

Note: This story is based off *A Warm Fuzzy Tale* by Claude M. Steiner. For the original script: <http://www.claudesteiner.com/fuzzy.htm>

A Cold Prickly Situation

Once there was a faraway land called "Life." Now, in Life, whenever people are born, they are given a bag of Warm Fuzzies. For the rest of their lives, whenever they said "Hello" or said "Goodbye" or met a new person or greeted a friend, they would give each other a Warm Fuzzy. What is a Warm Fuzzy you may ask? Well, Warm Fuzzies are warm, fuzzy, bundles of a magical substance. This substance was called "kindness." Kindness was a very powerful thing. Whenever a person gave out a Warm Fuzzy, it would snuggle up and melt right against their skin and make them feel good all over.

People were always asking each other for Warm Fuzzies, and since they were always given freely, getting enough of them was never a problem, even though they took a long time to make. There were always plenty to go around, and so everyone was happy and felt warm and fuzzy most of the time. But, one day, an evil witch came up to a boy named Jimmy and said, "You know, if you keep giving out these Warm Fuzzies, you're going to run out."

"Really?" asked Jimmy, incredulously. He'd never heard of someone running out of Warm Fuzzies before.

"Sure," said the witch. "But I have a solution. I have a bag of Cold Pricklies right here. Look." Jimmy took the bag, looked into it, and immediately wished he hadn't. Cold Pricklies were sea urchin-like globs of a mystical substance known as "unkindness." Just looking at the Cold Pricklies made

Jimmy feel cold and prickly inside. He was about to say “No thank you” to the witch when he looked up and saw that she had vanished.

The next day Jimmy was walking down the street when he ran into his friend Jack. “Hello Jimmy,” he said happily. As is the custom in Life, Jack reached to give Jimmy a Warm Fuzzy. Jimmy, however, reached to give Jack a Cold Prickly. Jack took it, not looking nearly so happy as he had the moment before, and put it in his bag. Suddenly, all of the Warm Fuzzies in Jack’s bag turned into the cold, prickly Cold Pricklies.

“Bye,” said Jimmy, not meeting Jack’s eyes.

“Beat it!” Jack shouted, shoving past him with a sullen look on his face. And so the next time both Jimmy and Jack were offered Warm Fuzzies, they instead gave away their Cold Pricklies. It was remarkable how fast they were able to spread through Life. Unlike Warm Fuzzies, which required time and care to nurture and grow, Cold Pricklies were constantly appearing whenever one was taken from a bag. Pretty soon, there weren’t any Warm Fuzzies left in Life, only Cold Pricklies.

Some people took to painting Cold Pricklies to look like Warm Fuzzies. Many people accepted these disguised Pricklies, only to be left sadder and emptier than ever when they discovered they had been lied to and tricked into receiving a Cold Prickly. This Cold Prickly epidemic was a terrible, terrible time. Constant exposure from Cold Pricklies was very harmful. Some people even died from a lack of Warm Fuzzies. No one really wanted to go outside, or even get out of bed, because they knew that if they did, they would be met by a barrage of Cold Pricklies from all sides.

One day, a new visitor came into Life named “You.” You walked into town with a smile, something that had not been seen in Life for a long, long

time. Someone walked up to You and reached into his bag for a Cold Prickly to give You, as had become customary. But You just kept on smiling and reached into a bag for...a Warm Fuzzy! The citizen looked at the Warm Fuzzy warily.

“We don’t want those around here,” he warned.

“I know,” You said, “but you need them.” And the man took the Warm Fuzzy from You, and suddenly his eyes lit up and he started walking with a spring in his step. But when he looked in his bag, he saw that the Cold Pricklies hadn’t changed into Warm Fuzzies and looked at You, puzzled.

“I’d like to give some Warm Fuzzies to some of my friends so they can feel as good as I just did, but I don’t have any.”

“I know,” You said, “Kindness is not an easy thing to make. You have to work on it a little each day to make enough of it to make into Warm Fuzzies. All though Life, people will be giving you lots of unkindness, but you can’t let that bring you down. I know it’s a lot easier to spread unkindness than it is to spread kindness, but Life is not all about doing what’s easy. You have to keep giving out that kindness stuff, because Life doesn’t need more unkindness. Because Life doesn’t need more people giving out Cold Pricklies because it’s easy. Life needs more people willing to do what’s right even when it’s hard...especially when it’s hard.”

Because Life needs more people like You.

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