Once upon a time, there was a kind-hearted man who had a charming wife. He adored her deeply and would never leave her side unless absolutely necessary. One day, he had to travel to a distant city on urgent business. Before departing, he visited a bustling market where all sorts of animals were sold. There, he spotted a clever little squirrel that caught his eye. This squirrel was not only quick and agile but also had the remarkable ability to observe and recount everything that happened around it.

The man bought the squirrel, placed it in a comfortable cage, and asked his wife to keep it in her room and take good care of it while he was away. He then set off on his journey. When he returned, he eagerly asked the squirrel what had transpired during his absence. The squirrel recounted some events that made the man scold his wife, who was deeply hurt and confused. She suspected that one of her maids had been gossiping about her, but they told her it was the squirrel. Determined to get her revenge, she devised a plan.

The next time her husband had to leave for a short trip, she instructed one of her maids to shake a rattling toy under the squirrel's cage, another to wave a fan above it, and a third to hold a lantern and swing it back and forth in front of the squirrel's eyes. The maids carried out her instructions diligently for most of the night.

When the husband returned the next day, he asked the squirrel what it had seen. The squirrel replied, "My dear master, the wind, the flickering lights, and the strange noises kept me so restless all night that I can hardly remember anything clearly."

The husband, knowing that there had been no such disturbances during the night, believed that the squirrel was lying. In a fit of anger, he took the squirrel out of its cage and threw it roughly onto the ground, killing it. However, as he walked away, he realized that the squirrel had actually been telling the truth. He was filled with remorse, but it was too late. The clever little squirrel was gone forever.