

The Little Leopard Gecko



Aysel Banu YAVUZAL

The Little Leopard Gecko

Aysel Banu YAVUZAL



Leo the little leopard gecko lived in the warm desert, where the sun made the sand soft and golden. His butter-yellow skin was covered in small dark brown spots, and his big black eyes shone with curiosity. He carried a smooth pebble in his tiny clawed toes, a lucky treasure he found one morning. 'What will I discover today?' Leo wondered, smiling his wide friendly smile.



One sunny afternoon, a shiny blue beetle zoomed down and landed right on Leo's head. 'Hello!' said the beetle. 'I'm Pip. I have six thin legs and a deep-blue shell that shimmers green in the light.' Leo blinked his glossy black eyes. 'I'm Leo,' he said. 'Welcome to my desert!' Pip's amber eyes sparkled. 'What a wonderful place to explore!'



Leo and Pip set off together past rocks and sand. The desert was full of wonders: a cactus with pink flowers, a lizard doing push-ups, and a jackrabbit with long ears. Pip perched on Leo's shoulder, chattering about everything he saw. 'Look at that cloud!' he cried. 'It looks like a giant turtle!' Leo laughed. 'You see the best things, Pip.'



As they wandered, Leo told Pip about his lucky pebble. 'I found it near the big canyon wall,' he said. 'It's smooth and warm, and it makes me feel brave.' Pip touched it with one thin leg. 'It's beautiful,' he said. 'Maybe it will lead us to something special!' Leo smiled. 'Let's follow the path and see.'



They walked until the sun was high and the sand grew hot. Leo's plump segmented tail swished as he climbed over a rocky ridge. Pip rode on his head, calling out directions. 'Left! No, right! Wait—straight ahead!' Leo giggled. 'You're a silly guide, Pip.' But he kept going, curious about what lay beyond the next rock.



Suddenly, the ground dropped away into a hidden canyon. Leo stopped at the edge, his big black eyes wide. 'Wow,' he whispered. 'Look at that!' Pip stood on his tiptoes, his short antennae twitching. 'I've never seen anything like it!' he squeaked. The canyon walls sparkled with tiny lights, like stars fallen to earth.



Leo and Pip climbed down carefully. The canyon floor was covered with glowing stones, each one shining with a soft blue-white light. 'They're like little moons!' Pip said, his amber eyes glowing in the light. Leo picked up one stone and it felt warm in his toes. 'How do they shine?' he asked. 'Maybe they're magic,' Pip whispered.



They explored the canyon side by side. Leo found a stone shaped like a heart. Pip found one that flickered like a tiny firefly. 'Look at this one!' they kept saying, sharing every surprise. The glowing stones lit their way as they wandered deeper, and their laughter echoed off the canyon walls.



Pip perched on Leo's head and pointed with one thin leg. 'There's a whole wall of them!' he cried. Leo climbed up for a closer look. The stones glittered and shimmered, making patterns like a starry sky. 'It's like a secret treasure room,' Leo said. 'And we found it together.' Pip nodded. 'Together is the best way to find things.'



As they rested, Leo noticed something. The glowing stones seemed brighter when he and Pip were close. 'Do you see that?' he asked. Pip tilted his small round head. 'The stones glow more when we're together!' he said. 'Maybe they like friendship.' Leo smiled. 'Or maybe friendship makes everything brighter.'



Just then, the light began to fade. Leo looked up and saw the sun setting over the canyon rim. 'We should go home,' he said. But Pip's antennae drooped. 'I don't want to leave,' he said. 'This place is so wonderful.' Leo thought for a moment. 'We can come back,' he said. 'And we can take one glowing stone with us.'



Leo picked up a small glowing stone and put it in a safe spot. Pip found a tiny one that fit in his wing case. 'Now we'll always remember this adventure,' Leo said. 'And we'll always have each other.' Pip hugged Leo's toe. 'You're the best friend a beetle could have.' Leo's wide smile grew even wider.



They climbed out of the canyon as the first stars appeared. The desert was cool and quiet, and the sand felt soft under Leo's toes. Pip rode on Leo's head, humming a little tune. 'What a day,' he said. 'What a wonderful, sparkly, secret day.' Leo agreed. 'And it's not over yet,' he said. 'We still have to get home.'



Back at Leo's burrow, they placed the glowing stones on a little ledge. The stones cast a warm light around the cozy space. 'It's like having our own tiny canyon,' Pip said. Leo curled his plump tail around his lucky pebble. 'Friendship makes everything glow,' he said. 'Even the darkest night feels bright when you're here.'



The next morning, Pip was still there, perched on Leo's shoulder. 'What should we explore today?' he asked. Leo looked at the glowing stone and then at his friend. 'Anywhere,' he said. 'As long as we're together.' They set off into the desert, ready for a new adventure, their friendship shining brighter than any stone.



And from that day on, Leo and Pip explored the desert side by side. They learned that curiosity is a wonderful thing, especially when you share it with a friend. The glowing stones reminded them of their secret canyon, but what they loved most was each other's company. Because being curious together makes every adventure better.