

LEGEND OF THE BROWN NINJA

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Chapter 1



Looking good, Nya!” Kai watched proudly as his sister took out three consecutive practice targets with one smooth water blast.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

“You’re on fire today!” Kai said. “And that’s saying something coming from the master of *fi-yaaa!*”

He somersaulted next to her and blasted one of the dummies with a well-aimed fireball.

“Thanks,” Nya said. “But I’m just getting started. In fact, I think I’m in need of a spark.”



Nya looked at Jay and winked. Jay gave her a wide smile. Then he zapped a bolt of electricity right at her!

Without missing a beat, Nya blocked the electricity with a burst of water. It created an electrified arc that sprayed out at the remaining targets. *Zzzzzftttt!* The dummies were obliterated.

“Time to clean up the mess,” said an invisible voice above them.

In a *poof*, Cole appeared, hovering over the center of the training area. Since Cole was a ghost, he was able to vanish and reappear. He began whirling around faster and faster until he created an Airjitzu tornado powerful enough to lift all the broken dummy pieces off the deck of the *Destiny’s Bounty*.

“Zane, Lloyd, you’re up!” he called.

“Indeed,” replied Zane. The Titanium Ninja powered up an ice blast while Lloyd generated a green energy ball. But instead of firing their elemental powers in one shot, the two



ninja allowed their combined energy to drift into the whirling Airjitzu tornado.

Slowly, Lloyd's green energy began melding the debris together while Zane's ice surrounded it. In a bright burst of light, the tornado vanished. All that was left on the deck of the *Destiny's Bounty* was a smooth metal sphere constructed out of practice dummy remnants. It was icy to the touch.

"Well done, ninja," said Master Wu. He had been watching the practice session from his seat atop the *Destiny's Bounty* side rail. He was drinking tea, naturally.

"You're working very well as a team today," Wu noted. "Very in sync with one another."

"I must agree," said Zane. "Not to 'float our own boat,' but we are operating at maximum efficiency."

"It's like something's changed," said Lloyd, placing a hand on the cool sphere. "Like there's a different energy among all of us." He glanced over at Nya and Jay.



“Maybe that’s because we feel like more of a team than ever before,” said Jay. He took Nya’s hand, and she smiled.

A lot *had* changed for the ninja. But only Jay and Nya knew the full truth.

Not long ago, the ninja had been attacked by a legendary wish-granting djinn named Nadakhan. For hundreds of years, Nadakhan had been trapped in the Teapot of Tyrahn. But an evil sorcerer named Clouse had released him. Once free, Nadakhan planned to build a sky world called Djinjago out of pieces stolen from New Ninjago City. He was obsessed with destroying the ninja and claiming Nya as his bride.

The only reason Nadakhan had been released from his lamp in the first place was because the ninja were wrapped up in one of Dareth’s silly publicity stunts, and they weren’t able to stop Clouse from summoning him.

Luckily, Jay had been able to undo all of Nadakhan’s evil work with his final wish: that



no one had ever found the teapot in the first place. Since Nadakhan was a djinn, he had to grant the wish. In doing so, time went back to the moment right before the Teapot of Tyrahn had been discovered.

No one remembered any of the events that had taken place, except for Jay and Nya. They had shared a lot during the adventure, and they'd grown close. Nya had once been uncertain if she liked Jay or not, but she was certain now. The bond they shared was very strong, and that made them both happy.

"I'm glad we decided to take a break from Dareth's publicity stunts for a while," Nya said. She carried a fresh training dummy out of a storage closet. "Being in the limelight was getting to be too much."

"And making us forget who we really are," Jay added.

"Speak for yourselves," Kai said. "I was enjoying the celebrity lifestyle."



“You do have the most Chirp followers,” Zane pointed out.

“Speaking of Chirp,” said Lloyd, “Kai, your phone is chirping.”

Kai rushed to his phone. “Must be one of my adoring fans, looking to see why I’ve gone offline. My followers have needs, you know!”

Kai picked up his phone. His face fell.

“Aww, it’s just Dareth,” he said, putting the phone on speaker.

“Ninja, are you there?” Dareth’s voice rang out. “Thank goodness I’ve reached you. Now, I know you said you weren’t doing *Fred Finley Live at Five*, but I’ve just found out that . . . wait for it . . . they’re making the entire show a *dedicated tribute* to your work. It’s no longer just a guest spot — you’ll be on the air for the entire hour!”

The ninja looked at one another.

“Sorry, Dareth,” Lloyd spoke for all of them. “But we told you, we’re taking a break from the celebrity life.”



“To focus on ourselves,” Cole added.

“As a team,” Jay and Nya said together.

Kai frowned. Nya elbowed him.

“Yeah, yeah.” Kai sighed. “Time off just to be ninja. The regular, old, ‘we don’t need action figures made of us’ ninja.”

“But . . . you don’t understand . . .” Dareth sputtered. “The fans . . . the commitment . . . the PROMOTIONAL ENDORSEMENTS. You can’t cancel!”

“You’re right,” said Nya. “We can’t cancel, because we never booked it in the first place.”

“Sorry, Dareth, but that’s just not us anymore,” said Lloyd. “We don’t want to be famous.”

There was a long pause on the other end of the line.

“But . . . that’s just it!” exclaimed Dareth. “This talk show *isn’t* about the ninja as celebrities. No! It’s about you! Uh, as a team! Yeah — an entire hour dedicated to who you *really are*. All of New Ninjago City is inspired



by you! We just want to give your fans the real story behind your teamwork.”

Lloyd raised an eyebrow. “I don’t know, Dareth. It still sounds like a publicity stunt.”

“I swear it’s not,” insisted Dareth. “Hey, come on, ninja baby, you’re talking to Dareth. I listened to you! ‘No more publicity stunts, Dareth,’ you said. Well, I can guarantee you that this is *not* a publicity stunt. This is the interview that will show everyone just what you stand for. Working together. Inspiring your fans to be their best! Nothing but total commitment. Reach for the . . .”

As Dareth nattered on, Lloyd put the phone on mute. “What do you guys think?” he asked.

Kai shrugged. “Could it really hurt? It would be nice to have a chance to explain to my — uh, our — fans why we’re leaving the spotlight.”

“I guess *one* more interview isn’t so bad,” said Jay.



“As long as we get to focus on who we are as a team,” said Nya.

“Right,” said Cole. “Something really inspiring.”

Lloyd nodded. He turned the speaker-phone back on.

“Okay, Dareth,” he said. “We’ll do it. As long as you *promise* this interview will focus on us as a team.”

The ninja could practically hear Dareth jumping for joy on the other end of the line.

“You got it, ninja! I promise, this will be the interview to end all interviews. Or my name isn’t Dareth the Brown Ninja!”

