

OH, MY LITTLE SQUIRREL
"LITTLE SQUIRREL'S TRAVELS"

Written by

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Based on

Oh, My Little Squirrel book series

Address
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EXT. FOREST - DAY

The sun is shining bright in the sky as all the SQUIRREL CHILDREN are outside playing. LITTLE SQUIRREL is playing catch with his best friends, SAM and JOE.

Little Squirrel runs deep and waves his arms in the air.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
I'm open! I'm open!

Joe launches the ball towards Little Squirrel. It WHIZZES over him and goes deep into the trees behind him.

Sam turns to Joe with a look that says "Really!?"

JOE
What? He said he was open...

LITTLE SQUIRREL
It's okay! I'll get it!

Little Squirrel runs into the trees, after the ball.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

Little Squirrel pulls back the brush to find a riverbank. His eyes widen with shock as he notices a campsite is set up. A campsite for HUMANS!

One of the humans, a little boy named CHARLIE, spots Little Squirrel looking at him.

CHARLIE
Aw. Hey there, little fella. Are you lost?

Little Squirrel eyes the boy, hesitant to get closer.

CHARLIE
It's okay, I won't hurt you. Here.

Charlie picks up an acorn that was lying on the ground.

CHARLIE
Are you hungry, little guy?

Little Squirrel's tummy RUMBLES. He was.

CHARLIE
Here you go!

Charlie tosses the acorn towards Little Squirrel. Little Squirrel slowly approaches the nut, grabs it, then quickly runs away, climbing up a nearby tree.

Charlie giggles.

CHARLIE

You're a fast little guy. Have another!

Once again, Charlie tosses an acorn and Little Squirrel grabs it, running back up the tree. This time, Little Squirrel laughs too. What a fun game!

Their eyes meet, a silent sort of bond is beginning to form.

FADE TO:

INT. LITTLE SQUIRREL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Little Squirrel rambles on to MOMMA while she takes inventory of a pile of nuts.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

-And he would throw the nut to me,
and I'd run really, really fast!
Then he'd laugh, and I'd laugh, so
then we'd both be laughing, and-

MOMMA

That's nice, Little Squirrel.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

I'm gonna go back there tomorrow,
and then the next day, and the next
day, and the day after that -

MOMMA

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Slow down, little
mister. I hate to be the bearer of
bad news, but it's almost time for
winter. I'm not sure that little
boy will be by the riverbank for
very long.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

What do you mean, Momma?

MOMMA

It's going to get cold soon.
Humans, just like us, don't like to
be outside in the cold. Especially
once the snow begins to fall.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

That's okay! I can play out in the snow!

MOMMA

Oh, I don't think so. We need your help at home. We have to start burying nuts before the weather turns.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

But, Momma-

MOMMA

No buts. Now you better get some rest. Tomorrow we start foraging early. You understand?

Little Squirrel hangs his head sadly.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

Yes, Momma.

MOMMA

Alright. I love you.

He sighs as he mopes off to his room.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

Love you too...

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Momma Squirrel leads Little Squirrel and his SIBLINGS outside.

MOMMA

Listen up, everyone! Stick together! And be back by sundown. If we work fast we'll have enough nuts to last us all throughout winter!

His siblings nod as they head off in various directions. Momma stops Little Squirrel.

MOMMA

And remember. No goofing around, okay?

LITTLE SQUIRREL

Yes, Momma. I promise.

MOMMA

Good boy.

She gives him a hug and scurries away. Little Squirrel waits until she's out of sight, then rubs his paws together mischievously.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

What she doesn't know won't hurt her, right?

He giggles and runs off.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

Little Squirrel bursts through the bush, excitedly.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

I'm back! Ready to-Huh?

He notices that Charlie and his DAD are packing up their camper.

DAD

Alright, that about does it. We should have just enough room for the tent in the morning. Speaking of...

He checks his watch.

DAD

Let's start dinner and getting ready for bed a little early. I wanna be on the road by 5 a.m.

CHARLIE

Okay, Dad!

Little Squirrel covers his mouth with shock.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

Leave!? He's going away!?

Suddenly, he hears Momma clearing her throat behind him. He gulps.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

Uh-oh.

MOMMA

Uh-oh is right, mister.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
I-I can explain!

MOMMA
Great, you can do that while you're
helping us forage. Let's go!

She grabs Little Squirrel by the paw and leads him away. His eyes begin to water as the distance between him and Charlie grows.

INT. LITTLE SQUIRREL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Little Squirrel paces around his room, frustrated.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
(to self)
Grounded! All I did was lie, sneak
out, and not help forage! How does
that deserve a grounding!?

He pauses.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
Okay, it does sound bad when I say
it aloud, but still! I don't want
to spend all fall foraging, I want
to play. I bet humans don't have to
go around burying stupid nuts.

Suddenly, he pauses. He gets an idea.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
Wait a minute, that's it! Humans
don't! So why should I? Aw, it's no
use.

He sits on his bed, defeated.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
Charlie will be gone tomorrow and
I'll be stuck here.
Unless...Unless, I can go with him!

Little Squirrel looks to his open window and out into the night sky, pondering.

FADE TO:

INT. LITTLE SQUIRREL'S BEDROOM - DAY

The next morning. Momma opens the door to his room and makes her way towards his bed.

MOMMA

Good morning, Little Squirrel. I know yesterday was tough, so how about we start today right with a nice breakfast-

She pulls away the bedding to find Little Squirrel isn't there! She begins to panic.

MOMMA

Little Squirrel? Little Squirrel!?
Little Squirrel, where are you!?

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Charlie's family camper is cruising down the road. Little Squirrel's head pops up in the back window, watching his old life disappear before him.

INT. CAMPER TRUNK - DAY

Little Squirrel stretches out his legs and relaxes.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

Ah! This is more like it. No foraging, no chores, just me and some adventure-OOF!

The camper hits a pothole. The force causes Little Squirrel to fly into the air, then land back down with a THUD!

BEGIN MONTAGE:

- Little Squirrel holds on for dear life as the camper drives over bumpy roads.
- Little Squirrel grabs onto his stomach with hunger as he watches Charlie and his family snack on chips, cookies, and other road trip foods.
- Little Squirrel shivers at night, trying to sleep without a blanket or anything to cover himself up with.

- Little Squirrel covers his ears while Charlie's family loudly blasts the radio.

END MONTAGE

INT. CAMPER TRUNK - DAY

Little Squirrel, fast asleep, is awoken when the camper comes to a sudden halt.

He rubs his eyes.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
Please let this be it. I don't know
how much more I can take!

DAD (O.S.)
Alright, gang! Time to unpack!

LITTLE SQUIRREL
Oh, good! Finally! I just know
it'll all be worth it when-

CHARLIE'S MOM pops open the trunk and SCREAMS when she sees Little Squirrel!

CHARLIE'S MOM
A rat! There's a rat! Dale, call
animal control!

Charlie comes to his mom's aid and smiles when he sees Little Squirrel.

CHARLIE
That's not a rat! That's a
squirrel.

He eyes Little Squirrel for a beat.

CHARLIE
Hey, wait a minute. I know you.
Come here, little guy.

He takes Little Squirrel into his hands. He tickles his cheek.

CHARLIE
Aww, you must be starving.

EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Charlie takes Little Squirrel out of the trunk.

Little Squirrel's eyes nearly pop out of his head when he sees his surroundings. It's nothing but sand! No trees, no grass, no river!

CHARLIE

Dad! I think this squirrel followed us home.

Charlie's Dad walks over to him.

DAD

Maybe you should put him down, son.
Let him get his bearings.

Charlie does just that.

The sand burns Little Squirrel's paws. He jumps around in pain.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

Ah! Hot, hot, hot!

He climbs back up into Charlie's arms.

CHARLIE

He doesn't want to be put down. He wants me.

Charlie's Dad sighs.

DAD

Alright, let's take him in. We'll figure something out.

CHARLIE

Don't you worry, little buddy.
We'll take care of you. I promise.

INT. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Charlie places a pan of water and some nuts down for Little Squirrel. Little Squirrel begins eating and drinking ferociously.

CHARLIE

You must've been hungry, huh? Aw, poor thing. This is no place for a squirrel like you. You need to be back home! I bet you miss the trees, and the acorns, and you're family!

Little Squirrel sadly looks away at the mention of family, waves of regret and embarrassment washing over him.

CHARLIE

I know I'd miss my family if I got separated from them. But everything's going to be okay! I talked to my parents and they said we can head back up to camp after Thanksgiving!

Little Squirrel looks up at Charlie, hopeful.

CHARLIE

So that's only like...four more months!

Little Squirrel's face drops. Four months!? He looks out the window at the hot beach. How is he going to survive four months?

FADE TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

SUPER: SEPTEMBER

Little Squirrel excitedly bounces on Charlie's bed, wanting to play with him. Charlie shakes his head and tosses on his backpack.

CHARLIE

I can't play today, little friend. I have to go to school! I'm sorry.

Charlie exits. Little Squirrel sighs.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

I miss my school...

FADE TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

SUPER: OCTOBER

Little Squirrel runs around Charlie's room, bored out of his mind.

CHARLIE (O.S.)

No playtime today, boy. It's Halloween!

Charlie pops out of his closet wearing a scary mask! Little Squirrel YELPS and hides under Charlie's bed.

CHARLIE
I'll see you tonight.

Charlie leaves.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
Halloween? Humans are so weird...

FADE TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S DINING ROOM - DAY

Charlie and his EXTENDED FAMILY sit down for Thanksgiving dinner. Little Squirrel salivates over all the food options!

Charlie scoops some gross casserole onto a little plate and hands it over to Little Squirrel.

CHARLIE
Eat up, buddy! Happy Thanksgiving.

Little Squirrel sniffs the casserole and gags. It's disgusting.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
No nuts? It's not a holiday without nuts...

FADE TO:

INT. CAMPER - DAY

Little Squirrel is sound asleep, nuzzled against Charlie. It isn't until the camper drives over one of those dreaded potholes that Little Squirrel is shaken awake.

He looks out the camper window, trees! They're back to the forest! But this time, everything is covered in snow.

EXT. CAMPSITE PARKING LOT - DAY

The camper pulls into a parking spot.

INT. CAMPER - DAY

Charlie's Dad looks back at him and Little Squirrel.

DAD
 Alright, buddy. It's time. Want me
 to come with you?

Charlie looks at Little Squirrel, tears slowly beginning to
 form in his eyes.

CHARLIE
 Is it okay if we say our goodbyes
 alone?

DAD
 Of course.

EXT. CAMPSITE PARKING LOT - DAY

Charlie, holding Little Squirrel, gets out of the camper.

CHARLIE
 I guess this is it. I'm really
 gonna miss you, y'know? But the
 beach wasn't your home. This is
 where you belong.

Little Squirrel hops out of Charlie's hands and runs towards
 the edge of the forest.

He pauses just before the trees and slowly turns back towards
 Charlie.

He runs to Charlie and gives him one last hug.

CHARLIE
 Aw. Alright, I think you've gotta
 go find your family, little guy.
 It's time. Goodbye!

With that, Little Squirrel climbs down from Charlie and heads
 off into the woods.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Little Squirrel trudges through the snow, calling out for
 Momma.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
 Momma! Momma, I'm back! I'm sorry!
 Momma!

He finds his way to their old tree, and breathes a sigh of
 relief.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
Finally, finally, finally! I'm
home! Yes! Momma, I'm coming!

He looks up. Their house is gone.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
W-What? No...no, no, no!

Little Squirrel begins to cry.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
No! Momma! I'm so sorry! What have
I done?

He begins to sob, burying his face into his paws.

MOMMA (O.S.)
Little Squirrel?

His head pops back up. Can it be?

MOMMA
Little Squirrel!

It is! Momma runs towards him!

MOMMA
My baby! You're home!

She wraps Little Squirrel into a tight hug.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
Oh, Momma, I'm so sorry. I'll never
disobey you again.

MOMMA
It's alright. I'm just so glad
you're safe. We've been looking for
you for months!

LITTLE SQUIRREL
It was terrible! I made a horrible
mistake and ran off with the
humans. There were no trees, just
this stuff called sand, and it was
so hot!

Momma runs a calming paw over Little Squirrel's head.

MOMMA
Shh, shh. It's okay. Let's get you
home before the snow makes you
sick.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
Home? There is no home! What
happened?

MOMMA
Oh, Little Squirrel. There was a
terrible storm. The winds knocked
our house straight out of the tree.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
Is everybody-

MOMMA
We're all okay, I promise. We built
a new house...but it hasn't really
felt like a home.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
Why?

MOMMA
Because you haven't been in it.
Now, come on. Let's get you back to
your brothers and sisters!

Momma leads Little Squirrel away, happy to be reunited at
last.

INT. LITTLE SQUIRREL'S DINING ROOM - DAY

It's Christmas. Little Squirrel's new home is decorated with
stockings, a pinecone Christmas 'tree', and everyone is
wearing cozy sweaters.

Little Squirrel and his siblings run around, playing.

Momma steps out from the kitchen.

MOMMA
Alright, everyone! Take your seats,
it's almost time for Christmas
dinner.

Little Squirrel and his siblings all gather around the table.

Momma comes out from the kitchen and puts a plate of nuts in
front of each child...except Little Squirrel.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
W-Where are my nuts?

MOMMA

Why, these are the nuts everyone gathered in the fall, Little Squirrel. Don't you remember?

LITTLE SQUIRREL

Oh. Oh yeah.

Little Squirrel looks down, sad.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

I guess this is what I deserve, huh? Instead of helping all I wanted to do was play.

His eyes begin to well up with tears.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

I didn't realize how selfish I was being.

Little Squirrel begins to cry.

Momma puts a comforting paw on his shoulder.

MOMMA

Now, now, Little Squirrel. There's no need for tears.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

Sure there is! I don't get Christmas dinner.

MOMMA

Who said that? You wait just one minute.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

Huh?

Momma heads back into the kitchen for a beat.

She comes back out with another plate of nuts. She places it in front of Little Squirrel.

The inscription on the plate reads: Merry Christmas My Sweet Little Squirrel.

LITTLE SQUIRREL

I don't get it?

MOMMA

It's for you.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
F-For me? But I didn't help forage
any nuts!

MOMMA
Maybe so...but they did.

She motions towards his siblings, each one smiling at Little Squirrel.

MOMMA
They all put in some of the nuts
they foraged so you wouldn't be
left out this Christmas.

LITTLE SQUIRREL
Really? Oh, thank you! Thank you
all so much!

MOMMA
We all missed you, Little Squirrel.
We're just glad to have you back.
And after all isn't being together
what the holidays are all about?

LITTLE SQUIRREL
I'm glad to be back. There's no
place I'd rather be than with all
of you.

Momma smiles.

MOMMA
Alright, enough chatter. Dig in,
everyone!

All the squirrel children begin to feast upon their nuts
while Momma watches on with pride.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Snow begins to fall as CHEERY HOLIDAY MUSIC plays as things
are finally back to normal for Little Squirrel and his
family.

A beat as the camera stays on their newly built house and
we...

FADE TO BLACK.