

Lizzy the Lizard
by
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Emily entered the garage to get her bike. She glanced down and noticed something in front of the wheel. She turned on the garage light and spotted a small brown lizard.

“Hey, there, what are you doing in the garage?” she asked. Emily worried because the lizard did not move. Lizards in the back yard always ran away when she got too close.

She picked up the lizard and realized that it was alive, but very cold. “You need to warm up,” said Emily as she quickly ran back into the house.

Her mother called, “Where are you going? I thought you went out for a bike ride?”

“Change of plans,” replied Emily as she headed for her room.

Emily started searching in her closet. She found an old shoebox and lined it with a sock.

“I’m going to name you Lizzy, Lizzy the Lizard! Let’s warm you up.” Emily placed the lizard in the shoebox near a sunny window. She poked holes in the lid and placed the lid on the shoebox. She did not want Lizzy to escape.

“I’ll be right back, Lizzy. I’m going to find some bugs for you.” Emily ran out the door to the garden. She found a worm, caterpillar, and a large brown bug with many legs.

She hurried back to her room. “Oh no!” Emily exclaimed. The top was off the shoebox. Lizzy was nowhere to be found. Looking around Emily saw a shoe sticking out from under her bed. She yanked on the shoe and pulled out her brother David.

“What have you done with Lizzy?” asked Emily.

David looked up at her and said, “I’m sorry.”

“Sorry about what?”

“Your door was open and I saw the box by the window. I wanted to see what was inside. When I took off the top, your lizard jumped out.”

Just then they heard a voice downstairs. “Come back here!”

Emily looked at David and they both raced downstairs. The two children saw their mother running around the kitchen. She was chasing Lizzy with a dishtowel in her hand.

“That’s Lizzy! Catch her!” Emily shouted as she ran over to help. Just then her mother leaped forward and caught the lizard with one swoop.

“It seems like you’re on a first name basis with this lizard. Would you care to explain that?” asked her mother.

“I found her in the garage,” explained Emily. “Lizzy was cold, so I made a home for her. Then I put her by the window to warm up.”

Her mother gave Emily a hug. “You know Lizzy is a wild animal and is better off in our garden. She can have all the bugs she wants and our vegetables will be bug-free.”

Emily nodded her head. Together they walked out to the garden and set Lizzy free. Lizzy ran a few feet and then turned around to look at them. Emily was certain that she saw Lizzy smile.