

*Red, unbeknown to them, starts to come around comically-his eyes, pupils rotating at first, flicker open sleepily, focus and re-focus on disappearing trio-we see through his eyes. He can hear them, but they can't hear his asides, but we can.*

GINGER

He was the best brother, any sister could have. I wish I could have told him before he.....

KI

I know. Why do the good have to die so young ? So brave, so strong, such a great friend. He would do anything for you.

RED

Yeh ! Tell it how it is ! *wallowing in this ego-massage*

GINGER

There'll never be another brother like him. He was one of a kind.

RED

What a guy !

SKY

Squirrels will come from all over to this special place where Red fell to pay their tributes.

RED

Lay it on me, sister !

*pause*

*shouts*

Hey, don't stop . You were just getting into full flow. Carry on. What else do you like about me ? Apart from being the best brother ever, brave, strong.....

*counts his attributes on his fingers proudly*

*G, Sky and Ki freeze in mid-stride,. Then they turn round and realise Red is alive.*

SKY

You're alive !

*flies back and hugs him with her wings*

KI

*arriving next*

Great to have you back in the land of the living. I really thought you were a gonner there.

RED

Thanks, pal.

*seeing an irate Ginger heading his way*

Got a big hug for me, Ging. after that great eulogy? I didn't know you cared !

GINGER

I don't care ! And as for a eulogy. You'll be sorry when I get hold of you !

*she goes for Red, but Sky and Ki grab a paw each and somehow hold her off with a superhuman effort. She carries on lashing out with her feet but Red is just at a safe distance*

Why, you flea-bitten fraud ! You were alright all the time !

RED

Now, would I do that ? I could have a serious head injury.

*holding his head*

GINGER

Might finally knock some sense into you !

RED

Now,hold on a sec.sis.. I must have been knocked out by a falling branch or something.

GINGER

*calming down*

OK. I'm cool (to Ki and Sky-they let her go)  
*feigns to have a go at Red*

RED

Steady,tiger..Go easy with the wounded hero.

GINGER

You sneaky shammer ! Anything for a bit of sympathy !  
*hugs him begrudgingly but with a sort of sisterly love*  
If you ever try anything like that again, I'll tear you into squirrel squares and feed you to the crows !

RED

Message received loud and clear, big sis.

GINGER

Hey ! Less of the 'big' !

RED

You know what I mean !

GINGER

Just watch it !

*as they resume their journey.*

*Red holds hands up in mock submission.Then tries to put his arm around her shoulders.She shoves him off.He tries again with the same reaction.*

Don't push your luck, baby brother or I might just send you to bed early without your bottle.

RED

You are glad to have me back, aren't you really ?

*pause*

GINGER

S'pose so. Don't know why, though .

*motorway dash !*

*afternoon*

*the fab 4-some are walking\flying up a slight incline.They reach  
its brow.Red sees something and points.*

RED

Look gang! There's the motorway we've been lookin' for.The  
M1.That'll take us to within a few miles of Scotland...and safety!

KI

*alarmed and pointing back*

And there's some greys..and look who's leading them...Power  
!He must have looked at our map.  
Quick !Get moving.Run for it ! Red alert !Head for the  
motorway.It's our only chance.

*greys closing in,especially Power*

POWER *shouting*

I've got you this time,butt-head and minger !

GINGER

*pointing at Red*

Butt-head ! Ha !*then realising* Minger ! Hey !  
*looking back*

Not if we can help it,fat boy\you big-bellied bully !

Quick bro.,get up that tree.

RED

Got ya, sis. But what then ?

*R & G both scamper up solitary tree by side of motorway, after staring in despair at speeding traffic blocking their escape or possibly providing them with a lift*

POWER

*at bottom of tree*

Right. Gotcha. Caught like rats in a trap. Red for stop !

*he powers up the tree's main trunk, scattering twigs as he goes. this is one mad, determined grey. R & G are very alarmed. Power's hot, bad breath can be felt on their back feet. Towards the top, they edge out on to a smallish side branch- it seems they're trapped.*

POWER

*cockily steps on to same branch*

Pay back time ! Revenge will be sweet !

*beats his chest like WWF gorilla-type wrestler as he sidles towards them. Then he beckons to them.*

Come to poppa !

*The branch starts to break !*

GINGER

*looking around desperately*

Red ! Jump for it !

*she points at passing lorry in slow lane*

Ready, steady..go !! Jeronimo !!

*Red, a bit gobsmacked, is half dragged into jumping by Ginger. But he eventually manages a superhuman leap like his sister.*

*They fly through the air, as Power makes a desperate lunge at them as the branch breaks off*

POWER

Oh no you don't. C'me ere !

*Power misses by a whisker and then realises he is in mid-air a long way from the ground for a big grey*

O ! Oh !

*After hovering momentarily, he turns back in mid-air and makes a desperate grab for the main trunk. He just gets it with his front claws. His momentum then takes him down the main trunk, scraping his front all the way down nearly to the bottom. His men watch him slide through claws of paws over their faces. They wince with the sound of Power's fore-claws scraping on the sides of the tree. (finger-nails on a blackboard sound-v.loud for audience to experience.)*

*He hugs the trunk with his bottom legs. No time to get his claws in.*

*He comes to a shuddering halt on a horizontal branch between his legs near the bottom*

Oooh ! Not again !  
*in high, squeaky voice.*

GREY

Now that's got to hurt !

ANOTHER GREY

Bummer !

*R & G land on bowed canvas covering of empty, passing juggernaut -type lorry*

R & G  
*slightly winded by impact*  
Oof!

*Ki and Sky land on canvas by them. They all move to back of lorry and sit down, dangling legs over edge. Ki & Sky perch.  
R & G start an ironic wave to Power.*

RED  
Bye, Power. See ya. No actually, I'll be glad if I never see your ugly mug again.

GINGER *ironic*  
Bye. Bye!

*Ki & Sky start to wave wings*

*RED starts a chant of  
Cheerio ! Cheerio ! Cheerio ! x4  
(a football chant sung to departing opposition fans or an opposing player who's just been sent off.)  
Ginger, Ki and Sky quickly join in. Ki & Sky do so after shrugging shoulders at each other.  
R & G do a pat-a -cake type routine and then high five each other*

R & G  
Yes!!

*Power's men gather around their battered leader, stifling titters. His non-matching comedy vest and pants are in tatters at the front and his fur is rubbed off down to his reddy pink skin.*

GREY  
*pointing at red skin*  
Well. Well. Looks like we're all the same underneath.

*They help him down.He walks around on tip-toe,in obvious discomfort.*

POWER

*in squeaky voice and with eyes tight shut*

Ooh.My squirrel nutkins !

*in nearly his normal voice,but still slightly strained*

Get these twigs and branches off me NOW !

Ouch ! Ouch !Careful,you buffoon!

*shouting at and cuffing an over-zealous grey plucking out the debris in his fur*

Do that again and I'll skin you alive !

GINGER

Phew !That was a close shave !Especially for Power ! Did you see him scrape down and land either side of that tree !?Ooh-wee

!

*wincing as she remembers the scraping off of Power's fur and how it must have hurt.*

*Red grabs his bits and starts singing 'Gin Gan (pause) goolie goolie goolie goolie watcha, gingan goo gingan goo!'*

*Ki joins in on pause.*

*in lorry*

*R,G,Ki & Sky get down into empty rear of lorry through gap in canvas at back*

RED

This'll do nicely.Not exactly the Hilton;not five star but not bad and animals,especially squirrels are welcome,I understand.

*They all flop down on some piles of tarpaulins on the lorry container floor*

GINGER

Why do those greys hate us so much ? We're all squirrels aren't we, whatever colour we are ? Surely there's room for all of us and we can live together without fighting, if we try ?

RED

It's not as if we haven't tried. We've been trying to talk it through with them for years. Just about ever since they turned up over here, having been introduced by those human types over a hundred years ago. But nowadays they just seem to want to take our food, bully us and chase us out because they're bigger than us.

It's like Mathilda said - most of them are OK but they are afraid of their leaders and so just go along with their nasty schemes. *looks around*

Hey I could get to like it here.

*fluffs up the tarpaulin a bit and makes himself even comfier. Wriggling, he parts fur round his belly button, picks out a flea and eats it.*

GINGER

Ooh, gross !!

RED

And what do you do with your fleas, then, pray ?

GINGER

On the very rare occasions when I find one of the little fellows on me... usually when I've been round at your place !!... I take him off and carefully throw him away on to some soft surface like moss and he runs off.

RED

Ay up, it's Ginger the flea flinger ! You're mad you. A nut-case short of a nut. If you do that, they only come back to haunt you with even more of their itchy and scratchy relatives.

*rolls around on floor scratching, as if being attacked by hordes  
of fleas*

GINGER

If you washed a bit more, they wouldn't. It's because they can  
smell you a mile off.

RED

Moi !? Smell ?!

*sniffing his armpits in a French-ish accent*

'Eau de squirrel'. That's what that is. The smell of a 100%  
masculine male. Natural perfume.

GINGER

'Eau de skunk' more like !

RED

Look ! All that washing morning, noon and night. It's not  
natural. And anyway if you're too clean, you can't do this..

*Red starts to arm-pit fart the Grey national anthem*  
C'mon Ki, join in !

KI

OK. Here goes.

*After two 'instrumental' verses, they then start singing the 'Red'  
words to the song with their accompaniment.*

GINGER

*To Sky*

If you can't beat 'em...

*and the two ladies join in the singing.*

*Red and Ki put their arm-pits near them at times playfully. But  
the ladies push them away. To everybody's surprise and Red's  
great amusement, Ki finishes the song off with a big deep rear-  
end fart and looks very pleased with himself.*

SKY

*shocked*

I hope you'll set a better example when the babies are born, Ki !

KI

*a bit embarrassed*

Course I will.

*then realising what Sky had said*

Hey, hang on a minute. Did you say 'babies'?  
*does little flappings and rocking baby movements.*

*Sky nods shyly*

Does that mean ?

SKY

Yes.

KI

*a mixture of panic and pleasure*

B-B-b-babies !

*to R & G*

Hey, you guys. I'm going to be a dad !  
*strutting around, wing-tip fingers in like waistcoat pockets*  
Who's the daddy ?!

RED

Long live the king ! Congratulations, buddy.  
*They high-five and side-bottom cheek bump in celebration.*  
You'll have your wings full though when all those prince and  
princess-fishers come along. It'll be 'dad, fetch us some more  
fish. dad this. dad that. toilet training! pooh ! *holds nose*. fledging. it  
never stops..

GINGER

*to a worried looking Ki*

Don't listen to my twin, Tweedle-dim here..  
*indicates Red with her thumb-claw*

I'm sure you'll make a great father, Ki.

KI  
Thanks, Ginger.

*Ki then goes over to Sky and nuzzles her and hugs her around the waist from behind. He then pulls away, thinking he might have hurt her.*

SKY  
It's OK, Spideykins. I'm OK, just don't squeeze too tightly from now on.

KI  
Shush. Don't call me that now. That's your special name for me. It's private.

RED  
I know egg-xactly what your little lady is going through. *patting his own belly area*  
Listen to the voice of egg-xperience in these matters.

GINGER  
Oh brother ! What do you know about baby stuff ?

RED  
You'd be surprised !

GINGER  
I'm sure we'd all be !

RED  
*seeing he's losing, changes the subject.  
to Ki, putting his arm round him.*  
Anyway, 'Spideykins', how does it feel to be a dadda ?

KI

Oh no ! I'll never hear the last of this now !

RED

Just kidding. Hey 'kidding'. Get it ? Kids, babies. Oh suit yourselves. I'm wasted on you lot !

Hey, I tell you what though. If this luxurious limousine of ours (*pats lorry floor*) takes us as far up north as I hope, we'll be sitting pretty. Getting up to Scotland'll be as easy as 2-4-6-8.

*Tom Robinson band song '2-4-6-8 Motorway' starts up-selected parts and riffs play as foursome jig to music .Ki cradles and rocks Sky lovingly .R & G more energetic.*

*big fight one*

*morning*

*our 4 are snuggled up in the back of the truck snoozing when their transport shudders to a halt .They all start to awake rather comically. Previously lying cheek to cheek, the jolt bounces R & G's lips together. They kiss.*

RED

Oh Christina !

GINGER

Oh Brad !

*Eventually their eyes open a bit and they realise what is going on as their eyes open suddenly in horror-we see close-up of their reactions.*

GINGER

*spitting imaginary germs*  
Oh, yeuk. I've been poisoned.

RED *frantically wiping his lips*  
What's that sticky stuff on your lips ?

GINGER  
I'll have you know that is fruit flavour lip balm.

RED  
Come off it sis. Your nose has been running over night and it's dribbled on to your lips. Booger juice. That's what that stuff is.  
You can't fool me !

GINGER  
Are you sure you're my brother and not some lab. experiment that went terribly wrong ?

RED *puts hand up*  
Speak to the paw, snotty. 'Cos the face ain't listening !

*Red stretches and then carefully peers out the back of the vehicle and sees a sign for ' Newcastle-capital of the North' by the road-side.They are parked up in a long lay-by .Their vehicle is the only one there.*

RED  
*shouting to the others*  
Yes !  
*fists clenched in front of him.*  
*Then realises he's shouting and that could be dangerous.*  
*Now in a more controlled manner.*  
We're in Newcastle ! Not far now !C'mon, let's get out of here while the driver's stopped.

*They all sneak off out of the back of the lorry ,looking around very warily. They crouch by the back wheels .Ginger gives Red*

*a bit of a shove as she alights .Then they stand up more confidently because everything is so deserted. Then they hear snoring coming from the driver's cab.  
They smile to each other.*

KI

Looks like it's time to make a move.

*RED pointing to fields with trees in distance*

*If I remember right..Hadrian's Wall ,that old Scottish border built by the Romans is just over there. .and then it's (in Scottish accent )bonny Scotland and safety. Och aye the noo, Jimmy !*

*R & G do a quick Scottish jig holding hands in celebration.*

*Then suddenly, they realise they are enjoying each other's company too much and push each other away .G straightens out her fur and tail. R looks embarrassedly around him.*

*What was I doing ?!*

*Hello. concerned Get down !*

*At the other end of the layby,3 trucks identical to theirs start pulling in. Ki takes off for a look from above.*

KI

*hovering above the other 3.He uses his telescopic eyesight to home in on the front of the first truck's trailer front. He sees a grinning Power(surrounded by several greys) waving one paw's claws ironically at him. Power then points and draws his claws across his throat at Ki .Ki gulps .to others below.*

*I don't believe it! It's Power and his posse again. looking backwards and forwards at both sets of trucks .Our truck must have been part of a convoy and they've followed us up here !*

GINGER

*It's Power and his pack all right. I can smell them from here  
!They smell even worse than you, Red !*

RED

*Hey, well I've just had a bath, remember.*

KI

Guys ! We haven't got time for this. Let's make like a blur and  
get out of here.

*pointing wing-tip*

Head for those trees. It's our only hope.

RED

Gotcha, Ki.

*R & G start running .Sky takes off and joins Ki and they fly  
above their squirrel pals*

SKY

So near and yet so far !

*Power and his hordes ,about 50 strong ,pour out of the 3 trucks  
and congregate round their leader*

POWER

*fur round lips hanging off in places .rubbing his hands with  
glee.*

Right.This time !No mistakes. Revenge !You lot, go to the  
left.You lot, go to the right. We'll surround them and there'll be  
no escape this time for those red rats.

*long evil laugh*

*Greys split up and pursue*

LINGERING GREY *concerned*

Have you been missing some of your anger management classes  
,Sir ?Couldn't we just let Red and Ginger make it up to Scotland  
and live happily ever after? I mean..we've had a nice day out and  
what have they ever done to you ?

POWER

*stunned by what Grey says initially-mouth falls open..then  
actually thinks about proposal ,hand round mouth.He feels*

*where fur is bald and dismisses thought of red amnesty. He  
moves toward the grey pacifist menacingly.*  
No, we can't let them go. They've got to pay. Look what they did  
to me *.pointing to bald patch on face*

GREY

Yes ,but first didn't you ..?

POWER

*cutting him off*

Enough !Do as your leader orders or else. NOW !

GREY

*Intimidated ,shaking his head*  
Yes,sir. Sorry,sir .Just an idea.  
*joins rear of one of the groups*

POWER

*grimly to himself*

There'll be no happy endings if I can help it.

*Big fight two*

POWER

*shouting and catching up with his greys*

Whatever you do, don't let them get to the trees !

*eventually a breathless R & G are surrounded by the greys. K &  
S hover above .R & G go back to back, adopting martial arts  
poses.*