

Lily-Ann's day at the zoo

What was just supposed to be a fun day at the zoo turned into an adventure Lily-Ann would remember forever!

Woken early by her mother (Kate) Lily was really excited. This was to be a special day. They were going to go to the Parc Safari African to see all the wonderful animals. Why Lily was told that she would even get to pet some of them. Although what Lily really wanted was to pet the Lions, her Daddy told her that the Parc would not allow that because the lions were dangerous.

Oh, pooh on that, thought Lily. With my little girl charm, I am sure they will be really nice with me.

Her Daddy packed up the van and her mommy helped her to safely buckle up into her seat.

It was a long drive, but Lily didn't mind. She was just too excited. She was going to see all the animals she loved. She would pet them, even the lions. She just knew it.

The movement of the car helped Lily fall asleep for a little while and made the trip pass faster. But before she knew it they had arrived. Although her daddy could not park too close to the entrance, Lily could still see the two big elephant statues at the front.

Since Mommy had paid for the tickets before they arrived it did not take long for them to enter into the park. There was just so much that Lily wanted to see.

But even before they could walk around, they would be able to drive through and see all the animals up close.

During the drive they saw the elephants, and the Giraffes, so close to the car that Lily could almost touch them. Many other animals came up to the car and Lily was able to pet something.



It was so much fun, but Lily was getting impatient. She wanted to see the lions.

Finally, the driving part was over and she would be able to see the lions. Even then though it would be a little while. First it was time to eat. Mommy had packed some really good stuff, and Lily just knew she would need the energy from the food so she would be strong enough to play with the lions.

After eating they visited a few other places. There was a place with bones, that included the heads and hands of weird people, but Lily thought it was just creepy. There was also a place with lots of pretty rocks, some Daddy called Geodes and others Quartz and even something called fools gold, but why people would think it foolish to have gold Lily didn't understand, but did find it all interesting. The section with butterflies was really pretty, but the part with the spiders and beetles made her skin crawl. All the shells from the sea though were really nice. The fossils were really cool, especially the dinosaurs.

But by now Lily was getting tired of all that stuff and wanted to see the lions. Finally, she was able to bug mommy and daddy enough that they left the less interesting stuff and went to see more animals, the scary ones that daddy called predators. The wolves, the hyenas, the tigers, and finally they were getting to the lions.

They were walking through this wonderful glass tube and there were lions all around, even on top of them. For the moment there was only her mommy and daddy and her, as most of the other people around had already passed through, and there was no one behind them right now.

This was what Lily wanted, but she could not find a way to pet the lions.

“Oh, I wish I could pet the lions,” said Lily out loud.

“I CAN GRANT YOU THAT WISH” said a loud voice out of nowhere.



Then suddenly the glass tube was gone. They all tumbled to the ground. It was like landing on cotton for some reason as none of them were hurt. But then her mommy screamed and her

daddy turned white. For right in front of them were three large lions, coming at them. They were roaring and not at all friendly like Lily had thought they would.

“What have I done?” said Lily out loud. This was not how she had planned it.

Her Daddy pushed her and her Mommy back and stood in front ready to protect them to the very end.

Then everything seemed to freeze.

Another voice then spoke. “I can give you the power to speak to and control the lions, but you have to believe.”

“Who are you?” asked Lily, her voice all a tremble.

“I helped your Daddy and his brother and sisters when they were young. But you have to believe for me to appear.”

“If my Daddy believed than I believe,” said Lily.

Then poof in a cloud of smoke appeared ... an Elf.



“Who are you?” asked Lily again.

“My name is Jingles. I had a few adventures with your Daddy and your aunts and your uncle Jeremy when they were kids. Unfortunately, as they got older, they stopped believing in me so I could no longer appear to them. But I promised them a long time ago that I would always watch over them, and since you are young enough to believe I was able to come and help. I sensed a danger from afar and knew that some evil power was about to do something to your Daddy. Because you are here, I was able to come.”

“Who did this though?”

“I will tell you soon, but first you must take care of the lions. I can only hold this freeze spell for a little while.”

“How do I do that?” asked Lily.

“I will cast a special spell that will allow you to speak to the lions. But you must use your own magic to convince them not to eat you or your mommy or daddy.”

“But I don’t have any magic,” said Lily.

“Of course, you do,” answered Jingles. You said so yourself this morning. Now get ready because my freeze spell is about to wear off.”

And with that everything returned to normal. Jingles was no longer there her Daddy was still in front of her, and the lions were almost at her Daddy.

What was Lily to do? What was her magic power? Jingles had said she had said it this morning what was it?

The closest lion roared again and was about to jump when it came to Lily.

It's my little girl charm she realized. And with that she pushed in front of her Daddy, looked the lion in the eyes and with her beautiful little girl voice said to the lion, "I know you think we are here to be eaten, but I am telling you that we are only here to pet you and say hello."

The lion stopped and looked at this little morsel of food speaking in front of him. But for some reason it no longer appeared to be food. Now it appeared as one of its own little ones, and it was speaking in lion!

Again, Lily spoke. "Can I come over and pet you?"

The lion looked at her and then just lied down and started purring. Lily walked up to it and started petting it. The other lions just looked on at first, and then they all lied down too.

Meanwhile her Mommy and Daddy just stared in amazement and could not even move.

"It's ok now Mommy and Daddy. You can come and pet the lions too. They are telling me it is ok.

To her parents the lions were making rumbling noises, but to Lily they were purring and talking to her.

"Most of the time our keepers just throw food at us and they only time they touch is if they put us to sleep. This is the first time I have been touched by a person, and I actually like it."

Although her parents did not understand what the lion was saying, they could see it seemed to like the attention and went over to pet the lions as well.

But after a few minutes the lion looked at Lily and said, "Our keepers are coming. It is best if you move away as they may think we are going to hurt you, and they may hurt us."

"Oh, I would not want that to happen," said Lily.

Lily stood up and took her Mommy and Daddy by the hand and led them to the farthest part of the lion enclosure telling them that it was time to leave. The lions as well moved to the opposite end from where Lily and her family were. Soon a door opened nearby and one of the lion keepers entered and led them out of the enclosure.

“How did you get in there?” asked the Park person.

“We were standing in the plastic enclosure and it disappeared and we fell in,” answered Lily’s Daddy.

“What do you mean it disappeared,” said the park person. It is right there. They all looked up and there it was, like it had always been.

But before they could get into trouble everything froze again. And there was Jingles.

Once again though it was only Lily that could see and hear him.

“Don’t worry Lily I will fix this. In a minute the park person will walk away and forget everything that happened. But before I go, I promised to tell you what happened.

“There is a magical land far from here that is ruled by Amina, queen of the unicorns. The queen though is having some troubles now. There is an evil unicorn named Demonico that wants to take over the land and make it into a dark place. One day the Queen will come to you and ask you for your help. I do not know why, or in what way you can help, but there is something you can do that will help save the land of the beautiful unicorns. Demonico must have found out about you and wanted to stop you from being able to help. Of course, if you are eaten by a lion you would not be around to help the good unicorns.

Demonico can't enter this land to hurt you, but I can grant you a wish from time to time.

However, the wish he would grant you would be one that would get you in trouble, so you will have to be very careful what you wish for. I will try and be around to help when I can."

"Thank-you Jingles. And when Amina comes to me, I will help her."

"You are a kind little girl."

"But what do I tell my Mommy and Daddy about what just happened with the lions? Or will they forget like the park person?"

"I can't make them forget all of it, although their memory will be a little foggy. Just mention my name, I bet your father will remember me," and with that Jingles disappeared, and everything went back to normal.

The park person walked away as if he forgot what he was doing.

Her mommy and daddy stared at her in a daze not knowing exactly what happened but remembering being in with the lions.

Here mommy tried to speak, but nothing came out. Her daddy went, "Uh, Uhm, oh my how did we get out of that?"

"It was Jingles the elf that helped us," said Lily.

"Well Elves don't really exist, do they?" said her Mommy to her Daddy.

Her Daddy had first a puzzled look on his face, like he was trying to remember something from a long time ago and they all of a sudden he had a big smile on his face.

“Never stop believing,” was all he said, then took her mommy’s hand and Lily’s hand and walked back to the entrance of the park.

This is the end of Lily’s first magical adventure.