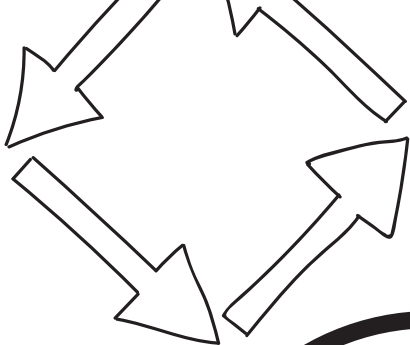




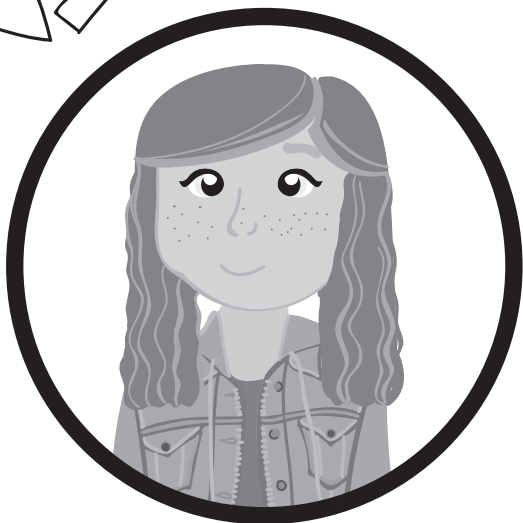
**GOING  
VIRAL**

**JEFF GOTTESFELD**





**MEET THE**



*Annie*

**Age:** 12

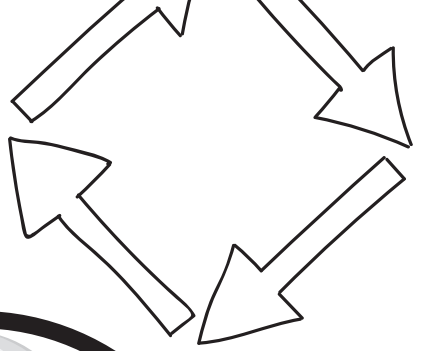
**Favorite Dog Breed:** St. Bernard (obvi)

**Hobby:** growing pilea peperomioides (Chinese money plant)

**Dream Job:** owning a flower farm

**Best Quality:** fun to be around

# CHARACTERS



erin

**Age:** 12

**Favorite Cat Breed:** RagaMuffin

**Secret Skill:** knows lyrics to any song after hearing once

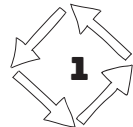
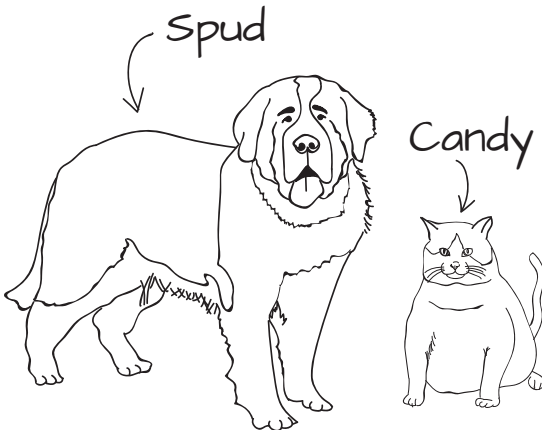
**Greatest Fear:** getting hit by a flying ball

**Best Quality:** goes with the flow

# 1

## WE CAN DO THAT

Annie and Erin didn't look alike. Annie was short. She had red hair. Erin was tall and blonde. But they liked many of the same things. Ice cream. Big dogs. Annie had one named Spud. Fat cats. Erin had one named Candy.

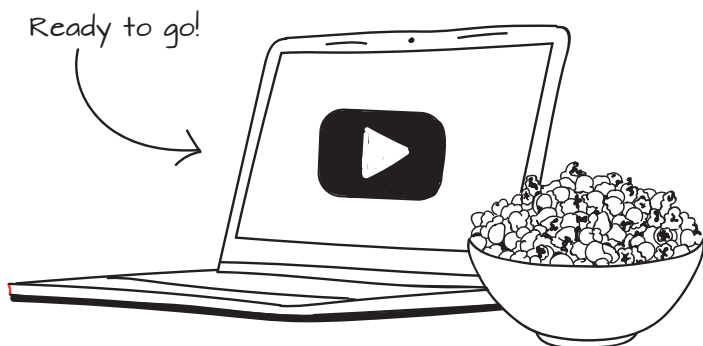


They lived in a little town on the same street. Both were in sixth grade. Their fave thing was viral videos. The girls were YouTube fans. They knew about all the video stars.

After school they would do homework. Then Annie would text Erin. “Hey! Want to come over and watch?”

Erin always texted back. “On my way!”

Annie would make popcorn. They’d hang out on her bed. It had fluffy pillows. Then they’d watch the videos. The girls would laugh and laugh.

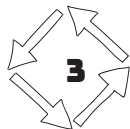


Their parents didn't approve. But what could they do? Tell them to stop? The girls got great grades. They played soccer. Listened to their parents. The only TV show they liked was *Big Don Tonight*. It was a talk show. Bands and big stars were on it. But the show came on too late to watch.

Their parents let them watch vids for one hour a day. The girls made the most of it.

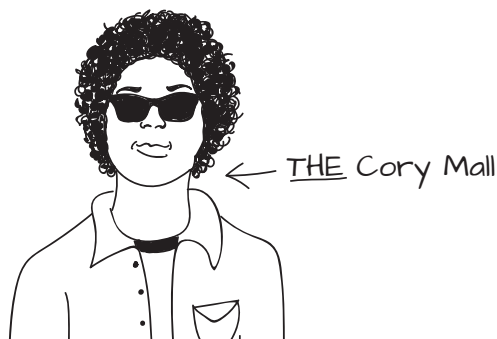


It was a Tuesday in May. Erin was coming over. Annie made popcorn. Erin liked a ton



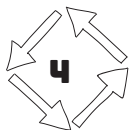
of salt. Outside it was raining. It was a good day to hang out.

Their favorite star was Cory Mall. He posted new content on Tuesdays. Sometimes he did food dares with his friends. Other times he played trivia quizzes. He would do movie reviews too.



Annie was all set when Erin came to her room. Popcorn was made. Water was on ice. Her laptop was set. Spud was on the bed when Erin came in. He took up a lot of room.

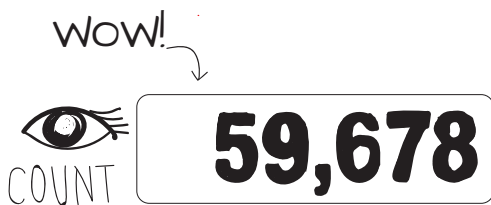
“Ready to rock and roll,” Annie told her. “I’ve got Cory’s new one.”





“How many views?” Erin asked.

Annie looked at the laptop screen. There was a number below the video. That was how many times it had been watched so far. “About 60 thousand.”



“Wow! It went up today?”

Annie nodded. “It did.”

“It must be cool to be Cory. He’s such a star. I’d love to meet him.”

“Me too,” Annie said. “I wonder what he’s like.”

Annie patted the bed. Erin moved Spud to one side. Then she got on. Annie clicked play. Cory came on the screen. He was a

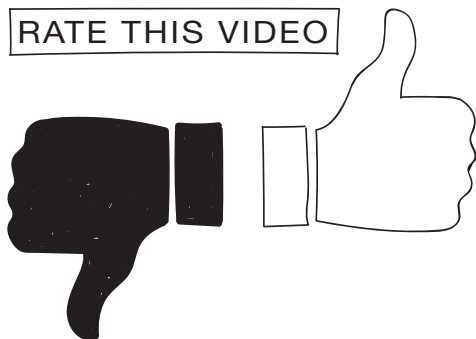


big geek with thick glasses. He had dark hair and big eyes. He wore a Cory Mall T-shirt.

“Hi, hi, hi! It’s me, Cory Mall! You know what day it is. It’s new vid day! I got a great one for you guys. It’s called, ‘Cory Gets a Mani-Pedi!’ Check it out!”

The new video was a snooze. Cory went to a nail place. He got his fingernails done first. Then his toenails were painted green. The staff joked with him. He teased someone with super long nails. They were filed to a point. It was not Cory’s best work. Barely funny. Then it was over.

RATE THIS VIDEO



“Bye!” Cory said. “See you next week. I’ll be on Big Don’s talk show soon. Check me out! Buy my T-shirt.”

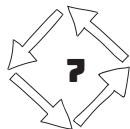
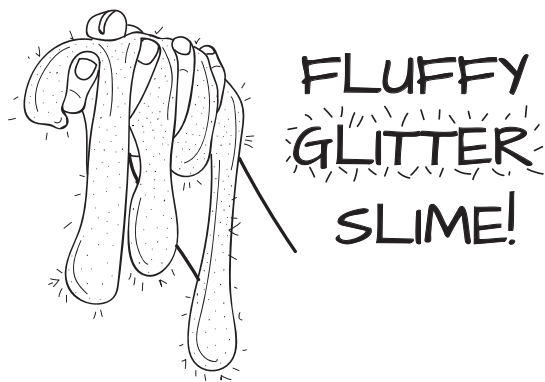
That was it.

Annie looked at Erin. “Weak. I think he just wants to sell his shirts.”

“I know. He can do better than that.”

“Erin? *We* can do better than that.”

“Stop it. No we can’t. Let’s watch more. What do you say, Spud?” Erin petted the dog. He barked with joy. “Let’s watch a slime how-to. Fluffy slime looks cool.”



“No. I am *so* over slime.” Annie got off the bed. She’d had an idea. When she got an idea, it was hard to let go. “We should try to do better than that.”

“To make a video?”

“No. To go to Mars. Yes! To make a video. Don’t you want to be as big as Cory?”

Erin made a face. “Ugh. No thanks. Kids make videos all the time. Most suck.”

“Ours won’t suck. It will be great. I’m a good writer. You’re a great singer. We can figure it out.”

Erin + Annie



...an unstoppable duo!



Annie was excited. What if they did get as big as Cory?

“Let’s say I say okay.” Erin rolled over to face her bestie. “We still have a problem.”

“What’s that?”

Erin turned her palms up. “No way will our parents let us. They barely let us watch YouTube. No Instagram. No Snapchat.”

That was true. But what if they said yes? There was one way to find out.

