

The Mysterious Claw Machine of Despair

By Riley Cheung

One day, my friends Lucas, Arjun, and Allen were bored out of their minds and decided to go to the mall. Then we found a claw machine and wanted to play. We looked at the faces of the stuffies inside and saw a lot of plushies with faces stuck in crying and depressed expressions.

I said to Lucas, "Do you see that? Look, they have Sonic and Tails! I also see Pikachu, Evvee, and a rare Sunshine plush!"

Allen said, "Arjun, look how Sonic and Tails look so depressed. I've never seen that before."

Then, my other friend, Arjun, said, "Let's try to win them so we can save them."

I said, "We should try to swing the claw at Sonic's face because it will have more power to bring him out, and then we can get tails."

I put a couple of quarters in the machine, and it lit up and played the Sonic theme song. Then suddenly, all us boys got sucked into the machine, and we felt dizzy, and the air smelled like cheese being burnt up.

Then, when we woke up, I saw Allen look so weird with yellow fur and a big tail behind him. Lucas had white fur and big ears on his head, and Arjun had blue fur and looked like a blue hedgehog. I became Sunshine, and people were swinging the claw at us. It looked like everyone was huge, and we were really small.

When the claw stopped moving, we discussed how to get out.

I said, "Let's try to boost tails up the wall, and we will see if the window would crack."

Arjun said, "We should try to use the other plushies to make a slide!"

Then suddenly, we saw the claw moving again. We went back to pretending we were stuffed animals.

Then we saw that some boy won Sonic and Tails, and both got taken away. We felt sad.

We realized that we could throw other plushies into the hole to make stairs so we could jump in the prize shoot and get out. Then we realized it wouldn't work because we were now too weak and tired from climbing up the plushies (so we don't get buried) to lift the other plushies. Then we discussed how horrible this situation was and how we would never get out.

Then we started digging down into the plushies, going to the bottom, because Arjun said, "Let's go to the bottom so that we can find a safe place to sleep."

We were all exhausted so we agreed to hide for the night because the mall was almost closed.

At the very bottom, we found a plushie that had a key taped to its chest. We got so tired we felt like we couldn't get back to the top of the plushies so we took a nap and woke up to the claw moving a bunch of the plushies off of us and uncovering us.

"We must have slept here all night!" Allen whispered softly.

Then something horrifying happened. Then the claw took me up and up, and I looked down at Allen, Lucas, and Arjun and told them to give me the key. Together they threw the key at me as I was dangling at the top of the machine. I caught it and put the key into the slot on the lid and turned it. The glass cage opened and all the stuffies fell out.

We turned back to our normal bodies, as we hit the ground. We looked at the little girl trying to use the machine and she screamed and shrieked and ran away.

After we got out of the mall, we talked about how we should not let it happen again, but we wanted to keep it a secret to ourselves, and mysterious. Now we had to go home and who knows what our parents were going to do.