

AN INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL

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ACT ONE

LIGHTS UP. A NUT IS ON STAGE. A SQUIRREL ENTERS SNIFFING and STARING. SUDDENLY, SQUIRRELS RUN ACROSS THE STAGE SCREAMING AND CHASING ONE ANOTHER. SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL SUDDENLY STOPS, INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL RUNS INTO HIM. SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL POINTS AT THE AUDIENCE. INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL NOTICES THE AUDIENCE.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Oh! Hello. I suppose this looks pretty normal to you, doesn't it? A bunch of hyper-active squirrels running around and screaming over a nut. That's just what squirrels do, right?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

Right.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Wrong! We are far more advanced than running around and screaming over nuts. What is happening here is that, um—

TWO SQUIRRELS RUN PAST UPSTAGE.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

We're running around and screaming over a nut. We're all like—chattter, chatter, scamper, scamper, nuts, nuts.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Fine, yes we are chattering and scampering over a nut. But this is emotionally charged, metaphorical nut chasing we're doing.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Call it what you want--a nut is a nut is a nut.

INCONVENIENT:

This isn't about the nut. It's about me.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Same difference.

INCONVENIENT:

I'm...I'm...uh...well, I'd love to tell you my name, but...

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

He can't because he doesn't have a name.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Well, don't just blurt it out like that. I was building the tension.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

If we're going to tell them the whole story, we better get on with it. We have a nut to chase.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Who said we were telling them the whole story? Do you want to tell them the whole story?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD STARES AT INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL.

You can't just stare at people like that! You have to answer the question if you want the conversation to keep going!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

Once I ate a nut that had a worm in it.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

And don't change the subject, it's just—

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

--awkward?

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Yes!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

Do you think we should tell them the story?

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

I would like them to understand what all the chattering and scampering is about. Why don't you ask them if they'd like to hear the story?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD WALKS INTO THE AUDIENCE AND TALKS TO ONE SPECIFIC PERSON.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

Would you like to hear the story?

REGARDLESS OF THEIR ANSWER SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL STARES AT THE PERSON.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Don't just stare at one person—ask all of them!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD STARTS APPROACHING PEOPLE ONE AT A TIME.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

Would you like to hear the story? How about you? How about you?

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Not one at a time! Here, I'll show you! Hey everybody, would you guys like to hear the story?

HOPEFULLY, AUDIENCE RESPONDS ENTHUSIASTICALLY.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Wow! They really want to hear a story! Once upon a time in a galaxy far far away—

INCONVENIENT:

No! The story didn't happen once upon a time. It's happening right here! Right now! You see, we come from a village of Squirrels cleverly named The Village of The Squirrels. In the center of the village is a Big, Old Tree cleverly named the Big Ol' Tree.

ACTOR ENTERS WITH TREE HAT and STANDS ON CHAIR. HE WAVES AT THE AUDIENCE.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Wow. He is big and old, isn't he?

INCONVENIENT:

Will you let me get on with the story? For thousands of years every squirrel born in the Village of the Squirrels has been named for their most distinctive trait. There's Wise Squirrel--

WISE SQUIRREL ENTERS.

WISE SQUIRREL:

A nut in the hand is better than eight up a tree.

STORYTELLER:

There's Clumsy Squirrel—

CLUMSY SQUIRREL RUNS IN and TRIPS. REPEATEDLY.

There's Passive Aggressive Squirrel.

PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE SQUIRREL ENTERS.

PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE SQUIRREL:

I didn't want my name to be Passive Aggressive Squirrel, but now that it is I'm fine with it. I'm fine with it.

PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE SQUIRREL EXITS.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

There's Seven Second Delay Squirrel.

SEVEN SECOND DELAY SQUIRREL ENTERS, COUNTS TO SEVEN and THEN SPEAKS.

SEVEN SECOND DELAY:

What's up?

SEVEN SECOND DELAY SQUIRREL EXITS.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Sometimes a squirrel's name can change over time—just by inflection. Like Really Popular in High School Squirrel—

REALLY POPULAR IN HIGH SCHOOL SQUIRREL JOGS IN.

-is now known as Really Popular *in High School* Squirrel.

REALLY POPULAR IN HIGH SCHOOL SQUIRREL DEFLATES and EXITS.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Sometimes two squirrels even have similar names like Know-It-All Squirrel and Useless Trivia Squirrel.

KNOW IT ALL SQUIRREL and USELESS TRIVIA SQUIRREL ENTER.

USELESS TRIVIA SQUIRREL:

Did you know squirrels can only digest nuts that fall from the Big Ol' Tree because other nuts contain excessive amounts of cellulose?

KNOW IT ALL SQUIRREL:

I know.

USELESS TRIVIA SQUIRREL:

Did you know that the technical definition of a factoid is actually a fact that is incorrect?

KNOW IT ALL SQUIRREL:

I know.

USELESS TRIVIA SQUIRREL:

Did you know that all you ever say is I know?

KNOW IT ALL SQUIRREL:

I know.

USELESS TRIVIA:

Did you know--

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:
(INTERRRUPTING)

Can we please move on?

USELESS TRIVIA SQUIRREL and KNOW IT ALL SQUIRREL EXIT.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

And then there's this squirrel here. His name is..uh...

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

Go on, tell them my name, I'm not ashamed.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

This is...Socially Awkward Squirrel.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I was born blind and naked.

INCONVENIENT:

Right. When all baby squirrels are first born, they're blind and have no fur, so they're given temporary names like Fussy Baby Squirrel, Spits Up A Lot Baby Squirrel—

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

--Might Need to be Medicated When He Grows Up Baby Squirrel.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD POINTS AT HIMSELF.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Right. And when squirrels are one year old they're taken to the center of the Village to pick a name for the rest of their lives. The ceremony is run by the leader of our village. He isn't called President Squirrel or Emperor Squirrel. He's just known as Really Important Squirrel.

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL ENTERS and ACTS REALLY IMPORTANT.

Really Important Squirrel is a mean, foul tempered, overbearing control freak.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Plus he's your father.

INCONVENIENT:

The point is Socially Awkward Squirrel and I first met at the naming ceremony.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I remember it like it was two weeks ago.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

It was two weeks ago.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

That's why I remember it like it was two weeks ago.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Can we just tell the story?

THE SQUIRRELS WALK BACKWARDS. REALLY IMPORTANT STEPS FORWARD.

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL:

Everyone! Everyone! I have something really important to say. That really important thing is this: Hi! You might be wondering why it's Really Important that I say "Hi"? Because everything I say is really important and it's really important you know that.

Now, the naming of the squirrels ceremony is a time-honored tradition in our village. What does tradition mean? To me tradition means something you've been doing for so long you can't remember why you started doing it in the first place! What would my life be without tradition? Scary! That's what it would be! And as your leader, I think it's really important that I'm not scared!

Today we have two young squirrels to name. The first squirrel is currently known as Might Need to be Medicated When He Grows Up Baby Squirrel. It's really important that you step forward.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL STEPS FORWARD.

Now, all you have to do is just stand there and be yourself and we'll come up with your perfect name. Are you ready?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL STARES AT HIM.

Are you ready?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

I am no longer blind or naked.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Does that mean that you're ready?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

Look what I can do.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL DOES AN ODD, JERKY DANCE.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Well, that was painfully awkward.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

There's more where that came from. Want to see my touch my tail with my tongue?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD TRIES TO TOUCH THIS TAIL WITH HIS TONGUE.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

No! No! No! No! It's really important you don't show me that. I think I have the perfect name for you—Socially Awkward Squirrel. Does that work for you?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL STARES.

Does that work for you?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL DOES A LITTLE DANCE.

I'll take that as a yes! Big Ol' Tree—I submit for your approval—Socially Awkward Squirrel!

THE TREE GIVES A NUT TO SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL.

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL:

Congratulations, the Big Ol' Tree approves! Squirrels of the Village of Squirrels—I present to you Socially Awkward Squirrel! It's really important that you applaud for him!

HOPEFULLY, AUDIENCE APPLAUDS.

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL:

Now, our next squirrel--

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL SCREAMS and DANCES WITH DELIGHT.

You can go now. Our next squirrel is a rather special squirrel because, well, he's my son. He is currently known as Surprisingly Well Behaved Baby Squirrel.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL MOVES OVER and INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL WALKS UP.

So Surprisingly Well Behaved—that's a pretty good name, isn't it?

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Yes, sir.

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL:

Why do you think your parents called you that?

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

I guess I didn't chatter and scamper as much as other Baby Squirrels.

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL:

You hear that? He didn't chatter and scamper because he was so Well Behaved.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Actually, I didn't chatter and scamper because I was too busy thinking and questioning.

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL:

Well whatever it was you were doing you were Well Behaved doing it—so would you like your name to be Well Behaved Squirrel?

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

No, I wouldn't.

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL:

Excellent! Big Ol' Tree, I present—what did you say?

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

I don't want my name to be Well Behaved Squirrel.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Why not?

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Because I'm not always well behaved. Sometimes, I'm contrary.

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL:

No, you're not.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Yes, I am.

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL:

No, you're not.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Yes, I am.

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL:

No, you're not.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Yes, I am.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Fine. Do you want your name to be Contrary Squirrel?

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

No.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Well what do you want your name to be?

INCONVENIENT:

I don't know.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

It sounds to me like you want to be called Indecisive Squirrel.

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

No!

REALLY IMPORTANT:

How about Difficult Squirrel?

INCONVENIENT:

No!

REALLY IMPORTANT:

How about Starting to Tork My Shorts Squirrel?

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Gross. I don't want your shorts to be in my name!

REALLY IMPORTANT:

It's Really Important that you pick a name right now! So think for a real quick second about who you are and how you want people to think of you for the entire rest of your life and spit it out. I'm going to count to three---one, two, three! Who do you want to be for the rest of your life?

INCONVENIENT:

I don't want to pick one thing to define me for the entire rest of my life. So If I have to choose right now, I'll choose not to have a name at all.

TREE and SQUIRRELS GASP IN SHOCK.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

What? You have to have a name!

INCONVENIENT:

Why?

REALLY IMPORTANT:

It's tradition! No squirrel has ever refused to pick a name!

INCONVENIENT:

Why not?

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Why not? Because legend says that if a squirrel doesn't pick a name the Big Ol' Tree will not drop the nuts.

INCONVENIENT:

How can you be sure that's what will happen if it's never happened before?

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Because it's really important and I know about all really important things!

INCONVENIENT:

Why?

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Because I'm Really Important Squirrel! That's my name!

INCONVENIENT:

But you just picked that name.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

I picked Really Important Squirrel because it's who I am! I'm Really Important!

INCONVENIENT:

But what if you're not? What if everybody just thinks you're Really Important because of your name? What if I named myself More Important than Really Important Squirrel?

REALLY IMPORTANT:

That's it! I've decided to call you Smart Mouth Squirrel. Sound good? Okay!

INCONVENIENT:

No! I refuse! I will not pick a name and there is nothing really important you can say to change my mind!

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Is that your final decision?

INCONVENIENT:

Yes.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Fine! Let's tell the Big Ol' Tree and you'll see that I'm right!

ALL SQUIRRELS GATHER NEAR THE BIG OL' TREE.

Big Ol' Tree. I would like to present for your approval, my son—a squirrel with no name.

BIG OL' TREE REACHES DOWN and TAKES SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL'S NUT BACK.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Aaaah! My name nut! He took my name nut!

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Well, I hope you're happy whoever you are Squirrel—the entire Village is going to starve because of you!

INCONVENIENT:

Maybe we can eat something besides nuts?

REALLY IMPORTANT:

We are squirrels! Squirrels eat nuts! That's who we are! Chatter, chatter, scamper, scamper, nuts, nuts!

INCONVENIENT:

Can't we get nuts from other trees?

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Are you insane? Nuts from other trees contain too much cellulose! Everyone knows that! Now, if you'll excuse me I have to go figure out who's hoarding nuts so we can ration them and try to survive. It's really important that I start with Greedy Squirrel. He always hoards lots of nuts...

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL STOMPS OUT.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

Soooo, you made your father really angry and broke the most sacred rule of our society. Who's the awkward one now?

INCONVENIENT:

What are you still doing here?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

If I understood why I did weird things I wouldn't be Socially Awkward Squirrel, would I?

INCONVENIENT:

But you don't have to be Socially Awkward Squirrel. You can be any squirrel you want!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

I want to be Socially Awkward Squirrel.

INCONVENIENT:

Why?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I'll let you in on a little secret.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL STANDS RIDICULOUSLY CLOSE TO
INCONVENIENT.

Being weird isn't awkward for me—it's only awkward for other squirrels.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SNIFFS INCONVENIENT FOR A WHILE.

INCONVENIENT:

Stop sniffing me!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

It's not my fault that you smell nice. Maybe you should call yourself Smells Nice Squirrel!

INCONVENIENT:

No!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Why can't you just pick a name?

INCONVENIENT:

Because—I want to be like the willow tree.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

The Willow Tree?

INCONVENIENT:

It's this saying I heard from Silly Platitudes Squirrel. He said, "the Willow Tree is the strongest tree in the world because it's able to bend."

BIG OL' TREE SMACKS INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL UPSIDE THE
HEAD.

INCONVENIENT:

Ow!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL LAUGHS. BIG OL' TREE WHACKS HIM.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Ow!

THEY BOTH DUCK. BIG OL' TREE SWATS AT THEM BUT CAN'T REACH. INCONVENIENT and SOCIALLY AWKWARD WADDLE OUT OF RANGE.

INCONVENIENT:

You could hit us if you could bend!

BIG OL' TREE SHAKES HIS FIST AT INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL.

I've gotta get out of here!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Where are you going?

INCONVENIENT:

Outside of the village!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Outside of the Village? Why do you want to go out there?

INCONVENIENT:

I need to find myself.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

You're right here.

INCONVENIENT:

No. I mean I have to figure out who I am, who I want to be—what's my motivation? Hey! That's it! If I can figure out a name for myself—I can come back, tell the Big Ol' Tree and save the village! I could be a hero!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Well, technically, you'd be saving the village from yourself which isn't really that heroic. In fact, it sounds like something Evil Genius Squirrel would do.

INCONVENIENT:

Evil Genius Squirrel is a myth.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

No, he's not.

INCONVENIENT:

Yes, he is.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

No, he's not.

INCONVENIENT:

Yes, he is.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

No, he's—boy, you are contrary.

INCOVNENIENT:

I gotta go!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

All right, okay. Stop begging. I'll go with you.

INCONVENIENT:

No, this is something I have to do alone.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Why?

INCONVENIENT:

Because you kind of weird me out.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I understand.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL FOLLOWS INCONVENIENT
SQUIRREL.

INCONVENIENT:

Why are you following me?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

Am I making you uncomfortable?

INCONVENIENT:

Yes!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

You should probably get used to that if we're going to have a big scary adventure together, huh?

INCONVENIENT:

I don't want to have a big, scary adventure. I want to have a soul-searching journey of truth and redemption.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Sounds pretty scary to me. Have you ever tried to touch your tail with your tongue?

THE SQUIRRELS WALK. BIG OL' TREE LEAVES THE STAGE.
SQUIRRELS CROSS TO FRONT OF STAGE.

INCONVENIENT:

And that's how we started our adventure. We walked for miles through the dark, scary forest. I tried to think of the perfect name, but it was hard to concentrate.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I discovered I had a skill for making up extemporaneous songs!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL MAKES UP AN OBNOXIOUS SONG.

I'm making up a song,
I just made it up
And now I'm singing it
I made up a song--

INCONVENIENT:

Will you please stop singing!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL SINGS ABOUT NOT SINGING.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

He doesn't want me to sing
I guess he didn't like my song...

INCONVENIENT:

Please stop it!

IN THE DISTANCE ANOTHER SONG IS HEARD.

INCONVENIENT:

Shhh! Do you hear that?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:
(STILL SINGING)

Oh, someone's making a noise but we can't hear it over my song,
which means we're not alone—
there's some other creature in this dark scary forest—AHHH!

INCONVENIENT and SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL CUDDLE
TOGETHER and LISTEN.

INCONVENIENT:

Do you hear anything?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

No. Maybe we're safe?

PIRATE SQUIRREL:

ARRRRRRRR!

PIRATE SQUIRREL RUSHES IN SWINGING A STICK AT THE SQUIRRELS. THEY DUCK and SCAMPER.

INCONVENIENT:

Stop! Stop! Please don't hurt us!

PIRATE SQUIRREL:

Who are ye?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I'm Socially Awkward Squirrel and this is...well...

INCONVENIENT:

I do not have a name.

PIRATE SQUIRREL:

All Squirrels be having the names!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

What's your name?

PIRATE SQUIRREL:

Isn't it obvious?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Not really, no.

PIRATE SQUIRREL:

I am known as Thinks He's A Pirate Squirrel. Cool, huh?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

You're not a pirate.

PIRATE:

But I got all the pirate stuff. The the eye-patch, the sword--

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

It's a stick.

PIRATE:

A sharp stick! Plus, I be having the ambiguous accent and the real not good grammar. I be a pirate—hear me ARRRR!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

So, the only things you're missing are like a ship and water.

PIRATE:

Well, I be scared of water, but besides that I be a pirate! Arrr!

INCONVENIENT:

Well, if you're a pirate I guess you want to steal something from us.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Yeah, you probably want to steal all our nuts, but we don't have any—we're just walking through the wilderness slowly starving to death so the joke's on you, buddy!

PIRATE:

Nuts? Nuts? Pirates don't be eating the nuts!

INCONVENIENT:

What do you eat then?

PIRATE:

Limes! So I don't get the scurvy.

PIRATE PULLS TWO LIMES OUT OF HIS POCKET.

Here, try one!

HE HANDS THEM EACH A LIME.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Are you sure squirrels can eat limes?

PIRATE:

I been eaten nothing but limes for years and look how good I turned out!

INCONVENIENT:

I knew it! Squirrels can eat anything, right?

PIRATE:

Don't be stupid. Squirrels can eat nuts or limes. Nothing else. Now, tuck in, me maties!

PIRATE YELLS AT THEM AS THOUGH HE IS GIVING THEM SAILING COMMANDS.

Bite!

THEY BITE and REACT.

Chew!

THEY CHEW and REACT.

Swallow!

THEY SWALLOW and REACT.

React!

THEY MAKE TERRIBLE FACES.

Bite!

THEY BITE and REACT.

Chew!

THEY CHEW and REACT.

Swallow!

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React!

THEY MAKE TERRIBLE FACES.

Bite!

THEY BITE and REACT.

Chew!

THEY CHEW and REACT.

Swallow!

THEY SWALLOW and REACT.

React!

THEY MAKE TERRIBLE FACES.

Now, shake it off or your face'll stay that way! Mine did. See?

HE LIFTS UP EYE-PATCH TO SHOW HIS SCREWED UP FACE. HE PUTS THE EYE-PATCH DOWN. THEY SHAKE OFF THE LIME FACES.

INCONVENIENT:

So, if you don't want to steal anything from us—why did you attack us?

PIRATE:

Oh, I thought you were sent by the Squirrel Who Must Not Be Named.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

You mean Evil Genius Squi--

PIRATE GRABS SOCIALLY AWKWARD and COVERS HIS MOUTH.

PIRATE:

Shhh! Don't name the Squirrel Who Must Not be Named.

INCONVENIENT:

There is no such squirrel as Evil—

PIRATE SWITCHES TO COVERING INCONVENIENT'S MOUTH.

PIRATE:

Shhh! The Squirrel Who Must Not Be Named is real all right! He's out here somewhere in these woods. Coming up with evil plans. Evil plans that are—

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

--genius?

PIRATE:

Exactly. Now, you best be heading back to the village.

INCONVENIENT:

I can't. I'm on a soul-searching journey of truth and redemption.

PIRATE SQUIRREL:

Sounds scary. If you insist on heading into the dark forest I best teach you to defend yourself. I'll get you a stick.

HE RUNS OFF STAGE and COMES BACK WITH A STICK.

Now, I'll teach you to duel. First, I bow. Then, you bow.

INCONVENIENT BOWS. PIRATE WHACKS HIM IN THE HEAD.

INCONVENIENT:

Ow! What did you do that for?

PIRATE:

That's your first lesson--never trust a pirate! Now, let's try again. First you bow.

INCONVENIENT:

No, you bow first.

PIRATE:

All righty-then.

PIRATE BOWS, INCONVENIENT RAISES HIS STICK TO HIT HIM, BUT PIRATE WHACKS HIM IN THE SHINS.

INCONVENIENT:

Ow! What did you do that for?

PIRATE:

That was just for me own fun. Now, let's try it a third time. We'll both bow at the same time.

INCONVENIENT:

No! If I bow you're just going to hit me.

PIRATE:

I swear on me love of limes, I won't hit you when we bow.

INCONVENIENT:

Fine. We'll both bow on the count of three. One...two...

PIRATE BOPS HIM ON THE HEAD.

INCONVENIENT:

Ow!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD LAUGHS. INCONVENIENT BOPS HIM.

PIRATE:

See! Now you know how to defend yourself! Always hit your opponent before the fight starts! Congratulations--now you're a pirate like me!

INCONVENIENT:

But you're not a pirate! You're a squirrel who suffers from the delusion that he's a pirate.

PIRATE:

I'll let you in on a little secret. I know I'm not really a pirate, but I think I'm a pirate, and, after all, you are who you think you are. Arr.

INCONVENIENT:

I think I'm confused.

PIRATE:

Well, nice to meet you, Confused Squirrel! I'm off to hoard me limes and build up me lime booty! Yo ho ho and a bottle of...limes...

PIRATE EXITS SINGING. INCONVENIENT and SOCIALLY AWKWARD CROSS DOWN TO CENTER and ADDRESS AUDIENCE.

INCONVENIENT:

So there I was—a squirrel with no name and a stick for a sword. We thought of heading back to the village and telling the other squirrels about the limes.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

But we knew they'd never agree to eating limes.

INCONVENIENT:

It would be against tradition.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Plus, limes are disgusting.

INCONVENIENT:

We'd been gone from the village for days and we still hadn't discovered anything!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I discovered all sorts of stuff. Like how much fun it is to count the trees we passed—aloud!

THEY CROSS BACK.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

We've now walked by five million four thousand three hundred and twenty one trees...Oh! Five million four thousand three hundred and twenty-two trees! Twenty-three! Twenty four!

INCONVENIENT:

Would you please stop counting trees!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Would you prefer I go back to singing?

INCONVENIENT:

Hey look— five million four thousand three hundred and twenty five trees!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

See? It's fun, isn't it?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD STARTS SINGING ABOUT COUNTING TREES.

It's fun to count trees!

I count them

One two three

INCONVENIENT:

Well, don't sing about it!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I can't help it. There's obnoxious music in my soul—I have to let it out somet—

THEY HEAR A STRANGE NOISE.

INCONVENIENT:

SHHHH! Listen!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

It must be Evil Genius Squirrel! Let's hide!

THEY SCAMPER OFF TO HIDE. MASTER THESPIAN SQUIRREL SAUNTERS ONTO STAGE PERFORMING VOCAL WARM-UPS. THE WARM UPS TURN INTO MANIACAL LAUGHTER.

MASTER THESPIAN SQUIRREL:

I am Evil Genius Squirrel. A squirrel who is evil. I like evil nuts, evil bunnies, evil manicures. Evil! Evil! Evil!

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL RAISES HIS SWORD and MOVES FORWARD. SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL TRIES TO STOP HIM, THEY BICKER and FIGHT OVER THE SWORD.

Evil is a fun word to say. Vowel consonant vowel consonant. Evil. It sounds good facing this way! And it sounds good facing this w--

MASTER THESPIAN SQUIRREL TURNS AROUND and SEES THEM.

MASTER THESPIAN:

Ahhhh!

INCONVENIENT and SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Ahhhh!

MASTER THESPIAN:

Ahhhh!

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL STOPS SCREAMING. SOCIALLY AWKWARD and MASTER THESPIAN SQUIRREL CONTINUE TO MIRROR ONE ANOTHER'S SCREAMS and BODY POSES.

INCOVENIENT:

All right, let's all just stop screaming!

MASTER THESPIAN:

Yes, of course. Please allow me to introduce myself—

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

We know exactly who you are, Evil Genius Squirrel.

MASTER THESPIAN:

Oh, I see! You thought I really was Evil Genius Squirrel. That's understandable--I am quite talented.

INCONVENIENT:

If you're not Evil Genius Squirrel then who are you?

MASTER THESPIAN:

I can be anyone--for I am Master Thespian Squirrel!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Master Thespian? What does that mean?

MASTER THESPIAN:

I am an actor!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Why do you talk like that?

MASTER THESPIAN:

I'm projecting! I'm rounding my vowels and popping my consonants!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Why?

MASTER THESPIAN:

So my audience can understand me!

MASTER THESPIAN IS OVER-PROJECTING SO IT IS QUITE HARD TO UNDERSTAND HIM.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

What?

MASTER THESPIAN:

Understand me!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Un-hand me?

MASTER THESPIAN:

Understand me!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Under Pan Feet?

MASTER THESPIAN:

Understand Me!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Uber Ham Meat?

INCONVENIENT:

That's as close as you're going to get. Look, where is this audience you're talking to?

MASTER THESPIAN:

Why, today, you are my audience! Who would you like me to be? I can instantly become any squirrel before your very eyes. I can be Happy Squirrel.

HE PRETENDS TO BE HAPPY.

Oh, oh—I'm so happy—Oh, daises and rainbows! I can be Sad Squirrel.

HE PRETENDS TO BE SAD.

Oh, oh—I'm so sad. Oh, pollution and homeless puppies! I can be Only Has One Paw Squirrel!

HE PULLS A HAND INTO HIS SLEEVE.

Oh, oh, I only have one paw! I can even be Shy Squirrel—watch!

HE TURNS AROUND. HE STAYS TURNED AROUND. THEY STARE.

I bet you're wondering why I didn't turn around? I was too Shy! You see, acting is all about understanding your motivation!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I thought it was about listening.

MASTER THESPIAN:

What?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Listen--

MASTER THESPIAN:

Nonsense! I will show you the true nature of acting! Let us all act together. I'll pretend to be you.

HE POINTS AT SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL.

You can pretend to be him.

HE POINTS AT INCONVENIENT.

And he can pretend to be me. What is your name?

INCONVENIENT:

I don't have a name.

MASTER THESPIAN:

Then I shall call you "You".

TO SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL.

And who are you?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Me?

MASTER THESPIAN:

Yes, you.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

You mean him?

MASTER THESPIAN:

No, he's You.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

He's me?

MASTER THESPIAN:

No, he's You but you are you.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Who are you?

MASTER THESPIAN:

I'm me. Who are you?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Who's asking?

MASTER THESPIAN:

Me.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

If you're me, who am I?

MASTER THESPIAN:

You're you.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

He's You.

MASTER THESPIAN:

He's not me. He's You.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Who's me?

MASTER THESPIAN:

You are.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

If you're me and he's you who am I?

MASTER THESPIAN:

That's what I'm asking you!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

You're not asking You, you're asking me!

MASTER THESPIAN:

I'm talking to you!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Are we acting yet?

MASTER THESPIAN:

No! I just want to know your name!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

You just want to know my name?

MASTER THESPIAN:

Yes.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Well, that's Socially Awkward.

MASTER THESPIAN:

It certainly is!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

No! That's my name! I'm Socially Awkward Squirrel!

MASTER THESPIAN:

Oh. Do YOU see how confusing it is to not have a name?

INCONVENIENT:

Look, if you like being an actor so much, what are you doing out here in the middle of nowhere?

MASTER THESPIAN:

An actor must go where his audience demands.

INCONVENIENT:

But there's no audience out here.

MASTER THESPIAN:

Yes, but there was an audience back in the Village and they demanded I come out here.

INCONVENIENT:

So they didn't like your acting?

MASTER THESPIAN:

No, they did not.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Is it because all you do is talk funny and call it acting?

MASTER THESPIAN GLARES AT SOCIALLY AWKWARD.

MASTER THESPIAN:

No, the other squirrels in the village became upset because I was constantly chewing the scenery.

INCONVENIENT:

You mean you were over-acting?

MASTER THESPIAN:

No, I was literally chewing on things. I've had an oral fixation since birth. It's my tragic flaw.

INCONVENIENT:

But what do you eat?

MASTER THESPIAN:

Oh, I chew on anything. Grass, leaves, my acting hanky. Mostly, I eat mushrooms.

INCONVENIENT:

Squirrels can eat mushrooms? We've got to go back to the village and tell the other squirrels!

MASTER THESPIAN:

They'll never believe you. Why don't you both stay here? I'll teach you to act, we'll put on plays, I'll give you small supporting roles—it will be wonderful!

INCONVENIENT:

I don't think being an actor is really who I am.

MASTER THESPIAN:

I'll let you in on a little secret. An actor never has to decide whom to be—because we can pretend to be anyone we want!

INCONVENIENT:

Isn't that kind of cheating?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Is being an actor really worth living out here in the middle of nowhere? I mean, isn't an actor without an audience just a weirdo talking to himself?

MASTER THESPIAN:

Well, now you've made me incredibly sad.

MASTER THESPIAN STARTS TO CRY.

INCONVENIENT:

You're just acting, right?

MASTER THESPIAN:

No, I'm actually sad. I have feelings--I just can't express them naturally.

INCONVENIENT:

Look, we're sorry! Hey! I've got a great idea! I know where you can find an audience!

MASTER THESPIAN:

Really? Where? Where?

INCONVENIENT:

Have you ever met Thinks He's A Pirate Squirrel? He lives back that way about two million trees from here...

MASTER THESPIAN:

Oh, a Pirate for an audience! What shall I perform for him? Squirrel of La Mancha? Of Mice and Squirrels? The Squirrel Who Came to Dinner?

MASTER THESPIAN SCAMPERS OFF. INCONVENIENT and SOCIALLY AWKWARD STEP FORWARD.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

And that's how we got rid of the crazy actor.

INCONVENIENT:

We didn't get rid of him—we helped two outcasts build a brave new actor pirate society!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

All I know is he went away and I was happy.

INCONVENIENT:

The point is, at least we helped some squirrels, but I still hadn't found an identity, we'd been walking for days, so I suggested we stop and get some rest.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

He was getting pretty cranky, but I thought it was important to smell out just the right place.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SNIFFS DIFFERENT SPOTS ON THE STAGE.

INCONVENIENT:

Here?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Nope. Smells weird.

INCONVENIENT:

Here?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Nope. Smells weird.

INCONVENIENT:

Here?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Nope. Smells weird.

INCONVENIENT:

You do realize we've been walking through the wilderness for two days—has it ever occurred to you that it's not the ground that smells weird?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

You mean, it might be me?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SMELLS HIMSELF.

Oh! I smell awful! Here—smell me!

INCONVENIENT:

No! Why would I smell you when you just told me you smelled bad?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I'm willing to smell you.

INCONVENIENT:

Please, don't--

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SNIFFS INCONVENIENT.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Wow. You still smell great. How do you do that? You're like a rose dipped in vanilla or a lilac beaten with a cinnamon stick or--

INCONVENIENT:

Can we please just lie down and go to sleep?

INCONVENIENT STARTS TO MAKE A LITTLE NEST.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Um, I should warn you. There's something kind of weird about the way I sleep.

INCONVENIENT:

Well color me surprised, Squirrel. What is it?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I sleep standing up.

INCONVENIENT:

Okay, that's not as weird as I thought it would be.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

And when I sleep, my eyes remain open. Like this.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD BULGES HIS EYES OUT.

INCONVENIENT:

Okay, that is weird. Anything else?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

No.

INCONVENIENT:

Good, now let's just—

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Oh and sometimes I talk in my sleep.

INCONVENIENT:

Really?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

And I have been known to sleep walk.

INCONVENIENT:

Right. So, for all I know you could be asleep right now?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Exactly.

INCONVENIENT:

Great. I'm going to get some sleep. Goodnight, Socially Awkward.

INCONVENIENT LIES DOWN. SOCIALLY AWKWARD FALLS ASLEEP WITH EYES OPEN AND STILL STANDING.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Goodnight. I love you, Mom.

INCONVENIENT:

I'm not your mother!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Then what are you doing in my bedroom?

INCONVENIENT:

I'm not in your bedroom!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Well, who are you? Why are you here? What's your purpose in life?

INCONVENIENT:

I don't know! That's my problem!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Well, screaming about it isn't going to fix it. Don't you have any friends you could ask for advice?

INCONVENIENT:

No, no I don't! Goodnight, Socially Awkward.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Goodnight, Cranky Stranger.

AWKWARD PAUSE.

I love you. (PAUSE) Did you hear me, Cranky Stranger? I said I love you.

INCONVENIENT:

I heard you.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Well, are you going to say it back or are you just going to leave me hanging?

INCONVENIENT:

Fine. I love you, too. Smelly weirdo.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD STARTS TO SNORE WITH HIS EYES OPEN. INCONVENIENT
LEAPS UP and SHAKES HIMSELF AWAKE. THEY BOTH STEP FORWARD.

INCONVENIENT:

Eventually, we both got a little shut-eye. Sort of. I had a nice dream about finding the perfect name. Unfortunately, when I woke up I couldn't remember what it was. We both woke up slightly less than fully rested. Isn't that right, Socially Awkward?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

It sure is, Mom.

INCONVENIENT:

Are you asleep again?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Uh-oh! Mom! Watch out! Evil Genius Squirrel is coming to get us! AAAAHHHH!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SCREAMS and RUNS BACK and FORTH, FINALLY HEADING
OFF TO THE LOBBY.

INCONVENIENT:

Great. He's having a running dream. Literally. I'm going to go find him and then we'll come back and tell you the rest of the story! Thanks for listening!

INCONVENIENT RUNS OFF STAGE. LIGHTS OUT. END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

LIGHTS UP. INCONVENIENT and SOCIALLY AKWARD RUN BACK INTO THE ROOM. SOCIALLY AWKWARD STOPS ABRUPTLY, INCONVENIENT RUNS INTO HIM.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Look, they all came back!

INCONVENIENT:

I told you they would. They got some candy and coffee, stretched their legs.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

(SNIFFING)

They do smell happy and refreshed.

INCONVENIENT:

Which is the exact opposite of the way we were feeling. We'd walking for over a week—we'd found no food, no inspiration. To be perfectly honest, we were starting to get on one another's nerves.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Exactly. He was getting super-super cranky. I tried lots of fun games to cheer him up, but nothing worked. Not even repeating everything he said in the form of a question!

THEY WALK UPSTAGE.

INCONVENIENT:

I don't know why I can't find my motivation.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Find your motivation?

INCONVENIENT:

Every other squirrel knows who they are.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Who they are?

INCONVENIENT:

It's so annoying!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

So annoying?

INCONVENIENT:

Is it just me or are you repeating everything I say in the form of a question?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

The form of a question?

INCONVENIENT:

AHHHHHHH! What is wrong with you?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

What's wrong with me?

INCONVENIENT:

Yes! Why can't you act normal for two seconds? Why can't you just stop being yourself?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Stop being myself!?! Never—I love myself just the way I am! See? Look at me hug myself!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD HUGS HIMSELF.

Bet you can't do this!

INCONVENIENT:

You're right. I can't stand around hugging myself, because I can't find myself!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Yeah, well I know exactly who you are. You're Big Mean Jerk Face Squirrel!

INCONVENIENT:

If you think I'm such a Jerk—why did you come with me?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Because I was lonely and I thought you were the nicest squirrel I ever met!

INCONVENIENT:

Oh yeah? Well, now I feel really guilty!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Good! I'm going to go back to the village—and tell everyone you failed to find yourself or any food we can eat!

INCONVENIENT:

I've found plenty of food we can eat!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I don't want to eat limes and mushrooms! I want to get my paws on a big, juicy delicious nut! Do you see any delicious nuts flying through the air?

A NUT COMES FLYING IN and LANDS AT THEIR FEET.

Wow.

INCONVENIENT:

What a delicious looking nut!

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL LUNGES FOR NUT.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Wait! You can't eat that nut!

INCONVENIENT:

Why not?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

It didn't come from the Big Ol' Tree—we'll never be able to digest it! There's too much cellulose!

INCONVENIENT:

What do you think is going to happen? I'm going to take one bite—and then start writhing in pain, running around in circles, until I collapse in a heap on the ground?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

In a word: yes.

INCONVENIENT:

Nonsense!

INCONVENIENT TAKES A BITE.

You see? It's perfectly safe! Go ahead and take a bite!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Oh boy!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL GRABS THE NUT and STARTS DEVOURING IT. BEHIND HIM, INCONVENIENT STARTS WRITHING IN PAIN and RUNNING IN CIRCLES. SOCIALLY AWKWARD PAUSES TO CHAT AT HIM WITH HIS MOUTH FULL.

Oh, this is great. Best nut ever. It tastes like heaven. I've never had a nut this good. Have you?

INCONVENIENT COLLAPSES on THE GROUND.

Have you? Have you?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD TURNS AROUND and SEES INCONVENIENT. HE SCREAMS. JERKS AROUND and COLLAPSES. SUDDENLY, WE HEAR MANIACAL LAUGHTER. EVIL GENIUS SQUIRREL ENTERS. HE WHEELS HIMSELF AROUND on A LARGE CHAIR. HE HAS A WHITE CAT ON HIS LAP.

EVIL GENIUS:

Awake, my little squirrel captives!

INCONVENIENT and SOCIALLY AWKWARD POP UP.

I am Evil Genius Squirrel. Please do not try to run away in terror. You see, the nut you just devoured is a little invention of mine. It gives me complete control over your bodies. I can make you do anything I want with the simple push of a button. See?

HE PUSHES BUTTONS. INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL and SOCIALLY AWKWARD ASSUME DIFFERENT AWKWARD POSES.

Because it amuses me, I will allow you to speak.

HE PUSHES ANOTHER BUTTON.

INCONVENIENT:

So that wasn't a real nut?

EVIL GENIUS:

Oh, wow. You must be Rocket Scientist Squirrel. Of course, it's not a real nut. This nut is the world's only super-duper all-in-one megalomaniacal world domination uber evil nut device—patent pending. It has hundreds of different evil applications. It can control your actions, fire laser beams, do your taxes, I can synch it with other evil nut devices--

INCONVENIENT:

I thought you said this was the only one.

EVIL GENIUS:

I will ask the questions here! Answer honestly or I will force you to assume embarrassing poses. Now who are you?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I'm Socially Awkward Squirrel.

EVIL GENIUS:

If you're Socially Awkward you won't be embarrassed when I make you do this.

HE HITS A BUTTON and MAKES SOCIALLY AWKWARD DO SOMETHING ODD. SOCIALLY AWKWARD LAUGHS.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Again! Again!

EVIL GENIUS:

All right, now you're scaring me. Let's move on to you. What is your name, little squirrel?

INCONVENIENT:

I don't have a name!

EVIL GENIUS HITS A BUTTON. INCONVENIENT CONTORTS.

Seriously, I don't have a name.

EVIL GENIUS HITS A BUTTON. INCONVENIENT CONTORTS.

I'm not joking! I don't have a name!

EVIL GENIUS HITS A BUTTON. INCONVENIENT CONTORTS.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Oh! Oh! Do that one to me!

EVIL GENIUS:

So you refused to pick a name, did you? That must have upset Really Important Squirrel.

INCONVENIENT:

You know my father?

EVIL GENIUS:

Yes. You see, I am your father.

INCONVENIENT:

You're my father?

EVIL GENIUS:

No. I'm just pulling your leg. See?

HE HITS A BUTTON. INCONVENIENT JERKS AS THOUGH SOMEONE IS LITERALLY PULLING HIS LEG.

Seriously though, I do know your father. He's the squirrel who gave me my name. At the time, I wasn't sure if I wanted to be known as Evil Genius Squirrel--now, I quite like the name.

INCONVENIENT:

But you don't have to be Evil Genius Squirrel. You can be any squirrel you want to be.

EVIL GENIUS:

I'll let you in on a little secret. You are who other people think you are.

INCONVENIENT:

I don't think you're evil—I think you're just misunderstood. Your nut device probably just scared people because it was so, well, new and different! I don't think it's evil at all!

EVIL GENIUS:

Yes it is! You see, the first application I built for this nut is the thought-translator. In fact, let's hear what you're thinking right now!

HE PUTS THE NUT TO INCONVENIENT'S HEAD.

SOUND CUE # 3. WE HEAR HIS THOUGHTS.

“WHO AM I? WHY AM I HERE? WHAT'S MY MOTIVATION? WHO AM I?”

Well, that's just boring. Let's hear what the weird one is thinking.

HE HOLDS THE NUT TO SOCIALLY AWKWARD'S HEAD.

SOUND CUE #5. WE HEAR HIS THOUGHTS. HE IS MAKING UP YET ANOTHER SONG IN HIS HEAD.

EVIL GENIUS:

I don't know about you, but I think that's pretty evil. You see, this nut is how I became known as Evil Genius Squirrel. I was caught putting this nut on the Big Ol' Tree, and, well, doodlee-doo, doodlee-doo, doodlee-doo!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

What are you doing?

EVIL GENIUS:

I'm trying to have a flashback over here! Doodlee-doo, Doodlee-doo!

THE BIG OL' TREE ENTERS.

Back then, I was known as Sneaks Out at Night Baby Squirrel. Living up to my name, I had snuck out the night before the naming ceremony to try out my thought-translating nut. I knew what I wanted my name to be and I was curious to find out if the Big Ol' Tree would approve.

"Big Ol' Tree", I said, "I'm going to put this nut on you and then you will be able to speak to me!"

HE PUTS THE NUT ON THE TREE.

--oh man, that stupid nut device will never work. A squirrel could never invent something like that. They're just not that smart! After-all, I've had them fooled for thousands of years that I'm the only tree they can eat nuts from! Look at they way he's looking at me—all big eyed like he understand everything I'm saying, stupid squirrels

BEAT.

Was that out loud?

EVIL GENIUS:

We can eat nuts from other trees?

BIG OL' TREE:

Is that what you thought I said? That's not true at all. I was just trying to think of a good name for you? How about "Hard of Hearing Squirrel"?

EVIL GENIUS:

What?

BIG OL' TREE:

Good!

EVIL GENIUS:

No! I mean what is all this about? Why do you care what our names are?

BIG OL' TREE:

Okay, okay—I have been lying about the nuts, but the naming thing wasn't my idea, you see, it happened like this--doodlee-doo, doodlee-doo—

EVIL GENIUS:

What are you doing?

BIG OL' TREE:

I'm having a flashback! Doodlee-doo, Doodlee-doo! You see, there was this squirrel I used to talk to—he acted crazy, so I called him Crazy Squirrel!

REID ENTERS AS CRAZY SQUIRREL.

CRAZY SQUIRREL:

Hey, Big Ol' Tree!

BIG OL' TREE:

Actually, I'm only three rings old now.

CRAZY SQUIRREL:

Sure, whatever you say—hey can I have a nut? Can I? Can I?

BIG OL' TREE:

Here you go, Crazy Squirrel!

CRAZY SQUIRREL:

Hey, you always call me Crazy Squirrel! It's like you've gave me a name, then a nut! Crazy! Wouldn't it be crazy if that was like a thing that we did? Like when I have kids, I brought them to you, we'd give 'em a name and then you'd give 'em a nut? Wouldn't that be crazy? Hey, look at that way the wind's blowing that leaf! Crazy! I gotta chase it!

CRAZY SQUIRREL RUNS OFF IN A CRAZY WAY.

BIG OL' TREE:

And that's how it all started and it's worked out fine since then. So why don't you tell me what you want your name to be, I'll give you a nut, and we'll never talk about this again.

EVIL GENIUS:

I would like my name to be—but just then the great-great-super great times lots of greats grand-son of Crazy Squirrel burst in and said something stupid.

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL JUMPS IN.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

What are you doing sneaking out at night, Sneaking Out at Night Baby Squirrel?

EVIL GENIUS:

Really Important Squirrel! I have something really important to tell you! I invented this thought-translating device and I head the Big Ol' Tree speak, he said we could eat nuts from any tree and he wants my name to be—

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Evil Genius Squirrel! That's what your name is going to be! You are an Evil Genius! You are your crazy device are banished forever! Go!

REALLY IMPORTANT ROLLS EVIL GENIUS AWAY. TREE and REALLY IMPORTANT EXIT.

And that's how I got my name. End of flashback.

INCONVENIENT:

I knew it! We have to go back to the village—all three of us! We can put your device on the tree again! All the squirrels in the village will hear the truth and realize that you should have been named Misunderstood Squirrel all along! What do you say?

EVIL GENIUS:

I'll come back to the village with you—but for one reason and one reason only—revenge! All the other squirrels laughed at me and now they will pay the price—

EVIL GENIUS SQUIRREL STANDS. THE CAT IS VELCRO'ED TO HIS LAP. INCONVENIENT and SOCIALLY AWKWARD LAUGH.

What are you laughing at?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

You've got a little cat on your lap—

EVIL GENIUS:

Oh, it's not a real cat, it's just an evil prop—see, there are snaps on my pants--where was I? Ah, yes, revenge. That's my motivation. What's yours?

INCONVENIENT:

My motivation is...it's...it's to bring change to the village! That's it! That's who I am! I'm a bringer of change! I'll bring new ideas! New foods! New names! I will save the village and my name will be....I still haven't thought of a name.

EVIL GENIUS:

Have you considered Anti-Climactic Squirrel?

INCONVENIENT:

What do you say? Will you let us go?

EVIL GENIUS:

So be it, squirrels.

HE HITS A BUTTON RELEASING INCONVENIENT and SOCIALLY AWKWARD.

But let me make the speeches from now on. That was pathetic. Let's go.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD IS DOING SOMETHING ODD.

INCONVENIENT:

Uh, could you release Socially Awkward?

EVIL GENIUS:

I'm not doing anything.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Sorry.

EVIL GENIUS:

Man, he's weird.

EVIL GENIUS CLEARS CHAIR and CAT. INCONVENIENT and SOCIALLY AWKWARD STEP FORWARD.

INCONVENIENT:

So, we marched back to the village as quick as we could. But my father saw Evil Genius coming from miles away and sent all of the toughest Squirrels in the village to stop us from getting close to the Big Ol' Tree! First, he sent Knows Kung Fu Squirrel.

KNOWS KUNG FU SQUIRREL JUMPS OUT and DOES SEVERAL MOVES. INCONVENIENT BOWS. KUNG FU BOWS. INCONVENIENT BOPS HIM ON THE HEAD WITH HIS STICK.

But we took care of him quickly. Then, he sent Used to Wrestle in High School Squirrel.

WRESTLING SQUIRREL and SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL WRESTLE AWKWARDLY. SOCIALLY AWKWARD EVENTUALLY DOES SOMETHING GROSS TO HIM TO WIN.

That took a little longer. Then, he sent Good with a Stick Squirrel.

STICK SQUIRREL FIGHTS OFF BOTH INCONVENIENT and EVIL GENIUS SQUIRREL. THEY EVENTUALLY BEAT HIM.

Finally, my father sent the deadliest of all Squirrels—Fights in Slow Motion Squirrel.

SLO MO SQUIRREL COMES CHARGING AT ALL THREE SQUIRRELS. THEY SIDE STEP HIM IN UNISON.

Legend claims he's still running the wrong way. Finally, we made it back into the center of the village, to the shade of the Big Ol' Tree—all of the squirrels from the village had gathered to see what the commotion was about....

BIG OL' TREE ENTERS.

INCONVENIENT:

Hello, Squirrels of the Village of Squirrels! I'm here to save you!

EVIL GENIUS:

And I'm here to wreak my terrible vengeance! Hi!

INCONVENIENT:

Are you sure you want to be making the speeches?

EVIL GENIUS:

Just hurry up and put the nut on the tree before your father arrives and says something stupid!

REALLY IMPORTANT ENTERS.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Son, step away from Evil Genius Squirrel—He's Evil!

EVIL GENIUS:

Too late.

INCONVENIENT:

No, Dad! It's time that all squirrels know the truth! It's time for our society to change! I'm putting the nut on the tree!

REALLY IMPORTANT:

No, you're not! We don't put nuts on trees, we take them away! You can't change that!

INCONVENIENT:

Why not?

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Because it's who we are—we're squirrels! Chatter, chatter, scamper, scamper, nuts! Nuts, I say, Nuts!

INCONVENIENT:

I think there's more to life than chattering and scampering over nuts!

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Oh yeah? We'll see about that!

REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL BATS THE NUT OUT OF INCONVENIENT'S PAWS. THE NUT GOES FLYING INSTIGATING THE SAME CHASE WE SAW AT THE TOP OF THE SHOW. EVENTUALLY, INCONVENIENT and SOCIALLY AWKWARD PEAL OFF FROM THE CHASE and ADDRESS THE AUDIENCE.

INCONVENIENT:

And that's the whole story. Thanks for listening.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

The story's not over yet.

INCONVENIENT:

Yes, it is. My father's right—after everything we've been through this is what it comes down to: just a bunch of squirrels fighting over a nut.

SQUIRRELS RUN BY UPSTAGE.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Yes! We're squirrels fighting over a nut, that's who we are and there's nothing wrong with that. Look at me—I know I'm not a perfect Squirrel. I smell weird, I talk in my sleep and I make people uncomfortable. And that's okay—do you know why?

INCONVENIENT:

Not really, no.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Because no one is perfect! I mean look at you. You're short, self-involved, short, you smell like a girl and you're really short.

INCONVENIENT:

What's your point?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

The point is if I like you just the way you are then you should like yourself just the way you are. In fact, I bet you'd like to hug yourself right now. C'mon, go ahead—hug yourself.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD HUGS HIMSELF.

C'mon—hug yourself! Hug yourself!

INCONVENIENT HUGS HIMSELF. FIRST TENTATIVELY and THEN MORE FERVENTLY.

It's great, isn't it? Now, let's try to hug each other while still hugging ourselves!

AS THEY AWKWARDLY TRY TO HUG, EVIL GENIUS HAS SUCCESSFULLY GRABBED THE NUT, BUT IS BEING CHOKED BY REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL.

EVIL GENIUS:

If you guys aren't too busy doing whatever it is you think you're doing, could you save me please?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD and EVIL GENIUS SQUIRREL PIN REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL. INCONVENIENT GRABS THE NUT, HE REACHES UP TO PUT IT ON THE BIG OL' TREE.

EVIL GENIUS:

Do it! Do it! Put the nut on the tree!

INCONVENIENT:

Here goes nothing!

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL QUICKLY SHOVES THE NUT ON TO THE TREE. BEAT.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

You see, nothing! If the Big Ol' Tree wanted to talk to us, he would! No squirrel can make him do it! Now, it's Really Important that—

BIG OL' TREE:

Oh be quiet! Yes, I can talk okay! Listen to me talk! Blah, blah, blah! I can do lots of interesting things! I can sing—(TREE SINGS SOMETHING) I can do little dances (HE DANCES WITH HIS TREE LIMBS) I can even tell jokes—do you know why the tree crossed the road? Oh, wait, that doesn't work—because trees can't cross the road—I'm just stuck here dropping nuts for stupid squirrels that can't see that mine are no different from any other tree!

REALLY IMPORTANT:

So it's true? We can eat nuts from other trees?

BIG OL' TREE:

Yes, for goodness' sake, yes!

REALLY IMPORTANT:

We've based our entire society around you and you're just another tree?

BIG OL' TREE:

No, I'm not! I'm particularly Big and Old. It's right there in my name. Big Ol' Tree—that's who I am!

INCONVENIENT:

Why don't you want us to eat nuts from other trees?

BIG OL' TREE:

I'm not just Big and Old—I'm also very selfish and hungry for attention. I can't go wandering the countryside with my weird friends, so I needed to make them come to me!

REALLY IMPORTANT:

But why do you care if we have names?

BIG OL' TREE:

I don't care! But at this point, it's what you expect of me. I'm just trying to be who you want me to be, so you'll keep paying attention to me...oh, the truth is finally out, I feel so emotional I'm going to weep like a sissy little willow tree—I want to turn away but I can't—look away, look away...

TREE BREAKS DOWN INTO TEARS. SQUIRRELS TURN and FACE AWAY IN AN AWKWARD MANNER.

EVIL GENIUS:

Well, Really Important Squirrel, I think this is a good opportunity for you to admit how incredibly wrong you've been about everything for your entire life.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Well, yes. But I think what's really important to focus on is that my son was right about everything. So I think it's really important that we start doing everything the exact opposite of the way we used to do it! No squirrel will be allowed to have a name! We must never eat nuts from this tree! We'll wear our pants on our heads and--

INCONVENIENT:

No! You can't change all of our traditions!

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Look, change used to be scary and tradition used to be good, but now we've changed that so the new tradition is that tradition is scary and change is good. Right?

INCONVENIENT:

No! Tradition and change are both good.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Than what in the name of nuts am I supposed to be scared of!

INCONVENIENT:

You don't have to be scared of anything! You can have all the traditions you want. But sometimes you have to allow a little change, so you can come up with new traditions.

BIG OL' TREE:

Oooo, I have an idea. Look at me, look at me, you can look at me again.

SQUIRRELS TURN BACK AROUND TO FACE THE TREE.

You guys could all stand around under me, and instead of picking names—you could have a name changing ceremony to get rid of all those awful names we gave you.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I don't want to change my name.

EVIL GENIUS:

Neither do I!

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Why not?

EVIL GENIUS:

Because I really am a genius!

INCONVENIENT:

Well, sure, but you're not evil—you're just misunderstood right?

EVIL GENIUS:

No, actually, I'm pretty evil. See?

HE WHACKS REALLY IMPORTANT SQUIRREL IN THE SHIN.

But seriously, you were right, little squirrel, I'm not just who other people think I am—I can be any squirrel I want to be no matter what my name is! Isn't that right, Socially Awkward?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

You were born blind and naked. High five!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD PUTS HIS HAND UP FOR A HIGH FIVE. EVIL GENIUS STARES AT HIM.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

What about you, son? Do you want a name?

INCONVENIENT:

Yes, I do. In fact, I think I have the perfect name for myself!

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Is it Hero Squirrel?

INCONVENIENT:

No.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD SQUIRREL:

Is it My Father's a Dork Squirrel?

INCONVENIENT:

No.

EVIL GENIUS:

Oooo, is it Couldn't Decide His Name Squirrel So He Went on a Scary Life Altering Journey of Truth and Redemption with His Best Friend Socially Awkward Squirrel, Then Teamed up with his Arch-Nemesis Evil Genius Squirrel and Returned to the Village Causing a Significant and Positive Socio-Cultural Paradigm Shift Squirrel?

INCONVENIENT:

Yes!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD & EVIL GENIUS:

Really?

INCONVENIENT:

Of course not! I don't want a name that describes me! And I don't want a name that means anything. I just want a name that means me, and maybe someday if I do enough cool things, my name will mean something.

REALLY IMPORTANT:

So, son, what is your name?

INCONVENIENT SQUIRREL:

Me Squirrel.

EVIL GENIUS:

That's the stupidest name I've ever heard.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I know! Me Squirrel. How self-centered can you get?

BIG OL' TREE:

Why doesn't he just name himself Can't Speak English Properly Squirrel and be done with it?

REALLY IMPORTANT:

Hey! Leave him alone—it's his choice!

ME:

It's fine, Dad. I like my name, so my friends can have any opinion they want about it, and I'll still be me.

BIG OL' TREE:

You know what I think? I think you picked a brand new name and tradition demands I give you a nut.

ME:

Okay! So where's my nut?

BIG OL' TREE:

There's been a slight change in the tradition. You don't just get the nut—you're going to have to chatter and scamper for it!

BIG OL' TREE TOSSES A NUT.

Get the nut, squirrels! Get the nut!

ALL FOUR SQUIRRELS SCATTER, RUNNING AFTER THE NUT and SCREAMING. INCONVENIENT and SOCIALLY AWKWARD BREAK OFF and COME DOWN STAGE.

INCONVENIENT:

Now, this really is the end of our story.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

There's just one thing that remains!

INCONVENIENT:

The moral of the story!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

We'll let you in on a little secret.

THEY BOTH LOOK BOTH WAYS IN UNISON.

INCONVENIENT:

You are who you are.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

And there's nothing wrong with that. Even if you're weird.

INCONVENIENT:

Well, don't add that part—it makes it sound like they're all weird.

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

Well, maybe they are—do you want me to check?

INCONVENIENT:

Of course, I don't want you to check!

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

It won't take long. Oh, there's one.

INCONVENIENT:

Can we please just chase the nut?

SOCIALLY AWKWARD:

I thought you'd never ask! Goodbye weirdos!

THEY RACE OFF and CHASE THE NUT. LIGHTS OUT. BOW MUSIC UP.

THE END.