

## Strange Encounters

Mushrooms, we pass them in our everyday life. We think of them as many things, a fungi, a food, or even a garden or house decoration. It's common knowledge that they are alive, but maybe we have been misunderstanding this. Lately I have been watching something amazing. This remarkable little mushroom has a job as a merchant. He loves to travel on his squirrel. And while his cap is bright orange so is his favorite food, he loves tangerines! As he is often passed by unseen due to his size, if you look a little closer you may see him wandering in the woods close to home.

Like some people, he has a lucky object, a paper star. To him it is a treasure to behold. This trinket is stained and torn but he truly loves it like a bear loves honey. As a companion he has a squirrel that loves to explore. But he also likes to stuff acorns in the box they use to transport their merch. Most of the time he rides on his squirrel's back but other times he can't help to take a cozy nap in his fluffy tail.

Furthermore, this guy does love traveling don't get me wrong but he does come from a more specific place. It's called "Fungi Village". Home to all kinds of fungus, not only mushrooms. It must have been a nice place to grow up in but still not alot of things to do. Which must be why he left to travel. Sometimes as a sport they will go hunting, not for animals, but for fruit. Once a year they choose a group then go search for fruit. Afterwards, whoever gets the most fruit wins, then they feast!

For merch he sells things like dewdrop telescopes, fruit, tools, and other little trinkets that might come in handy. The dewdrop telescopes are his favorite to make, it's a very simple process but a fun one nonetheless. First he finds a nice and green leaf that will make for nice color, then finds a drop of dew to put on the ends, when all that is done he finds some sap to stick it together. He stores his stuff in a straw box connected to his squirrel by a net.

If you're lucky enough to see him in his free time you may see him crafting. He makes lots of things. I even think his squirrel's saddle is hand made. Most of the things he eats are plants or insects. Often he just eats things raw, but sometimes he will cook them by leaving something under a magnifying glass in the sun. Other times I've seen him sell his stuff for sugar instead of money.

All this time he has been using a backpack to carry his stuff in and I've got to say, he has a nice variety of stuff. Including a rope, blanket, tarp, hatchet, and some medicine just in case. And he has somehow found a way to use all of these things, and not bring anything extra which is kind of impressive. What else is impressive is that when he sets up camp it's all out he finds rocks to put around a fire, makes basically a miniature cabin out of sticks then uses his tarp to make a large tent for his squirrel.

Out of it all, one thing is for sure, this is an amazing creature. And if you ever come across one be sure to take notes, be gentle, and know you are truly lucky. This may be the only one I have found, but I doubt it is the only one. Who knows, maybe I'll

find another one soon. At least I hope I will! I also hope you love him just as much as I do.