

A Monitored Existence

You awoke with a jolt, your vision swimming drowsily as you slowly got up from where you were lying. Immediately you could tell something was off. You felt... dirt. And a quick glance around you revealed that you'd somehow ended up in the mouth of a cave, a thick dense web of trees and foliage obscuring your vision. You needed to get your bearings, but how...? Your vision soon turned back to the cave. Or rather... the rocky surface it had been carved into.

You scaled up the side of the rocky cliff face, finding it surprisingly easy to get a grip on the smooth stone as you slowly clambered your way up. Your new vantage point was just barely high enough to where the trees thinned out, giving you a better view of your surroundings... and even more questions. You couldn't see any signs of civilization. Just more trees and mountains. Just where were you...? As you continued to scan the surrounding area, you realised just how warm the sun felt on your back. It felt... nice, relaxing. You just wanted to lie down and relax...

Your brief respite was soon broken by a booming roar, startling you, and sending you tumbling back down onto the dirt, your heart pounding. What was that? Where had it come from? Your body was screaming danger. You needed to find someplace to hide!

Panicking, you broke into a sprint, not even questioning why you were running on all fours as you scrambled through the foliage, over rocks and fallen trees, ducking and weaving through the low hanging branches, a large echoing boom that seemed to come from all around only further motivating you. You ran and ran, barely even processing your surroundings, until you broke out into a clearing, just in time to see a shockingly enormous lizard barrelling towards you. You scrambled to slow down, your bare feet unable to get proper traction on the loose soil and bark (Wait, weren't you wearing shoes before?) as it bore down on you... and-

'Bang!'

Oww... that hurt... wait, that didn't feel like the rough scales of a reptile. More like... glass? You reached up to rub your now sore head, only to realise... you couldn't reach it. And more shockingly, the lizard in front of you... was mirroring your movements. That... couldn't be you, could it?

As the adrenaline faded, and you regained your focus, you finally became aware of the tail flicking behind you, and a quick glance down revealed the clay coloured claws your hands had become, as well as the thick reptilian snout that poked out in front of your vision. This couldn't be real. How were you... WHY were you... a lizard now?

As you focused your eyes past your new reflection, you saw... a bedroom? But it was ginormous! Everything, from the chairs, to the bed, to even the shelves full of what looked to be tanks of some kind...? looked like they were designed for giants. You'd almost would've believed it was fake, if it wasn't currently in use, someone sitting at the desk, fiddling with a large pencil in their oversized hand. Or rather... they weren't large... it was that you had shrunk!

Finally, it dawned on you... This wasn't a forest. It was... a terrarium! and you were its new inhabitant!

"Oh, it looks like you're awake!"

Uh oh. You scrambled backwards, trying to retreat back to the safety of the foliage, but you were too late, as two large hands scooped you up, stubby limbs flailing as they caught only air, until you were face to face with the source of the voice.

"You'd caused me quite a lot of trouble you know, letting Sammy escape. You're just lucky I managed to find them again, or you would've suffered a far greater punishment than just replacing them."

Your memories slowly came back to you of the day before. You'd been in a rush to get to class in time, when you'd accidentally bumped into a girl, causing them to drop the container they'd been carrying, and causing the gecko trapped inside to be freed. Looking back on it, they'd probably been another victim. You'd approached the girl to apologise but... everything had gone white right after that. And then you awoke here, as a lizard in a cage.

"How do you like your new form? I noticed you'd taken an interest in the monitor lizards. Planning on having one for a pet? Well, what better way to grant your wish than by making you one! Let it never be said I'm not generous~. And besides, I think you're much better off as a cute lizard than some rude and foolish human.~" She teased lightly as she transferred you onto her palm, petting your scaled head with her fingers. Whether it was instincts, or merely your anger towards being trapped in this form finally bubbling up, you retaliated, nipping at her fingers as she pulled them back in surprise

"Oh?~ seems like someone isn't too happy with their current predicament. Well maybe you should look where you're going next time. Or maybe, apologise when you knock somebody over!"

Annoyed, you tried to argue back that you HAD tried to apologise to her, but she hadn't even given you the chance to do so! But instead of words, chirps and growls came out, completely incomprehensible. But your annoyance was audible, the witch setting you down on her desk as she stared down at you

"Now now... you keep up that attitude with me, and you'll find yourself getting donated to a school in need. There's always a demand for class pets you know~" That stopped your protesting fast, as she bent down and petted your head again, slowly moving down your back and onto your tail. It did feel nice, but you didn't want to give her the satisfaction, so you stifled your tail to stop it from wagging

"That's better. Now, I don't care who you were before or how much more important you are than me. You're my pet now. And as your owner, what I say goes, is that clear?" Not wanting to risk your situation getting any worse, you reluctantly nodded as you stared up at her massive body.

As soon as you did, she seemed to lighten up considerably "Alright! Now, you're probably hungry, seeing as it's been almost a day since you've arrived here. I'll go get you something to eat"

She left you briefly to go search one of the shelves. Part of you considered using this chance to flee but... upon realising just how high up the desk currently was, that idea quickly vanished, especially as you recalled her threat about shipping you away to some classroom. So you waited patiently, and soon, she returned, setting down a small plastic lid containing... mealworms? Those weren't alive, right? Surely she didn't expect you to eat those? No, there was no way you were going to eat those... things, no matter how hungry you were.

seeing your clear reluctance to eat, the witch put her hands on her hips "Well, what else did you expect to be fed? A cheeseburger? I don't know if I need to point this out, but you're now a Lizard the size of my arm. Your body needs certain foods to keep going, and it just so happens that most of them are bugs of some kind. If you wanna complain, then complain to your species for deciding that to be their meal of choice. I can't do anything about it"

"... okay maybe I can do something. I'm pretty sure there are some human foods that are safe for you to eat, but for now you need to eat those bugs. Don't worry, you'll be fine. Just this once. You'll see."

You reluctantly bent down and... ate one. To your shock, it actually... tasted good? Maybe the witch had altered your tastebuds alongside the rest of your body when she turned you into... this. But you were grateful for this blessing. As long as you closed your eyes, it was almost like you weren't eating insects. When you finally reopened them, the mealworms were gone "there you go, see? That wasn't so hard now was it?" She said with a gentle voice, petting you again. "Don't worry, I'll try and get you something you find a bit more appealing next time, okay?"

"And don't worry. If you're a good monitor lizard, maybe I'll consider giving you your voice back, and then we can maybe discuss turning you back. How about that? I think that's a good deal, don't you?" Once again, you nodded reluctantly, before suddenly finding yourself scooped back up once more

"That's great! I knew you'd come around to it eventually. Now... I don't know your name, so I guess that's something we'll have to decide on later. You're not the only pet I have after all. I can't be giving you special attention just because you're the most recent" and with that, she sat you back down atop the 'mountain'. Now, you could clearly see it was meant to be a sunbathing rock. No wonder it had felt so warm and comfortable for your reptilian body. You could even see the sunlamp above it now that you were looking closely.

With not much better to do, you lay down, and decided to just relax under the warmth of the lamp. Just what on earth had you gotten yourself into? The pet reptile of a witch?

The next couple days were pretty uneventful. As it turned out, despite the whole, 'turn you into her pet' thing, the witch was a pretty kind and caring owner. Not only was your terrarium rather large, but it was also full of pretty much everything a monitor lizard such as yourself could ever want, from the previously discovered sunning rocks, to a climbing area, and even a small pool. And for the harder to entertain human side of you, she'd set up a phone outside for you to watch films and other shows on. And despite not trusting you with speech, she had set up a way for you to communicate using some words on a piece of paper, which you could use to pick out said videos and your meals.

A part of you had to admit, your current life was certainly a lot easier than your human one. Did you truly want to go back to it? Only time would tell. But one thing you did know for certain, was that you hadn't expected your life to turn out this way on that fateful morning