



negotiation

well, hello little chipmunk. how are you?

yes. you have a very pretty tummy.

and you keep yourself nice and clean. I can see that. are you hungry?

okay. I'll be right back.

now where did you go?

little chipmunk. little chipmunk. I've brought you some peanuts.

oh! there you are.

"Did you put those nuts there for me?"

yes. I brought them for you.

"And the bowl of water?"

yes. the water. that's for you, too.

"Are you — are we — standing here together looking at each other?"

yes. that's right.

you up on your back legs over there with your arm resting on the step

and me standing over here. yes.

"And are really talking together?"

yes. we're talking.

"This is unbelievable."

I know it's unbelievable. I have to believe it, too.

"This is scary."

don't be afraid. don't worry. I won't hurt you.

I won't even try to tame you. I just want to be your friend.

"You want me to come in your house?"

No. that's probably not a good idea. but we can be friends.

"I like to dig."

yes. I know you like to dig. that's okay.

But please. just don't dig up my flowers.

"Can I dig over here?"

yes. it's okay to dig over there. just not in my flowers.

"Over here? What about digging over here?"

yes. it's okay dig there, too.