

squirrel seeks chipmunk – a Wicked Bestiary by David Sedaris.
Little, Brown 2010.

squirrel seeks chipmunk is a small book, both in size and length, but it is an absolute joy!

David Sedaris, renowned author of, among others, *Naked* and *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, turns his attention to animals with his latest book, and produces a series of 16 animal fables that have the bite of a hippopotamus and the sting of a Deathstalker scorpion. The titles may seem innocuous, e.g., *The Migrating Warblers*, *The Parenting Storks* and *The Crow and the Lamb*, but the stories certainly aren't.

Each of these twisted fables has its merits but my favourite is *The Grieving Owl* which made me laugh out loud. In addition to the stories there are some fine illustrations by Ian Falconer, and the end result is a perfect book to give as a gift, to enjoy on one's own, or to read to your nearest and dearest.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh