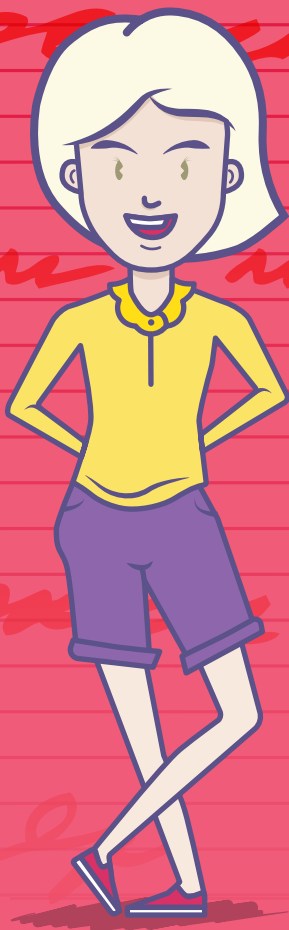


# Please Don't Tell



Jeff Gottesfeld





*Piper*

**Age:** 12

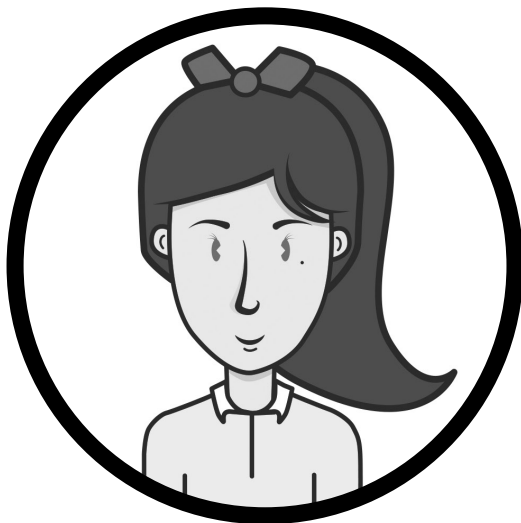
**Allergic To:** paper

**Hobby:** collecting marbles

**Favorite Sport:** volleyball

**Best Quality:** honesty

# CHARACTERS



*Sandy*

**Age:** 12

**Favorite Emoji:** smiley face with tears of joy

**Hidden Talent:** clog dancing

**Big Secret:** still watches cartoons

**Best Quality:** confidence

# 1

## THE STRANGER

Piper Lewis looked around the room. It was just like last year. And the year before that. All the same kids were there. They wanted a part in the school play.



*May Park*



*Ava Woods*

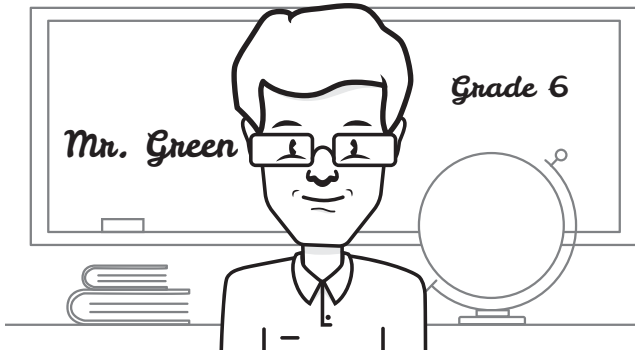


*Mark Fisher*

Piper knew all the faces. There was her best friend, May Park. Ava Woods was cute

but mean. Mark Fisher was nice but geeky. There were a few others too.

About ten kids liked plays. They always tried out. Mr. Green wrote the plays. The teacher liked the theater. He taught sixth grade.

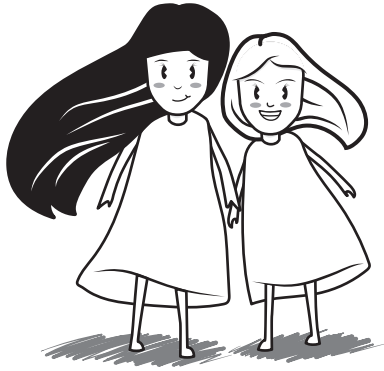


“This place never changes,” Piper said to May.

May smiled. She shook out her hair. It was long and dark. May liked to have fun. She didn’t care much about grades. But her dad did.

Piper loved school. She loved to learn. Knowing fun facts was her specialty.

Piper and May met when they were little. Their parents were friends first. They moved to the town at the same time. Then the girls became friends. They were close, like sisters. They did everything together. The two liked the same things.



One thing they did not like? A girl in their class. Ava Woods. Ava was mean. Not just mean. She was *evil*. But she was good at acting. Ava always got the best part.

“What is the play about?” May asked.

The door opened. Piper turned to look. It was Mr. Green. He came into the room. “We’re about to find out,” Piper said.

Mr. Green called to the kids. “Line up! It’s time to try out.”

The kids lined up. Mr. Green gave them scripts. “My play is about a rabbit. It wants to be a fox. The play is called *The Rabbit and the Fox*.”



“Clever,” May joked.

“Are there any songs?” Ava asked.

“No,” Mr. Green said. “But there is a sword fight.”

“I want to sing,” Ava said.



“I’ll add a song. But only if you get the lead,” Mr. Green said.

Ava laughed. “You better write it now. What is the main part? Bugs Bunny?”



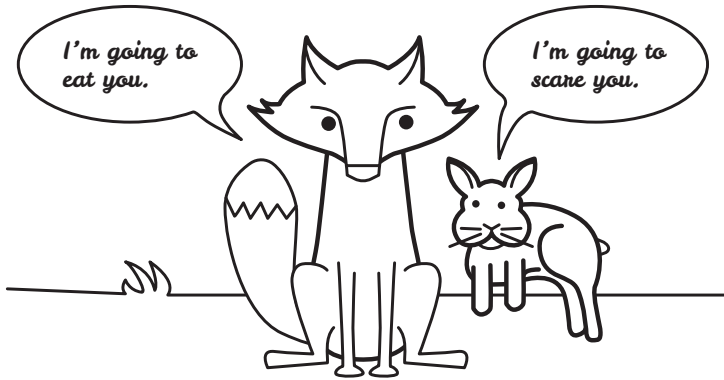
Mr. Green sighed. “The name is not Bugs. It’s Twitch. But yes. The rabbit is the main part.”

“Well, I’m getting it,” Ava said.

“Turn to page nine,” Mr. Green said.

Piper looked at the lines. The story was simple. The fox wanted to eat the rabbit.

The rabbit tried to scare the fox. The hunter wanted to catch the fox. It was a comedy.



“Piper and Mark. You’re first,” Mr. Green said.

Piper was the rabbit. Mark was the fox.

**Piper:** You don’t look foxy.

**Mark:** And you don’t look like lunch. You look like dinner.

**Piper:** You can’t eat me. I’m sick. I have rabbit fever. One bite and down you go.

**Mark:** Only one thing is going down.  
That's you. Down into my belly. Run,  
rabbit!



The scene was over. The kids clapped.  
Piper went back to sit with May. “How  
did I do?”

“Okay,” May said. “But Ava will get the  
part. Mr. Green loves her.”

Ava did get the main part. Piper got  
a part too. She was the fox. May was the  
hunter.

“This is not Broadway,” Piper joked.

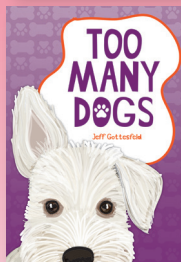
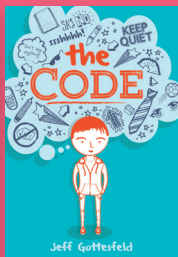
Piper and May left the school. They saw a car pull up. A girl got out.

“Redhead alert,” May called out.

“She has great hair,” Piper said. She thought the girl was pretty. Even prettier than Ava. “I wonder if she’s new.” Maybe this girl could act. Ava might have to compete. That would be a first.

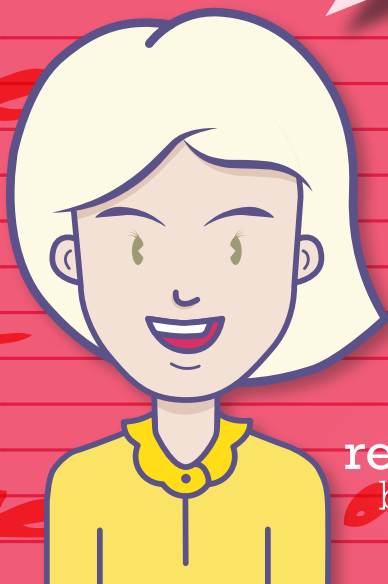
Two adults got out of the car. They walked the girl into the school.

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# Please Don't Tell

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girl. Fierce. Friendly.  
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