The VOICE of the PACK

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SYNOPSIS.

Warned by his physician that he has but one more year to live, Mike Cline, Failing star despondently on a train, decides that he should at least spend those six months in friendly surroundings decides to visit his brother, Dan Failing, at Pioneer Mines, and he decides to end his days in the forests of Oregon. Disembarking at the station he finds a deep love for all things of the wild and help him to realize a purpose.

CHAPTER I—Continued.

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The squirrel was very close to him and Dan seemed to know by instinct that the movement of a single muscle would give him away. So he sat as if he were posing before a photographer's camera. The fact that he was able to do it is in itself important. In the mountains of Oregon the squirrel with dumb-bells for five minutes then to sit absolutely without motion for the same length of time. Hesitancy and indecision suggest fear and will training. It was therefore rather evident that Dan possessed a sort of fear that he tried. He had never been afraid of the wild life around him. The fact didn't prove such a severe strain on his muscles.

The squirrel, after he had finished, stood on his haunches to see better. First he looked a long time with his left eye. Then he turned his head and looked with his right. Then he backed off a short distance and sat down to look at both. Then he came some half-dozen steps nearer.

A moment before he had been certain that a living creature was free of the most terrible and powerful thing creation is the world—hate been sitting on the park bench. Now his little brain was completely addled. He was entirely ready to believe that his eyes had deceived him.

Dusky-tail drew off a little further, fully convinced at last that his lesser of a nut from a child's hand were blasted. But he turned to look once more. The figure still sat utterly in set. And all at once he forgot his wavering tongue in the face of an overwhelming curiosity.

He came somewhat nearer and hooked a long time. He was not a half-circle about the bench, turning his head as he went, so that he could see more than ever, but he was no nearer than ever. He was certain by some no believer that no human face was left. And then he leaped on Dan's knee.

Dan moved then. The movement reminded of a sudden brightening of the light in his eyes. But the squirrel didn't see it. It takes a complex response to be visible to the eyes of the wild things.

The squirrel crept slowly along the bench, stopping at the end to look at a stare with one eye and another. Just downward from head to tail, and then nearly. And then he leaped on Dan's knee.

He was quite convinced, by now, that this warm, pork man which he stood was the most singular and interesting object of his young life. It was true that he was faintly worried by the smell that reached his nostrils. But all it really did was further to incite his curiosity. He leaped from Dan's leg up to the hip and then perched on the elbow. And as he perched there he was poking a cold nose into Dan's cheek.

But if the squirrel was excited by all these demonstrations of friendliness he was nothing compared to Dusky. It was the most singular and interesting subject