
THE EARTH BOY AND MR. BROWN

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“Hey Timmy! Check this out,” said Freddy Oliver. Freddy leaned down into the grass, squinted, and pushed his thick glasses further up his nose.

Tim limped over; his uneven gait was due to the hit he took in the shin from crazy Mickey’s brushback pitch. He was a skinny dude with shaggy dark hair and small dark eyes. The two boys stared down at the thing, their mouths open The Earth Boy and Mr. Brown / Robots in Love in astonishment.

“Holy Shih Tzu,” Tim said at last. He had a way of cussing and simultaneously sounding respectful, like he was talking to a teacher. “What the hell is it? An E.T.?”

They were standing alone in a baseball field on a Saturday afternoon. The game was over, and all of the other boys The Earth Boy and Mr. Brown / Robots in Love had headed home. Freddy and Tim lived next door to each other in houses that were just across the street from the park. They were just about to walk home when Freddy almost tripped on the little creature. Freddy was short, plump, and prone to stumbling.

Freddy couldn’t think of any way to The Earth Boy and Mr. Brown / Robots in Love relate to this creature except to compare it to what he did know. It was shaped like a human. It stood upright on two legs, and it had a bald head, a face, and two arms. The Earth Boy and Mr. Brown / Robots in Love But its skin was covered with brown fur that was short and shiny, like the surface of a horse. Standing upright, it was The Earth Boy and Mr. Brown / Robots in Love taller than a rat, but smaller than a cat. It looked practically human, but not quite. Five fingers, five toes—alien looking digits, though, because the quality of skin changed to something more reptilian. It had large brown eyes, like a kid in an anime cartoon. It stared somberly back at Freddy and Tim as they stooped even closer to get a really good look.

“It must be a deformed animal, you know, something that was just born goofy,” Tim said. “Like a two headed animal or a conjoined twin or something. Weird.”

“I think it’s hungry,” The Earth Boy and Mr. Brown / Robots in Love Freddy said.

“How can you tell?”

“Do you think it was rejected by its mother? I’m going to take it home.”

“Damn, I’m in Portland this weekend,” Tim said.

Freddy nodded. Normally Tim liked visiting his relatives there, but Freddy knew that Tim now wanted to hang around The Earth Boy and Mr. Brown / Robots in Love all weekend to play with this little thing.

Freddy picked it up. It seemed to relax in his hands, like a show animal that was used to being handled. Freddy gently placed it in his athletic bag, and then the two friends headed off.

Once he was alone in his room, Freddy took the creature out and set it on his desk. It stood among Freddy’s textbooks and notebooks and continued to gaze calmly at Freddy.

“Are you hungry?”

The creature just blinked.

Freddy headed to the kitchen and brought back leftovers for his strange new pet—some tuna fish and cold white rice. It stooped and lowered its head down to the food to eat it, like a dog or a cat.

Freddy couldn’t tell if it was male or female. It didn’t seem to have any parts, so maybe it was a girl; but Freddy decided it was a boy. He started calling it Mr. Brown, because it was brown. And he decided to keep his new friend a secret, just like in that E.T. movie. If Freddy’s parents saw this creature, who knew what could happen?

He ate dinner with his parents and managed to appear calm, although he was so excited that he could barely talk. The Earth Boy and Mr. Brown / Robots in Love Once back in his room, he found the creature still standing on his desk, as still as any of the other things cluttered around his room.

“Do you breathe, Mr. Brown?”

No answer, just more staring and blinking.

Freddy got comfortable with Mr. Brown pretty quickly that weekend. He kind of enjoyed the constant staring; it felt like some undivided attention that he got from no one else. He fed it a handful of food later The Earth Boy and Mr. Brown / Robots in Love that Saturday evening and another handful the following Sunday morning. When Freddy’s mother drove out to the mall Sunday afternoon, Freddy tagged along, hiding Mr. Brown in his athletic bag. He left the top zipper halfway open, and he subtly glanced down once in a while. Mr. Brown lay down and made no noises. He just stared, as usual.

The Earth Boy And Mr Brown Robots In Love

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