

# Meeting Grandpa

*By Lily Brown*

“ I don’t want to!” Lucy told her mom.

“Oh, come on Lucy.”

Lucy’s parents had to go on a business trip and she couldn’t go with them because it was for adults and it would be really boring. Lucy couldn’t stay home alone even though she was very mature for a first grader. She knew how to write all the numbers up to one hundred, braid her own hair, and make toast all on her own. Her parents were going to be gone for a whole week and they couldn’t find a babysitter for that long. Fortunately for her parents, her grandpa lived right by where the business convention was.

“ I don’t want to!” Lucy said again to her mom.

“Come on, Lucy, it will be fun! It’s the perfect opportunity to get to know each other.”

Lucy did not like to hear this. She had only seen her grandpa once when she was really little but she could not remember him. Lucy was scared. Her friend Emily from school told Lucy that her grandpa smelled like rotting cabbage and that his hands were dry and leathery like a bat. Danny, another boy in her class, said that his grandfather yelled a lot because he couldn’t hear anything and just sat in a chair all the time and would not play any games.

“I don’t wanna,” Lucy said again. Her mom did not seem to be listening to her.

“Lucy, I don’t have time for this,” her mom said, bothered by Lucy’s complaining. She was stressed out about her business trip.

Lucy stomped off into her room. While she sat sulking, horrible thoughts popped into her head. What if her grandpa only feeds her soggy overcooked vegetables and does not allow her to have any desert? Or what if he just sits around and reads or cleans all-day and there are no toys in his house so she will have nothing to do? Or what if he was secretly a vampire and slept in a coffin during the day and at night he would grow bat wings and suck people’s blood?



“Dinner time,” Lucy’s dad said sticking his head through her bedroom door, interrupting Lucy’s brooding.

“I’m not hungry,” Lucy muttered hiding under her covers. She was too nervous to eat.

The next day Lucy packed her suitcase. Lucy made sure to bring all her favorite board games, stuffed animals, Legos, Barbies, crayons, markers, and colored paper. She tried to bring everything in her room, but her mom wouldn’t let her and it didn’t fit in her bag. At least she would have something to do at her grandpas even if she had to play alone. Lucy also snuck some candy in to the bag when her mom was not looking. She was not going to give up dessert. And just for safe measure she snagged some garlic from the kitchen and threw that in her suitcase as well.

With an overstuffed and extremely heavy bag, Lucy grudgingly got into the car and headed to the airport

“Lucy you’re going to have a great time,” her dad told her.

“I don’t wanna,” Lucy argued.

“ Please don’t argue with me,” her mom and dad told her.

At the airport Lucy’s parents were busy getting tickets and everything together. Lucy followed them around trying to hold back her tears.

After the flight that felt like one thousand hours to Lucy, the plane landed. Her parents had to be at a meeting so they rushed off right away, leaving Lucy with a nice stewardess lady.

“Everything is going to be fine Lucy. You’ll have so much fun. We’ll miss you,” her Mom turned back and said.

“I love you Lucy. Be brave,” her dad said.

“Your gonna have such a great time with your grandpa!” The stewardess said enthusiastically.”

Lucy did not answer. She just looked at the lady and frowned.

Pretending to not notice Lucy’s facial expression the stewardess said, “Oh Look there he is!” as she pointed to a man holding a sign that said Lucy.

Lucy looked and saw an old man slightly hunched over wearing a scraggly green sweater and a brown cap. He ran up to her and gave her a big hug. His hands were dry and leathery just like her classmates had warned her. She inhaled deeply and smelled a faint hint of rotting cabbage, just as she had suspected.

On the drive to her grandpa’s house, Lucy was very quite.

“How was the plane ride?” Her grandpa asked her.

“Fine.” Lucy responded.

Her grandpa tried to continue the conversation but Lucy was very shy and did not want to answer any of his questions.

“How is school going? Tell me about your teachers and friends?”

“ Good,” Lucy quickly said.

They drove the rest of the way in silence.

When they got to her grandpa house he gave her a tour of his house. He showed her his living room, his kitchen, and then they were at his bedroom door. Lucy held her breath. She knew what was behind that door, a big scary coffin. But when he opened the

door all she saw was a big fluffy bed and a dresser. When he showed her the room she would be staying in, Lucy got really homesick. There were no stuffed animals on the bed or toys on the floor or bright colored blankets. It was just a plain almost empty white room with a little white bed and an old dresser. The room also had a really big closet with a door that would not close all the way. There were definitely monsters in there, Lucy thought.

Terrified, Lucy grabbed her grandpa's dry lathery hand. He looked down at her and smiled.

"You hungry?" he asked.

Lucy nodded timidly.

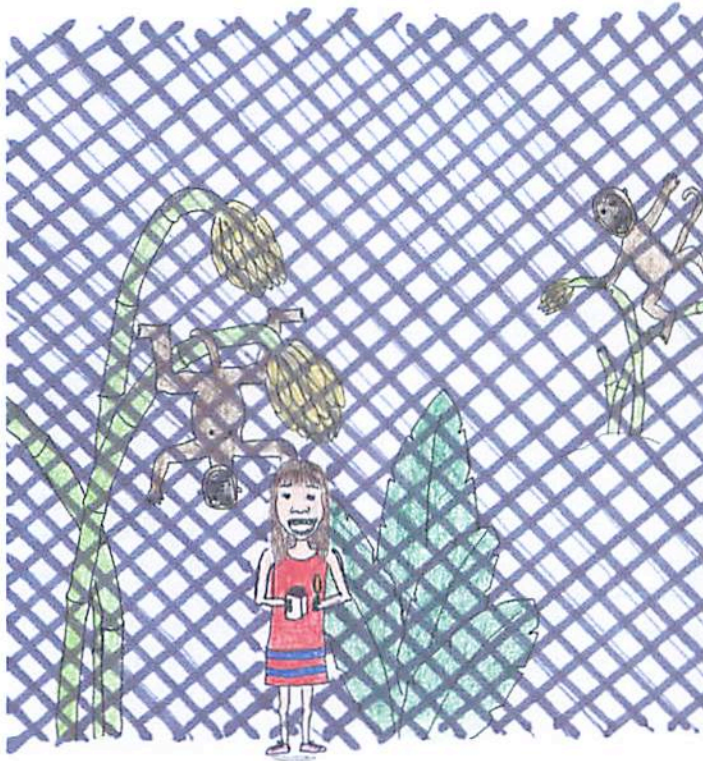
"Well, make yourself at home, and I'll make dinner," he replied.

With that he turned and walked out of the room. Now Lucy was all alone. She quickly ran to the closet and slammed the door shut. It closed and then slowly creaked open. Shaking, Lucy took her suitcase and shoved it against the door to hold it shut. She then took all her toys out of her bag. She put the stuffed animals on the bed and piled the rest on the floor. Then she played with her Barbies all alone. This trip was turning out to be exactly what she expected, a disaster.

For dinner Lucy's grandpa made cooked vegetables. Lucy did not want to take even one bite, but her grandpa kept looking at her expectantly, so she had to try it. To her surprise they were cooked just right, except for the carrots, which were a bit squishy.

On Saturday Lucy and her grandpa went to the zoo. They saw polar bears, ring-tailed lemurs, Madagascar hissing cockroaches, silly monkeys, bright pink flamingoes, Florida red bellied turtles, emperor scorpions, and sun bears. Lucy liked the sun bears

best even though she thought it was weird they were black and not yellow like the sun. She also liked the monkeys because they like playing games and looked like they were having the best time. Her grandpa's favorite animal was the ring-tailed lemur. He liked their long black and white striped tail. For lunch Lucy's grandpa bought her a corn dog, pink popcorn, and soda. Not even close to soggy vegetables.



After a long day of running around the zoo, Lucy was really tired. But her grandpa was still up for more.

“Let's go see the snake exhibit. I really want to see a cobra!”

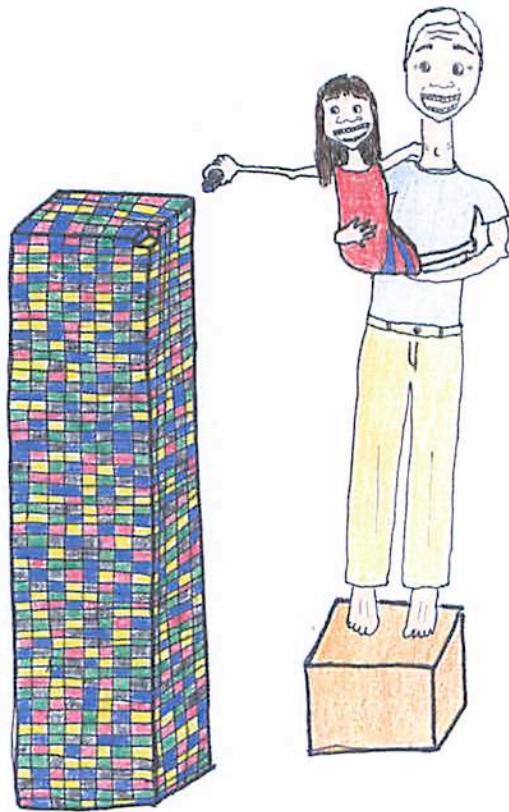
“Grandpa, I’m too tired.” Lucy said through her yawn.

“Oh, come on. They’re really cool,” her grandpa said, grabbing her hand and rushing off. Lucy stumbled behind him, struggling to keep her eyes open.

Her grandpa was right, the snakes were cool. She saw a Blue Tongued Skink, which had a long blue tongue. She saw a Columbian Red-Tail Boa, which did not have a red tail. And she saw a cobra -a king cobra. But it was time to go. Lucy was too tired. Lucy’s grandpa noticed her falling asleep. He picked her up and carried her to the car. By the time he got there she was already asleep.

When they got home Lucy’s grandpa let her watch cartoons in the kitchen, while he cooked macaroni and cheese with buttery breadcrumbs on the top.

On Sunday Lucy and her grandpa built a giant Lego city. There were houses, stores, a school, parks, a fire station, and a police station. They ate chocolate chip cookies and drank milk mixed with soda.



On Monday Lucy and her grandpa drew pictures together. Lucy drew a picture of a sun bear that was yellow, a picture of a princess, and a picture of her grandpa and her. Her grandpa put them all on the fridge. After dinner they had ice cream sundaes with vanilla ice cream, whipped cream, chocolate sauce, and a whole banana each. Lucy had hers with rainbow sprinkles and her grandpa had chocolate sprinkles.

On Tuesday it was time to go. In the morning Lucy and her grandpa went to the park. They played tag. Lucy was too fast for her grandpa to catch. He pushed her on the swing and she went the highest she had ever gone.

In the evening Lucy's parents came over for dinner. They had pasta and tomato sauce that Lucy and her grandpa made together. Then when dinner was over it was really time to go.

"Alright Lucy," Her mom said, " It's time to go."

Lucy looked at her mom, then at her dad, then at her grandpa and frowned, " I don't wanna," Lucy said.