

CHAPTER 1

A Party in Elliot's Park



“Go long!” shouted Elliot.

His best friend, Chip, faked right, flipped in the air, and raced out under the trees. Chip was a dangerous sort of squirrel.

“I got it! I got it!” Chip yelled. But he didn’t get it.

He ran smack into Elliot's sister, Twitch, instead. The two rolled like a tumbleweed over the grass. When they stopped, the ball bonked Chip on the head.

"Ouch," he said, rubbing his squirrel noggin.

"Come quick! Come quick!" shouted Twitch. "I have something to show you."

"Can't you see we're busy?" asked Chip.

"It can't wait! You have to come right now!"

Twitch was jumping up and down when Elliot arrived.



“Did you drink a soda pop for breakfast?” asked Elliot.

“I did, I did, I did!” answered his sister. She burped. It was a big burp, and it was grape flavored.

“What’s so important that we have to come right now?” asked Elliot, pushing up his large square glasses.

“There’s a party at the playground!” answered Twitch. “A birthday party!”

Elliot put one of his paws on Twitch’s shoulder.

“People have parties in our park all the



time. You should try to get used to it.”

“But this one is different!” shouted Twitch.

She stopped jumping and said, “One of the presents is a squirrel.”

Twitch never lied, but a squirrel as a present? That was hard to believe.

“Are you sure?” asked Elliot.

“Come see for yourself!” said Twitch.

Chip’s tail shook with excitement as he looked toward the playground.

But Elliot was a safe sort of squirrel.

He was not dangerous like his best friend, Chip.

“We’ll send Crash first,” said Elliot. “It’s the safest way to find out what’s really going on.”

Chip couldn’t wait. He was already racing for the playground.

“Be careful, Chip!” shouted Elliot.