

THE  
**DEAD SEA  
SQUIRRELS**

Cybersquirrels

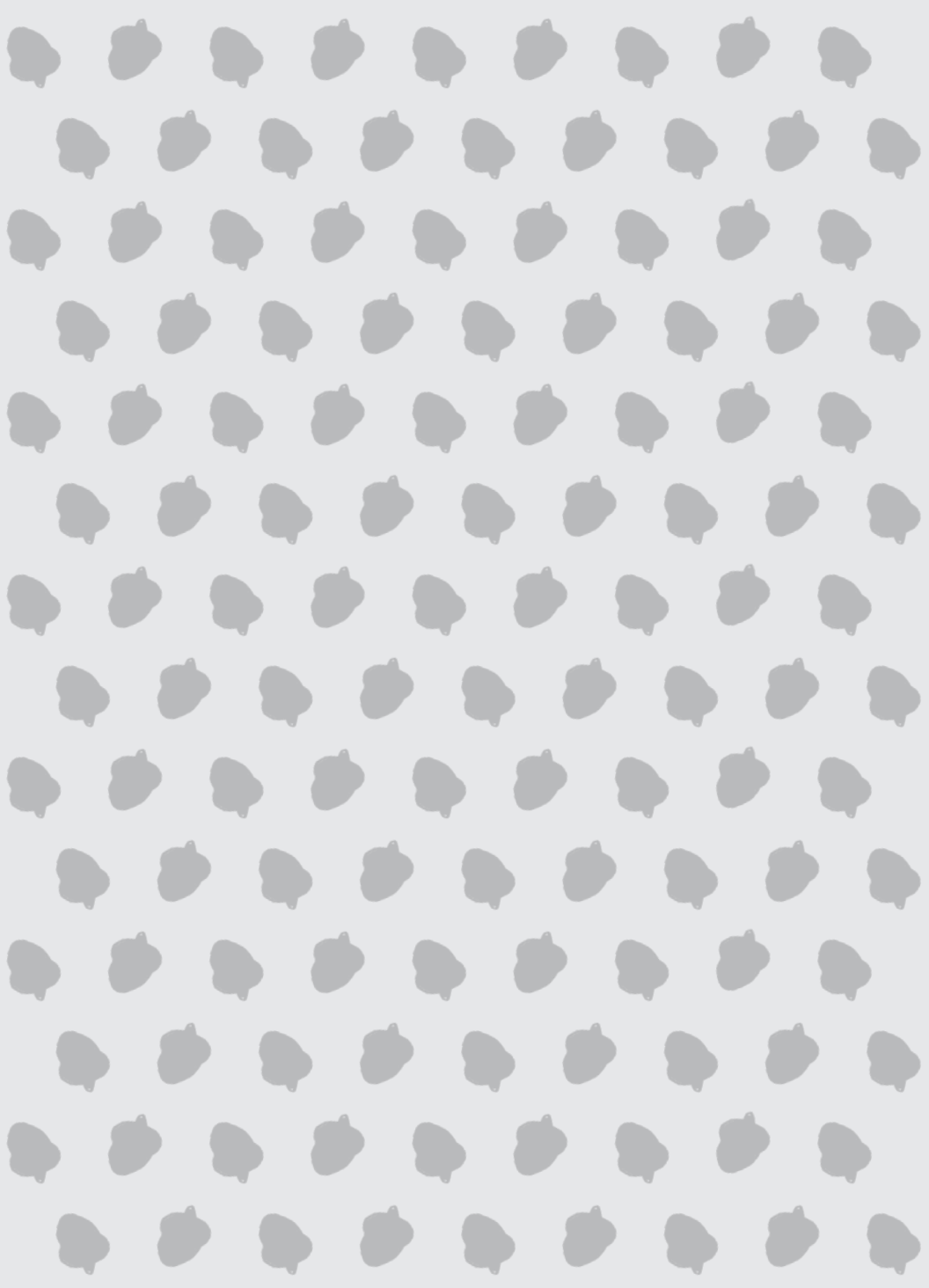
From the co-creator of VeggieTales

**Mike Nawrocki**

Illustrated by Luke Séguin-Magee

# The Dead Sea Squirrels Series

*Squirreled Away*  
*Boy Meets Squirrels*  
*Nutty Study Buddies*  
*Squirrelnapped!*  
*Tree-mendous Trouble*  
*Whirly Squirrelies*  
*Merle of Nazareth*  
*A Dusty Donkey Detour*  
*Jingle Squirrels*  
*Risky River Rescue*  
*A Twisty-Turny Journey*  
*BabbleLand Breakout*  
*Cybersquirrels*





## *Cybersquirrels*

# Mike Nawrocki

Illustrated by Luke Séguin-Magee



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*Cybersquirrels*

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*To Linda Howard for believing in the crazy vision of  
two ancient dehydrated and reconstituted squirrels,  
and for a friendship that stands the test of time.*



*People with integrity walk safely, but those  
who follow crooked paths will be exposed.*

PROVERBS 10:9

**BUT  
WAIT!**

**BEFORE WE START...**

Who are the  
Dead Sea Squirrels?

ISRAEL,  
AD 70

Merle and Pearl cruise  
down the Jordan River ...



... on the  
vacation of  
a lifetime!

The squirrels end up at the  
Dead Sea, where ...

You can't sink!  
I've always  
wanted  
to not sink!



Couldn't you have  
just worn your  
floaties in the lake  
back home?

Soon the two salty squirrels are  
hot, thirsty, and desperate for  
shade. Then they spot a cave.



If God wanted you to  
go into a cave,  
he would have made  
you a bat.

Merle's sense of adventure lures him  
into the cave, despite Pearl's protests.

**1,950**  
YEARS LATER

Ten-year-old Michael Gomez is spending the summer at the Dead Sea with his professor dad and his best friend, Justin.

While exploring a cave (without his dad's permission), Michael discovers two dried-out, salt-covered critters and stashes them in his backpack.



Michael sneaks  
the squirrels  
back home with  
him to Tennessee.

He sets them up like posable action figures on his dresser—  
under an open window,

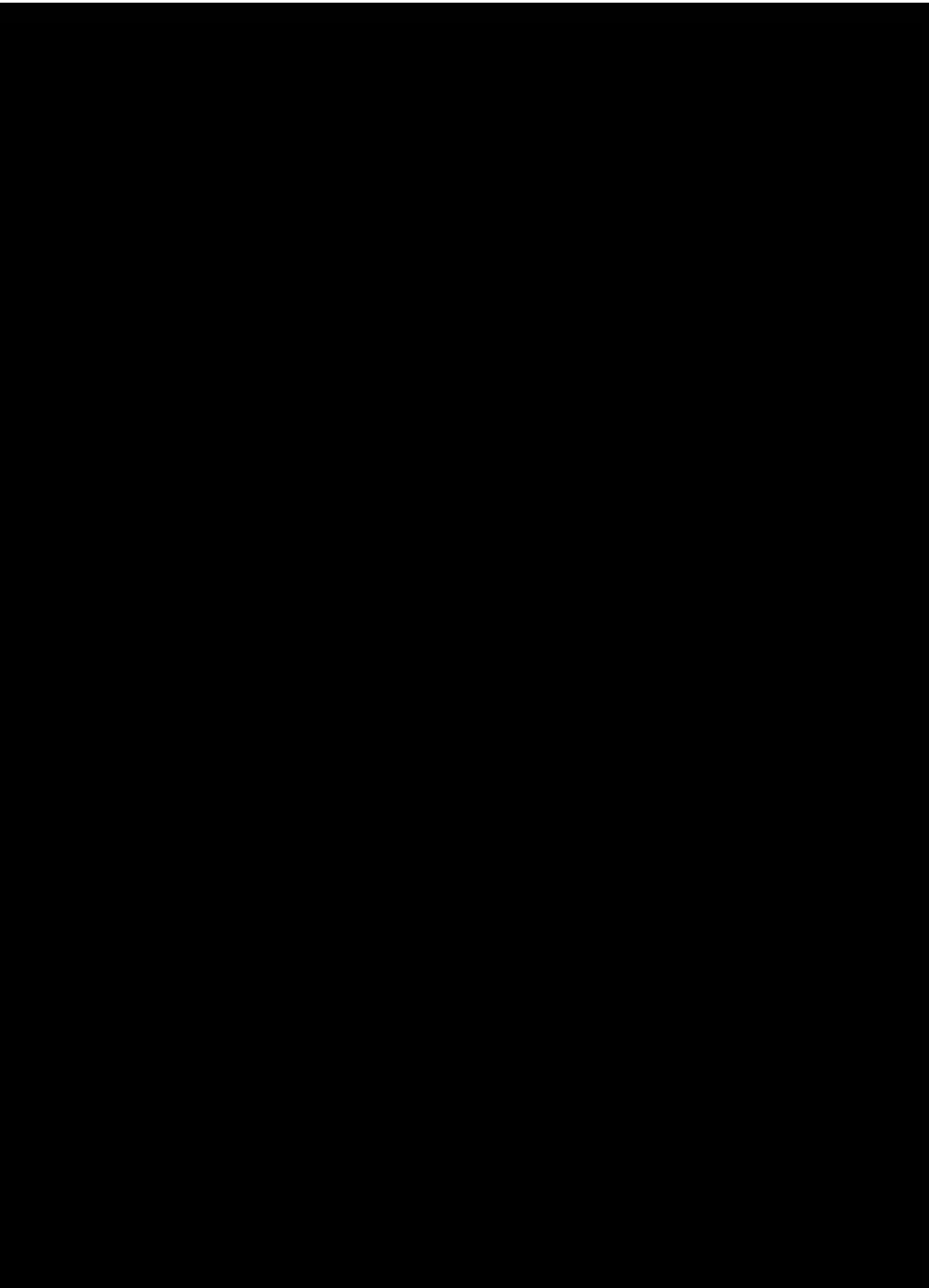
While Michael is sleeping,  
a thunderstorm rolls in,  
and it begins to rain...

... rehydrating the squirrels!

Up and kicking again after almost  
2,000 years, Merle and Pearl  
Squirrel have great stories  
and advice to share  
with the modern world.

They are the  
Dead Sea  
Squirrels!







# CHAPTER 1

What do you do after the adventure of a lifetime? If you're a ten-year-old kid just finishing fifth grade with your whole life in front of you (like Michael Gomez and his friends Justin and Sadie), why not have another one? And if you're a two-thousand-year-old squirrel (like Merle and Pearl Squirrel), why stop now? Of course, another adventure was the last thing on the minds of any of them as they arrived back in Tennessee on a warm spring evening along with Michael's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Gomez, and his sister, Jane. They were just happy to be back home safe and sound and all together.





innocently. "Plants, seeds, or food?" he continued.

"Do espresso beans count?!!!" a wide-eyed Justin barked out. Justin had purchased a package of what he thought were chocolate-covered raisins at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv.

"Not if you already ate them."

"Oh, I ate them, all right! I ate the WHOLE BAG! And they were really good!" Justin replied before continuing at a highly rapid pace. "You must have



a very interesting job—getting to meet lots of people each day, hearing great stories—what’s the most fascinating story you’ve heard? Say, I have a fascinating story—did you know that it’s really hard to sleep when you eat a whole bag of espresso beans?! And if you close your eyes, the whole world spins around like a carousel even when you’re on an airplane?!!!”

“You’re right. That’s a fascinating story,” the customs agent replied dryly as he handed Dr. Gomez back their stack of passports. “Welcome home.”

“Meet you at the luggage!!!” Justin shouted before sprinting toward baggage claim.

