgehog: YES!

Mrs. Rabbit: It couldn’t be!

Mr. Hedgehog: It’s Kat, one of the older ones.

Mrs. Woodpecker: Oh no.

Mrs. Rabbit: Children, why don’t you go play over by that tree while the adults talk?

Mrs. Hedgehog: Romina and Pip, you can go, but Henrietta needs to stay here.

Mr. Hedgehog: I’m sorry. That’s two this week. But I’m here to tell you that we’re starting hibernation early. Henrietta needs to help finish organizing the food storage for the winter now.

Mrs. Woodpecker: Oh, well, good luck. I’ll see you in the Spring, I guess.

Mr. Hedgehog: But that’s not what we came to tell you two.

Mrs. Rabbit: What is it?

Mrs. Hedgehog: You won’t see us in the Spring.

Mrs. Woodpecker: What do you mean?

Mr. Hedgehog: We were talking with the Beavers and we decided that we wouldn’t stick around.

Mrs. Hedgehog: At least not if *They* ​ ​are back.

Mr. Hedgehog: We’re leaving for a different part of the forest.

Mrs. Woodpecker: I don’t know, I don’t know! My husband may not be well enough to make it, and we’ve just gotten settled in the nest...

Mrs. Rabbit: And we just finished digging our burrow!

Mr. Hedgehog: I didn’t want to ask, because I know this place is your home.

Mrs. Hedgehog: But, we were hoping very much that your families would come with us.

Mrs. Woodpecker: We’ll talk about it in the Spring. *Mrs. Rabbit nods* I’ve got to get this one *points to Pip* back to the nest. I don’t know if we have enough food. *She shivers.*

Mrs. Rabbit:Winter is coming early this year.

Mr. Hedgehog: If you need anything, please don’t hesitate to wake us up. We’ve been collecting extra ever since we heard about your little one’s concussion, Mrs. Woodpecker.

Mrs. Hedgehog: Just stay safe this winter, all of you. We’ll be waitingyou’re your answers in the Spring.

Pip: I’m fine! What’s with these people and the constant worrying?

Mrs. Woodpecker: We will, you do the same.

Mrs. Rabbit I hope that we can all at least stay friends.

Mr. Hedgehog: We will, I believe it.

Mrs. Hedgehog: Our families have been good friends for years, and I don’t think anything could separate our children from being the best of friends. *To Henrietta* Now go say bye to your friends.

Henrietta: Bye, Pip. Bye, Romina. You guys are some of the best friends I have ever had. I hope I’ll see you again soon… *Starts to tear up*

Pip Woodpecker: Oh, stop that. We are best friends and no one can ever break that up.

Romina Rabbit: Not even some dumb owls. Talk to you soon, Henrietta! *They all hug.*

Mr. Hedgehog: We must be off now.

Mrs. Hedgehog: I’m glad we found you two. We will be waiting to hear from you this Spring.

Mr. Hedgehog: Please, be safe. *They bustle off, looking over his shoulder for danger.*

Mrs. Rabbit: We should probably be going too. Romina! Let’s go. I’ll talk to you soon, Mrs. Woodpecker. Stay safe, Pip! *Romina waves goodbye to pip, they exit.*

Pip Woodpecker:Mom, where will we go?

Mrs. Woodpecker: I don’t know, sweetie.

Pip Woodpecker: Mom, are you scared?

Mrs. Woodpecker: Let’s go home, sweetie. Let’s go home. *Blackout.*

**Scene 14**

*Lights up on Cleo, Lily, Lyle and Kit wading through deep mud. Bugs and birds and slugs and toads also wade in the mud.*

Kit: Ew!

Kyle: Don’t talk about it.

Lyle: Just plug your nose and keep going.

Kit: This is so gross!

Cleo: Do you want to get home or not?!

Kit: I do, but do we have to go through this bog?

Kyle: It’s either the bog or through a field infested with snakes.

Kit: NO NO NO! I’ll go through the bog.

Lily: We’re halfway there!

Kit: My poor tail!

Cleo: Your tail? What about our wings!

Lily: I can’t even fly they’re so coated in mud.

Lyle: Mud is fun!

Kyle: It’s good for your skin and your face and is fun to throw! *They continue to plod on in silence.*

Kit: I’m hungry.

Cleo and Lily: Me too!

Kyle: Okay, I am as well.

Cleo: Let’s break for lunch and meet back here in an hour.

Lily: There’s a dry spot over there, and I smell rotting fruit!

Lyle: And where there’s rotting fruit…

Kyle: …there’s mushrooms!

Kyle and Lyle: My favorite!

Kit: Mushrooms? You’re frogs.

Lyle: We’re vegetarian, remember?

Kit: Oh, right.

Kyle: How rude, forgetting that we’re vegetarians. *He, Lyle, Cleo, and Lily hop away. Kit wades to the dry spot.*

Kit: Hello? Does anyone know where I could find some acorns to eat? *Two mosquitos fly past. They carry a cake.*

Dave: Come on, Charlene!

Charlene: I said give me a minute. I haven’t seen cousin Cleo and Cousin Lily in a long time and I wanted to get them a little something, Shelli.

Dave: Charlene, you baked them a cake!

Mosquito 3: A heavy cake.

Mosquito 4: Yeah, a really heavy cake.

Dave: Why aren’t you helping?

Charlene: Because I made the cake. Did you make a cake?

Dave: No.

Mosquito 4: But it’s still heavy.

Charlene: Well, Cleo said to meet here right up ahead, so stop complaining and you can put it down in a second.

Mosquito 4: ARE WE THERE YET? *They fly offstage. Kit looks at her stomach, then follows them.*

**Scene 15**

*The Town. All the animals pack up and are finishing their hibernation stores. It is frenzied and chaotic. The Squirrels look down from their nest.*

Bip: MOOOOOOM!

Bop: MOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM

Boo: MOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM

Mother Squirrel: What?

Bip: I’m tired.

Bop: I’m hungry.

Boo: I was just following along. I don’t need anything.

Mother Squirrel: Everyone else is almost done packing. Where is Kit?!

Father Squirrel: She’ll be home soon.

Mother Squirrel: But I’m tired of waiting.

Grandma Squirrel: Everyone, back in the nest! *A shadow swoops overhead. Followed by four others. The animals scream, drop what they’re carrying and bolt offstage. All the squirrels dart back into their nest. It is dead quiet in the town. A beat. The Moose and the Flea enter. It is completely empty. There is the sound of leaves swirling around them.*

Moose: Where’d everybody go?

Flea: They must be hibernating.

Moose: But it’s November. They’ve got another couple of weeks before hibernation starts.

Flea: They’re hiding. From Stix, Acheron, Lethy, Pyriph and Kytos.

Moose: Well, that’s a mouthful. Even then, just hearing their names sends shivers down my spine.

Flea: They’re cold names for cold beasts.

Moose: So, what do we do now?

Flea: I dunno.

Moose: Uh, we could play I Spy…

Flea: I Spy?

Moose: Well, everybody else is asleep and we don’t hibernate, so we’ve got six months until they all wake up.

Flea: Okay, well, I’ll go first.

Moose: Yup.

Flea: I spy with my multi­faceted eye.

Moose: Wait wait wait. That’s not how it goes.

Flea: What do you mean? What’ do you want me to say? I SEE with my multi­faceted eye? That’s outrageous. It doesn’t even rhyme.

Moose: Well, I uh, think that it’s actually I Spy with my ​*little*​ eye. *Pause.*

Flea: ​*Furious* Little?

Moose: Yeah. That’s how it goes.

Flea: I spy with my ​*LITTLE* ​eye? What is that? Is that a flea joke? Huh? Is it? Is it because I’m small? Huh? Huh?!

Moose: No. I would never think of making a joke at your expense.

Flea: Well good. It was very offensive. My little eye...

Moose: Yeah.

Flea: I forgive you. *The Moose begins to giggle.*

Flea: What? WHAT?!

Moose: It’s just that… I’m sorry that I BUGGED you! *They both laugh. It starts slow but soon they are guffawing. It slows to another silence.*

Flea: I don’t get it. *Blackout.*

**Scene 16**

*The dry patch in the bog. Lyle and Cleo and the Mosquitos sit, eating cake. Kit comes up behind them, none of them see her.*

Charlene: You’ve had quite a couple of days.

Kyle: Don’t remind me.

Lyle: It’s been rough.

Cleo: We meet this baby squirrel and I think “well, it can’t be that hard to help her get home”

Kyle: And suddenly she’s scared of EVERYTHING!

Lily: We tried to take her to the Screech, she freaks out.

Cleo: We tried to take her across the creek, and she freaked out again!

Kyle: She said that she could swim.

Charlene: That’s like them, those squirrels. Always making mischief and then the first ones to run away when the going gets tough.

David: They’re all the same.

Cleo: We just need to get her back to her family without her crying about how scared she is… again.

Lyle: This is very good cake. Thank you, Charlene.

Charlene: You’re very welcome.

David: Well, it’s about time that we head home.

Lily: Aw, no.

Lyle: Yeah, can’t you stay for just a bit longer?

Charlene: No, David’s right. We’ve got quite a long flight and I’d hate to be out at night. I’ve heard an owl’s around here and I want to get the kids in bed before dark.

David: You two be careful, you don’t want to mess with an owl.

Charlene: Do you want us to leave some cake for your squirrel­friend?

Kyle: She’s not our squirrel­friend.

Lily: She’s our friend who happens to be a squirrel.

Cleo: Yeah, I doubt she’s found anything. She couldn’t forage her way out of an all you can eat buffet.

Lyle: And she’d probably see the food and be too afraid to go near.

Lily: I have never seen such a scaredy­squirrel. *Cleo and Lyle nod in agreement.*

Charlene: Okay, well, you two take care.

Kyle: We will!

Cleo: Tell cousin Madge that we say hi!

David: Will do.

Mosquito 4: BYEEEE FLYYYYY! *The Mosquitos begin buzz off.* Are we there yet?! *The Mosquitos exit. Kit walks up from where she’s been hiding.*

Lyle: ​*Surprised* Oh, Kit! I didn’t see you there.

Kit: Yeah, I was foraging.

Cleo: Right.

Lily: Well, we’ve got some cake for you!

Kit: ​*lying* Thanks, but I’m full.

Lyle: Are you sure?

Kyle: You look famished.

Kit: Oh yeah, I had a massive lunch. Lots of acorns and food and stuffed. Nope, I’m too full to eat another bite.

Lily: Oh, well, our Aunt made it, it’s honey flavored and has lots of sugar and other goodies in it. *Kit’s stomach growls.*

Lyle: And you’re sure you’re full?

Kit: Oh definitely. My stomach just always growls when I’m full. Doesn’t yours?

Lyle: Nope.

Cleo: Yeah, me neither.

Lily: Same here.

Kit: *Awkward pause* So, are we ready to get a move on?

Kyle: I’d say so!

Kit: Then let’s go.

Cleo: So, you really don’t want this cake?

Kit: No! Stop asking. I’m very full.

Lily: Very well. We only kept it for you.

Cleo: I guess we’ll just have to leave it for someone else. *She sets the cake on the ground.*

Lyle: We’re almost there. Just another walk through the wood and we’ll be at your front door! *Cleo leads them off. Kit is the last one on stage. She looks at the left­over cake longingly, but runs after Cleo and Lyle.*

**Scene 17**

*Everything is completely dark. We may hear the owls flutter onstage. They fly in utter silence.*

Acheron: Fly farther right, you’re bumping into my wing!

Lethy: Well, if you flapped them right…

Pyriph: Now you’re bumping into MY wing!

Kytos: You guys are the absolute worst.

Stix: Silence!

Acheron: I would be quiet, if this birdbrain would get off of my wing!

Pyriph: Yeah, birdbrain. Get off my wing!

Lethy: Fine! I’ll fly by Stix.

Stix: Stay in formation, Lethy.

Lethy: Stay in formation. Who put you in charge?

Kytos: Yeah! Who put you in charge?!

Stix: Hush. We’re getting close.

Acheron: The squirrel will probably take the fastest path, which will take her just past this tree up ahead.

Kytos: Can we land for a moment. I think I’m going to vomit.

Pyriph: Oh no… Me too….

Stix: Can’t you both hold it?

Kytos and Pyriph: No!

Stix: We’ll land here first.

Kytos: That vole is NOT sitting well with me.

Lethy: Well, maybe if you chewed your food like a civilized­

Pyriph: We’re owls! We don’t chew our food!

Lethy: I do!

Acheron: We don’t even have teeth.

Stix: Let’s just land so you can puke and we can keep going. *They land.*

Acheron: Hold on, what are we landing in…

Kytos: Is this…

Lethy: Wire?

Stix: I’m stuck.

Pyriph: Me too!

Acheron: What are we going to do now?!

Kytos: We’ll never catch that squirrel!

Lethy: What squirrel?

Stix: THE ONE WE’VE BEEN CHASING FOR THE LAST FOUR DAYS!

Lethy: Oh, I forgot.

Acheron: What even is this?

Pyriph: Rope?

Stix: It’s one of those things that humans fly on windy days.

Lethy: Oh, what’re they called? Bites?

Kytos: Mites?

Acheron: Lights?

Pyriph: Tights?

Stix: Kites.

Lethy: Oh yeah!

Acheron: So… how do we get out of here.

Stix: I don’t know. Just wait for morning. We’ll be able to get a better view in the day.

Acheron: Wait until morning?! How did we even get in to this mess.

Pyriph: We wouldn’t have even landed here if you didn’t tell us too. This is all Stix’s fault.

Lethy: Yeah!

Stix: Hey now, you and Kytos were the ones who needed to land in the first place to vomit! You can’t blame all of this on me.

Kytos: Hey… *All of the owls start arguing.*

Stix: Stop it, stop it! We will wait until it is light out and then we will figure this out. Okay?

Acheron: I don’t want to die! *He let’s out a blood curdling scream.*

Stix: You won’t die. I promise.

Pyriph: How do you know?

Stix: Because I’m your big brother. I’ll get us out of this.

**Scene 18**

*The Hedgehog’s Nest. Mr. and Mrs. Hedgehog sits at a table covered with a map next to the Beavers (Mrs. & Mr. Beaver) when a knock is heard.*

Mrs. Beaver: Who is it?

Mrs. Woodpecker: It’s Me, Mrs. Woodpecker.

Mrs. Rabbit: And me, Mrs. Rabbit.

Mr. Hedgehog: Oh, thank goodness you both made it safe.

Mrs. Hedgehog: Come in, come in.

Mr. Beaver: Have you decided?

Mrs. Woodpecker: Yes. We have. I­ *She is cut off by a horrific scream.*

Mrs Rabbit:What was that?

Mr. Hedgehog: I don’t know.

Mrs. Beaver: I don’t know either.

Mrs. Woodpecker: Let’s go out and find it.

Mr. Beaver: No! We can’t! We have to stay indoors.

Mrs. Woodpecker: My family! My family is inside in the nest.

Mrs. Rabbit: And Romina just left the burrow to get some more supplies for the winter!

Mrs. Hedgehog: But what about your safety! You can’t go out there if there is an owl on the loose!

Mr. Hedgehog: There’s nothing you can do for them.

Mrs. Woodpecker: But­

Mrs. Rabbit: But! *They both begin to cry.*

Mrs. Hedgehog: There, there. I know it’s hard but it is what we have to do to stay alive.

Mr. Hedgehog: It’s okay.

Mr. Beaver: Everything will be all right. You just have to be patient.

Mrs. Rabbit: But my family is out there.

Mr. Hedgehog: And you are in here, and you are safe.

Mrs. Hedgehog: They have to be fine without you.

Mrs. Woodpecker: We’ve been saying that for too many years. For too long have I waited while people I loved were getting hurt because I was too scared to go out and help them. Well, no more.

Mr. Hedgehog: No more?

Mrs. Hedgehog: Please. Please! Don’t risk yourself for others.

Mrs. Rabbit: Mrs. Woodpecker is right. That’s what being a family is all about.

Mr. Hedgehog: Just tell us before you go, are you coming with when we move this Spring?

Mrs. Woodpecker: I thought I was. That’s why I came here. I was going to say that we would leave with you. But now I don’t think so. This is our home. This is my home, my husband’s home, and our daughter’s home. We cannot just pack up and leave whenever we get scared. I’m staying. I’m staying and fighting for my family. You all can run. Turn tail and hide. But I will stand up and fight if I need to. No more living in fear. No more hiding in holes. Goodbye. *Mrs. Rabbit nods in agreement. They both exit.The scream is heard again. Blackout*

**Scene 19:**

*We see the Owls, stuck in a loop of wire around their feet, sitting alone on stage. Cleo, Lily, Kit and Lyle enter.*

Lyle: And so I say to him, “That’s no fish, that’s a rhesus macaque!” *Kit, Lily, and Cleo laugh. Lyle turns and sees the owl.* SHHH! Look. *He points to the owls. Cleo gasps. Kit steps back. Acheron, sensing someone is close, let’s loose a terrible scream.*

Lily: Let’s go back. We’ll have to go all the way around, but we can’t go past the owl.

Kit: Why aren’t they chasing us?

Cleo: I don’t know, but I don’t want to find out!

Kit: No, let’s take a closer look.

Kyle: You were too scared to cross the street. And now you’re captain adventure?

Kit: It can’t hurt to take a look.

Lily: DO YOU HAVE RABIES OR SOMETHING? Owls eat us. We do not go near them.

Cleo: They are predators. We are prey.

Lyle: Don’t be foolish.

Kyle: We’ll go around.

Kit: I’m going.

Stix: Hello child.

Acheron: Who is it?

Kytos: It’s the squirrel from before.

Lethy: What squirrel?

Kit: I’m Kit. I’m the squirrel that you tried to eat.

Lethy: Oh. What happened to your poison dart frog friend?

Pyriph: ​*Exasperated.* I’m going to die with this fool.

Kit: She had to go back to Costa Rica.

Lethy: Oh, Costa Rica. How nice. Very tropical, I hear… What’s the weather like this time…

Stix: Lethy, SHUT UP. Please help us. *Kit, Cleo and Lyle step back.*

Kit: Wha­ What did you say?

Stix: Please help me. I’m stuck in this wire and can’t get away.

Kit: Very well.

Lyle: WAIT! Who’s to say that they won’t eat you as soon as you unlatch their legs?

Cleo: Who’s to say that they’re even stuck at all and that this isn’t a trap or something!?

Stix: I’m sorry for trying to eat you. It’s just what owls do. Now, please. My siblings will die without your help.

Acheron: We don’t need it.

Lethy: I’d rather die than receive help from a poison dart frog.

Acheron: FOR THE LAST TIME! SHE IS A SQUIRREL. NOT A POISON DART FROG.

Lethy: Whatever. I’d still rather sit here and starve.

Stix: Please. Help us. Help them. Please.

Kit: Okay. I’ll help.

Kyle: DON’T! You’ll get us all eaten!

Lily: I’m out of here.

Lyle: What’s gotten in to you?

Kit: Nothing. I just don’t like seeing someone hurt. I guess I’m not the *scaredy­squirrel* ​ ​that you thought I was, now am I?

Lyle: You heard.

Lily: Oh, Kit, I’m so sorry.

Kit: It’s okay, but just because I was scared doesn’t mean that I didn’t try. I got across the street, didn’t I?

Cleo: Yeah, I guess…

Kit: And so what if I can’t swim, hm? Did you know that elephants can’t jump? Did you? Just because I’m not good at swimming doesn’t mean that I’m a scaredy­squirrel.

Kyle: I’m sorry.

Kit: And now, if you’re too scared to join me, I’m going to go and help those owls.

Lyle: We’ll be back here.

Cleo: At a safe distance.

Lily: Not by the owls.

Kit: Suit yourself. *Kit begins to climb the tree to get to the owls.*

Kyle: It was nice knowing you.

Kit: Don’t you have some hiding to do? *Lyle and Cleo hide behind some ferns. Kit reaches the top of the tree and stands next to the owls.*

Stix: Thank you, little squirrel. *Kit reaches to unfasten Stix, but hesitates.*

Kit: So, you’re the owls that tried to eat me.

Pyriph: Yes.

Kit: And you’re not hungry now?

Kytos: Well, we are, but we promise not to eat you.

Lethy: We do?!

Acheron: Yes. We do.

Stix: I am indebted to your kindness.

Kit: Well, do you promise not to eat my friends?

All owls: We promise.

Acheron: We’d never waste our time eating a do­gooder.

Pyriph: Yeah, guilt gives me a nasty case of heartburn.

Kit: I’m Kit.

Stix: I am Stix. These are my brothers, Acheron, Lethy, Pyriph, and Kytos. *Kit unfastens the wire. Stix suddenly turns to her.*

Stix: I’d step back if I were you.

Kit: Why? You’re not going to eat me, are you?

Stix: Don’t be silly. I’m going to do this! *The owl spreads it’s wings, jumps, and is caught by the people dressed in black. It soars away.* Thank you! *The other owls follow suit.*

Acheron: Good luck, little squirrel.

Pyriph: Thank you!

Kytos: Thanks!

Lethy: Tell your poison dart frog friend that I say hi! *Kit climbs down. Lyle, Lily, and Cleo run out to hug her.*

Cleo: That was amazing!

Lyle: You did it!

Kit: I did! Now, let’s go home. *She exits.*

Kit: ​*From offstage* Come on, scaredy­squirrels!

Lily: Hey!

Cleo: We didn’t mean it!

Kyle: Yeah, we didn’t mean it!

Lily: Wait up! *All exit.*

**Scene 20**

*The Squirrel Nest. Krat sits, huddled in a corner with Bip, Bop and Boo, while Mother and Father pace. Grandma sits. She stares out the window. Kit bursts in.*

Kit: Mom, Dad, Grandma, I’m home!

Bip, Bop, Boo: Kit!

Father Squirrel: Where have you been?

Kit: I was in the woods. I got swept up in a storm and my friends *Cleo, Lily, Kyle and Lyle enter.* helped me along the way.

Lyle: Hi!

Kyle: Hello.

Lily: Nice to meet you.

Cleo: You’re daughter is quite a brave squirrel.

Kit: This is Lily, Cleo, Lyle and Kyle. We’ve had quite a couple days.

Krat: Where’s Kat?

Kit: What do you mean?

Kip: Where is Kat?!

Kit: Isn’t she with you?

Father Squirrel: NO! We think she left to go find you.

Krat: She’s been gone for a long time now.

Grandma Squirrel: And with the owls on the loose.

Kit: About that­

Father Squirrel: I dont’ know what we’re going to do.

Krat: We have to go and look for her.

Grandma Squirrel: Yes, we have to.

Mother Squirrel: But, the owls!

Kit: About the owls!­ *Mrs. Woodpecker comes running.*

Mrs. Woodpecker: I’m so glad that I’ve found you. We need to talk, NOW!

Father Squirrel: What do you mean?

Mrs. Woodpecker: There’s something you need to know.

Mother Squirrel: What is it?

Mrs. Woodpecker: The Owls. They have Kit. Henrietta Hedgehog saw them following her.

Kit: No they don’t, I’m right here.

Mrs. Woodpecker: KIT! You’re alive!

Grandma Squirrel: Thank goodness!

Mrs. Woodpecker: If Kit’s in here, then, what squirrel are the owls chasing?

Mother Squirrel: Oh no, Kat!

Krat: We have to go save her.

Mother Squirrel: We can’t. *Kit sneaks out; Lyle and Cleo notice her but she shakes her head at them.*

Father Squirrel: But our daughter!

Mother Squirrel: What about the owls!?

Grandma Squirrel: Well, what about them? They have Kat, we’re never seeing her again. Who knows, she may have escaped.

Mrs. Woodpecker: You guys must at least try something.

Father Squirrel: I don’t know. We’ll wait on it. Maybe something will come to us.

Kip: Hang on, where’s Kit?

Cleo: About that…

Kyle: She went outside.

Lyle: I think you’ll be surprised with just how much your little scaredy­squirrel has changed.

Krat: We have to go and find her.

Mrs. Woodpecker: Brave girl. *They all run out.*

**Scene 21**

*The Clearing. Kat enters, calling Kit’s name. Stix, Acheron and Lethy perch nearby.*

Kat: Kit? *A pause while she listens.* Kit? Kit? Kit?

Stix: Poor child.

Kat: What was that? Who’s there??

Acheron: Have you lost someone?

Lethy: I lost my foot once. It was horrible.

Kat: Oh, where was it?

Lethy: Right next to my other one!

Pyriph: Child, what brings you this far from your tree?

Kat: My sister, Kit, is missing.

Kytos: That is too bad.

Kat: I better be going.

Stix: Oh, we don’t think so.

Acheron: We’ve got a plan for you.

All owls: Lunch. *The owls descend on Kat. Henrietta Hedgehog, Pip Woodpecker, and Romina Rabbit run on.*

Henrietta Hedgehog: Stop!

Stix: You insolent fools. You have no right to interrupt our meal.

Henrietta Hedgehog: But you can’t eat her! I’m going to stop you.

Pyriph: You?

Kytos: You’re like two inches tall!

Stix: What are you going to do?

Lethy: Three little baby animals. Ooh, I am sooo scared.

Henrietta Hedgehog: I’m a Hedgehog, and I’m going to stop you.

Stix: Ha. I’d like to see you try.

Romina Rabbit: *Lying through his teeth.* Well, just so you know, there is a whole crowd of animals waiting in the brush. If you so much as lay a tooth on that squirrel, well… uh.. prepare for trouble. *Stix laughs.*

Kytos: You know, when we caught this little morsel, we were happy to have a meal.

Acheron: Little did we know, we were getting dinner and a show!

Pip Woodpecker: Well, you asked for it!

Pyriph: I still can’t believe that you think you can stop us.

Henrietta Hedgehog: We can! We’re a lot tougher than we look.

Stix: Ha! Don’t make me laugh.

Henrietta Hedgehog: ​*Her courage is fading.* I have friends nearby. They’ll stop you.

Stix: Ha, you and what army?

Krat and Kip: This army.

Pip Woodpecker: Kat is our friend.

Henrietta Hedgehog: Yeah, even though her and her siblings can be pests someti—

Kip and Krat: Hey!

Romina Rabbit: She’s still our friend.

Kat: Yeah!

Pyriph: Well well well.

Kytos: You do seem to have quite a nice little army here.

Lethy: An army of chickens.

Acheron: Chickens?

Lethy: Dangit. I think I meant children.

Acheron: Sound it out.

Lethy: An army of Children. Yeah, that’s what I meant.

Stix: After my siblings finish bickering, I think that we will eat all of you children.

Mr. Beaver: Not all children.

Mrs. Beaver: No, not all children.

Mr. Hedgehog: You can’t bully us any more.

Mrs. Rabbit: We won’t let you do it.

Stix: I’d like to see you try. *The Squirrel family, Lyle, Cleo and Mrs. Woodpecker rush on.*

Mrs. Beaver: Mrs. Woodpecker!

Mrs. Woodpecker: Mrs. Beaver! I’m surprised to see you here. I thought you were hibernating. Same with you, Mr. Beaver, and Mr. Hedgehog. What changed?

Mrs. Hedgehog: What Mrs. Woodpecker said back in our nest really hit home.

Mr. Hedgehog: We realized that we couldn’t hide from our problems.

Mr. Beaver Even if they were big and scary.

Stix: And standing right in front of you.

Mrs. Beaver: Oh.

Stix: Well, isn’t this just a delightful all­you­can­eat buffet?

Grandma Squirrel: Stand down, Stix. Let the little squirrel go. *Stix laughs again.*

Stix:I still don’t think you understand.

Lethy: We are the apex predators.

Acheron: We win.

Pyriph: No matter how many times you all band together to sing khumbaya or anything.

Kytos: We still get to eat whoever I want.

Kit: No you don’t.

Kat: KIT!

Stix: ​*Pained* Hello again, little one. What can I do for you?

Kit: You can set my sister down, for a start.

Stix: Oh my, I am so sorry. I did not know.

Lethy: Yes we did. We asked her who she was looking for, and she said her sister, Kit.

Stix: SILENCE!

Kit: Remember our deal, Owls? You owe me. And I’m calling in a favor.

Stix: What is that? I don’t think I quite heard you.

Kit: The rules of debt are strong in the woods. If you want to keep any shred of honor, you must listen now and do as I say.

Stix: I understand the laws. I am indebted to you. Stop rubbing it in.

Kit: Stix, you are never to eat another creature again.

Lethy: What about us?

Acheron, Pyriph, and Kytos: SHH!

Kit: None of you, either.

Stix: Silly child, that’s not how being a carnivore works. You don’t get it. I have to eat meat, or I’ll die.

Lyle and Kyle No, you don’t!

Pyriph: Who are you?

Lyle: Lyle P. Hoppington

Kyle: and Kyle T. Hoppington

Kyle and Lyle: Vegetarian frogs, At your service.

Kytos: A vegetarian frog?

Stix: I’m intrigued. Continue.

Kit: Come on, Kat.

Lyle: Walk this way, Mr. Stix, as well as your fine siblings, sirs, and may I introduce you to my friends Cleo and Lily.

Cleo and Lily: How do you do?

Lethy: Charmed.

Kyle: Have you ever heard of soy? *They wander off, continuing to discuss the joys of soy jovially.*

Kat: Kit!

Kit: Kat!

Kat: Krat! Kip!

Father Squirrel: My family, we’re all back together again.

Mother Squirrel: You just stood up to… to…

Kit: The owls? Yeah. He’s actually not a bad guy.

Mother Squirrel: But, he eats meat!

Kit: *Ate*​. And, while that may be true, just because he’s a predator doesn’t mean they don’t get to live and survive. They did what they had to.

Mrs. Hedgehog: Well, I am glad that you are safe.

Mr. Hedgehog: I’m glad that you’re alive.

Mrs. Woodpecker: Me too. About the whole plan to move away.

Mrs. Beaver: Well, I guess that it’s a little irrelevant now.

Mrs. Woodpecker: Yeah, I guess so. The whole gang’s back together! *Moose and Flea enter.*

Moose: Where’d everybody come from?

Flea: Why is everyone awake? Is it Spring already? I’m so confused!

Kytos: And so you can eat tofu and get meat­nutrients?

Lyle: Yeah! It’s great!

Stix: Well, thank you for sharing with me.

Pyriph: We must now go and find this… tofu.

Stix: You’ve saved me twice now. I shall not soon forget.

Kyle: Don’t mention it, ol’ buddy ol’ pal!

Stix: Well all, I can’t say how sorry I am that I have been such a terror for all of these years. We all really could have been friends.

Grandma Squirrel: It is… okay.

Stix: Well, we must be leaving!

All (except the owls): NO!

Stix: We must, I’m sorry that you’re sad that we have to go but­

Mrs. Beaver: That’s not it, it’s ­

*The rest is drowned out. The Leaves burst on and begin to sing again. Black out.*

*End of show.*