

# Petey's Secret Power

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## Chapter One

### Mysterious Noises

The sun peeked its shining face over the tall, blue mountains. Its rays brightened even the darkest corners of the Big Forest. Warm fingers of light reached between the dense green leaves of an ancient oak tree. Petey Squirrel slept soundly among the tree's branches—snug in his treetop nest.

The warm sunshine touched the little squirrel's face—tickling his nose. Petey wiggled his nose and turned over. Shielding his eyes from the bright start of morning, Petey curled himself into a tight little ball. It was the beginning of another peaceful day in the Big Forest when...Boom!

"What...?" Petey muttered, half asleep.

Boom! This time the noise was even louder.

Petey woke up with a start. "What was that?" he mumbled.

Boom! Bang! Petey covered his ears. Not wanting to get up, the little squirrel curled himself into an even tighter ball and tried to go back to sleep. Petey was just drifting off into a deep slumber when...Boom! Bang! Boom!

"Can't a body get some sleep around here?" Petey complained to no one in particular.

Petey sat up and peered over his nest to see where the noise was coming from. He scanned the forest floor. He looked and he looked, but he didn't see anything. Just as he decided to investigate the source of the noise, the loud booming and banging abruptly ceased.

"Well, it's about time!" Petey cried.

Expectantly, Petey waited for the noise to start up again, but all he heard was the relaxing sound of leaves rustling above him. A warm, soft breeze caressed his fur. Petey yawned and stretched. Drowsy again, he curled up in his warm, cozy bed. The little squirrel was snoring softly when... Boom! Boom! Bang! Bang!

Petey sat up. Irritated, he leaned over the edge of his nest and shouted down, "Quiet! I'm trying to sleep!"

Petey grabbed some leaves. He stuffed the leaves tightly into his ears and hunkered back down into his bed. Petey closed his eyes again. He tried to go back to sleep, but it was no use. The noise was just too loud! The little squirrel was rapidly losing his patience when... Boom! Bang! Boom! Bang! Boom! Boom!

Pulling the leaves out of his ears, the squirrel leaped from his nest. Angrily, Petey paced up and down the tree branch. He swished his bushy tail back and forth in agitation.

"Enough's enough!" Petey declared to no one in particular.

The grumpy, grouchy squirrel scampered down the tree. He was going to find out where the noise was coming from!

Petey ran through the forest following the sounds. Boom! Bang! Boom!

The little squirrel traveled deeper and deeper into the Big Forest. Petey didn't like to go into this part of the forest. It was gloomy and dark! There were thick, thorny bushes that clawed at you. But the worst part was the slimy,

slippery, swampy, stinky, smelly mud holes. Petey had heard horrible tales of animals that had gone into the deep forest—never to return! Feeling uneasy, Petey was just about to go back when he heard a loud bang!

Forgetting his fear, Petey raced off in the direction of the sound. In the nick of time, Petey skidded to a stop. He barely avoided falling headfirst into a big, oozy, squishy, mushy, muddy mud hole! Across the mud hole, behind a thick patch of prickly bushes, came a loud boom-bang. Petey wanted to see what making the noise, but the mud was between him and the source of the sound.

“Yuck!” Petey said, looking at the mud. He wasn’t about to wade through the nasty, icky mess.

Suddenly, Petey had an idea. The agile squirrel scampered up a weeping willow tree. The tree hung over the mud hole. Carefully, Petey inched his way along a slender willow bough until he dangled over the treacherous

mud. From his vantage point, Petey could just see over the prickly bushes. Petey put his paw over his mouth to stifle a cry of surprise. He stared in amazement at the odd sight. Petey had finally discovered what was making the mysterious noises, but he could barely believe what he saw!

To get a better view, Petey inched his way up the willow tree branch. Just then, he heard a loud snap. Petey moved as fast as he could up the branch when, suddenly, it broke clean into. Down the little squirrel fell, branch and all. Petey was headed straight into the stinky, slimy mud!

Petey went spiraling down, down, down. Afraid to look, Petey closed his eyes. Even though he couldn’t see it, the terrified squirrel could smell the foul muck!

“Help!” Petey screamed in panic. “Save me! I don’t want to die!”

Then, from out of nowhere, a big, black, furry paw reached out and grabbed him!

Next Time: **Bubba Bear’s Big Time Band**