

*short pause*

KI

Hey !*waving end of wing on top of head*  
I've had a brain-wave.Leave it to me.

GINGER

What's he up to,Sky?

SKY

*shrugging her shoulders\wings and showing palms\wing tips*  
No idea.

*They watch Ki fly out and hover over the water.Lots of bubbles appear near surface.After a short while,Ki flies back to bank.*

KI

Sorted !I've had a little word with my fishy friends and they say they'll help you get across.They don't want me bringing back a kingfisher fishing party here one day ! Tie some longish branches to your feet and make some loops in that ivy twine.Throw them into the water and the fish will put their noses in them and give you a tow across.Ever tried squirrel skiing ,you two ?

RED

No.But it sounds fun.Let's get it on !

*R & G quickly collect the necessary materials with Ki & Sky helping-double speed with silent film-type piano playing.*

*Then film returns to normal speed.*

*R & G crouch on the bank ready to go,gripping their ivy ropes tightly. Ki hovers over fish in river.*

RED

*to Ki*

Are your piscine pals ready ?

KI  
Who ? Oh,the fish .

*Ki looks down at surface,then makes circle of 'everything just great' sign with feather fingers-like divers use.*

Right.On a count of 3,we'll hit the water.

*Ginger shoots him a glance of terror*  
Well,you know what I mean .Right 1.  
*Ginger joins in with count*  
2-3 !

*The ivy jerks taut and R & G are yanked on to the water,both struggling comically to stay upright.*

Woh ! Argh !

GINGER  
I must have been mad to agree to this !

RED  
*confidence growing*  
Oh,shush,sis.Hey look at this.  
*goes airborne and hops quite confidently over wake made by fish-does a twinkley smile at camera*  
***sings 'I'm riding along on the crest of a wave!'***

*Not to be out-done by her brother,G does a one-footed move balletically.*

GINGER  
Beat that,then.If you can.

*R & G try to out-do each other,trying more and more daring tricks-one handed,180 spins\360s.R- free-running style, G- ju-kar-do poses and moves*

*They 'dis.' each other's efforts after each trick.*

That was easy. That was nothing. Watch *this* ! *This* is a real hum-dinger. Just watch and learn.

KI

Ginger ! Watch out! Dead ahead.

*An over-confident Ginger looks straight ahead and sees a pile of logs\floating debris in her path with no time to duck out the way.*

GINGER

Oh.Oh !

*Ki & Sky very swiftly fly out to her.G. cowers waiting for the impact.R. screws his face up .G.tries to pull back on ivy,but to no avail-looks like water-skier about to jump.Just as she is about to crash,K. & S. pick her up by her shoulder skin\fur and lift her to safety with a great landing on the other side of the floating flotsam and jetsam.*

*G. becomes aware of flying;opens her eyes and looks through her claws-we see this view.By the time she lands,knees bent very professionally,she has recovered all her confidence.*

*As she lands...with a flourish.*

T'dagh ! Water about that then,little bro. ?

RED

Yeh,not bad,sis.But you did have a bit of help though !

GINGER

Come off it Red.Let's face it.You're all washed up in this contest.

*then she sees she's headed for the bank..too fast*

Oh. Oh !-the sequel !

*the ends of the branch-skis hit the mud on the opposite bank*

*and send G. head first through the air in an arc,  
Wo-oh !  
landing her head-first vertically in thick mud up to top of her  
shoulders with massive comedy squelch sound.  
After a couple of seconds, she struggles frantically to get out. But  
she is stuck fast .R. alights expertly off skis by side of mud and  
walks towards G .K. & S. land by G..*

RED

I bet you weren't 'banking' on that happening, were you. Ging. ?

*G. struggles to get out. Arms and tail waving  
furiously. Nothing. Muffled sounds of intense frustration  
No ifs, no buts (pats G. on the bum),  
you're in a bit of a sticky situation here !*

*more frantic, pointless struggling. Then suddenly G. stiffens her  
arms and tail and starts to send out a semaphore message using  
her free limbs and skis.*

KI

What the... ?

RED

Eh ?! Oh, I get it. She's sending us a message. Semaphore style. It's  
another one of those scout/guides skills that our mum and dad  
taught us. Now, let's see if I can read it.

*Letters start appearing at the bottom of the screen.*

*Red says the letters and individual words.*

G-E-T M-E O-U-T O-F H-E-R-E N-O-W R-E-D O-R  
I W-I-L-L \*#)!!#\*\* \*\*!!#>&@!!!! .pause as Red translates  
*in his mind what G is saying....*

Stop !Ginger ! Where did you learn such language ?! And is that  
physically possible !?

OK, guys. We've had our fun.

*R.,K. & S. all pull on her feet,after removing her skis.*

SKY

Poor Ginger.

*Ginger eventually exits from mud with huge comedy index-finger twanging inside of mouth sound and sits there with head and tops of shoulders covered in thick mud and just whites of eyes showing. Her head fur has gone into a perfect solid point.*

GINGER

I've tried using a mud-pack before but this is ridiculous !

*sees Red laughing uncontrollably and lobs big dollop of mud at him-we see dollop heading towards us as Red would.*

*Red ducks at last second*

RED

Ha ! Missed me.

*He wiggles from side to side like a moving target.He overbalances as one foot becomes lodged in the mud and then falls backwards on to bank,all his back and tail now black with goop and he is stuck-fast.*

SKY

Hey,you two.I don't know about Red or Ginger.I think your name is mud now !

KI

All right ! Good one,partner !

*They high-five wing each other.As they look back ,they get caught in the face with two big dollops of mud thrown by R & G.*

GINGER

You were saying.

*A no-holds barred slap-stick style mud fight ensues.All end up very muddy and sit down finally laughing at each other.*

KI

I suppose we'd better have a wash now.

RED

Oh,do we have to ?

GINGER

Judging by the state of you,I think even you couldn't say no to a good bath on this occasion.

RED

Yeh,but it's only a few days since that fish soaked me ..all over.You know... with his tail..

GINGER

Ooh,you poor thing.Two baths in a week !But remember,stinky.We've got a hairdrier each now.

*pointing at Ki & Sky*

RED

Oh yes !Water we waiting for ?

*He staggers through the mud and then dives headlong into the water.G,K & S follow and enjoy themselves getting clean. K & S flap themselves dry and do a quick preen.Then they dry off R & G(Ki does R. and Sky G.) using the hovering hair-drier effect of their wings.R enjoys draught round his bits(we see him from rear) and under arms.Ooh,that tickles !-does a Samba - style dance to it(possible Gloria Estefan\Shakira musical contribution?).G stays longer,patting,stroking, combing with claws until she looks a complete blue-eyed,bushy tailed babe of the rodent variety.*

*storm !*

*afternoon*

*Red is slightly ahead of the rest of the foursome as they go along.*

KI

I don't like the look of that.

GINGER

He can't help it.Red always looks like that !Sad isn't it ?

*Red pushes Ginger*

KI

*laughing*

No.Not that.

*serious*

That.

*Points skywards into distance*

Look at those black clouds on the horizon.I think there's a storm heading our way.A big one.

RED

I think you're right.We'd better head for some shelter as fast as our paws..claws can carry us.Here comes the rain.

*they all run\fly to tall tree nearby*

GINGER

*to Sky*

He's never liked water.It reminds him of bath-night !

RED

Wow.It's really coming down,now.

*audience get sprinkled with fine spray of water by cinema staff\ sprinklers set off by timer/film*

SKY

You're right.It is !

*all see lightning in distance*

RED

*pulls down branch like a microphone and  
in a boxing announcer type voice*

Let's get ready to rumble !

*massive thunderclap just within permitted sound levels for a  
cinema*

*surround sound pyrotechnics and occasional water squirts  
spectacular storm with torrential rain,lightning and thunder  
ensues.flashes,lightning forks and booms.*

*soggy quartet watch from up tree-use big leaves on heads to try  
and keep dry-unsuccessfully.Ginger's at one point pours off on  
to Red .He shakes himself dryish and glowers at Ginger.She  
titters.*

KI

This is better than that fireworks display we saw !

*huge lightning bolt hits the top of their tree and splits it.split and  
lightning coming straight for them*

Me and my big mouth ! Scatter everybody! Sky, fly for your  
life !

*Ki and Sky fly off,looking back anxiously*

*split\lightning head for Ginger now.*

*Ginger is paralysed with fear.*

*Red ,about to jump,sees his sister's predicament*

RED

*shouting*

Jump,sis.! Jump !



*as bolt is about to hit her and splitting tree about to split between her back feet ,Red dives and shoves Ginger out of the way.She grabs on to end of a branch of falling tree.But Red lands awkwardly and slips off,falling into thin air. There is one last bolt and thunderclap.Then, all is dark.*

*Cinema in pitch black too, momentarily.*

*Split tree burns and smoulders in background*

*A damp and dishevelled Ki,Sky and Ginger meet up on ground*

GINGER

*patting herself dry and shaking her tail*  
You,OK,you two ?

KI

Yes,thanks. Sky?

SKY

I'm fine.Wow .That was a close one !  
But how are you,Ginger ?You could have been killed up there.

GINGER

I'm OK.Except for a big bruise where that big oaf of a brother pushed me !

KI

Now,steady on .That 'big oaf',as you call him, saved you up there.

GINGER

Yeh.I just couldn't seem to move. I s'pose I owe him one. He's not so bad...in short bursts,I suppose.

*Red dead ?*

*full moon-plenty of light.storm has passed over.*

GINGER

Hey,where's Red ?Red ! C'mon Red.Where are you hiding,you  
fat,little fur ball ?Ya seen him,Ki ?

KI

No,sorry.The last I saw of him ,he was with you.Have you seen  
him,Sky?

SKY

Not a whisker or a hair.  
*She starts looking around*  
Hey,What's...who's that ?There he is !  
*sees him lying motionless by side of the lightning-struck tree*

ALL

Red !!

*they all run\fly over to him*

GINGER

C'mon ,Red. Get up.

*fearing the worst,shaking him gently.Nothing.*

Let's go,bro..Up and at 'em,eh.Let's go get us some Greys!  
*half-heartedly martial art moves some imaginary opponents*

Ki. Is he ?.. You know ? No,he can't be ! Not Red !

*turns away, crying , falls on all fours*

KI

*gravely, putting his wing round her shoulder and pulling her up  
gently*

You've got to be brave, my dear. Carry on the journey up to  
Scotland. Red would've wanted it that way.