Friends Forever
by Aaron Nguyen

Characters:
ALEX: Alex is an introverted young boy. He is shorter than most boys, and wears very big glasses. He grew up as an only child, and didn't have many friends.

JEFF: Jeff is Alex's best, imaginary friend. He sort of represents the opposite side of Alex. He is ing/convincing Alex to do stupid things. He is like an older brother to Alex, and Alex really looks up to him. He is also like Alex's mentor, and sneaks ways into teaching Alex new things.

JENNY: Jenny is a very kind hearted girl. She sees people for who they truly are, rather than their physical appearance. She young, has a cute face, and is extroverted, meaning that she isn't afraid to do new things. She is always wearing colorful clothes, reflecting her personality.

BIFF: Biff is Jenny's friend. He is very rude, and doesn't accept Alex as a person. He talks down on people, and thinks he is the best. He is taller than everyone except Jeff, and he is very rude. He is ignorant and arrogant.

Setting:
A suburban neighborhood, in front of Alex's house. It is fall time, so there are dried leaves on the floor. There is a white picket fence in the background. It is very peaceful.

Scene 1:

AT RISE, a younger Alex is sitting down on a curb next to Jeff. They are both eating an ice cream and are talking. There is a slight breeze, and they are both examining their surroundings.

ALEX
Have you ever noticed how birds always stop what they're doing to swoop down and see a shiny object?

JEFF
What do you mean?

ALEX
Well see that crow over there? (Points off screen)

JEFF
Yea, what about it?

ALEX
It just stopped what it was doing to come down and look at that piece of ribbon. (beat)
Why do they do that?

JEFF
Think of it like this: When you walk down the street, and see a penny, what do you do?

ALEX
Well, I bend over and pick it up of course!

JEFF
How much is a penny worth?

ALEX
Ummmm, One cent!

JEFF
Good! Exactly! Ok now you can't really buy anything with just one cent right?

ALEX
Right!

JEFF
Can you tell me why you pick it up?

ALEX
Well I don't really know...

JEFF
Come on buddy, think. Use that noggin of yours!

ALEX
(Laughing) Umm I pick it up because it's there! And even though it isn't worth much, it doesn't mean it isn't worth anything at all?

JEFF
Bingo buddy!
(They both take a bite out of their ice cream at the same time, and they laugh)

ALEX
I wish I had more friends like you, Jeff.

JEFF
(Chuckling) well, there can't be too many perfect people in this world.

(Short silence)

JEFF
(Abruptly) I know what we can do! Let's go play Space Soldiers and Aliens!

ALEX
(Super excited) Yea! I call being the Space Soldier!

JEFF
(Laughs) Okay, but next time I get to be him, no arguments.

ALEX
Okay!

JEFF
Okay! Ready, set, go!

(Jeff instantly jumps and and tackles Alex)

JEFF
ROOAARR

ALEX
(Squealing) Ahh oh no!!

(He scrambles away, and Jeff chases him off stage.)

Scene 2

Setting:
It's outside of Alex's house again, but everything is a bit more aged. It is in late summer/ early fall, but a few years later. It has generally the same setting as scene one.

at rise
Alex is in the front of his house with Jeff, and they are playing catch. Over the course of the scene, they toss the ball back and forth.

JEFF
So are you ready for school?

ALEX: No, not really...

JEFF
Why? 7th grade will be great!

ALEX
I don't really know.... people in 6th grade were jerks.

JEFF
Hey! Forget about them. They're just.....

ALEX
Just what?

JEFF
Stupid. Yea, stupid!

Jeff looks into the distance

JEFF
Hey is that Biff?

ALEX
(Squinting in the distance) Yeah I think so why?

JEFF
I think he's riding toward us on his skateboard

ALEX
Hey Bi-

BIFF:
Hey loser! Heads up!

(He throws a mushy apple at Alex and it hits him in the face, knocking his glasses off.)

BIFF
(Laughing hysterically) Why don't you get your "friend" to help you up!
(He rolls away)

JEFF
WHY DON'T YOU COME SAY THAT AGAIN YOU IGNORANT BABOON!

ALEX
(He was clearly crying, and he is sniffing) Just forget it Jeff...

JEFF
Listen, you can't let people do that to you! Stand up for yourself. Yea you aren't as tall or strong as other kids, but you are definitely smarter than them. Don't let them get to you. Hey, listen (He leans over and wipes Alex's tears) you're still the best Space Soldier I know.

ALEX
(Sniff) Thanks Jeff. You always know how to cheer me up.

JEFF
Alright, what do you say we go enjoy the last few days of summer?

(They run off stage)

Scene 3

Setting
In front of the school yard. It's sunny outside.

At rise
Alex and Jeff are standing out front. Alex is wearing his backpack and is dressed nicely.

JEFF
About one more minute until school starts.

ALEX
Ughhhhhhh I don’t wanna go.....

JEFF
Ooh! I know! How about I go *with* you!

ALEX
What do you mean?

JEFF
Well, instead of waiting outside for you, I can come *in* with you!

ALEX
Well, I don’t know...

JEFF
Oh come on! It’ll be great! We can play at recess, I can help you during class, we can sit together at lunch-

ALEX
Alright, alright you can go

JEFF
Score!

(*Biff walks on stage with his backpack)*

BIFF
Hey nerd! Who ya talki’n to?

ALEX
No one Biff, go away.

BIFF
PFFF. No one? Please I heard you.

ALEX
(Aggravated) I said go away!

BIFF
You wanna get tough little man? Huh? (He pushes Alex)

(All throughout Jeff is standing blank faced, almost emotionless, like he was paused)

JENNY
Hey! Biff! cut it out!

(She runs on stage)

JENNY
(Whisper to Biff) Come on, you know he doesn't have any friends. Leave him alone.

BIFF
Ugh fine.....

JENNY
Good, now leave!

(She turns to Alex)

JENNY
Don't mind him, he's just being annoying. He does that a lot.

ALEX
Yea, I noticed

JENNY
(Laughing) I think EVERYone noticed.

JENNY (CONT.)
Names Jenny. But you can call me Jenny

(Jeff resumes emotions)

ALEX

My names Alex. You can call me Alex

JENNY
(Laughs again) Hey you're funny. Have I seen you before?

ALEX
Yea, I was in your class last year

JEFF
Well aren't you gonna introduce me?

ALEX
Shh, not now

JENNY
Is something wrong?

ALEX
What? Oh it's nothing really

JEFF
Hey you should probably go to class

ALEX
(Looks at watch) Oh snap you're right Jeff!

JENNY
Who? My names Jenny, not Jeff...

ALEX
Well, nice to meet you Jenny, but it's time to go, see you later!

(Him and Jeff run off the stage)

JENNY
Boys are weird....

Scene 4

Setting
Still in the same school yard, except now lunch tables are scattered, and there is chatter

At rise
A bell rings, and chatter fills the room. Alex and Jeff walk on stage and proceed to sit down on a lunch table. Alex takes out his lunch

ALEX
Do you want half of my sandwich?

JEFF
Of course! Is it my favorite?

ALEX
Yep! A tuna and barbecue sauce sandwich all for you!

(*Just as he's about to hand Jeff the sandwich, Jenny walks in and sits down)*

JENNY
Hi!

ALEX
(He is very nervous) Uhh... hi Jennyy....

(Jeff freezes again and does the void of emotion thing.)

JENNY
Hey you wanna come sit with me and my friends?

ALEX
(Shocked)W-What?

JENNY
DO YOU-WANT TO- GO EAT-WITH ME AND MY-

ALEX
I got it, I got it!

JENNY

Sooo... is that a yes?

ALEX
Sure!

(Jeff resumes emotions again)

JEFF
Wait what about me?

ALEX
(Leans over) Next time, just stay here! I'll be back

JENNY
(Grabs Alex's arm) Come on!

(She pulls him off the stage)

JEFF
But.... my sandwich....

Scene 5

Setting
It's back to the front of the school yard, but it's obvious time has passed it's closer to spring time now.

At rise
Alex is with Biff and Jenny. Jeff seems to be lagging behind. Biff, Jenny, and Alex are all laughing. Alex is clearly in a new outfit, looking more punk.

ALEX
And so I said "Punk you better step off!

(*Jenny and Biff laugh)*

JEFF
(Yelling) DUDE YOU ARE SO LAME CUT IT OUT!

ALEX
Ha yea it was great

JENNY
You are so brave!

JEFF
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO HIM!?

ALEX
Thanks, sugar.

JEFF
DUDE ALEX I SWEAR TO GOD

BIFF
(Jokingly to Alex)Hey lets calm down now buddy

ALEX
Don’t worry Biff, I won’t take her away from you

(The three of them laugh)

JEFF
Alex please, listen to me! These kids.... they don’t seem *right*...

JENNY
So Alex, do you like sports?

ALEX
Well.... uhh....

BIFF
Do you like football?

ALEX
Ha yea....

BIFF
Cool. Have you PLAYED football before?

ALEX
(Nervous) Uhh... yea... I scored like 3 home runs..

(*Jeff facepalms)*

BIFF
Do you mean a touchdown?

ALEX
Yeah! A touchdown!

JEFF
Dude Alex, quit while you're ahead! Please! Can we just go home?

(*Alex finally looks over at Jeff, but only glares at him)*

ALEX
Hey guys, can you give me a sec? I gotta go use the bathroom.

(*Alex leaves*, but Jeff remains on stage.)

BIFF
(Quietly) Dude, Jenny, how much longer do we need to pretend that we like him?

JENNY
Not much longer Biff, I know he's getting annoying, but we just gotta keep going a little more, and then we can leave. I just wanted him to know that he was known in the world so he wouldn't kill himself or something. Remember what happened to Katrina? The only time anyone talked to her was when they made fun of her for her weight. Unfortunately for me, the one time I said something, she left the school, and everyone tried blaming me.

BIFF
Oh. I see.

JEFF
That little bi-

ALEX
Alright guys I'm back!

BIFF
Hey....

JEFF
Alex! You'll never guess what she just said!

ALEX
So what do you guys say we go on down to the ice cream shop?

BIFF
Sure, but only if you're paying!

ALEX
Got it! Are you down to go Jenny?

JENNY
Sure...

JEFF
Alex! Helloooo!! Are you there!!

JENNY
Alright lets go!

(*The three of them go leaving Jeff)*

(Jeff lets out a long, sad, sigh, and he sulk toward the edge of the stage)

Scene 6

Setting
They are back in front of Alex's house, but it's later in the afternoon, so the lighting is a bit orange

At rise
The trio are walking into the front yard and Jeff is there, but is almost non existent

ALEX

So how was the ice cream?

JENNY
Oh it was great! Thanks Alex.

BIFF
Yea, it was ok.

JEFF
Well I didn't get any Ice-

ALEX
Don't you just love this? The three of us, all the best of friends. I'm glad that you came to me that one day Jenny. Without you, I would have never been friends with Biff. By the way, I kind of hated you, after you threw an apple at me. All I gotta say is that I've never really had any good friends, and I'm super grateful that I met you guys.

JEFF
(Wrecked) Never... had... any good friends?

(*The spotlight on Jeff slowly goes away, as it shows how Jeff is slowly degrading)*

BIFF
Yea, well can you give us a sec Alex?

ALEX
Sure!

BIFF
Jenny! I can't take it anymore!

JENNY
(A little too loud) I know me either! This kid is such a loser!

ALEX
What?

JENNY

(Turns to Alex) Look... the thing is.... we don't really..... ughh how can I say this...

BIFF
You're a loser. A dweeb. We only hung out with you so you wouldn't be depressed for your whole life. You don't know anything, and honestly I never wanna see you again. I thought it was hilarious to see you cry. Come on Jenny, let's go.

(*He pulls her arm and they run off, leaving Alex alone. Alex looks completely stunned and heart broken)*

ALEX
But... I thought...

(He suddenly gets enraged)

ALEX
You know what?! I don't care! I don't need you jerks anyway! I got someone else! A true friend who would never backstab me like that!

ALEX (Cont.)
They're just jerks right Jeff?

(He looks to his right, sees no one, then to the left, then behind him.)

ALEX
Jeff?

silence

ALEX
(Destroyed) Oh no... oh no.. oh no.. Jeff... (Yelling now) I'M SORRY JEFF. PLEASE. IF YOU CAN HEAR ME I'M DEEPLY SORRY.

Silence

ALEX
(His voice is shakey) It was your turn to be the soldier.....

Alex crumples down onto the floor and breaks into tears. The lights slowly fade out

END OF PLAY