

# Claire and the Pizza Monster

A Lesson on Crusts and Courage

*Told by Claire*



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It was lunchtime, and I was super hungry. My dad made the biggest pizza ever! It smelled cheesy and delicious. But guess what? I didn't want to eat the crust. "You should eat the crust, Claire! It's the best part!" Dad said, smiling. I just scrunched up my nose. That crust looked too brown and crunchy for my taste. So, I had a plan. When Dad wasn't looking, I hid the crust under my napkin. I was sneaky! I tossed it into the trash can when he wasn't watching. I thought I had won the crust battle! Little did I know, a big, silly surprise was just around the corner! Suddenly, the ground shook, and I heard a loud growl. Out of the shadows came a giant pizza monster! It was covered in gooey cheese and had pepperoni eyes. I was so scared! I ran, but the monster was chasing me! "Help!" I yelled. What would I do?



Just then, my dad appeared! He rode in on a shiny horse, sparkling in the sunlight. Don't worry, Claire! I'll save you! he shouted. With a whoosh of his sword, he slayed the pizza monster! The monster melted away into a puddle of cheese and sauce. I gasped. I wish I would have listened to you, Dad! I said, feeling sorry for lying. Dad smiled, and we both laughed. Next time, just eat the crust! It might save you from monsters! We decided to make a new pizza together, this time with extra crust! I promised to eat every last piece. Now, I wasn't just hungry for pizza; I was hungry for fun! And that's how I learned: sometimes the crust really is the best part! From that day on, I never hid my crust again. And who knows? Maybe I'll even make a pizza monster friend someday! I felt a tiny flutter in my tummy.

**The End**