

Being Friends

“You said no backsies,” said Frances. “So, I don’t have to tell you. I don’t have to say how much money is in the sugar bowl.”

“Well,” said Thelma, “it is my money, and I want it.”

“Do you want backsies?” said Frances. “Do you want your tea set back and you will give my money back?”

“I can’t,” said Thelma, “because I used the money for a new tea set. There is only a dime left over. I will give you the new tea set and the dime. The new tea set is the china kind you want. It has pictures all in blue.”

“You said they don’t make that kind anymore,” said Frances.

“This one was very hard to find,” said Thelma. “And I think it was the very last one in the store.”

“All right,” said Frances. “Bring it over.”

Thelma brought over the china tea set and the dime, and Frances gave back the plastic tea set. Then Thelma took the lid off the sugar bowl and saw the penny.

“That is not a very nice trick to play on a friend,” said Thelma.

“No,” said Frances, “it is not. And that was not a nice trick you played on me when you sold me your tea set.”

“Well,” said Thelma, “from now on I will have to be careful when I play with you.”

“Being careful is not as much fun as being friends,” said Frances. “Do you want to be careful, or do you want to be friends?”

“I want to be friends,” said Thelma.

“All right,” said Frances. “Then I will give you halfies on the dime.”

Frances and Thelma went to the candy store with the dime. Frances bought bubble gum, and Thelma bought Life Savers. Then they went back to Frances’s house to skip rope. Gloria came out to turn the rope and skip too.

“You and Gloria can skip first,” said Frances to Thelma. “I will go last.” Thelma skipped first, then Gloria. Then Frances skipped, and she sang.