**The Curse of the Satanic Leaf-Tailed Gecko**

Once upon a time, deep in the spooky woods of Hollowtree Forest, there lived a little gecko named Gordon. Gordon wasn’t just any gecko—he was a satanic leaf-tailed gecko, with skin that looked like old, twisted leaves and a tail that curled like a sinister vine. His appearance made him the spookiest creature in the forest, and the other animals were all a bit afraid of him.

But what the other animals didn’t know was that Gordon was the kindest, most curious gecko in all of Hollowtree Forest. He loved to explore the forest, discovering hidden places and learning about the creatures that lived there. However, because of his scary looks, no one ever wanted to join him on his adventures.

One chilly Halloween night, as the full moon glowed eerily in the sky, Gordon set out on one of his nighttime explorations. The forest was alive with whispers of ghosts and goblins, but Gordon wasn’t scared. He knew the forest well, and his leaf-like body helped him blend into the shadows.

As he wandered deeper into the forest, he heard a soft sobbing sound. Following the noise, Gordon found a tiny mouse named Millie, trembling under a bush.

“What’s wrong, Millie?” Gordon asked gently, his voice as soft as the rustling leaves.

Millie looked up, startled by the scary-looking gecko. But seeing the concern in his eyes, she hesitated and then said, “I got lost while collecting acorns for winter, and now I can’t find my way home.”

Gordon smiled, though it was hard to tell with his spooky appearance. “Don’t worry, Millie. I know these woods better than anyone. I’ll help you find your way home.”

Millie was unsure, but she decided to trust Gordon. As they walked, Gordon pointed out the landmarks that guided him: the old, crooked tree that looked like a witch’s broom, the glowing mushrooms that lit up the path, and the stone circle where the owls gathered to tell stories.

Soon enough, they reached the edge of the forest where Millie’s warm, cozy burrow was hidden. Millie was so relieved, she forgot all about being afraid and gave Gordon a big hug.

“Thank you, Gordon!” Millie squeaked. “You’re not scary at all—you’re a hero!”

Gordon blushed (as much as a gecko can) and said, “I’m glad I could help, Millie. Remember, sometimes things that look scary on the outside are not so scary on the inside. It’s important to get to know someone before you judge them by their appearance.”

Millie nodded, understanding the valuable lesson. From that night on, the animals of Hollowtree Forest learned not to judge others by how they looked. And Gordon? He became the most popular gecko in the forest, leading adventures by day and telling spooky—but not too spooky—stories by night.

And every Halloween, the animals would gather around the stone circle, where Gordon would remind them of that one special night: “It’s not what’s on the outside that counts, but what’s on the inside that truly matters.”

And so, in the spooky yet friendly Hollowtree Forest, the spirit of Halloween was celebrated not with fear, but with friendship and understanding.

\*\*The End\*\*