

# Claire and the Pizza Monster

A Lesson in Crusts

*Told by Claire*



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One sunny day, my dad made me a delicious pizza for lunch. The cheese was gooey, and the pepperoni was glistening. But there was one thing I didn't want to eat: the crust. "You need to eat the crust, Claire!" Dad said with a smile. I wrinkled my nose and shook my head. I didn't want to listen. So, I made a choice. I took the crust and hid it under my plate. When Dad wasn't looking, I tossed it in the trash can. Little did I know, trouble was brewing! That night, as I was dreaming of pizza, a big, silly pizza monster appeared! It had stretchy cheese arms and a crusty belly. "I'm going to eat you, Claire!" it growled. My heart raced! Just then, I heard a loud noise. The door burst open, and in came my dad! He looked brave and strong. I couldn't believe my eyes! "Don't worry, Claire! I'll save you from the pizza monster!" Dad shouted. My heart felt warm. What would happen next? I couldn't wait to find out!



The pizza monster lunged at me, but Dad stood tall. With a mighty swing, he swatted the monster away! You should have listened to me about the crust, Claire! he said. I felt a little sad. When the pizza monster tumbled to the floor, it melted into a puddle of cheese. I looked at Dad, my eyes wide. I wish I would have listened to you, Dad, I admitted. Dad knelt beside me and gave me a warm hug. It's okay, Claire. Next time, try the crust! We both laughed. From that day on, I learned that crusts aren't so bad after all. They can be crunchy and fun! Now, when I eat pizza, I never throw away the crust. I even make up silly songs about it! And sometimes, I imagine that my dad is my pizza hero. Let's eat! I cheer, and together we munch happily on our pizza, crusts and all! My heart went thump-thump.

**The End**