

# Claire and the Pizza Monster

A Cheesy Adventure

*Told by Claire*



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One sunny day, my dad made pizza for lunch. The smell of gooey cheese and fresh tomatoes filled the kitchen. I took a big bite and squealed, "Yum!" But then I saw the crust. I didn't want to eat the crust. "Just eat it, Claire!" Dad said. But I had other plans. I carefully hid the crust under my slice, then snuck it to the trash can when Dad wasn't looking. I thought I was so clever! But little did I know, trouble was brewing... That night, a shadow loomed outside my window.

Suddenly, a big pizza monster with pepperoni eyes and stretchy cheese arms stomped into my room! My heart raced as the monster growled, "I'm hungry for a snack!" I gasped, thinking, Oh no! It must be because I wasted my crust! Just as the monster lunged for me, a loud clang echoed in the air. My dad burst through the door riding a shiny, galloping horse, wielding a spatula like a knight! Back, foul pizza monster! he shouted, and I knew I was safe!



With a swoosh, Dad swung his spatula, sending the pizza monster flying out the window! The monster tumbled away, leaving a trail of cheese behind. I felt a wave of relief wash over me. I turned to my dad, feeling embarrassed. I wish I would have listened to you, Dad. I'm sorry for throwing away the crust. I didn't think it mattered! Dad smiled kindly. It's alright, Claire. Crust is important! It's part of the pizza adventure! Suddenly, the pizza monster popped its head back in, looking sad. I just wanted a slice too! it whimpered. I giggled. How about I share my crust with you? The monster's eyes sparkled as it nodded eagerly. So, I shared my crust, and the pizza monster smiled wide. It wasn't so scary anymore! We all laughed, munching on pizza together, and I learned that every part of the meal is special. I promised to always eat my crust from now on! I took a careful step, and the moment turned toward action.

**The End**