

The Girl and the Little Donkey



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Lily lived in a small house with a red roof, at the edge of a green meadow. Every morning, she put on her straw hat with the green ribbon and her red rubber boots. She loved to explore the world around her. One day, she heard a soft, lonely sound coming from the barn next door. It sounded like a sad little song.



Lily peeked into the barn and saw a little donkey with soft grey fur and a cream-colored belly. He had long floppy ears and big dark eyes that looked a bit shy. He wore a brown leather halter with a short lead rope. When he saw Lily, he took a step back and let out a gentle, wobbly hee-haw. Lily smiled her bright, easy smile.



The donkey's name was Pepper, said the farmer. He was young and needed a friend. Lily's brown eyes sparkled with curiosity. She wanted to help. 'Can I take care of him?' she asked. The farmer nodded. 'He needs someone kind and patient,' he said. Lily promised to do her best. She couldn't wait to start.



The next morning, Lily filled a bucket with fresh hay and carried it to Pepper. He sniffed it cautiously, then took a small bite. Lily stood very still. 'It's okay, little one,' she whispered. Pepper ate a little more, then looked at her with softer eyes. Lily felt a warm glow inside. She had made a tiny start.



After breakfast, Lily brought a soft brush. She gently brushed Pepper's grey coat, starting at his neck and moving in slow, smooth circles. Pepper stood quietly, enjoying the gentle touch. His long ears relaxed. 'You like that, don't you?' Lily said. Pepper let out a soft snort. Lily laughed. Brushing became their special morning routine.



Lily noticed Pepper loved to be near other animals. He perked up when the chickens wandered by. He seemed happiest when Lily stayed close. 'Donkeys need friends,' the farmer told her. 'They don't like to be alone.' Lily nodded. She decided to spend extra time with Pepper every day, so he would never feel lonely.



One sunny afternoon, Lily clipped the lead rope to Pepper's halter. 'Let's go for a walk,' she said. Pepper's ears stood up. He stepped eagerly beside her. They walked along a path lined with wildflowers. Pepper sniffed the air and nibbled a few tasty weeds. His little hooves clip-clopped on the soft earth. Lily felt proud of her little friend.



On cool mornings, Lily draped a small red blanket over Pepper's back. He wore it proudly. 'You look smart,' Lily said. Pepper flicked his tufted tail. They walked to a patch of fresh green grass. Pepper lowered his head and munched happily. Lily sat on a rock and watched. The sun warmed their faces. It was a perfect morning.



Each day, Lily followed the same gentle routine: feed, brush, walk, and rest. Pepper began to recognize her footsteps. When she arrived, he trotted to the gate to greet her. 'Hello, Pepper!' she called. He answered with a happy hee-haw. The routine made him feel safe. Lily learned that small, steady acts of care build trust.



One day, Lily tried to lead Pepper to a new field. But Pepper planted his hooves and wouldn't move. He looked nervous. Lily didn't pull or shout. She waited patiently. 'It's okay, Pepper,' she said softly. She offered him a handful of fresh grass. Slowly, Pepper took a step forward. Lily smiled. Patience was the key.



Pepper started to follow Lily everywhere. When she walked to the garden, he trailed behind. When she sat on the fence, he stood close by. His big dark eyes watched her with trust. Lily felt a warm, happy feeling. 'You're my best friend,' she whispered. Pepper nuzzled her shoulder gently. Their friendship was growing strong.



Lily learned that Pepper loved fresh grass more than anything. She found the greenest patches for him. She also learned he needed company. So she brought him to the meadow where the other animals played. Pepper stood close to Lily but watched the goats and chickens with interest. He was no longer shy. He was part of the farm family.



One afternoon, a cold wind blew. Pepper shivered. Lily quickly fetched his red blanket and wrapped it around him. She sat beside him and told him a story. Pepper rested his head near her. The wind didn't seem so cold anymore. Lily learned that care means noticing what a friend needs, even when they can't say it.



Lily's gentle routines had created a deep trust. Pepper followed her without a lead rope. He came when she called. He stood still while she brushed him. Their days were filled with small, happy moments. Lily realized that friendship grows from kindness and patience, one day at a time.



Now, every morning, Lily and Pepper start their day together. She feeds him, brushes his soft grey coat, and they go for a walk. Pepper munches fresh grass while Lily sings. They are the best of friends. Lily knows that gentle routines and a caring heart make the strongest bonds.



And so, the girl and the little donkey live happily on the farm. Their friendship is a treasure. Lily learned that trust is built with patience and love, and that every little act of care matters. Pepper is no longer shy; he is playful and affectionate. They are happy together, every single day.