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NICOLE ELKINS LANGE

Zachary's Unhappy Day

Nicole Elkins Lange is a recent graduate of Central Michigan University, where she earned an elementary education degree. She is a substitute teacher, new wife, and mother.

Zachary Cat was playing one day,
In his room the usual way,
When out of the blue his mom came in
With a smile on her face that was more than a grin.

"Zachary Cat," his mom shouted with glee,
"We have a surprise I can't wait for you to see!"
Zachary hopped up and squealed with a holler!
"Did you get me the new deluxe kitty collar?"

"No, it's better, Sweetie! Come on, let's go see!"
As she grabbed his paw and started to flee.
They arrived in the living room quick as a wink,
And Zachary began to smell a terrible stink!

What he saw on the couch was not such a prize!
Zachary could not believe his eyes!
"What is it?" he cried. "And why is it fat?"
"It's your new baby sister, Emily Cat!"

"A baby sister? How could you?" he cried.
"Zachary, please come and hold her," his mother sighed.
"I know you'll enjoy her; she's such a peach!"
His father added to the little speech.

"I don't want to!" said Zachary.
"She smells weird and funny!
And she's spitting out stuff
That's all goeey and runny!"

"It won't hurt you!" said his dad.
"She's just a baby; it doesn't smell too bad!
Besides, she needs to know you're her brother.
Give her a kiss and tell her you love her!"

Just then there was a knock at the door.
Zachary figured it was a few presents or more!
Emily Cat was becoming spoiled rotten!
Zachary thought he had been forgotten!

But it wasn't presents to Zachary's surprise.
His three friends appeared right before his eyes.
It was Miss Madi Mouse and Lindsey Nicole,
And not far behind was Emma the Mole!

"Hi, Zachary!" the three said with a cheer!
"We heard you have a new sister here!"
"If that's what you call it!" Zachary added.
"To me she's a mess; her fur is all matted!"

"Oh, Zachary!" said Lindsey. "Are you feeling blue?
It's okay to be jealous; I was too!"
"You were?" asked Zachary. "How can that be?"
"When Emma was born," Lindsey said, "I was only three!"

"But I really didn't like her.
She was given so much!
I thought I was forgotten;
She got presents and such!"

"Well," said Zachary, "I don't feel that way!
Emily Cat is just a pain, and that's all I have to say!"
Zachary's parents did not know what to do;
By this time they were beginning to feel blue!

Just then Zachary's Aunt Erin popped in,
(She was his favorite of all of his kin).
"Well, hey there, Zachary!" was Aunt Erin's greet.
"I thought I'd take you out for a treat!"

"It sounds okay," Zachary began,
 "But my friends are here. Will that mess up your
 plan?"
 "No, bring them along. Let's get something
 sweet!
 How about ice cream from the Tasty Treat?"

So they headed to the Tasty Treat,
 laughing along the way.
 Nothing was mentioned of Emily
 Or Zachary's unhappy day!

As they ate their ice cream and joked with each
 other,
 Aunt Erin said to Zachary, "You know, now
 you're a brother!"
 "Don't remind me, please!" was Zachary's reply.
 "It makes me so unhappy, I just want to cry!"

"You know what, Zachary?" Aunt Erin spoke.
 "Your mom didn't like me, and that's no joke!
 She really didn't like me; she thought I was a
 pest!
 But the more she got to know me, our friendship
 was the best!"

"That's true!" added Lindsey with a little grin,
 As she wiped some ice cream from her chin.
 "I didn't like Emma, I can honestly say!
 But now we play together every day!"

"Geez!" said Madi. "You have such the luck!
 I have no brothers or sisters, and now I am stuck!
 Being alone isn't so bad!
 But a brother or sister would sure make me
 glad!"

"Hold on!" said Emma, feeling left out!
 "I'm the younger sibling you're talking about!
 How do you think I feel when you say
 That us younger siblings just get in the way!"

"Zachary, you know, you're being rude!
 Emily wasn't born to put you in a bad mood!
 You should give her a chance; be a real brother!
 Maybe then you'll realize you really do love
 her!"

Everyone agreed with what Emma had to say!
 Zachary began to think in a different way!
 "You're right, Emma. I haven't been fair!
 I'll give Emily a chance and show her I care!"

Aunt Erin was so happy to hear Zachary say
 That he would give Emily a chance that day!
 And everyone hugged Emma to let her know
 That she was special; they all thought so!

When they arrived back at Zachary's place,
 He had a great big smile on his face!
 He picked up Emily and gave her a hug!
 His parents almost fell on the rug!

Zachary's parents told them they were proud,
 And everybody cheered out loud!
 Zachary's unhappy day was not so bad!
 In fact, it ended with him very glad!

Zachary decided to let Emily stay!
 They even play together every day!
 And Zachary knows how much he would miss
 If Emily wasn't his Little Sis!