

ZIGGY'S DREAM

“an interspecies love story”

by

Richard R Roller

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The enclosed material for a children's book entitled “**Ziggy's Dream**,” came out of a growing relationship between our family and pet Iguana.

We have raised **Ziggy** from a baby to the robust specimen she is today. My first encounter with an Iguana occurred at a party several years ago. One of the guests brought her giant green Iguana along. From the minute we looked into each other's eyes, I knew that one day I would have such a dinosaur in my life.

I know it may sound strange, but I get a sense of how an Iguana experiences life. The Aborigines say the Iguana lives it's life on the border between the “*dreamtime*” and the “*waking state*.” Ziggy slips in and out of a trance-like state. Hanging out with her in our home and on our bodies gives us a sense of deep peace and higher consciousness.

One night, while allowing Ziggy the run of the house, my wife asked, “I wonder what's really going on inside her head?” Once the floodgates of inspiration opened, there was no way to get to sleep until 4:00 a.m. I was compelled to get the first draft of **Ziggy's Dream** down on paper.

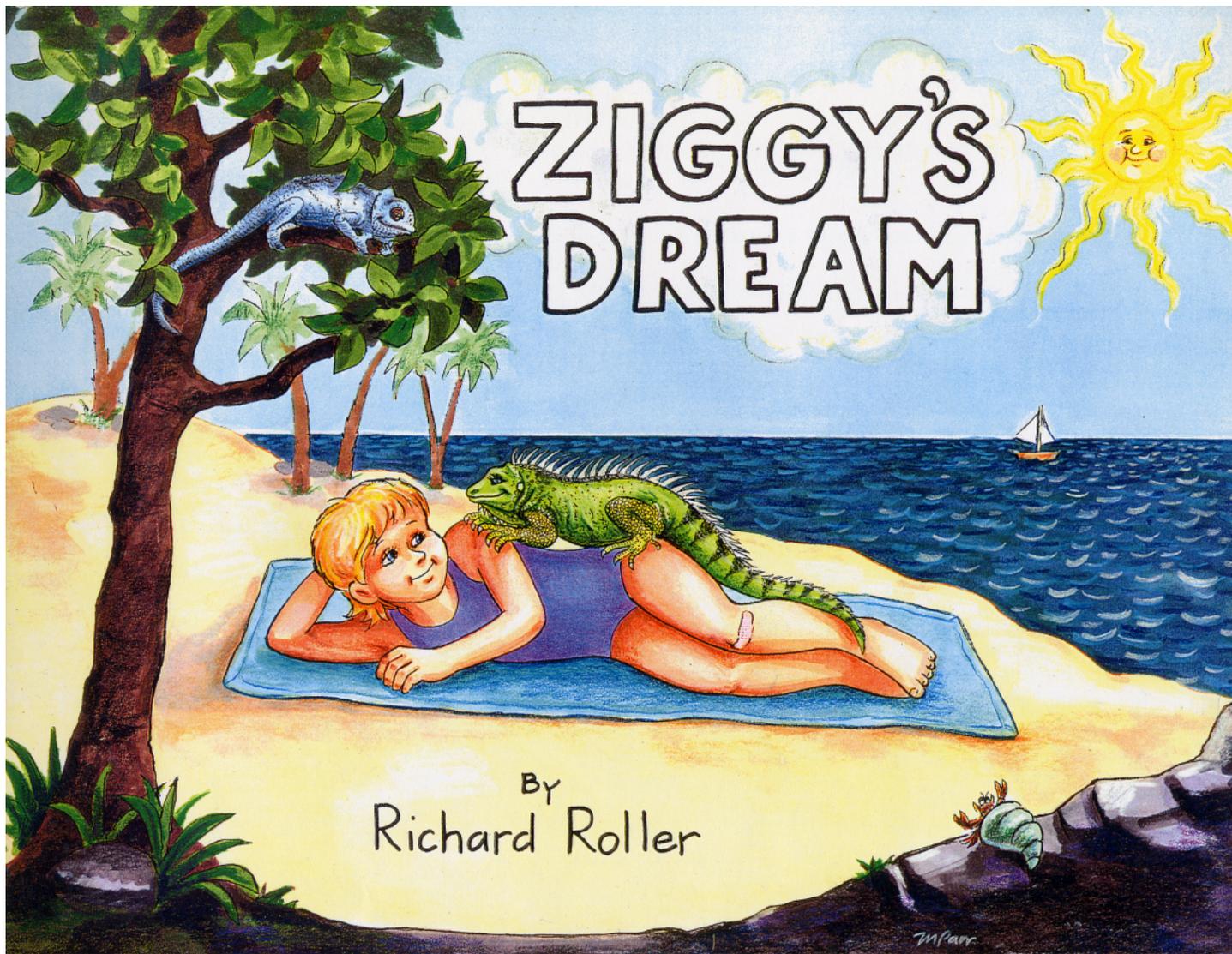
After completing the story, we've come up with several follow-up episode concepts. There are numerous possibilities for a continuing series of “**Adventures with Ziggy**.”

I hope you find the work worthy of publishing and will link us with an inspired illustrator.

Sincerely,
Richard R Roller

ZIGGY'S DREAM

By
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Brief Summary:

Ziggy's Dream

(An illustrated children's book)

Ziggy, an imaginative Iguana, dreams of a life beyond her lizard existence. One day she meets Debby, a tomboy girl. After numerous obstacles, the two become friends. On one of Debby's visits to the beach to feed Ziggy, the lizard decides to follow the girl home. In spite of reservations by Debby's parents, they finally agree to allow Ziggy to become a part of their family. Ziggy learns that dreams really can come true.

Note: *I envision Ziggy's Dream as episode one of a continuing series of – Adventures with Ziggy.*

Summary:

One day, a lovely lady lizard by the name of Ziggy, an Iguana in fact, was laying on a hot rock on a remote tropical island. It was a perfect day for basking in the sun. The sky was clear and the heat was penetrating all the way to the core of her cold little lizard heart. Ziggy had the best life any lizard anywhere could possibly desire, but even so she was not completely satisfied. She always felt a little out of place with her fellow Iguanas. She had only one real friend, a lizard by the name of Louise. Louise, being a Chameleon, was the only other reptile open enough to listen to Ziggy's wild dreams. Even so, most of the time, Ziggy basked alone.

Ziggy often dreamed of something different than the life she lived. The blazing sun to heat her blood and a rock on which to sprawl wasn't quite enough. She dreamed of a *soft* rock on which to lie. A rock that was both *soft* and *warm*, even at night. Ziggy never much liked it when the sun went away.

On one cold gray day, a young misfit girl, a tomboy named Debby, comes to the beach. After a short time staring out to sea, Debby lies down and falls asleep. Ziggy is perched nearby, shivering on a rock. After a while, Ziggy goes looking for a place where she can warm her cold, stiff body. She notices Debby and stops to take a look. Seeing no movement, she moves closer and feels radiating heat. After careful consideration, she slowly crawls up on the girl's body. Debby moves a little, as if she might wake up, but, lucky for Ziggy, she doesn't. Upon the girl's warm back, Ziggy immediately begins to relax.

Note: After many obstacles, Ziggy ends up going back to the States with Debby and her military family. *Ziggy's Dream* is intended as the first in a series of: ***Adventures with Ziggy.***

Text:

A lovely lady lizard by the name of **Ziggy**, an Iguana in fact, was one day laying on a hot rock. Nearby were many other lounging lizards, many of whom were also Iguanas. Ziggy and the others lived the same reptilian lives millions of previous generations of lizards had lived before. It was a perfect day for basking in the sun. The sky was clear and the heat was penetrating all the way to the core of her cold little heart. Ziggy had the best life any lizard, anywhere, could possibly desire. But even so, she was not completely satisfied. She always felt a little out of place with her fellow Iguanas. She had only one real friend, a Chameleon by the name of **Louise**. Louise was the only other lizard open enough to listen to Ziggy's wild dreams. Even so, most of the time Ziggy basked alone.

One day, Ziggy was dreaming of something more than what she had. The blazing sun to heat her blood and a rock on which to sprawl wasn't quite enough. She dreamed that one day she would find a **soft** rock on which to lay. A rock that was *both soft and warm*, even at night. In fact, Ziggy never much liked it when the sun went away.

One day, a young girl by the name of **Debby** came to the beach. After a short time staring out to sea, Debby laid down and fell asleep. She was very near the rock on which Ziggy would often bask. It was a cold and overcast day. That day the rock felt especially hard and cold to Ziggy, so she decided to go looking for a better place to lay.

Debby was sound asleep. Ziggy came strutting by and stopped to take a look. Noticing no movement, she slowly crawled up on the girl's belly. The girl moved a little, as if she might wake up. But, lucky for Ziggy, she didn't. Upon the girl's warm body, Ziggy immediately began to relax. The two of them slept there for what seemed like an eternity to Ziggy. When finally the girl awoke, she almost had a heart attack. Fortunately, her heart was young and strong and she was only frightened. She sprang to her feet and Ziggy went flying to the ground.

A few days passed before Debby came back to the beach again. In the meantime, she told her family about waking up with an Iguana on her belly. Ziggy, in an Iguana sort-of way, told her Chameleon friend, Louise.

Like Ziggy, Debby did not feel close to her own kind. All the other island girls played with dolls and played mommy-baby games. Debby was a tomboy. She didn't fit in anywhere. She always tried to roughhouse with the boys, but they rarely let her play, and when they did, the girls would all get jealous. She felt like an outcast.

To make things worse, Debby's older brother, **DOYLE**, was a real monster. Doyle was devious and always found new ways to make Debby's life miserable. Her only friends were the sea, the trees, and her pet parrot, **POLLY**. But now she had a new friend.

Debby was so excited that she went to the library and got a book on Iguanas. She learned all she could about them. When she got back to the beach again, she brought with her some chopped up fruits and vegetables. Ziggy saw Debby the moment she arrived. The girl sat down and set the food a few feet away. She then laid back and closed her eyes, pretending to be asleep.

It wasn't too long before Ziggy made her move. When she was confident the girl was indeed asleep, she cautiously made her way to the feast that had been laid out for her. After eating every bite, she was stuffed to the gills. Ziggy thought how nice it would be to stretch out on a nice warm rock, or better yet, a warm, soft rock.

She considered the dangers, but even so, her desire to crawl back up on the girl's warm body was more than she could bear. Slowly, Ziggy made her way onto Debby's exposed belly, which conveniently had been made easily accessible.

Ahhhhh.... Once again, there it was. The warmest and most comfortable 'something' that lovely Ziggy had ever laid her lizard belly upon. This time the girl was ready, even eager for her encounter with the lizard world. When Ziggy fell sound asleep, the girl opened her eyes. After a while of just watching, she gently reached out to pet Ziggy.

The two were face to face. For a few moments Ziggy remained asleep. But finally, she opened one eye slowly, then the other quickly, as she sprang off Debby and ran away. The laughing girl just watched as Ziggy ran to a safe distance, then stopped to look back and stare. For Ziggy it was a close encounter of the scariest kind.

Every day after that, the girl would come and bring food for Ziggy. Over the next few weeks, the friendship between her and the Iguana grew. Eventually Ziggy would scamper up as soon as Debby would arrive with her usual plate of fruits and vegetables.

They spent a lot of time with each other. Ziggy would lay on Debby's chest and the two of them would stare into each other's eyes. For Debby it was an encounter with higher intelligence, and for Ziggy it was a dream come true. *Each, in their own way, marveled at the other.*

One tropical, full-moon night, after a day of unbearable assaults by Doyle, Debby snuck out of her house, and came to the beach to sleep. Ziggy crawled into Debby's sleeping bag and the two slept together all night long.

The next day, when Ziggy was back with all the other lizards, she couldn't keep her secret any longer. She broadcast the news on all open lizard-awareness channels. She told everyone, even the **blue-bellies** and **horned-toads**, about her discoveries. She told the tale of how she made friends with a warm, soft rock. A rock that is warm both day and night. She told everyone that her rock is alive and brings her food.

Even with all her enthusiasm for what she had to tell, the other lizards were not convinced. In fact, they almost all replied, *"You must have lost your reptilian mind! It's a sad day, indeed, when an Iguana doesn't know the difference between what's real and what's a dream."*

The very next day, Debby came back to the beach. As usual she brought a bounty of delicious foods. This time when it was time for her to leave, Debby was surprised to find Ziggy scampering close behind. Ziggy knew that she had gone as far as she could in her lizard life. She had decided to take a chance and follow the girl.

At first Debby was pleased that Ziggy was following her, but as it continued, she became concerned. She actually tried to shoo Ziggy away. The lizard stubbornly refused to go. She just kept following. Finally, Debby gave in and let Ziggy crawl up her leg and onto her shoulder.

Arriving home with a giant lizard on her head took a lot of explaining to her parents. But finally, Debby's parents, who really loved her, and nature too, were convinced that this Iguana was truly meant to be with them. Even Doyle was so taken by Ziggy, that for the first time, maybe ever, he was actually nice to Debby.

And as fate would have it, Ziggy, the Iguana, became a full-fledged member of the girl's human family, and proved to herself that ***dreams can come true.***

The End

Text & Visual Script:

1. A lovely lady lizard by the name of **Ziggy**, an Iguana, in fact, was one day laying on a hot rock.

Image: Close-up of Ziggy basking on a rock.

2. Nearby were many other lounging lizards, many of whom were also Iguanas. Ziggy and the others lived the same reptilian lives millions of previous generations of lizards had lived before.

Image: Wide shot of all the lizards with Ziggy in the foreground.

3. It was a perfect day for basking in the sun. The sky was clear and the heat was penetrating all the way to the core of her cold little heart. Ziggy had the best life any lizard, anywhere, could possibly desire. But even so, she was not completely satisfied. She always felt a little out of place with her fellow Iguanas.

Image: Another angle of Ziggy.

4. She had only one real friend, a Chameleon by the name of **Louise**. Louise was the only other lizard open enough to listen to Ziggy's wild dreams. Even so, most of the time Ziggy basked alone.

Image: Ziggy with Louise.

5. One day, Ziggy was dreaming of something more than what she had. The blazing sun to heat her blood and a rock on which to sprawl wasn't quite enough. She dreamed that one day she would find a **soft** rock on which to lay. A rock that was *both soft and warm*, even at night. In fact, Ziggy never much liked it when the sun went away.

Image: Ziggy with a dream cloud overhead. In the dream bubble she lays on a soft hot rock and smiles.

6. One day, a young girl by the name of **Debby** came to the beach.

Image: Debby sits on the sand staring out to sea.

7. After a short time staring out to sea, Debby laid down and fell asleep. She was very near the rock on which Ziggy would often bask.

Image: Debby is sound asleep. It's an overcast day.

8. It was a cold and overcast day. That day the rock felt especially hard and cold to Ziggy, so she decided to go looking for a better place to lay.

Image: Ziggy crawls down off her rock.

9. Debby was sound asleep. Ziggy came strutting by and stopped to take a look.

Image: Ziggy struts near the sound asleep girl.

10. Noticing no movement, she slowly crawled up on the girl's belly. The girl moved a little, as if she might wake up. But, lucky for Ziggy, she didn't.

Image: Ziggy crawls up on the girls body.

11. Upon the girls warm body, Ziggy immediately began to relax. The two of them slept there for what seemed liked an eternity to Ziggy.

Image: Ziggy sprawls on the girls body, relaxed.

12. When finally the girl awoke, she almost had a heart attack. Fortunately, her heart was young and strong and she was only frightened.

Image: Girl waking up and seeing Ziggy on her body.

13. She sprang to her feet and Ziggy went flying to the ground.

Image: Ziggy flies to the ground as the girl jumps up.

14. A few days passed before Debby came back to the beach again. In the meantime, she told her family about waking up with an Iguana on her belly.

Image: Debby draws the Iguana for her family.

15. Ziggy, in an Iguana sort-of way, told her Chameleon friend, Louise.

Image: Ziggy and Louise together. Ziggy looks excited. Louise looks skeptical.

16. Like Ziggy, Debby did not feel close to her own kind. All the other island girls played with dolls and acted out mommy-baby games.

Image: Debby sits alone near girls playing with dolls.

17. Debby was a tomboy. She didn't fit in anywhere.

Image: Debbie hangs upside-down from a tree near some boys playing soccer.

18. She always tried to roughhouse with the boys, but they rarely let her play, and when they did, the girls would all get jealous. She felt like an outcast.

Image: Debby playing soccer with the boys while other girls sneer nearby.

19. To make things worse, Debby's older brother, **DOYLE**, was a real monster. Doyle was devious and always found new ways to make Debby's life miserable.

Image: Doyle laughs as Debby finds her bed filled with rocks.

20. Her only friends were the sea, the trees, and her pet parrot, **POLLY**. But now she had a new friend.

Image: Debby sitting with her parrot on her shoulder. She looks out her window past the trees to the ocean. She looks forlorn.

Image: A light goes off over her head and she imagines Ziggy.

21. Debby was so excited that she went to the library and got a book on lizards and Iguanas. She learned all she could about them.

Image: Debby in the Library with a book on lizards and Iguanas.

22. When she got back to the beach again, she brought with her some chopped up fruits and vegetables. Ziggy saw Debby the moment she arrived.

Image: Debby arrives at the beach with a large plate of fruits and vegetables.

23. The girl sat down and set the food a few feet away.

Image: Debby sits the plate down.

24. She then laid back and closed her eyes, pretending to be asleep.

Image: Debby pretends to be asleep

25. It wasn't too long before Ziggy made her move. When she was confident the girl was indeed asleep, she cautiously made her way to the feast that had been laid out for her.

Image: Ziggy comes a few feet from the girl and the plate of food.

26. After eating every bite, she was stuffed to the gills. Ziggy thought how nice it would be to stretch out on a nice warm rock, or better yet, *a warm, soft rock*.

Image: Ziggy finishes the last few bites. She is stuffed. An overhead dream-cloud pictures her basking on a hot, soft rock.

27. She considered the dangers, but even so, her desire to crawl back up on the girl's warm body was more than she could bear.

Image: Ziggy is near the girl who continues to pretend to be asleep.

28. Slowly, Ziggy made her way onto Debby's exposed belly, which conveniently had been made easily accessible.

Image: Ziggy begins to crawl onto the girls exposed belly.

29. Ahhhhhh.... Once again, there it was. The warmest and most comfortable 'something' that lovely Ziggy had ever laid her lizard belly upon.

Image: Ziggy sprawls out and goes into bliss on the girl.

30. This time the girl was ready, even eager, for her encounter with the lizard world. When Ziggy fell sound asleep, the girl opened her eyes.

Image: Debby opens her eyes and looks at the sleeping lizard.

31. After a while of just watching, she gently reached out to pet Ziggy.

Image: Debby reaches out to pet Ziggy.

32. The two were face to face. For a few moments Ziggy remained asleep. But finally, she opened one eye slowly, then the other quickly,

Image: Ziggy opens her eyes and is face to face with the girl.

33. as she sprang off Debby and ran away. The laughing girl just watched as Ziggy ran to a safe distance, then stopped to look back and stare. For Ziggy it was a close encounter of the scariest kind.

Image: Having jumped off Debby's belly, Ziggy is standing tall and looking back at the laughing girl.

34. Every day after that, the girl would come and bring food for Ziggy. Over the next few weeks, the friendship between her and the Iguana grew.

Images: Two pages show Ziggy daring to come closer and closer.

35. Eventually, Ziggy would scamper up to the girl as soon as she would arrive with her usual plate of fruits and vegetables.

Image: Ziggy takes food from Debby's hand.

36. They spent a lot of time with each other. Ziggy would lay on Debby's chest and the two of them would stare into each others eyes. For Debby it was an encounter with higher intelligence, and for Ziggy it was a dream come true. *Each, in their own way, marveled at the other.*

Image: Two page spread of Ziggy laying on Debby. They are face to face, staring into each others eyes. (This may be the cover illustration)

37. One tropical, full-moon night, after a day of unbearable assaults by Doyle, Debby snuck out of her house, and came to the beach to sleep.

Image: Debby sneaking out of the house with her sleeping bag. It's a full-moon night.

38. Ziggy crawled into the sleeping bag and the two slept together all night long.

Image: Ziggy sleeps snug and warm inside Debby's sleeping bag.

39. The next day, when Ziggy was back with all the other lizards, she couldn't keep her secret any longer. She broadcast the news on all open lizard-awareness channels.

Image: Ziggy on a hill with thought waves radiating out to all the other Iguanas and lizards.

40. She told everyone, even the *blue-bellies* and *horned-toads*, about her discoveries. She told the tale of how she made friends with a warm, soft rock.

Image: Ziggy communicates to a blue-belly and a horned-toad.

41. A rock that is warm both day and night. She told everyone that her rock is alive and brings her food.

Image: Ziggy projects a thought cloud on which she lays on Debby.

42. Even with all her enthusiasm for what she had to tell, the other lizards were not convinced. In fact, they almost all replied, *"You must have lost your reptilian mind! It's a sad day, indeed, when an Iguana doesn't know the difference between what's real and what's a dream."*

Image: Several Iguanas and lizards express their judgment of Ziggy.

43. The very next day, Debby came back to the beach. As usual she brought a bounty of delicious foods. This time when it was time for her to leave, Debby was surprised to find Ziggy scampering close behind.

Image: Ziggy follows Debby away from the beach.

44. Ziggy knew that she had gone as far as she could in her lizard life. She had decided to take a chance and follow the girl.

Image: Close-up of a determined Ziggy, high on all fours, as she races after Debby.

45. At first Debby was pleased that Ziggy was following her, but as it continued, she became concerned. She actually tried to shoo Ziggy away.

Image: Debby points a finger of scorn at Ziggy. They stare at each other.

46. The lizard stubbornly refused to go. She just kept following. Finally, Debby gave in and let Ziggy crawl up her leg and onto her shoulder.

Image: Ziggy crawls up Debby's leg.

47. Arriving home with a giant lizard on her head took a lot of explaining to her parents.

Image: Debby, with Ziggy on her head stands before her mother and father and her brother.

48. But finally, Debby's parents, who really loved her, and nature too, were convinced that this Iguana was truly meant to be with them.

Image: Debby's smiling mother gives Ziggy a bite of a banana.

49. Even Doyle was so taken by Ziggy, that for the first time, maybe ever, he was actually nice to Debby.

Image: Doyle cautiously pets Ziggy, who is perched on Debby's shoulder.

50. And as fate would have it, Ziggy, the Iguana, became a full-fledged member of the girl's human family, and proved to herself that ***dreams can come true.***

Image: Ziggy stretches out, eyes closed and dreaming, on the back of a chair at the kitchen table, with all the members of Debby's family. Everyone is smiling and happy.

The End