

THERE'S A LEOPARD IN MY LAUNDRY

by
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“Don’t forget your laundry,” called Sarah’s mom. “I want it this morning.”

“Yes, Mom,” answered Sarah.

She stared at her bulging closet door. It creaked and groaned, about to explode. About to explode with dirty clothes. Her laundry basket was inside, and she hadn’t emptied it for a very long time.

Sarah reached for the closet door. She twisted the knob slowly. She didn’t want a pile of dirty clothes on her head.

WHOOSH...The door flew open.

A huge tree reached out of her laundry basket. A branch grew right through her pink underwear.

“Yikes!” she exclaimed. She had never seen a tree in her closet before. She had never seen pink underwear on a tree before.

“I’d better do something before Mom finds out,” she said. “But what?”

Sarah scrunched her eyebrows together, thinking hard. Then she smiled.

“I’ll get a saw to cut it down,” she said. And she went to get it.

Sarah quickly returned with the saw.

It was too late.

Vines twisted wildly out of her closet. Monkeys chased each other on the vines. The monkeys were wearing her dresses.

“Stop that chasing,” said Sarah. “and take those off! Please give my dresses back to me.”

But the monkeys ignored her.

So she cut down the tree with the saw. Then she said to the monkeys, “I’ll get a scissors to snip your vines. That’ll make you stop.” And she left to get them.

Sarah quickly returned with the scissors.

It was too late.

A huge patch of tall grass covered her floor. Six snakes slithered through it. The snakes were wearing her socks.

“Stop slithering,” said Sarah. “and take those off! I’d like my socks back, please.”

But the snakes ignored her.

So she snipped the vines with the scissors. Then she said to the snakes, “I’ll get a mower to cut your grass. That’ll make you stop.” And she left to get it.

Sarah quickly returned with the mower.

It was too late.

A river flowed through her room. A crocodile splashed in the river. He was

wearing her swimsuit.

“Stop splashing,” she said to the crocodile, “and take that off! Give my swimsuit back.”

But the crocodile ignored her.

So she cut the grass with the mower. Then she said to the crocodile, “I’ll get a mop and mop up your river. That’ll make you stop.” And she left to get it.

Sarah quickly returned with the mop.

It was too late.

Mud oozed from her closet. In it, two wart hogs danced happily about. The wart hogs were wearing her tutus.

“Stop dancing,” said Sarah. “and take those off! I want my tutus back now!”

But the wart hogs ignored her.

So she mopped up the river. Then she said to the wart hogs, “I’ll get a shovel to dig out your mud. That’ll make you stop.” And she left to get it.

Sarah quickly returned with the shovel.

It was too late.

A leopard lay across her laundry basket. He snored loudly. He was wearing her pajamas.

Sarah had had enough.

“ENOUGH!” yelled Sarah.

The animals stopped and looked at her. They looked very surprised.

Then they heard a knock on the door.

Now Sarah looked surprised.

“Laundry, please.” It was Sarah’s mom.

“Oh, no,” said Sarah. “What’ll I do?”

“I’d better give her my laundry,” she finally decided. “There’s nothing else I *can* do.”

So Sarah grabbed her pillowcase. She held the pillowcase in one hand. She stuffed her laundry in with the other. She stuffed in her dresses (still on the monkeys), her socks (still on the snakes), her swimsuit (still on the crocodile), her tutus (still on the wart hogs), and her pajamas (still on the leopard).

She handed the pillowcase to her mom.

“I hope she doesn’t notice,” thought Sarah. She closed the door quickly.

But her mother called again. This time in a louder voice.

“Sarah,” she asked, “is that everything?”

“Oops,” said Sarah, “I almost forgot.”

She handed her mom her pink underwear. It was still in the tree, of course.

“Thank you,” said her mom. “You never know what might happen if those dirty clothes pile up too long.”

“Yes, Mom,” said Sarah, as she watched her mother drag the huge bag down the hall...

“You never know what might happen.”

