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Lilac, the Pretending Duck

Once upon a time, there lived a duck family. There was Mother Duck (who was very old fashioned). Duke Duck (who liked to be scruffy and muddy). Daniel Duck (who loved to read and stay clean). And Lilac Duck (who loved to pretend).

One day Lilac would be an octopus and splash around in the pond. Then another day, Lilac would be a wild monkey and swing from high branches. Sometimes Lilac got carried away. Sometimes Mother Duck got very angry.

“You naughty little duckling!” Mother Duck would shout, “One day that imagination of yours will get you into BIG trouble!”

On a bright, sunny morning, Mother Duck said “Now, little ducklings, I’m going out to the town to buy some shopping. You MUST stay here while I’m gone.”

“Yes, Mother.” The ducklings chorused.

After Mother Duck had left, Lilac got VERY bored.

“Will you play with me, Duke?” asked Lilac.

“No! I’m too old to play silly pretend!”

“Will you play with me, Daniel?” Lilac asked.

“No way! Can’t you see I’m reading!”

So Lilac pretended she was an explorer discovering a new land. She, of course, got carried away and ran off into the forest.

Now, in the deep, dark wood lived Fox. Fox was sly. Fox was clever. But most of all Fox was hungry. On the day Lilac went into the forest, Fox was VERY hungry! He saw little, Lilac skipping though the forest. "She is playing pretend!" thought Fox, "This will be easy!"

Fox stepped in front of Lilac. "Oh, *hello*, little duck! I am VERY bored and I was wondering if you were playing pretend?" said Fox, sweetly.

"Yes, I am. I would be very happy if you could play with me." said Lilac, politely.

"I know a game we can play! Let's play chefs and go inside my den."

Lilac was excited about her new friend and didn't notice Fox pick up a book that said *How to cook Duck*.

"I am the chef." said Fox with a greedy smile.

"What will I be?" asked Lilac.

"DINNER!"

Lilac squirmed and wriggled and quacked with all her might but Fox was too strong. Fox dropped Lilac, PLOP, into the cooking pot.

"Yum, yum, yum! I'm going to have roast duck in my tum! Said Fox, happily.

Just then a loud SWOOSH came from outside.

"Oh chickens!" cried Fox, "Turkeys! It's Swan!"

Lilac gave out a quack of delight. Swan looked after all the birds in the forest.

"FOX!" thundered a powerful voice, "What are you doing in there!"

The door opened and Swan stepped inside.

Lilac had never seen a bird so HUGE! He towered over Fox and shone bright white in the dark den.

He scooped up Lilac and bellowed “Fox, what have I told you about eating birds in *my* forest. If I see you near this forest again I will chuck you in the river!” Then he let out a hiss of anger which sent Fox running.

“Lilac, your Mother is worrying about you. Let’s get you home.” said Swan.

At the nest, Mother Duck was hugging Lilac close as Swan told her what happened.

“Mother, I’m so sorry. I promise I will listen to you but I am still allowed to play pretend?” Lilac said with a small smile.

“Oh, you silly little duckling! Of course you can play pretend. You are Lilac, the pretending duck!”

The End