



Fox Borrows
Tiger's Terror

Illustrated by Danielle Hoover

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During the Warring States period, the Chu State had a very capable minister named Zhao Xixu.

He was well respected and held in awe by the people of other countries as well as his own.





One day, the king asked his ministers "I hear every state in the north is afraid of our minister Zhao Xixu, is that so?"



At the question, almost all the ministers kept silent except one named Jiangyi.

"Your Majesty," he said.


"You know it is you who people awe and respect, not him! Have you heard the story of the fox and tiger?"



One day a tiger was hunting around in a forest.

An unlucky fox was caught by the tiger, and was likely to face death.

Despite the danger, the fox thought hard to find a way to escape.



The fox declared to the tiger,
"How dare you kill me!"

On hearing the words, the tiger was surprised, and asked for the reason.

The fox raised his voice higher and declared arrogantly, "It is I who was accredited by God as forest king of the animals! If you kill me, it would be against God's will."



Seeing that the tiger became suspicious, the fox added:
"Let's have a test. Follow me through the forest, and you
will see how the animals are frightened of me!"




So the fox walked ahead of the tiger proudly.

The animals, seeing the tiger behind, were all terribly frightened, and fled.

The fox asked proudly, "There is no doubt what I said is true, correct?"



The tiger had nothing to say but to acknowledge the result.
So the tiger bowed and said, "You are the king."



When Minister Jiyangyi finished the story, he added, "It seems as if the neighbors were afraid of Zhao Xixu."

"In fact, they are afraid of Your Majesty, just as the animals were afraid of the tiger, and not the fox."

