The Dead Sea Squirrels Series

Squirreled Away
Boy Meets Squirrels
Nutty Study Buddies
Squirrelnapped!

Coming Soon:
Tree-mendous Trouble
Whirly Squirrels
Squirrelnapped!
Mike Nawrocki
To Justin—

For sticking closer than a brother to Michael and
for your contagious dedication to punctuality.

The best best friend ever.
Stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.

EPHESIANS 4:25
Prologue

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!

Could 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.

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

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

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

1,950 YEARS LATER

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.
While Michael is sleeping, a thunderstorm rolls in, and it begins to rain... rehydrating the squirrels!

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

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!
“Michael, can you please explain to me why you were dancing with squirrels?” Michael’s mom stood just inside the door with her arms crossed. She’d been waiting for Michael to get home from the roller rink.

He was wearing his backpack, with Merle and Pearl Squirrel huddled quietly inside, listening through the canvas. Earlier that evening, Mrs. Gomez had entered Michael’s room to discover him celebrating the almost-ac ing of his math test with Merle and Pearl. Pearl, who was quite the whiz with numbers, had tutored Michael for his test.
However, before Michael could offer an explanation to his shocked mother, Justin and Sadie had showed up to take Michael roller-skating. Now he was back home, and it was time to come clean.

“You promise not to tell Dad?” Michael asked timidly.

“I will do no such thing,” Mrs. Gomez said. “You know they could have fleas?! I may have to fumigate your room.”

“I do not have fl—”

Pearl cut off Merle’s protest with a
paw over her husband’s mouth. “Shhhhh, she’ll hear you!”

“Well . . .” Michael hesitated. His dad finding out about the squirrels was Michael’s biggest fear. If Dr. Gomez knew Michael had smuggled them home to Tennessee with him from the Dead Sea, he might make them go back—something neither Michael nor the squirrels wanted. “I was dancing with them because Pearl helped me pass my math test.”

“Who is Pearl?” Mrs. Gomez questioned.

“One of the squirrels.”

Mrs. Gomez raised her eyebrows. “A squirrel helped you with math?”

“Yup,” Michael replied.

“Michael Karl Gomez,” Michael’s
mom began sternly, “if you expect me to believe for one mo—”

ZIIIIP!

She stopped as the top of Michael’s backpack unzipped itself.

Pearl popped her head out.

“AHHHHH!” Mrs. Gomez shouted.

“What are you doing?!” Michael tried to crane his head around to see.

“Please allow me to explain,” Pearl said
calmly. Mrs. Gomez’s face went as white as a sheet, and her knees weakened. Michael reached out to stop her from falling.

“Maybe you’d better sit down,” Pearl offered. The squirrels and Michael then told her the whole story of how Merle and Pearl ended up in 21st-century Tennessee.