

## The Lucky Coin

Lucas woke up this morning happy and excited for it was his birthday. He ran to the dresser and changed out of his pajamas and in to a new outfit. He then opened the drawer and grabbed out his lucky coin. He got it from his dad a few years ago and it became his most prized possession, he carried it around with him everywhere he went. He put the coin in his chest pocket, did the button up and smiled in the mirror. He thought to himself "I'm going to have a great day" and rushed downstairs because his parents would always make the best breakfasts for him.

When he arrived in the kitchen he could see his dad putting pancakes onto a plate and his mother getting dressed. They both greeted him with hugs and kisses.

"Mom you're not going to eat with me this morning?"

"Happy birthday sweetie. I can't eat with you today mommy has to work. We can celebrate when I'm off later"

"Alright mom I love you" He kissed his mom and she left.

"Dad what do we have planned today? I bet you have a lot"

"Actually I have a lot of work to do at the house today so we won't be doing anything until your mom's off work later. I'm going to eat with you then get started, maybe you could see if one of your friends want to meet up?"

"Yeah that sounds great" Lucas said and they both enjoyed their breakfast.

Lucas after clearing his plate went to use the phone to call his friends. He called his best friend Johnny but his family was taking him out of town for the day and he wouldn't be around until tomorrow so he couldn't hang out. His friend Adam was also busy his parents were taking him to a family reunion. Lucy was volunteering, Brandon was at the doctors, and Mike was at the movies; it seemed all his friends were busy.

Lucas wanted to go for a walk. He told his Dad he was okay but he was feeling disappointed that everyone was busy on his birthday. He left determined that he was going to find fun in the city because it was his special day and he deserved it.

He stopped outside of a pet shop and a man named Scott walked outside to greet him.

"Hello kiddo, how are you today?"

"Not so good, it's my birthday but I don't feel like it's my birthday"

"Well happy birthday, would you like to come and see the animals? Maybe that would make you feel better"

"Yes I'd like that, thank you very much"

Lucas went inside and looked at all the animals there were fish, birds, lizards, rats, and other animals that Lucas liked petting. He fell in love with the Savannah Monitor right away and knew he wanted it.

"Would you like this keychain for your birthday?"

"Can I have him?"

"That's a Savannah Monitor you can't just own one of them, you'd need a proper home to take care of it. He's for sale so if your parents bought him for you he could be yours"

"I have this! would you trade it for him?" Lucas pulled out his lucky coin and passed it to Scott.

"This is a really nice coin but I can't accept it, this is clearly a family heirloom and it's not legally currency, I'm sorry you'll have to ask your parents"

"That's what I'll have to do" Lucas left in a hurry rushing home to tell his Dad what he wanted for his birthday. When he arrived home he was out of breath and began knocking loudly and his Dad came to the door thinking something was wrong.

"What's wrong Lucas?" he said as he closed the door behind him and stood outside with Lucas.

"I know what I want for my birthday Dad"

"What's that?"

"It only costs a hundred dollars Daddy"

"Hold on son, let me call the bank and see what I have" His dad grabbed his phone and proceeded to talk with someone for a minute before turning back to Lucas and continuing "I almost have enough buddy but you'll have to find the rest"

"I'll go check what's in my piggy bank and add to what you have Daddy"

"No son don't go check I have a better idea. Why not have a lemonade stand? You can use that table over there and make a few extra bucks.

"That's a great idea Dad can you help me set it up quickly?"

"of course" and his Dad helped him set it up on the side of the road.

No one was coming around and Lucas was getting bored and it wasn't long before he fell asleep. When he opened his eyes he saw that all his lemonade was gone and an envelope was in front of him. It had his name written on it so he opened it quickly. It had some cash and a card that said thanks for the lemonade. Lucas was beaming with excitement because this was exactly how much he needed to get his pet. He went to put the money in his pocket and that's when he realized that his lucky coin wasn't there and he had misplaced it.

He ran to the pet store because if he could get this lizard then at least he would be a little happier. When he got inside he looked for Scott but he wasn't around so he went to talk to the lady working instead.

"Excuse me, do you know where Scott is?"

"Scott is off doing some field work is there anything I could help you with?"

"I'd like to buy the Savannah Monitor please and thank you and I'm going to name hi..."

"I'm sorry but he was sold not too long ago actually. Can I interest you in this Iguana or Bearded Dragon instead?"

"No thank you I only wanted him" Lucas felt like he was going to cry as he left the store. He just wanted his birthday to be over. Not only was everyone busy on his birthday but he lost his lucky coin and now felt like the most unlucky kid in the world.

As he was walking Lucas was imagining all the stuff they could have done together. He imagined what it would be like to have come in one day and saw the lizard's cage open and played hide and seek with him. He fantasized about a time the lizard grew to be a hundred feet tall and Lucas rode him and all his friends were jealous.

It's very good that they were in the little town of Bridgeway in the Township of Tooth on the shores of Lake Clearie because anytime there was a problem that Lucas couldn't save him from Dent Strong would always show up to save the day. He was his favourite super hero and no matter what it was that his brain imagined whether it was climbing the tree or scaling the roof Dent Strong would save him in every scenario.

Lucas was brought back to reality by the sight of his house as he turned the corner. He didn't know how he was going to tell his Dad that he lost his lucky coin. He thought about that as he stood at the front door. Finally he decided he wasn't going to tell him but instead tell him about the

lemonade and the pet store.

He opened the door and the house was silent.

"Dad?... Mom?... Da..a...aad... you home?"

Still there was no sound coming from the house so he began making his way to the living room.

When he opened the door it was really dark, all the lights were off and the curtains were closed so he turned on the light.

"SUUUUURPRIIIIIIIISE"

Everyone was hiding and surprised Lucas so much he let out a hilarious screech because they scared him and everyone was chuckling and celebrating.

"I thought you had to work mom?"

"I only told you that so you didn't ask where I was going because it was my job to round up your friends and pick up the cake and it was your father's job to keep you occupied and set this up. We got you good didn't we?"

"Yes you guys did..." Lucas was cut off by Lucy, Mike, and Johnny hugging him and wishing him a happy birthday.

"Brandon and Adam started pin the tail on the donkey come try" He agreed and they all scurried along to play.

After the games and the cake it was present time and Lucas only had one more present left and it was from his parents.

When Lucas took off the blindfold he saw The Savannah Monitor in the cage and he didn't know how they had managed to get it but he was now that happiest kid in the world.

"Ho..How did you know I wanted thi...I have something I need to tell you guys. I... I lost my lucky coin"

"Do you mean this coin?"

Lucas looked behind him and Scott was standing in the doorway "You left this at the store and I recognized you from the neighborhood so I came to talk to your dad and we came up with this plan. Sometimes the cow milks itself young lad, Happy birthday Lucas"

"I am going to call my new best friend... Jello the Savannah Monitor"

Scott flipped the coin through the air and Lucas caught it in his hands, looked at it then stared at his family and friends all around him.

He thought to himself "This coin really must be lucky because I really am the luckiest boy in the whole world"

