

# The Zoo Disaster

(1)

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"BRRING!" The school bell rang, and Camya dashed outside. She jumped in her car, grinning. She'd been waiting all day to go to the zoo with her dad. "Pat, pat, pat" bounced her feet excitedly on the car floor.

As they pulled into the zoo parking lot, Camya thought, "This is great!

Where should we go first? The penguins? The big cats? The snake exhibit?"

Her mind raced with anticipation.

"Come on, kiddo!" Dad said, pulling Camya's arm close to him ~~and~~ and giving her a squeeze. "Pat, pat, pat" went their feet in unison. They walked past the elephants dumping dirt on themselves. "Ew!" yelled Camya. They "pat, pat, pat-ed" by some monkeys swinging in their cage. "Weep!" said Dad. Camya walked up to the grizzly bear, pressing her face close to the glass. "It's so big, Dad!... Dad?" Camya turned around. Dad wasn't there. "Dad?" Camya said a bit louder. She heard nothing. Her heart started to race. She listened...

"pat, pat, pat." "Dad! There you are!"

Camya whipped around at the sound of dad's shoes. But... it wasn't him. The zookeeper continued walking past her. "Pat, pat, pat" went his

shoes. "Where is he??" Camya worried. "Did I walk away too fast? Did he get lost? Is he hurt? Did an ANIMAL escape and eat him?! How am I going to get home? I'm all ALONE!"

Camya shrunk into a tiny ball. She was doomed.

"Pat, pat, pat." A faint sound was quickly approaching. She lifted her head...

Could it be? "Pat, pat, pat." The sound was getting faster. Camya looked around frantically.

"Pat, pat, pat!" Camya turned around and saw... Dad!

"Camya!" He yelled, scooping her into a hug. "Dad!" Camya cried. "I'm so sorry I lost you!" "It's okay, Camya." Dad said. "Let's stick together for the rest of the trip, okay?" "You got it, Dad" Camya agreed.

They walked away, hand-in-hand.  
Pat ... pat ... pat.