

Where's Brownie?
By: Elizabeth Buttler

Scene One

Setting: *A two-person bedroom in an apartment. SAM sits at a messy desk, creating a poster. EVAN works at a clean desk. Nearby are an empty terrarium and a paper bag that is wet and torn at the bottom.*

Narrator: Whoever claimed that “two heads are better than one” never met my twin sister. Half the time, she makes problems worse rather than better. Like when we lost Brownie, our pet chameleon...

(ALEX enters. SAM and EVAN quickly cover up their work.)

Alex: How was the science fair? Did everyone like Brownie?

Sam: They did. Mr. Rollins was astounded that my exhibit was so good. *(SAM tries to hide the empty terrarium from ALEX.)*

Alex: So, where's Brownie? And why is Evan here?

(EVAN and SAM begin texting on hand-held devices.)

Alex: How should I interpret this silence? You're making me feel suspicious. And where's Brownie?

Sam: Um, Brownie's missing. But look! Evan and I made these.

(SAM pulls out a poster she had concealed on her desk.)

Sam: We'll put them up at school tomorrow.

Alex: What makes you think Brownie's back at school?

Sam: Because that's the last place I saw him. In that bag.

Alex: Hey, the bottom of the bag is all wet.

Sam: Maybe it got wet in the lobby. Little Nicky was playing in the fountain with his foldy-paper boat thingies.

Alex: That's *origami*, to be precise. Hey! The bag has a rip.

Sam: Rip? I didn't see a rip. Oh, at the bottom.

Alex: Follow me. I think I know where Brownie is!

Narrator: We raced to the lobby. Brownie had been missing for over an hour, but better late than never!

Scene 2

Setting: *The lobby of the apartment building. A tall, green potted plant stands next to a small fountain, where NICKY is playing. ALEX, SAM, and EVAN talk to NICK near a bulletin board.*

Nick: So these posters are about your lizard, Brownie. I'm still perplexed as to why you think he's down here.

Sam: Because we already checked upstairs.

Alex: Brownie's a chameleon. We think he escaped when Sam set the bag down near the fountain.

Nick: Hey, Nicky! Any brown lizards in the lobby?

Nicky: Nope.

Nick: Maybe you should reconsider this and try searching your apartment again.

Evan: Wait a minute. *(checks his device)* It says here that chameleons climb trees.

Nick: Nicky! Any brown lizards in that tree?

Nicky: Nope.

Evan: It also says that chameleons prefer running water, like that fountain.

Nick: Nicky! Any brown lizards in the fountain?

Nicky: Nope.

Nick: What else does the thing say?

Sam: Yeah, inquisitive minds want to know.

Alex: *(to SAM)* Don't you want to find Brownie, or are you thinking out of sight, out of mind?

Sam: He's just a lizard, Alex. I mean chameleon. It's not exactly absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Evan: Listen to this! Chameleons change color to match their environments when they're confused or afraid.

Alex: Of course! Nicky, any GREEN lizards over there?

Nicky: (*points into the tree*) There's just that one.

Alex: It's Brownie!

Sam: (*confused*) Brownie has always been brown.

Alex: That's because we put only brown things in his cage, like branches and wood chips.

Evan: Maybe you should buy him a green plant.

Sam: And a little fountain.

Nicky: And boats to go sailing!

Narrator: Well, that's how we found our beloved Brownie, and all was well with the world once more!