*Friend Problems*

SCENE 1:

Nic sat down in her Skylanders PJs in front of her laptop. She logged on to her Animal Jam account and when an aqua colored koala with yellow swirls appeared on the laptop screen, she knew she could start the game. The koala was her avatar. A pink bunny with a tiara appeared next to Nic.

Nic looked down at the keyboard on the laptop and typed, “Hey, Princess SnowyPaw!” That was the pink bunny’s name. “Hi, Enchanted BraveGem,” she replied. Brown words popped on to the screen. *“Princess SnowyPaw sent you a friend request.”* There were two buttons. One said: *Accept*. The other button said: *Decline*. Nic wasn’t sure of what to choose.

The last time she accepted a friend request, it didn’t end well. Nic’s friend said that she was a bad person and they couldn’t be friends. Before Nic could choose, she could feel her hand move the mouse to the *Accept* button.

SCENE 2:

*Princess SnowyPaw would like to invite you to the movie theatre:* some brown words spelled.

Nic decided she wanted to go so she clicked the globe on her screen and chose where to go. Her koala ran towards the movie theatre. Princess SnowyPaw was waiting for her there.

They walked to the movie theatre together. “Do you want to be internet sisters?” Princess SnowyPaw asked. “Sure,” Nic wrote back. Nic finally liked someone in this game. Having a friend was really nice. Princess SnowyPaw had disappeared to somewhere else though.

SCENE 3:

“Do you want to visit my den?” Nic typed. But Princess SnowyPaw was one step ahead of her. She was already in Nic’s den. That’s where she went. “Cool den!” she exclaimed when Nic came.

“Thanks. You’re really nice to me,” she typed. “Why did you leave?” But she left again. This was really annoying. Nic thought that she actually made a new friend. When Nic was about to log out of the game, Princess SnowyPaw appeared on the laptop screen again.

“Sorry I left again. I was getting a snack,” she said. “Also, we can’t be sisters anymore.” Nic was very confused. Did her new friend hate her now? “Why?” Nic asked. Nic got an answer right away.

“Because on the inside, I know that you’re a horrible person,” Princess SnowyPaw replied. Nic felt like she just got punched in the stomach. Then she gulped and tried to hold back tears. What was she talking about? Nic didn’t do anything wrong! Nic had no idea why all of her friends hated her so much. “Well it’s not my fault that you sent me the friend request!” Nic typed.

SCENE 4:

Nic looked behind her koala and saw a wolf that was playing. “What’s going on in here?!” the wolf typed. Princess SnowyPaw and Nic typed their answers at the exact same time. Nic typed, “SHE HATES ME!” Princess SnowyPaw typed, “SHE’S HORRIBLE!” Nic was sick of this happening every time she got a new friend. She locked her den and the wolf and Princess SnowyPaw disappeared.

Relieved, Nic logged out of the game and didn’t log back in for one week. She told her parents what had happened and they said to quit playing Animal Jam for the rest of her life if she didn’t like playing it. Nic used her parents’ advice and stopped playing.

But after a while, she missed playing Animal Jam and she logged back on to her account. It was different now. Nic didn’t accept any friend requests or talk much to anyone anymore. A friend request popped up onto the screen. Before Nic could decline the friend request she saw the picture of the player. He looked familiar somehow. It was an image of a black wolf with a Frankenstein mask and diamond and gold encrusted tail armour. It was the same player that saw Nic and Princess SnowyPaw fighting in her den.

Animal Jam couldn’t be any worse than before. She clicked *Decline.* “Please don’t talk to me,” Nic typed. “I don’t trust anyone who wants to be my friend anymore.” Nic realized that asking won’t get her anywhere close to happiness in Animal Jam.

“You can be my friend. Just don’t think I’m a horrible person,” Nic wrote. “I would never say that,” the wolf said. Nic still wasn’t sure if she wanted the wolf as her friend. She wasn’t sure if it was the right choice. Nic looked at the wolf’s name. It seemed familiar, like an old friend.

“Are you in 4th grade?” she typed. Her answer was a yes. “Did you know a girl named Nic?” Her answer was a yes again. “Are you named after Neil Armstrong and half Asian?” After the wolf typed yes over and over again, Nic was pretty sure she knew who had the wolf character. It was a friend from that she met in 3rd grade named Neil!

SCENE 5:

“Hi Neil!!!” she typed. She had no idea that he played Animal Jam. Neil sent the friend request again and Nic immediately accepted. “Do you want to go to my den?,” Neil typed. Nic already thought of that and she was in his den.

Nic smiled like she hadn’t done in a while on the internet. Seeing Neil was a really nice change to the game and made Nic happy. She realized that nobody else was actually her friend. “Don’t trust anyone to be your friend,” Neil said. It felt like he was reading Nic’s mind.

But Neil was right about that. He was the only friend she needed. It’s a good thing people can unfriend each other on Animal Jam. Nic unfriended everyone but Neil and the rest of her time on Animal Jam was with Neil because he was a true friend. She didn’t care too much of people hating her after that. At least one person liked her. That was all that mattered to her.