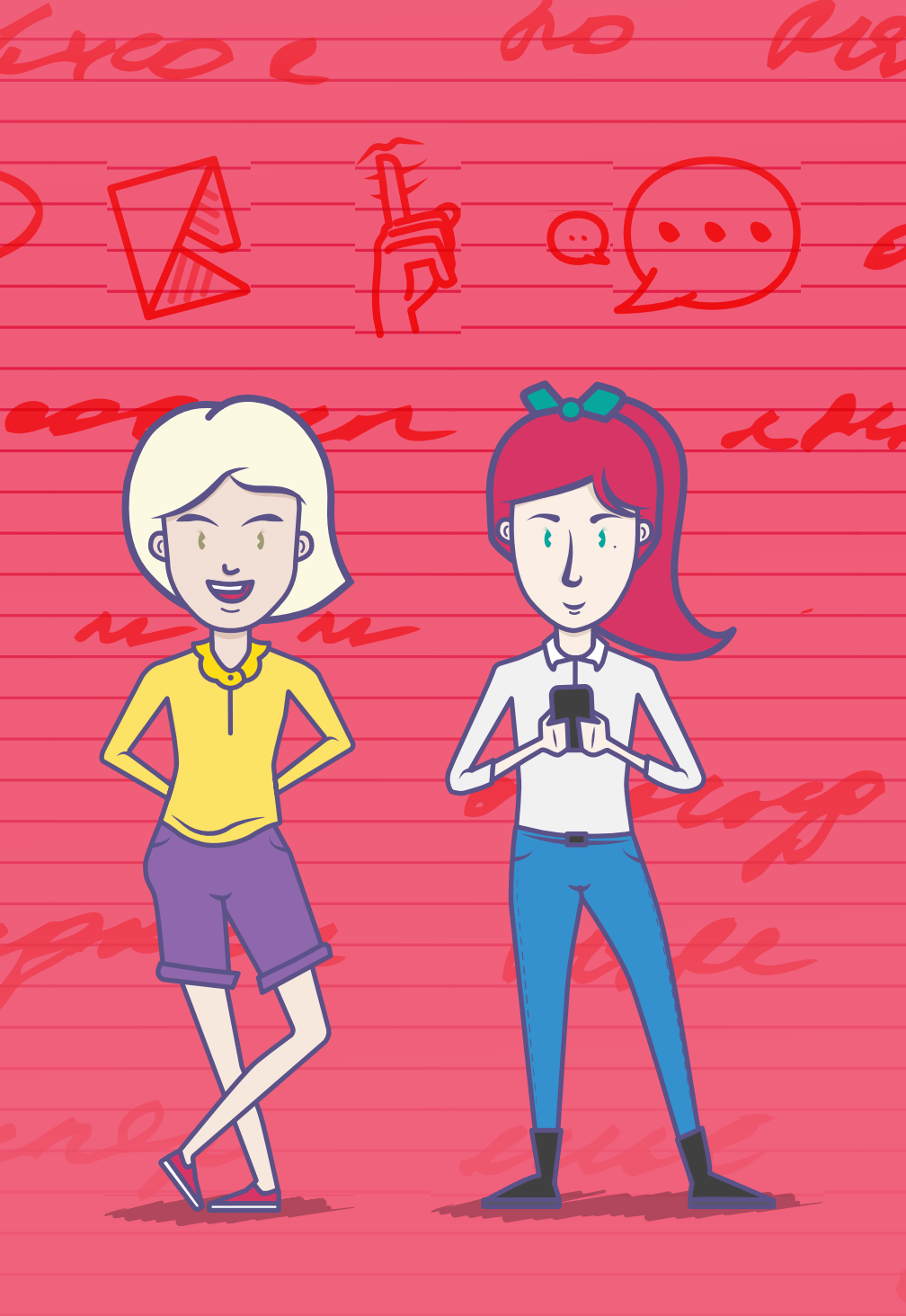
Please Don't Tell



Jeff Gottesfeld



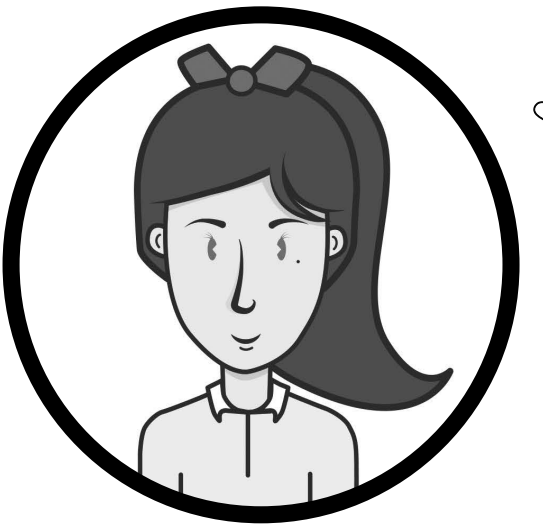
MEET THE



Piper

Age: 12
Allergic To: bees
Hobby: collecting marbles
Favorite Sport: volleyball
Best Quality: honesty

CHARACTERS

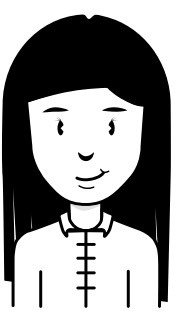


Sandy

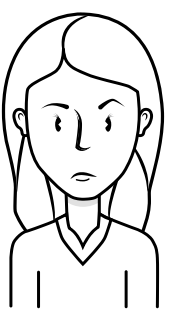
Age: 12
Favorite Emoji: upside-down smiley face
Hidden Talent: clog dancing
Big Secret: still watches cartoons
Best Quality: confidence

1
THE STRANGER

Piper Lewis looked around the auditorium. It was just like last year. All the same kids were there. They each wanted a part in the school play. There was Piper's best friend, May Park. Ava Woods was a great actor. But she was so mean. Mark Fisher was nice but geeky.



May Park

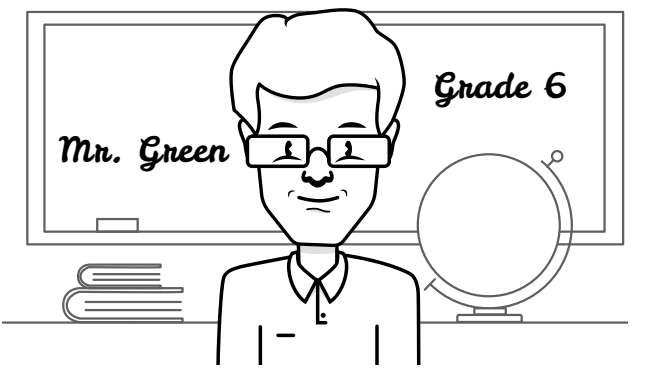


Ava Woods



Mark Fisher

There were a few others too. Only about ten sixth graders liked doing plays. They always tried out. Their drama teacher, Mr. Green, wrote the plays. He loved theater. Once, he had played a small role on Broadway.

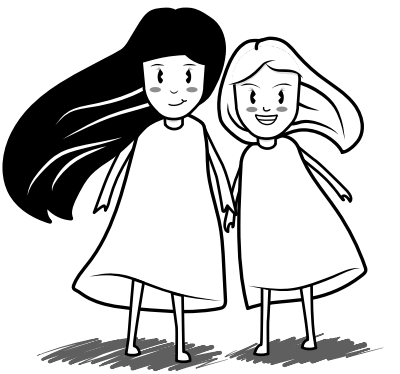


"This place never changes," Piper said to May. "It's always the same people trying out."

May smiled. She shook out her hair. It was long and dark. "Yeah," she said. "But at least we're sure to get a part."

Piper and May had met when they were little. Their parents were friends first. The

families had moved to town at the same time. Then the girls became friends too. May and Piper were close, like sisters. They had a lot in common.



There was one thing they did not like, though. It was Ava Woods. Ava was mean. But she was good at acting. She always got the best parts.

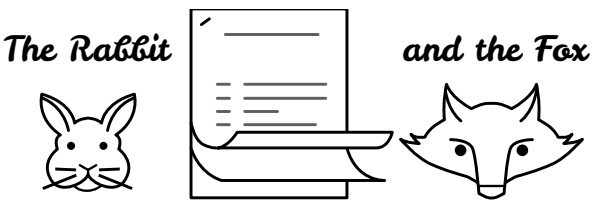
"I wonder what this year's play is about," May said.

The door opened. Piper turned to look. It was Mr. Green. He walked toward the stage.

"We're about to find out," Piper said.

Mr. Green called to the kids. "Line up! It's time for tryouts."

Everyone lined up. Mr. Green handed out scripts. "This year's story is about a rabbit. It tries to outsmart 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."

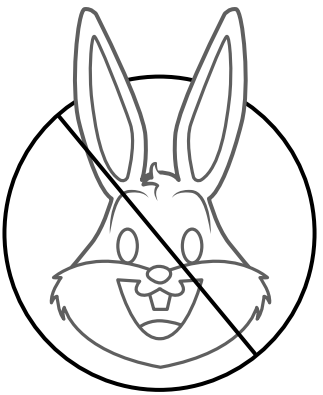
Ava frowned. "I want to sing."

"I'll add a song. But only if you get the lead," Mr. Green said.

"Then you better start writing it." Ava

grinned. “What is the main part? Harvey Hare?”

Piper rolled her eyes. Harvey Hare was a cartoon rabbit. Only little kids watched that show.



Mr. Green sighed. “No. It’s not Harvey Hare. The character’s name is Twitch. And yes. The rabbit is the main part.”

“Well, I’m getting it,” Ava said.

“We’ll see,” Mr. Green said. “Now. Everyone, turn to page nine.”

Piper looked at the lines. The story was

simple. A rabbit named Twitch wanted to be a fox. But the fox, Sly, just wanted to eat Twitch. There was a hunter too. He got into all kinds of trouble. It was a comedy.



"Piper and Mark. You're first," Mr. Green said.

Mark read for the fox. Piper was the rabbit.

"Nice tail, Mr. Fox," Piper said. "Can I try it on?"

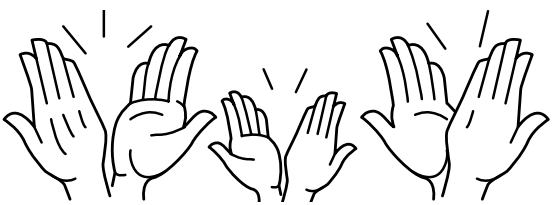
"Sure," Mark said with an evil grin.

"Climb in my mouth. You can try on the whole fox suit."

"Hey. You can't eat me. I'm sick. I have rabbit fever. One bite and down you go."

"The only thing going down is you. Down into my belly. Run, rabbit!"

The scene was over. Everyone clapped. Piper went back to sit with May.



"How did I do?"

"Great," May said. "But don't get your hopes up. Ava will get the part. Mr. Green loves her."

Piper sighed. It was true. Ava always seemed to get the lead roles. Still, it was fun to try out.

After tryouts, Mr. Green posted the cast list. Ava got the main part. Piper got a part too. She was the fox. May was an extra.

"Hooray!" She laughed. "I'm Villager 2. This is my big break for sure."

"Look out, Broadway," Piper joked.

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

"Wow," Piper said. "She has great hair."

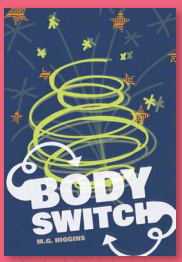
"Yeah," May agreed. "I've always wanted to be a redhead."

"Must be a new girl," Piper said. "Maybe she can act. Ava might have to compete. That would be a first."

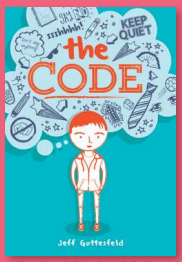
Two adults got out of the car. They walked the girl into the school.



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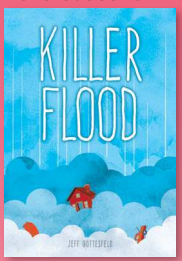
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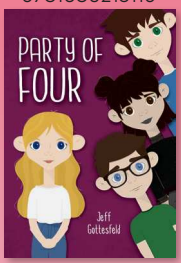
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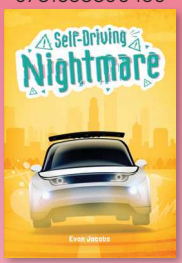
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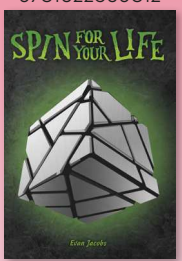
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