

From the desk of Ms. Pinky
Pinky's Journal, October 25th, 2022

Percy the purple squirrel was excited to paint by the pond today.
But first, he had to fill his backpack with all the things he needed.

He packed his pencil and eraser,

He packed a pad of paper

He packed 2 paintbrushes

He packed 5 tubes of paint

He packed water for washing his paintbrushes and his paws.

Finally, he packed the easel that holds his paper up straight. At last, he was ready.

As he was rushing along the trail, he heard laughter in the woods.

"What a funny noise, who could that be?" he wondered.

He started back down the path and stopped by the farm field. It was a cold morning, and everything sparkled with frost. His favorite poplar tree shaded the giant boulder where he cracked open his hickory nuts. As he reached for his pencil to sketch the tree, he heard the laugh again. That is very odd, He thought. I wish I could figure out who that is and what is so funny.

He glanced up at a rustling in the trees. It was Jay, and she was looking through her binoculars.



"Good morning," said Percy.

"Oh, hi there!" Jay sang as she jumped to a closer branch.

"Jay", said Percy, "did you hear that laugh in the woods?"

Jay cocked her head, "No, who is it?"

Percy flicked his tail. He always flicked his tail when he was excited. "That's what I have been trying to figure out. I think someone is playing hide and seek with me."

"A mystery!" said Jay. "I will fly up high and see if I can find anything. This could be something new for my Nature Journal!"



Soon, Percy reached the pond and began to paint. First, he added blue for the water and then green for the hillside. Suddenly, his friend Lucy popped up in the middle of the pond. Percy waved at her with his paintbrush.

"Can you stay still so I can paint you?"

Lucy floated back and forth in front of him.

"It's hard but I will try," she said. She liked it when Percy painted pictures of her.

As he was mixing up the perfect shade of pink for Lucy's scales, he was startled by a voice behind him.

"Whatcha doin'?", asked the voice.

Percy turned, jumped backward, and came crashing down on his tail. In front of him was the most colorful bird he had ever seen. "You certainly surprised me!" he sputtered.

The bird started laughing. It sounded like gobble! Then, Gobble! Gobble! Gobble! Percy realized it was the same laugh that he had been hearing all morning!

"Hey, you have the laugh I have been hearing in the woods" Percy squealed. I have been trying to find you all morning.

You are a good hider!"

The bird smiled proudly. "I really did surprise you didn't I?"

My name is Oliver. My friends call me Ollie."

Percy wondered how a bird so colorful and loud had been able to hide from him. "Can I paint you someday?"

Your tail is so colorful like my paints."

Oliver's smile turned into a frown. "Oh, I don't think I would like to get paint on my feathers,"

Percy giggled. "I meant I would paint a picture of you."

Suddenly Percy remembered that he was supposed to be at Ace's bakery by 10 o'clock.

"I have some friends who would love to meet you. Would you like to come to breakfast?"

We are having scones. Oliver laid his wing over his stomach. "Yes please, I am very hungry after playing, and I do love scones."

And so, this morning, Percy showed up for breakfast with our new friend, Ollie the very colorful turkey. Everyone was extra happy to meet him. We shared a pitcher of pond juice and a plate of Ace's special chocolate chip scones.

