



The Adventure
Of
Joe the Lizard

By Sophie

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Once there was a little blue lizard named Joe. He lived in a cage that had a nice pond. There was also some powdery sand that got very warm when the sun hit at the right angle which meant that Joe would take naps on it some days. And of course last but not least he had his bed that was made out of small cut pieces of cloth that was under a little tunnel in the very corner of his cage. He had a very sweet owner named Lizzie and she made sure that she played with Joe almost every day after school. Lizzie was twelve and she was in 7th grade. One night she overheard her parents talking that night and then talked about her family moving.

“Well what do you think would be best for her?” asked Lizzie’s mother named Amy.

Then Lizzie’s father Billy replied, “I think that it will be a good change for her, I mean come on Amy she’s been here all her life!”

Lizzie had thought about what her parents had said and then started crying. She loved Florida all of her friends lived there and she loved how sandy all of the beaches were. She lived in a beach house that was pretty big and the last thing that she would wan to do was move. She ended up crying herself to sleep. The next morning Lizzie woke up to see Joe pacing around his cage with a blank stare on his face. Lizzie

then realized that Joe had heard the news about moving as well.

Then Lizzie's mom came in with several large boxes.

She set the boxes down and then started talking, "I have some news for you. We will be moving to Finland in 3 weeks. So I would like you to start packing everything that you still want, and get rid of everything that you don't want anymore."

"Listen mom, I already heard you last night when you were talking to dad."

"Oh, then I guess that conversation is already over with and we don't have to argue about it."

"Well mom, I knew when I finally started to get excited about being here you would decide to make me move to somewhere cold and some place that I wouldn't want to live!" she yelled out of nowhere.

She sprang out of her bed and stormed out of her bedroom looking like a volcano ready to explode.

Joe was watching everything happen with a look of dislike on his face he had never expected Lizzie to act like that in his life.

3 weeks later

Lizzie had everything that she needed packed in her boxes. (She had so many things that she even had to pack some of it in her suitcase and other bags that she had) she decided to put Joe in her closet that night because he had looked cold. And that was the only place that was warm in her room. So of course he was still in there because she didn't mind to check on him or get him out. So they ended up leaving earlier than expected because they had packed everything mostly the previous night. So they made sure that they got everything in the car and headed to the airport at about 6:00 in the morning and by the time their flight took off it was around 7:00 am and Lizzie knew that it would be a long flight. It would be around the time of 10 hours and 50 minutes. She thought that she might as well take a good long nap. So about 3 quarters of the way through the flight Lizzie asked her mother drowsily,

“How much longer is the flight going to be?”

“Don't worry about it and go back to sleep.” said her mother knowing that Lizzie would get way too anxious if she knew that there was only approximately three hours left.

Lizzie had dreamt that Joe was at their old house and that there was a girl that was probably the most energetic person that she had ever seen and she decided to take Joe out

of his cage and threw him out of the window. Then she woke up in a hurry and started her bad habit of her trembling arms and legs and also sweating when she started to yell,

“Joe is in trouble!”

“Who is Joe?” said the lady wearing a very expensive fur coat next to them snottily.

“He is my pet lizard, thank you very much!” snapped Lizzie as soon as the cruel lady next to them got done talking.

“Ughh.” She sighed rudely. And then glared at them and turned her nose up.

So Lizzie and her family ignored the rude lady next to them. So back Joe, he was in the cage and sure enough there was a hole in the cage and Joe decided to squeeze through the hole and jumped out of the window that was left open because of Lizzie who was not very responsible. So once Joe jumped out of the window, he luckily landed on the neighbor’s trampoline and then fell through the space between the springs. They lived by a beach so he buried himself in the sand and crawled through it and found a little turtle that was really fast and he zipped through the sand and came up to Joe and said shyly,

“Hi my name is Carl and I am a sand turtle (really small turtle.”

“Hi I am Joe and I was wondering whether or not you knew how to get to Finland because my owner and best friend Lizzie, moved and forgot me.”

“Well I guess I do have a pretty good sense of direction, but I defiantly know that we are not going to be able to walk from here.”

“What can we do about getting there then? It’s probably only a matter of time before Lizzie decides that I will still be at her old house and that she will never get the chance to fly back to Florida and see me again and she will end up getting a new pet lizard. And maybe even get a pet bird, or snake, or rat, or even a dog or cat to replace me!” as you could tell, Joe was getting a little bit impatient and started to talk really fast.

So Joe decided to turn around and start to zip around the sand to the forest of palm trees and thought that was probably a good place to calm down for a couple of moments. When Joe got there, he found a suspicious slithering creature. It finally came out of the leaves with a long neon yellow and purple body.

“Ahhh!!!!” screamed Joe loudly

“Oh I am so sorry I didn’t mean to frighten you that bad. I mean I am poisonous but that doesn’t matter.”

“Uh you’re poisonous?!”

“Just slightly, but I said that it didn’t matter!” spoke the caterpillar in a somewhat angry tone.

“Now, what did you come to my den for?”

“I never said that I had a reason to see you it just so happened that you bumped into me when I was walking along

this little area of palm trees and then saw a little creepy thing that apparently is poisonous!” said Joe once again not managing his impulsivity.

“First of all, that statement that you made about me being a little creepy thing was super rude ya’ know. And second of all, I will not do anything for anybody if they have no reason to be here or no problem to tell me about, then I suggest, that you leave.”

“Ok listen, I really have no proof that I needed to be here for anything, but what I do want to know is if you have good direction skills?”

“Why would you be asking someone like me, something like that? The only person that I know on Miami Beach with good sense of direction, is a turtle named Carl. Oh and by the way, my name is Darrel.”

Joe knew in his mind that he had a bad first impression on Carl but maybe that could change the second time that they saw each other. But he could see that Darrel would be soon getting both impatient and wonder what was going on with Joe. Darrel and Joe both went to find the shy, and friendly turtle Carl.

As soon as they found Carl, Joe apologized, “I’m so sorry that I got upset like that, I just am not very social and don’t usually get along with other people.”

“Oh don’t worry about it its fine.”

“Anyway, I think that the best way to do this, is to hop on top of a taxi, and take it as close as we can get to the airport, because it just so happens that there is a person that yelled for a taxi to the airport. And then we can look at the flight time and yes I can read, and then we can sneak into someone’s suit case and catch a flight from that!”

“Wow! You really do know your sense of direction and good at thinking it through as well!” Joe said with a look of surprise on his face.

So they all ran to the taxi and got in just before the door closed. They buried themselves in the purse that the lady had with her. They all saw giant things of blush and lip stick (which weren’t really that big) gasped in astonishment. The ride was bumpy but they got to the Miami airport in less than 20 minutes which was pretty good for all of the Miami traffic that usually occurred. The lady got out of the taxi and Joe, Carl and Darrel felt the shift of all the make up and then were picked up and carried to the airport. She was headed to terminal 9 they were headed to terminal 7 so it wasn’t too bad of a walk to where they were headed. When they got there, they were all panting because that’s a lot of trying to not be stepped on. They climbed onto the top of a man’s suitcase and luckily there was a little hole open on the top of it so they could barely fit into the suitcase. They were very thankful for the cloths that were in his suitcase so it was cushiony. They were ready to enjoy the nice almost eleven-hour flight that Lizzie had taken a day ago. Joe had taken a 3-hour nap and

Carl and Darrel were arguing who was fit for president which was most likely never going to happen for either of them.

Lizzie had already unpacked the majority of her boxes and had been acting sad, negative, and mopey all day long after the whole incident on the plane had happened. And she didn't feel comfortable in Finland and wanted to be back home in Miami where she knew she belonged.

“The flight was faster than it seemed and they had caught a taxi to the mall in Helsinki and looked all around to see if they were in the right place. It looked like they had been too far from the place they were headed to. But then, Joe saw a figure that looked like Lizzie.

Joe cried out in astonishment, “Lizzie!”

“What is he talking about?” asked Carl to Darrel.

“I don't know but I also don't know why we agreed to come on this long trip to Finland.”

“Guys, come on!”

Joe started to do his little lizard run/waddle towards Lizzie and then stopped right in front of Lizzie so that she would notice him.

What on earth is that little blue lizard thing doing in here?
Lizzie thought to herself.

“Wait mom, is that Joe?”

“No sweetie of course not. Don’t be ridiculous.”

“But mom look at his collar, it says Joe Stevenson.”

“Joe, is that you?”

Joe nodded his head quickly and his friends nodded their heads with him.

“Mom it is really Joe! I told you! Can I keep these cute little creatures too?”

“Yes I suppose, but under one condition, you have to quit this behavior. Is that ok with you?”

“Deal!”

When she heard that she could keep all three of them she was so excited! And sometimes, she could somewhat understand what Joe was saying. She was working on becoming a professional at speaking in whatever kind of lizard language Joe speaks.

Then, she heard Joe say to her, “I missed you so much Lizzie.”

“I missed you as well Joe.” She said quickly and somewhat quietly so that she wouldn’t look weird talking to a lizard in the middle of a mall.

So they all went home happily and learned to enjoy the cooler weather in their new home in Helsinki, Finland. And Carl and Darrel happier than ever with an owner to call their own. Then there was Joe who was so happy that Lizzie was with him again and was also happy that her mom and dad decided

to keep Carl and Darrel, who helped Joe with his direction skills. And so they were all happy except for when they went and vacationed to Hawaii and forgot Darrel.

The End