

JONAH'S LIZARD

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Jonah and his family went on a vacation to a beautiful island to visit his grandparents. They lived in a city by the sea. Jonah liked to go there because he loves to swim at the beach close to his grandparent's house. Every day he was there, he went to the beach to play. He also liked to build sandcastles. He was one of the best sandcastle builders.

While he was getting sand for his castle, he discovered something he had never seen before. It was a big brown and yellow egg buried in the sand. He dug it up and put it in his bucket and took it home. He thought that maybe it was turtle egg. He loved turtles. He studied about them in school. He had wanted to have a turtle for a pet.

He took it to his room and put it under his bed. After a few days, he forgot about it.

One day in the morning he heard something under the bed. It was making a strange noise.

"Maybe the turtle has hatched!" he thought.

He leaned over to look under the bed. When he pulled the blanket out of the way, to his big surprise, he saw a baby lizard. It was wiggling its tongue in the air and made a funny grunting noise.

"A lizard! That's better than a turtle. My friends won't believe it!" Jonah was excited.

He thought about what he would do with the lizard. He got out of bed and

found a box to put the lizard into, so it would not leave the house.

Every day he fed the lizard. He had read a book to find out what lizards ate, and he went hunting each morning for bugs and vegetables to feed it. Sometimes he took tomatoes and lettuce from his grandmother's refrigerator. Unknown to him, his grandmother used special plant food to make the tomatoes grow bigger.

The little lizard began to grow and grow and grow, until it couldn't fit in the box or even in Jonah's room. He took it out at night and put it in the garage.

Two days later, he found the lizard in his grandmother's garden. It had eaten everything, including all her tomatoes. Now he was too big to fit in the garage anymore.

When his parents left the house, to go to the store, they saw the lizard in the yard.

His mother screamed, "What's that thing in our garden! Call the police!"

Jonah yelled back, "NO! He's my lizard. He won't hurt you. He's very friendly."

His father asked, "Where did it come from?"

He replied, "I found an egg on the beach, and then he hatched. He is growing bigger every day. I think it might be Grandmother's tomatoes. I'm not totally sure."

"What are we supposed to do with a giant lizard?" his father asked. "We can't feed it. You can see it ate everything in the garden."

"I'll take it to the forest. Then I can visit him every day," Jonah offered.

"You had better do that quickly or he might eat the house!" his father told him laughing.

Jonah waited until it was dark to take the lizard to the forest. He didn't want anyone to see it. He was afraid they might be scared of the lizard and want to kill it.

He put a rope around the neck of the lizard and walked him to the forest in the dark. The lizard liked going for a walk. He looked around to see the houses, the

stores, and the beach as they walked slowly around the town toward the forest in the middle of the island.

Jonah thought for a while on a name he might give to his lizard. He thought and thought until he came up with the perfect name. He was going to call him Clark. The lizard reminded him of a friend from school named Clark. He was a big kid, but very funny.

“Clark, it’s time for me to go. I hope you are happy in the forest!” Jonah said as he gave the lizard a hug.

He took off the rope and went home.

The next morning, to his surprise, Clark was in the yard. He had returned. He was looking for Jonah.

“Oh boy. This is not going to be easy. He doesn’t want to stay in the forest, but what will happen if our neighbors see him,” he thought to himself. “I’ve got to get him out of here.”

He took him to forest again. He tied him to a tree. When he went home, he built a wall around the garden. He used the skills he learned from making sandcastles.

The next day, the lizard was back. The rope was cut and there was big hole in the wall. The lizard looked at Jonah and wiggled its tongue at him.

His parents came out and were surprised to see the lizard again.

“I guess we can’t get rid of him. He likes it here too much. Try to hide him before the neighbors see him. We will try to come up with an idea before we get home tonight from work,” his father told him.

Jonah and Clark played all day. Clark liked to have his belly scratched, so he would roll over and wiggle his legs in the air. His tail moved back and forth and made so much noise that the neighbors began to get curious.

They called the police and complained that something was making loud noises, but they did not know where it was coming from.

The police arrived at Jonah's house and heard the racket from the back yard. They looked over the wall and saw something they had never seen before. A giant lizard and boy playing games.

"Hey boy! Get away from that lizard. He's going to kill you!" yelled one of the police officers.

"No, he won't. He's my friend," Jonah replied.

The police officers went closer to see what the lizard was doing. They called for a backup and for the fire department to come and help. They were not sure how to catch the lizard. It is so big.

"We need to take your lizard away. He is making too much noise and people are complaining. Can you help us?" one of the police officers asked Jonah.

"NO! He's my friend and he's going to stay here. My parents said I could keep him," Jonah said strongly.

Shortly afterwards, Jonah's parents arrived. They had been called at work about what was happening at their house.

"What's going on here?" asked Jonah's father.

"We need to take your lizard away. Your neighbors are complaining about all the noise," the captain explained.

"We told Jonah that he could keep the lizard. If we keep him quiet, can we keep him?" his mother asked.

"NO, you are not allowed to keep such a big lizard in your yard. He must come with us," was the reply.

As the police were taking the Clark out of the yard, a voice was heard on the police radios saying there was an emergency at the beach. Something was coming out of the water and it was really big. All officers were to report to the beach to handle the situation.

Jonah's grandparents came out of the house and heard the message on the

radio.

“Our grandparents told us a story about long ago, that when they were young a monster came out of the sea and almost destroyed the town. Maybe this is the same monster returning to do it again!” grandfather told the police. “Some people think it was just a story, but we always knew it was true.”

“How did they get rid of the monster?” the captain asked, very curious about the story.

“After destroying the city, the monster just went away. They tried to use fire, they tried to shoot guns, they tried everything to make it stop, but it just kept smashing things until it got tired. Then it just left. It took a long time to rebuild the city. If it comes here again, it is going to do the same thing!” grandfather warned everyone.

“We need to take the lizard now. We will see what is happening at the beach and then let you know where your lizard will be kept,” the captain tried to reassure Jonah.

Jonah cried as they took his lizard away.

When the police got to the beach, all the people who had been enjoying the sun and water ran away. The monster was getting bigger and bigger as it climbed out of the water onto the sand. It let out a big roar and began to throw things to the right and to the left.

Clark saw the monster and began to roar at it, trying to threaten it. The monster saw Clark and seemed to laugh. This made Clark angry. He broke the ropes holding him and ran straight at the black beast standing on the sand. He jumped at it and knocked it to the ground. There was a battle. Blood and saliva flew everywhere. All anyone could do was watch as Clark defended the city.

Clark used one of the empty houses to hit the monster. The monster was hurt, but he did not stop. As they moved away from the beach, many houses and

businesses were destroyed. The fight went on for a long time, until finally, the monster ran away into the sea. The water turned red. From then on, they called it the Red Beach.

After the fight, Clark was taken away to a live on a nearby farm. He was famous and people came from all over to see the lizard that had protected the city.

Jonah was angry and he ran away. He ran for a long time and then he fell to the ground. It was soft, so he fell asleep.

He woke up and looked around. His pillow was under his feet. The clock on his table said it was midnight. He had a cold sweat all over his body. In his arms he held his toy lizard he had gotten for his birthday. Out from under his bed crawled a baby turtle.