



## #135 *The Two Squirrels*



*In a stately village of human homes lived two stately villages of squirrels. One village of squirrels spent their days working and playing merrily. They collected acorns and buried them, they ate black walnuts and apples and mushrooms. They chased each other up and down the oak and hickory trees. The little ones grew up seeing their parents happy. The other village of squirrels, somehow, had a whole different view of life. Although they foraged for food just like the first village, they lived in fear. They were always ready for and even anticipated a shortage of food. As they buried food for safe keeping, they worried if there*

*would be enough. So, while this village lived quite near the other, and actually had the same access to food, the parents were not happy, and therefore, the little ones grew up presuming life was hard and unhappy.*

*One day, a squirrel from the happy village wandered into the unhappy one. There he met a friend of his same age. They chased each other in play and the happy squirrel invited the unhappy one to visit. When the unhappy squirrel asked his mother permission for the visit, she said that he could go, but then she warned him that there might not be enough food there. She made him so worried, that when he visited the other village, he was afraid the whole time. Even though the happy village had more than enough food, and as a matter of fact, even though they played many games while they foraged, the unhappy little squirrel did not enjoy himself. He eventually went back home.*

*At home, his mother asked him if he had a good time. Unfortunately, he reported that he was scared for most of the time. "Aha," said his mother, "just as I thought. It's not safe anywhere."*

*IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE - OR DISTURB - A CHILD*