

RED & GINGER

-a squirrel's tale

**(a.k.a. Free-running Red and the Ginger
ninja)**

by Barry Martin

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Film's opening sequence

- Planet Earth viewed from space-continents visible
 - zoom into Europe
 - zoom into United Kingdom

'Grey' Britain coloured in light grey; Scotland and tiny island off south coast of England in light 'red squirrel' red.

London marked on map and pic. of Stonehenge in its correct position.

- zoom into South coast and island-in lighter grey and lighter red respectively.
- zoom into aerial view of island with lagoon, pier, forests, fields and castle details .-in normal colours.

The words 'Brownsea Island' appear.

searching scene

*whole screen- a blur of peacock blue peacock's tail
plus eyes*

*whole screen focuses into blue and eyes of tail
-you can now see what they are*

*Pea the Peacock's head now comes into view- up from below
screen, looking from side to side- everything is now clear to whole
audience as to what they are seeing*

*In the background a red squirrel is free-running his way stealthily
and silently to get behind Pea.*

*Suddenly, Red's head appears through tail-parted like jungle
explorer parting undergrowth with both hands*

RED
Hiya, Pea !

PEA
(very startled)

Wah !!

(looks over shoulder > relieved)

Red !..I wish you'd stop doing that ! You little imp !
Anyway, found anything yet?

RED
Nagh ! Still looking .

PEA smiling, nodding back to tail
I've been keeping my 'eyes ' peeled too.

RED *nodding*
Good one, Pea.

--

*Doe the Deer drinks from a pool elsewhere on the island.
Ginger appears on the scene, obviously searching for something or
somebody.*

DOE
Still searching , Ginger?

GINGER
Yeh , Doe. We've split up the island into sections to make sure we
search everywhere.

*Ginger and Red seen searching high and low in various locations-
nests ,dreys, hollow tree trunk.Red gets chased off comically by an
angry ,disturbed woodpecker(taps him on head with beak).Red
does free-running moves to avoid more attacks until woodpecker
flies off.*

RED
Alright! Alright ! ' Pecky'. Take a chill pill ! Put up a 'Do not
Disturb' sign next time !*(rubbing top of head)*
What a grouch! Must have got out the nest the wrong side!

*Ginger is chased comically by some bees that she disturbs. She
does martial arts moves to protect herself against the swarm which
morphs into various poses – fist, arrow, martial-art-posed leg.*

GINGER
OK, you guys. Buzz off !*(waving her arms)*I get the message !

*Ki the kingfisher blur-zooms past Red's head like a blue Concorde
at top speed-a blue blur with traces of red*

RED

(half laughing)

Ki, you crazy kingfisher ! Slow down ! You'll wear yourself out !

Ki comes to a halt in a millisecond by Red's face ,then hovers

KI

No luck over there, Red.

Ginger bounds impressively into view, straightens out her hair\tail like a fashion-conscious teenage girl and hands on hips ,declares

GINGER

Not one. Not even a sniff of one.*(shrugs shoulders)*What about you ?

RED

Nothing. Ki and I have drawn a complete blank too....
Well, that's it then. It's obvious that you and me, twin sister dear,
Tries to put his arm round his sister and rub the top of her head with his knuckles.she shoves him away.
are the last red squirrels on the whole of Brownsea Island. That last very cold winter and the food shortage must have wiped all the others out.*(Pensive. holding chin.)*Right. I'm calling a meeting at the lily pond. Pass the word .We've got to sort out what we're going to do, sis..

GINGER

OK. For once bro'. I think you're right.

They all disperse a bit dispiritedly

lily-pond meeting

Sika deer, rabbits, hares, peacocks, peahens, lizards, frogs, toads, a cormorant, Red, Ginger and Ki are by the lily pond. Emperor dragonflies whizz about busily on its surface.

RED

(jumping on to a bench and rearing up on to his back legs)

So, here it is in a nut-shell. Sorry about that ! This is serious ! We've been up and down the island. We've searched every nest, every tree trunk, every drey... .. of all the reds that once used to be here..there 's none left except Ginger and me.
I remember when...

flashback scene

his mum, other families, Ginger and him when younger all playing together on a picnic

RED

Hey , Ma.. ! Look at me!

(Red clambers swiftly up a tree. He expertly and very quickly monkey walks some parallel branches and swings a loop the loop off the last one and lands perfectly like the world's best male gymnast/ free-runner

Not bad, eh ?..and I'm working on some even tougher tricks. You just watch me go !

(flipping a standing front somersault then forward-rolling on his shoulder to a metre in front of his mum)

RED'S MUM

You just be careful ,young man.One of these days..you know what they say about 'pride coming before a fall'.

RED

OK, Mum. I'll be careful.

(He spots some young female squirrels tittering together ,obviously impressed by his antics.

RED

Stop it girls. You'll make me go red.

GINGER

You've always been red, stupid !

RED

Oh yeh.

GINGER

Right who's next?

(scrawny boy squirrels lie around in a heap nearby as she judo throws another opponent to the ground and kick-boxes down one creeping up on her from behind.

One lands in a comical heap ,saying

Wow, she's really something !

before his eyes close ,knocked out.

GINGER

What about you, monkey boy?*(turning to Red and mimicking his aerial antics and perfect landing)*

RED

Any time ,little sis.*(beating his chest like a WWF type gorilla)*

GINGER

Hey, less of the 'little' .I was born a few minutes before you. So a bit of respect for your elders, if you please!

RED

We'll see who's top dog *.stops and looks at his fur.* Top dog?Whatever !OK let's do some smack-down squirrel.
(They start to square up to each other in a half-serious fashion, pushing and grabbing each other a bit, Red free-running/ Ginger-a combination of martial art moves – Ju-kar-do)

coming out of flashback

GINGER

I gave you such a lesson in martial arts that day *(does some moves ,ending with standing over imaginary defeated adversary in about to administer last rites position)*
My Ju-kar-do reigned supreme.

RED

In your dreams ,Angelina !I won fair and square ,if I recall.

GINGER

The only thing square that day was your head after I'd reshaped it!

RED

Oh yeh!

KI

OK, you two. Time out! *makes a 'T' with his wing ends like a sports coach.*
Now Red , you were saying.

RED

Girls, eh?!

(glares a bit at Ginger and then looks away)

So, anybody got any suggestions as to what we do now?

(pensive pause)

KI

If you're going to survive there's only one thing for it. You've both got to leave Brownsea and (*in comedy Scottish accent*)scoot off up to Scotland. There are still plenty of reds up there in Haggis country.

does a little Highland fling dance over some imaginary swords

RED

Yeh. That's easier said than done, my fine, feathered friend. But that means travelling the length of Grey Britain to get up to see our Caledonian cousins and that's one long, dangerous journey. Those grey squirrels are bigger than us and there's tens of thousands of them. Look at this.

(rolls out a picture of grey squirrel(Power))

Look at the size of that one there, for example !

Who's been eating all the pies!?(*taps slightly paunchy belly area. picture comes alive and Power blows a big raspberry in their faces. Red lets scroll close up quickly .Stunned look on his face.*)

GINGER

If we work together, bro., we can do anything and if we meet that leader of theirs, Bushy, he'd better watch out !

No-one messes with the Ginger Ninja!

(she flicks up end of grey wooden bench with foot and then flattens it, into the soft earth ,no legs now showing, with a flying reverse360 kung fu kick.Sporadic applause at this action.

cries of 'Ginger!, Ginger !' in the style of 'Gerry !,Gerry !' on tv show

RED

steady, sis..

OK. But, this is going to take some planning.*(Rolls out map of Grey Britain in grey and Brownsea and Scotland in red with same features as on map at beginning of film).*

KI

First, you'd have to get to the mainland.*(indicates area on map with tip of wing)*That's two or three miles and then keep walking due North until you reach the safety of the Scottish border.

RED

Walk ! All that way ! Forget that ! We could maybe get a ride though on one of those human mechanical car contraptions .

GINGER

Hold it. Pause and rewind, little brother. First things ,first. How do we get off the island for starters ?Fly ?*(does an impression of a flightless bird)*I don't think so, Red*(a la Al B.)*.By balloon ? *(vision of Red and Ginger up in air underneath a small blimp .A bird flies into balloon and pops it.All fall. terrified faces Aagh !!-end of vision)*I don't think so.Swim? I don't do swimming. Do you see any gills on me. I'm a Gemini *(nodding at Red)* not a Pisces! And there's the tides and currents too. It'd be just too dangerous. There's also all that salt water. It'd absolutely ruin my fur.*(fluffs up her magnificent ,shiny coat and impeccably groomed tail-pings it - it twangs into stiff ,bushy glory)*
Now if we had a boat. That'd be different.

RED *(after short pause-clicks fingers and light goes on above his head)*

That gives me an idea ! Ki. Ging.*(pronounced Jinj.)*Collect together some food and meet me at the old castle tomorrow as the sun is going down.

Ki and Ginger exchange confused looks, shrug shoulders

KI &GINGER

OK*(unconvinced,but willing to give Red's idea a go)*