**THE CROCODILE SAVIOUR**

Since childhood, I have loved my crocodile stuffed animal. As I grew older, my fascination with crocodiles deepened. For my 7th birthday, my parents gave me a ticket to the zoo, where I could see a real crocodile family. I felt like I was dreaming.

On the day of the trip, I woke up early, excited to see the animals. At the zoo, we received a detailed map and we entered the premises. We walked past parrots, monkeys, and lemurs until we reached the crocodiles. I was mesmerized. The smallest one, whom I named Diego, looked at me with sad eyes. I thought he wanted to be free.

Determined to help him, I found a small hole in the fence and made it bigger so he could escape. Diego squeezed through. I hesitated for a while, but then I petted him. He smiled, lay down, and let me climb on his back. We slipped away unnoticed and headed to our car.

At first, Mom wasn’t happy, but after some persuasion, she let me keep him. Now, we’ve both grown up, but Diego is still my best friend.

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