

# Claire and the Pizza Monster

A Lesson in Listening

*Told by Claire*



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One sunny day, Claire was excited for lunch. Her dad had promised to make her favorite—pizza! The kitchen smelled delicious as the cheese melted and the tomato sauce bubbled. When the pizza was finally ready, Claire's eyes sparkled with joy. But there was one tiny problem: the crust. "You have to eat your crust, Claire! It's the best part!" her dad said, smiling. Claire scrunched up her nose. "I don't want to!" she replied. So, as her dad turned around, Claire had a mischievous idea. She quickly hid the crust under her napkin, and when he wasn't looking, she tossed it in the trash can. "Out of sight, out of mind!" she thought. But little did she know, trouble was brewing. Later that night, as she was getting ready for bed, she heard a strange noise. It was a roar, a rumble, and a very big sound. Suddenly, a gigantic Pizza Monster burst through her bedroom door! It was made entirely of pepperoni and cheese, with eyes like olives and a mouth full of gooey sauce. I'm going to eat you for dinner! the Pizza Monster growled, inching closer. Claire gasped! She wished she had listened to her dad! What was she going to do?



Just when Claire thought all hope was lost, her dad burst into the room. With a mighty shout, he waved his arms and said, Back away from my daughter, Pizza Monster! To Claire's surprise, the Pizza Monster froze! It looked confused, as though it had never been challenged before. Her dad pointed to the crust Claire had tossed away. You see, the crust isn't just for eating. It's for protecting! The Pizza Monster blinked and then shrank down to a tiny slice of pizza, looking sad. I just wanted to be loved! it squeaked. Claire felt a twinge of sympathy. I'm sorry, Mr. Pizza Monster. I didn't want to hurt your feelings. I should have listened to my dad about the crust! she admitted. Her dad smiled and nodded. The Pizza Monster perked up, and together they all shared a laugh. Claire learned that listening to her dad was important, especially when it came to lunch! From that day on, she made sure to enjoy every bite of her pizza, crust included. They all became the best of friends, and Claire even shared her pizza with the Pizza Monster! And she never forgot to listen again. The end!

**The End**