

ADVENTURES WITH ZARA



Charlotte and the Kind Monster

Poppy Pearce

BY LARA SMITH



Charlotte was playing near the playground when she heard a strange squeaking sound coming from behind the big yellow slide. Her heart raced with fear as she wondered what could be making such a curious noise in the middle of the school day.



She crept forward on her tiptoes, peering cautiously around the edge of the slide until she saw a mysterious creature. Startled by the sight of the unexpected visitor, Charlotte couldn't help but let out a loud scream that echoed across the yard.



The monster stepped into the light, revealing bright pink hair, baby blue skin, and two sparkly pierced ears. To Charlotte's surprise, the creature began gobbling up the snacks and lunches left out for the children during recess.



Bravely, Charlotte stood her ground and told the monster to stop eating her friends' food. She reached into her own bag and offered her peanut butter and jelly sandwich, telling the monster they could share if it was really that hungry.



The monster looked up with wide eyes and asked if she was truly sure about sharing her meal. Charlotte nodded kindly, urging the creature to eat quickly before the lunch bell rang because sharing food wasn't usually allowed at school.



Seeing a student glancing out the window, Charlotte realized they might be spotted and get into big trouble. She whispered for the monster to go hide quickly behind the tall wooden fence at the edge of the playground.



The school bell rang with a loud ding, and children burst through the doors ready for their midday meal. Charlotte's friend Ella opened her lunch box and cried out in confusion when she saw a giant bite mark in her roll.



Soon, everyone noticed their food was missing pieces, and the teacher began a school-wide search to solve the mystery. Students looked in the classrooms, the playground, and even the STEM room, trying to find the hungry culprit.



Just as the teacher and the other children reached the edge of the yard, they spotted the colorful creature hiding behind the fence. Charlotte stepped forward with a smile, ready to introduce her new friend to the startled crowd.



The monster shyly introduced herself as Zara, and the initial fear turned into joy as the children welcomed her. Now, every day at lunch and recess, Charlotte and all her friends have the best time playing together with Zara.