

ON THE FENCE
by Laura Neill

(Y and Z. Each in their own yard. On opposite sides of a fence.)

Zinny, you there?	Y
Yeah.	Z
That's good.	Y
Is it.	Z
Well yeah, that means I can talk to you.	Y
But we can't play. Or run. Or <i>play</i> .	Z
I mean. You can run around on your side and I can run around on mine.	Y
It's not the same.	Z
Yeah, I know.	Y
But Zinny?	(A moment.)
Yeah.	Z
Will you keep talking to me anyway?	Y
I'll always keep talking to you.	Z
Okay, thanks.	Y

Z
Do you want to run around?

Y
No, I was just saying that to make you feel better. --Do you want to run around?

Z
No.

Y
I guess at least we can run if we want to. At least we have yards.

Z
Is your mom practicing her gratitude thing again?

Y
Yeah.

Z
Doesn't it get on your nerves?

Y
Yeah. But anything that helps, right?

Z
I guess.

Y
Has your dad said anything about this that makes sense yet?

Z
Not really.

Y
I feel like all I know is we're not allowed out of the yard anymore.

Z
I think maybe that's all our parents know, too.

Y
Are you being generous or cynical?

Z
Hard to tell these days, isn't it.

Y
I'm just mad that they're rationing snacks.

Z
I know, right?

Y
It's like, if I'm inside ALL DAY, how are you going to tell me I can't have double snack?

Z
Or triple snack, or quadruple snack.

Y
Right. Quadruple time inside equals quadruple snack.

Z
Not in parent world, I guess.

Y
I guess.
(A moment.)

Parents are dumb.
But they're also the best thing in the entire world, so there's that.

Z
There's that.
Ooh look.

Y
Look at what?

Z
Up on the fence.

Y
Which fence.

Z
The fence in between our yards, smart one.

Y
I see a fence.

Over on the left. Z

Which left? Y

Your left! I was trying to make this easier by using your directions! Z

I don't see anything. Y

Don't you see the -- Z

SQUIRREL!! / SQUIRREL? Y / Z

Yes! Yes I see it! Oh my gosh I see it! Y

It's so fluffy. Z

It's so exciting. Y

Squirrel squirrel squirrel! Z

SQUIRREL!!! Y
Whose side do you think it's going to run to?

I don't know. Z

I hope it runs to mine. I'm sorry Zinny but I hope it runs to mine because I haven't seen a squirrel in like three days. Y

Weren't you chasing one like half an hour ago? Z

Y
LIKE THREE DAYS.

Z
Yeah.

Y
But I mean I also hope it runs to your side because I love you and I want you to be happy. But

Y and Z
SQUIRREL!!!

Y
You know how I was saying that parents are the best thing in the whole entire world?

Z
Yeah?

Y
I forgot. Squirrels are the best thing in the whole entire world.

Z
Absolutely.

Y
The UNIVERSE.

Z
Yup.

Y
It's moving! It's moving it's moving! Oh wait it's not moving.

Z
Dang.

Y
I could have sworn it was moving.

Z
Gosh it would be nice to chase a squirrel.

Yeah. Y

To chase it and chase it and almost catch it and then catch it? Z

Yeah. Y

I would totally catch it! Z

Of course you would. Y

Don't say it like that, I would totally catch it and then I would, I would-- Z

What would you do if you actually caught it? Y

I don't know. Give it a hug? Z

Makes sense. Y

Yeah. Z

Gosh it would be really nice to have someone in my yard with me. And then I could run and run and run and not feel like I'm just running in circles during the apocalypse. Y

True. Z

Maybe we could find another squirrel and then we could both have new friends. Y

You think? Z

Y

No.
Not really.
It's moving! It's really moving this time! It's going sideways!

Z

NO don't go sideways, you have to come into one of our yards!

Y

Please please please!?

Z

SQUIRREL!!

Y

It's not listening!

Z

What are we doing to do?

Y

Stand back.

Z

What?

Y

Stand back from your fence, give me six feet of social distance.

Z

Why, what are you going to--

Y

It's running sideways, there's no time!
(And Y runs towards the fence, screaming.)
GO INTO ZINNY'S YARD SQUIRREL GO GO GO!!!!

Z

OH MY GOSH IT'S IN MY YARD! IT'S IN MY YARD! THE SQUIRREL IS IN MY YARD!
YAY YAY YAYYYYYYYY!

(Z runs around after it happily. It makes it to the other side of the yard.)

Wow that was awesome.
I love squirrels.

Y
Good.

Z
But Yaz, you drove the squirrel away from your yard. So I could have a real run.

Y
Yeah.

Z
I wish I had thought of that. So I could have given you the squirrel run.

Y
That's okay. You'll give me the next one.

Z
Yeah, true.

Y
Or even if you don't. Community thinking. My mom was talking about how important community thinking is right now.

Z
What's that?

Y
I think the humans are trying to share something that helps them poop.

Z
Ewwwww.

Y
(in agreement)
Ewww.

Z
Hey, Yaz?

Y
Yeah?

Z
You make me think the practicing gratitude thing isn't so dumb.

So do you. For me. Y

(A moment.)

Look. Look look.

Z

Look at what?

Y

On the fence.

Z

What fence?

Y

The fence in between our yards!

Z

I don't see any--

Y and Z

(with ultimate joy and surprise)

SQUIRREL!!

(End of play.)