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[Click Here by Denise Vega](#)

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Plot Summary

Click Here is a novel by Denise Vega. The story follows the main character, Erin Swift, as she tries to make it through starting junior high school without having her best friend, Jillian, with the same schedule. It is the fits time the girls have been separated since they started school. Erin already feels awkward, with her big basketball-sized feet, and she thinks her life will end without Jillian by her side to make it through school every day. As the kids at school, especially Erin's arch enemy, Serena Worthington, find out that Jillian and Erin have different schedules, Serena starts calling her a puppet and Jillian, the puppeteer. Erin punches Serena in the nose and winds up in the principal's office on the first day of school.

For weeks after, Erin continues to endure the kids at school calling her a puppet, Pinocchio, and even posting flyers at school to represent Erin as the wooden puppet that wants to be a real boy. When two kids are caught kissing in the janitor's closet, the rumor mill focuses in on the new gossip.

What Erin learns is that she can function without Jillian. Erin even manages to make new friends and has her first real crush on a guy at school that is also one of her new friends. Erin even joins a club without Jillian, pursuing one of Erin's personal interests, web design. At home, Erin has also created her own private website and blog, where she writes about her feelings, makes lists, and talks about the things that are happening in her life. Just when things are going well for Erin, she accidentally gives her personal website disc to one of her clubmates to upload to the school Intranet site. When everyone in the school has access to Erin's personal thoughts and feelings, she loses her best friend, the guy she likes, and her dignity.



Erin's Website...Keep Out! (This Means YOU!) and Chapter 1

Erin's Website...Keep Out! (This Means YOU!) and Chapter 1 Summary

Erin is writing a secret website or a private website rather than one she expects people to visit online. She's a middle school student. The first few pages of the novel describe the website, Eric and her best friend Jillian.

Erin and Jilly are on the front porch holding envelopes from Molly Brown Middle School. They rip them open to find out that their schedules are on different tracks, which means their schedules will be different. This is the first time the girls will be separated since Kindergarten. Jilly suggests they go shopping so they can think about how to figure out their conundrum. She tells Erin she put a pair of low-waist jeans and a t-shirt on hold for Erin to try on at PacSun.

The girls buy the outfit and even Erin admits she liked the way it looks on her. She talks about how she wear regular underwear, but Jilly says she should wear bikini underwear. Erin says bikini and thong underwear make it hard for playing sports. As the girls are heading out of the mall, Jilly says she'll be over Sunday night to pick out Erin's outfits for the week. Jilly also says Erin should have mom call the school and switch her to Track C, which is Jilly's track for seventh grade.

Erin's mom refuses to call the school because she says the school has a system to keep the tracks balanced. Erin calls Jilly and Jilly suggests she find a student with Track A to switch with Erin. Erin tells her mom the plan, but Erin realizes she isn't going to help her even if she does find someone to switch. Erin's mom says it's a chance for Erin to spread her wings. Erin tells her mom she is ruining her life and goes to her room and slams the door. Later, Jilly says they'll figure something out but Erin has a feeling that they won't.

Erin's Website...Keep Out! (This Means YOU!) and Chapter 1 Analysis

Erin thinks she is a loser. She is self-conscious and doesn't like to draw attention to herself. Jilly is the one that boosts Erin up, gets her to step out of her comfort zone and be more like a girl their age. Erin's mother thinks Erin and Jilly having separate tracks is an opportunity to Erin to meet new people and make new friends. Erin and Jilly having separate tracks at school foreshadows Jilly making all new friends and not being friends with Erin anymore.



Monday, August 19 and Chapter 2

Monday, August 19 and Chapter 2 Summary

Erin is writing her second blog entry and she admits to like making lists. She lists all of the things freaking her out about starting seventh grade. She also makes a list about how terrible her family is and things that make her wonder. Jilly won't be going to the first day of school because she has strep. Erin wonders why Jilly doesn't try to switch to her track and why Erin is afraid to ask Jilly to switch.

Erin is on the bus to school trying not to throw up on her first day. Nobody sits down next to her until some big boy sits down. When he asks Erin if she's wearing Peds, she makes a comment about stepping on his face so he can find out. He gets up and moves and nobody sits next to her for the rest of the ride.

Erin gets off the bus last, after Rosie Valerde stops by her seat to ask where Jilly is. When Erin arrives in homeroom, Rosie Valerde is one of the faces staring back at her. Erin's the last to arrive so she has to take the only seat left, which is in the front row and next to her arch enemy, Serena Worthington.

Monday, August 19 and Chapter 2 Analysis

Erin and Jilly have a very unique friendship. It's as if Erin uses Jilly as a crutch. Erin feels as if she is a mess, so she looks to Jilly to create order in Erin's life. A true friendship has give and take. It seems as if Erin and Jilly's friendship is a little more one-sided than it should be.

Erin is a creature of habit. She's been wearing the same type of sneakers since the first grade. She's had the same best friend since kindergarten. She seems adverse to change and likes things to stay the way they are. Since Rosie Valerde and Erin are in the same track at school, and since Erin has known Rosie since second grade, it foreshadows the two girls becoming friends. Additionally, the fact that Serene Worthington, Erin's arch enemy, is on the same track as Erin, it foreshadows Serena being a constant pain in Erin's but.



Chapter 3 and Tuesday, August 20

Chapter 3 and Tuesday, August 20 Summary

In the bathroom, Serena asks Erin how she's going to get along without Geppetto. Serena says Jilly is Geppetto and Erin is Pinocchio as in the puppeteer and puppet. Erin punches Serena in the face.

Mrs. Porter, the principal, has a puppet collection behind her, while Erin is talking to her in the office. Erin eventually confesses to why she hit Serena. When Erin's parents arrive, they are told of her offense. Erin gets three days of detention and has to apologize to Serena. After school, Erin goes to Jilly's house and tells her the whole story. She also gives Jilly the maps Jilly asked her to draw to coordinate with Jilly's class schedule. As Erin gives Jilly the maps, she feels a twinge.

Erin writes on her website that she has five secret hiding places. Each hiding space correlates with the level of horrible experience of what happens. Defcon 1, which is the worst, is a treehouse down the street from her house. The puppet incident (PI) with Serena warrants a Defcon 1 hiding, but since the treehouse is full of kids, she goes to Defcon 5, which is her bed.

While she's on her bed, her brother comes in yelling at her. It turns out that he likes Serena's older sister, Amanda. He is concerned that when Amanda finds out it's his sister that hit her sister that she won't like him back.

Chapter 3 and Tuesday, August 20 Analysis

Since Erin doesn't deal well with change, when Serena calls Erin a puppet and Jilly the puppeteer, Erin punches Serena in the nose. The twinge that Erin feels while she's in Jilly's room and handing over the maps is recognition. While it is still subconscious at this point, Erin realizes that she is Jilly's puppet.



10 pm and Chapter 4

10 pm and Chapter 4 Summary

That night, Erin can't sleep so she makes a list on her blog. She lists all of the things today that stink and the things that give her hope. The stink list primarily has to do with Serena Worthington and the PI. What gives Erin hope is that when she went outside for lunch to pretend like she was meeting someone, she met Ms. Moreno, one of the teachers.

Ms. Moreno tells Erin about an Intranet club she's starting. When they go inside the cafeteria, Ms. Moreno hands Erin a paper about the club in front of everyone. This makes it look like Erin is helping Ms. Moreno on a project or something.

Erin walks to Jilly's house the next morning. They walk to the bus stop together from there, even though it would have been closer for Jilly to pick Erin up and walk from Erin's house. As soon as they get on the bus, the kids start calling Erin Pinocchio. Erin can tell that Jilly is loving the attention. At school, someone has taped pictures of Pinocchio all over the hallways. They've glued a picture of Erin from the elementary school yearbook over Pinocchio's face and replaced his nose with a big foot. Another girl attaches a string to Erin's back and starts talking like Erin is a puppet. At her locker, which she shares with a girl named Carla, Erin finds it covered with silly string, inside and out.

The cute boy, Mark Sacks, tries to say something to Erin in the hallway and in word processing class, but Erin cuts him off. Erin is hiding in the bathroom when two of Serena's friends come in talking about Erin and Serena. Rosie comes into the bathroom and defends Erin. Rosie must know that Erin is in the stall because Rosie puts her hand over the stall and wiggles her fingers.

10 pm and Chapter 4 Analysis

Positive and negative things are happening to Erin. She is focusing more on the negative side than on the positive side. The kids at school that are making fun of Erin are insecure themselves. People who pick on other people do it because they are not confident in themselves. When Mark Sacks tries to talk to Erin a couple of times, she assumes it is to make jokes, but it seems as if he wants to say he's sorry or that what the other kids are doing is not right. Erin, however, is not giving him a chance to say it.



S.W. Hate-o-rama and Chapter 5

S.W. Hate-o-rama and Chapter 5 Summary

Erin adds a page to her website devoted solely to Serena Worthington (SW). Erin does this because at the end of the day when she goes to her locker, she finds a muddy and dirty stuffed puppet in her locker with a sign that says, "Erin Swift, Queen of the Puppets." On the page, Erin makes a list of all of the things she hates about Serena, aka Public Enemy #1. Erin also makes a list of ways to seek revenge. Erin mentions that her brother isn't speaking to her because Amanda isn't speaking to him after what happened to her sister.

One week after the PI, two kids get caught kissing in the janitor's closet, as quickly as the Pinocchio jokes started, they stop when this news spreads around school. Jilly tells Erin she signed them up for play tryouts and picked up copies of the scripts. They always try out together even though Erin doesn't like it. Erin starts to tell Jilly the truth when Jilly mentions it being the best part to do plays together.

In word processing class, Rosie and Mark are talking about joining the Intranet club. Mark asks Erin if she's signing up. Rosie asks Erin if Jilly is signing up. Erin says she's going to ask Jilly but she doesn't think Jilly will sign up.

Jilly sees the flyer for the Intranet club when they are back at her house doing homework. Erin asks Jilly to join with her, but Jilly says she doesn't know anything about computers. Erin decides not to push Jilly into it because of Mark joining the club.

S.W. Hate-o-rama and Chapter 5 Analysis

The way that Mark asks Erin if she's signing up for the Intranet club insinuates he wants her to sign up. It seems as if Mark likes Erin. Erin just doesn't see the signs because she has never had a boy like her before. Jilly is very selfish. She wants Erin to do everything that she does, but never wants to do what Erin wants to do. In the case of joining the Intranet club, this could work out in Erin's favor because then she won't have to compete with Jilly for Mark's attention.



Wednesday, August 28 and Chapter 6

Wednesday, August 28 and Chapter 6 Summary

Erin writes on her blog about how she almost pulled the Intranet club table down while Mar is talking to her at parents' night. Serena walks by and makes a snotty comment, but Mark rolls his eyes at her. Erring thinks Serena likes Mark but doesn't think Mark likes Serena. Both Erin and Mark play the Space Invaders video game so they talk about which levels they have gotten to in the game. Erin says Chris still isn't speaking to her.

Erin decides to walk up to the lunch table where Rosie and Mark are sitting to ask if she can sit with them. After Erin listens to them talk about their families, Rosie asks why Erin is sitting here.

Erin responds by mentioning the time Rosie stuck up for Erin by shoving playdoh in a boy's mouth. Mark is talking to a boy next to him, so Erin thanks Rosie for wiggling her fingers at her in the bathroom. She tells Rosie she's trying to figure Rosie out. Rosie asks Erin if Jilly was here would she be sitting with Rosie right now. Erin says she doesn't know and Rosie says at least Erin is honest. The girls go on to talk about the play and the Intranet club.

Erin is at her locker and Mark is at his locker. Erin is trying to time it so that she closes her locker as Mark walks by so they can walk to class together. Instead, she ends up finding Mark standing right next to her. He asks her why she hasn't signed up for Intranet club and says Ms. Moreno says Erin is a whiz at computers. They talk all the way to class and Serena gives Erin a dirty look when she sees Erin walk in with Mark.

Wednesday, August 28 and Chapter 6 Analysis

Rosie is indirectly pointing out that Erin has never tried to be Rosie's friend before because of Jilly. Erin is slowly starting to realize that being friends with Jilly has held her back more than it has helped Erin to excel in social settings and activities. Mark and Erin seem to have a lot in common, including computers. Erin definitely likes Mark. Mark is giving off signs that he likes Erin too. The fact that Serena also likes Mark might ramp up the trouble that Serena tries to make for Erin.

Tuesday, September 3 and Chapter 7

Tuesday, September 3 and Chapter 7 Summary

Erin writes a blog post about questions to ponder. The end conclusion is that he wants to be friends with Rosie and she doesn't like that she wouldn't be friends with Rosie if Jilly was on the same track. She also realizes that she doesn't want to switch tracks and it doesn't bother her not to switch tracks because Mark Sacks in on Erin's track.

Erin is waiting outside the door to the room where the Intranet club is meeting when Serena walks up and starts making fun of Erin. Rosie and Mark walk up and defend Erin against Serena. When a girl calls Serena away, Erin admits to Rosie that she's glad Jilly isn't on the same track because it's giving Erin a chance to get to know Rosie and Mark and be friends with them.

When they go inside, Ms. Moreno greets Erin and mentions making her a leader of a group since she has a lot of experience with computers. As Erin is handing out papers to the club members, she shifts the pin Jilly gave her from her pocket where she usually keeps it to the pocket of her backpack.

Ms. Moreno starts assigning groups. When a spiky haired boy is assigned to Erin's group, he starts complaining about learning HTML from big foot. Mark sticks up for Erin, telling the boy that Erin knows her stuff. Erin's confidence surges and the boy asks Erin some computer questions and she starts showing him how it works.

Tuesday, September 3 and Chapter 7 Analysis

Erin is coming to terms with not having Jilly around her at school all the time. She is learning how to make it on her own and how to build up some self-esteem. Erin moving Jilly's pin from her pocket to her backpack is symbolic of the fact that Erin knows that she no longer needs Jilly with her all the time.



Thursday, September 12 and Chapter 8

Thursday, September 12 and Chapter 8 Summary

Erin writes on her blog that Rosie calls hot guys hot tamales. Erin says she has it bad for Mark and that he is a hot tamale. Erin doesn't tell Rosie about Mark though. After school, Erin is at Jilly's house doing math homework while Jilly is deciding what to wear. Jilly says there is a popular girl in her class that is also smart so it's freaking her out.

Erin's group in the Intranet club is in charge of creating and managing the School Life section. Erin turns out to be the most knowledgeable in the club and even eight graders ask her questions. Tyler, the boy who didn't originally want to be in her group, even compliments Erin on how smart she is.

As Mark, Rosie, Erin and Tyler head to gym class, they talk about changing the name of the club. Each person throws out a suggestion. Erin's suggestion seems to be the best one, the I-club.

Jilly lands the lead role in the play. Even though Erin purposely messed up her tryout, she lands a role as an ear of corn. Serena is the second biggest female role in the play, so she starts making fun of Erin when both Erin and Jilly tell Serena to shut up. Just when Erin is about to tell Jilly that she isn't going to spend eight weeks at rehearsal as an ear of corn, Jilly says she doesn't think she could do it without Erin, so Erin relents.

Thursday, September 12 and Chapter 8 Analysis

Erin is starting to see Jilly for who she really is. Because Erin and Jilly are so different, Erin isn't able to tolerate a lot of Jilly's actions anymore. Erin is starting to shine in her own rights now that Jilly isn't always around to outshine Erin. Erin is starting to see that she is sacrificing more for the friendship than Jilly is.



Monday, September 23 and Chapter 9

Monday, September 23 and Chapter 9 Summary

Erin writes on her blog about being in the play for friendship. Erin says Jilly has done things for friendship too, like taking down the Pinocchio signs. Erin says when she thanked Jilly for it, Jilly got a weird look on her face and acted shy.

When Erin arrives for play rehearsal, she runs into the janitor. He tells Erin she looks familiar as he says she's the one in the posters. He says they were hard to take down because they used double-sided tape. Erin confirms he was the one that took the signs down and not Jilly. As Erin spots Jilly in the crowd, Erin thinks Jilly looks different now that she knows Jilly isn't the one that took down the signs.

As Erin is waiting to go on stage for rehearsal, she gets a drink from the water fountain. Mark walks up to ask her a coding question and Erin's lockermate, Carla, raises an eyebrow at her. Mark asks who the girl on stage is, talking about Jilly, saying she looks familiar. After Mark leaves, Jilly walks up to Erin and asks who Mark is. When Jilly makes somewhat of a demeaning comment to Erin, Carla pays Erin a compliment.

When Erin gets home from school, she asks Chris if he wants to shoot some hoops. He doesn't respond but shows up on the basketball court at their house later. Erin apologizes for the Serena-Amanda debacle. Chris says he just doesn't understand why Erin hit her unless she thinks what Serena said about her is true.

Monday, September 23 and Chapter 9 Analysis

Jilly gets a weird look on her face when Erin thanks her for taking down the Pinocchio posters because Jilly didn't do it, Rosie or Mark did. Now that Erin has been able to step back a little from her friendship with Jilly and look at the situation from more of a big-picture view, she doesn't like a lot of Jilly's attributes. Erin is especially interested in why Jilly seems to have taken credit for taking down the Pinocchio posters and Erin is questioning herself as to why she can't confront Jilly about it. Subconsciously, Erin knows what Serena said about her and Jilly is true, which is why Erin punched Serena.



Thursday, October 10 and Chapter 10

Thursday, October 10 and Chapter 10 Summary

Erin writes on her blog about the things that are burning her out. One of them is how Jilly talks too much and is always talking about herself. Erin says she wants to be more confident like Jilly, but at the same time Erin says she just wants to be herself. Erin is also planning ways to run into Mark more, but to keep Mark and Jilly separate.

Erin implements her plan to target Mark's actions and shield Jilly from Mark and vice versa. Mark comes up to Erin in the hall with some of his friends and challenges her to a basketball game at the YMCA, which is a poster he keeps pointing out to Erin. When Mrs. Porter comes up to Erin in the hall, Mark makes puppet gestures behind Mrs. Porter's back and Erin and Mark have a good laugh when the principal walks away.

On Saturday, Erin and Mark are playing basketball at the YMCA. They are talking while they play and Erin tells him about the argument with Chris. Mark says guys are weird when they like a girl and blushes. When Erin and Mark come face to face while playing, Erin thinks they are going to kiss, but they don't.

Thursday, October 10 and Chapter 10 Analysis

Erin is starting to come into her own. She is realizing what her good qualities are and focusing a little less on some of things about her that aren't perfect. Erin is starting to fit in at school. Since she is more self-confident, her newfound confidence opens doors that Erin never even approached before. Mark blushing when he tells Erin that guys are weird when they like girls indicates that he likes Erin.



Saturday, October 12 and Chapter 11

Saturday, October 12 and Chapter 11 Summary

On her blog, Erin makes a list of the reasons she thinks Mark is her friend and a list of the reasons she thinks he might be using her.

Erin and Jilly are in Jilly's room waiting for Mrs. Hennessey to take them to the mall. Jilly says she called Erin's house on Saturday and her dad said she was playing basketball with a friend. Jilly thinks the friend is Rosie. Mrs. Hennessey interrupts the conversation and drives the girls to the mall.

While shopping in PacSun, Jilly spots the boy that called her Geppetto on the second day of school. She hides so it won't seem like she is following him. Jilly sends Erin to follow and spy on "Bus Boy." While the girls are sitting in the food court drinking smoothies, they spot another cute boy from school, an eight grader. Jilly keeps hiding and acting very unlike herself, while Erin is following the boys and waving at them.

Saturday, October 12 and Chapter 11 Analysis

Once again, Jilly is being selfish. She questions Erin about being friends with Rosie, but Jilly is allowed to be friends with whomever she chooses. Jilly makes Erin follow the cute boy from the bus because if Jilly follows him, then it would be "lame." Ironically, Erin is making lists about the ways Mark could be using her, but it's Jilly that's been using her all along.



Chapter 12 and Saturday, October 26

Chapter 12 and Saturday, October 26 Summary

The Intranet club is working very hard on getting the site ready to go live. In between, Erin and Mark have been going to pickup games in the gym to relieve their stress. One of the guys in charge of updating the page on the school events, good-naturedly teases Erin about being an ear of corn in the play. After helping Jilly rehearse her lines, Erin gets Chris to drive her to the library. Chris waits in the car and when Erin returns with her library book, Chris is crouched down in the seat spying. Erin crouches down too and she spots the blonde girl her brother is spying on—Amanda Worthington. They watch as she walks with a boy, stops to kiss him and then continues to walk with him.

Erin writes on her blog about feeling sorry for Chris—having to see the girl he likes kissing someone else. She also writes about going to the university with Ms. Moreno, Mark and Rosie to get some ideas for the Intranet site and have a meeting with some people that are hosting a website camp over the summer. Erin, Rosie and Mark joke around at lunch and have a good time. The best part for Erin is when Rosie says that Erin is part of the routine.

Chapter 12 and Saturday, October 26 Analysis

Erin has empathy for her brother, now that she knows what's it like to like someone, she thinks about how hurtful it must feel for Chris because she thinks of how hurt she would be to see Mark kissing another girl. Erin is reversing roles with Jilly. While Jilly used to be the outgoing one and the one always making new friends, now it's Erin that is doing this. Jilly seems to be shying away from the guys she thinks are cute and being a little more paranoid about dates and such than she was previously.



Chapter 13 and Friday, November 1

Chapter 13 and Friday, November 1 Summary

Erin and Jilly are at a Halloween costume party at the rec center. Erin is Pippy Longstocking and Jilly is a sexy '80s rock star. Mark and Rosie come up to them and Mark seems to be fixated on Jilly from behind is costume mask. Erin tries to distract him. Jilly doesn't seem to notice Mark is staring at her and drags Erin off to the punch bowl to hit on some eighth grade boys.

That night, after Erin goes to bed, she wakes up a little after midnight and hears a car pull up outside. When she cracks her window, she hears and sees her brother talking to two of his friends. She overhears them saying he made a fool of himself, that he needs to forget her and she has a boyfriend. When Erin knocks over her lamp, Chris looks up in the direction of the room. When he comes upstairs, he whispers in Erin's ear to stay out of his business and Erin can smell beer on his breath.

Erin writes blog post about the things that are not good, things to think about and things that make her happy right now. She mentions how Rosie thinks that Tyler likes Erin.

Chapter 13 and Friday, November 1 Analysis

Erin thinks Mark is staring at Jilly because she is pretty and he likes her. Mark mentioned that Jilly looked familiar when he is talking to Erin at play practice. The reason Mark keeps staring at Jilly is because he is trying to place her. It might turn out that Mark knows her from something Jilly did or said and it foreshadows that this knowledge is something bad about Erin.



Chapter 14 and Monday, November 4

Chapter 14 and Monday, November 4 Summary

Erin is in the bathroom when Serena come in. as Erin tries to fix her hair, Serena tell it won't help because he likes Jilly. Serena says she saw him watching Jilly as she went to practice the other day. Erin walks out.

As Erin is walking down the hall, Mark calls after her to wait up. They start joking around about sports. Finally, Mark asks Erin if she is good friends with the girl she was with at the Halloween party.

Erin writes about her thinking that Mark likes Jilly. She says their whole friendship was just a cover for him to get to Jilly.

Chapter 14 and Monday, November 4 Analysis

Erin think Mark is asking about Jilly because he likes. He's really asking if they are good friends because he knows Jilly has been saying bad things about Erin or doing bad things to Erin. Erin is misinterpreting Mar's reasons for asking if she and Jilly are friends. It foreshadows Erin finding out the real reason Mark is asking, which is not because he has a crush on Jilly.



Chapters 15 and 16

Chapters 15 and 16 Summary

Chris finds Erin hiding in one of her hiding spaces when something terrible happens. He is kind to her because he realizes something is wrong, but he doesn't push her to tell him what it is.

Outside of the I-club room, Rosie asks Erin what's going on with her and Mark. She says Mark is bummed out because Erin is acting like she's mad at him. When Rosie sees Mark coming down the hall, she tells Erin to work it out with Mark, whatever it is. Erin decides the best way to handle it is to hide in the janitor's closet after she watches Mark go in the I-club meeting so she doesn't have to follow him in the room. Erin hears footsteps coming as she tries to leave the closet. She accidentally knocks over a broom that knocks over a bunch of stuff in the closet. The door swings open and the person flips on the light.

It's the school janitor. He asks where she's hiding the boy but then realizes that there isn't a boy. Suddenly, Erin finds herself pouring out everything that has happened with Jilly and Mark, but not using any names. The janitor listens, but points out to Erin that she and the boy were friends before he ever saw her girlfriend or asked about her. Erin realizes he is right. The janitor also tells her that good friends outlast any boyfriend and girlfriend relationship. Erin thanks him and heads toward the I-club room.

Erin tells Ms. Moreno she had a false alarm emergency as her reason for being late. She works, ignoring Mark the entire time. She thinks Tyler is about to ask her out when he asks her to help align some photo captions. Mark asks what the emergency is when the club ends. She tells him it's none of his business. They apologize to each other and shake on being friends. When Rosie asks if they kissed and made up, Mark blushes.

Chapters 15 and 16 Analysis

In his own way Chris has made up with Erin by talking nicely to her when he finds her in one of her hiding places. After Erin has come so far, now she is going to be known as the girl that hides in closets by herself at school. Erin feels a little disappointed when Tyler doesn't ask her out but she doesn't know why. It could be that she really does just want to be friends with Mark and not something more. Mark blushes when Rosie asks if they've kissed and made up because he really does have a crush on Erin.



Tuesday, November 5 and Chapter 17

Tuesday, November 5 and Chapter 17 Summary

Erin writes on her blog that Mark asks her for Jilly's name. He proceeds to list out all of the things Erin has ever said about Jilly. Erin decides she will put the janitor's statement to the test by seeing which lasts longer, a friendship or a romantic relationship.

Jilly spots Mark and starts telling Erin how cute he is. Erin says she's not spying for Jilly. When Mark walks in the building, he says hi to Erin. Jilly asks Erin why she pretended not to know him. Jilly asks if Erin likes Mark. Jilly says it's good they've never liked the same guys, but Erin thinks about several guys they both liked but Erin just didn't say anything. When Serena sees Erin, she tells her she told her so about Mark and Jilly getting together.

Erin writes about how all Mark talks about is Jilly. He asks Erin if she thinks Jilly will go out with him. She tells him to ask her and find out. He gets mad and won't talk to Erin for the rest of the day.

Tuesday, November 5 and Chapter 17 Analysis

Erin is expecting people to read her mind. If she likes Mark, she should tell. She should have also told Jilly the truth when she asked if Erin likes Mark. In a way, Erin is perpetuating the problem by not being honest about her feelings.



Chapter 18 and Saturday, November 9

Chapter 18 and Saturday, November 9 Summary

It's official, Jilly and Mark are a couple. He walks her to all of her classes and is late to his own classes. Mark talks about her all the time to Erin. The only consolation Erin has is that she knows Jilly's mom won't allow Jilly to go out on a real date because she is only 12 and three quarters.

At lunch, Rosie says he wonders where Mark is, but in a way that's asking if Erin knows where he is because Rosie definitely know. Erin says he's probably with Rosie. Then, Erin realizes Rosie knows Erin likes Mark. Erin admits everything to Rosie. Serena walks up to the table to tell Erin she told her so, but Serena looks like she is about to cry. Erin admits that Serena was right.

Rosie and Erin are on the school bus after school. Erin is saving the seat next to her for Jilly. Rosie warns Erin that Jilly and Mark are coming so she shouldn't look. Mark boards the bus with Jilly and Erin watches in horror as they kiss. When Erin reaches four Mississippi, she stops counting and looks away trying not to cry.

Tyler slips an "anonymous" note into Erin's locker. Erin knows it's from him because some of his hair gel is smeared on the paper. The note is a pome telling her she's beautiful and that if she stopped to notice that something great is right in front of her. She starts to think about how great his eyes are but that his gelled and spiked hair has to go.

Chapter 18 and Saturday, November 9 Analysis

Ironically, Serena and Erin are on the same side. Erin is grateful that at least she and Mark are friends because Mark doesn't even talk to Serena. What Tyler says to Erin is true. Sometimes, you have to look at life and at the people in it in a new light. When you do, it allows you to see the potential in that person. In Erin's case, she has been so occupied with Mark, she hasn't noticed that Tyler likes her, and he might just be the attentive and affectionate enough to be a great companion.



Chapter 19 and Saturday, November 16

Chapter 19 and Saturday, November 16 Summary

It's Sunday and Erin is working on her website when Chris says they have to go to mall to buy their shoes. Chris buys his shoes and leaves Erin to go to the food court for a Coke. When Erin meets up with Chris in the food court, he and Amanda are fighting. Chris is defending Erin punching Serena because Serena has made Erin's life miserable since elementary school. When Chris and Erin are driving home, they make fun of Amanda the entire way. When they arrive home, their mom says Jillian has been calling for Erin and that she sounds desperate.

When Erin goes to Jillian's, Jillian makes Erin recount everything about Mark from Friday—what he was wearing and what he ate for lunch. At the end, Erin says how good of friends Rosie and Mark are, which she knows is a mistake because now Jillian will try to pump Rosie for information.

Jillian tries to follow Rosie around and get information from Rosie. Rosie must have blown her off because Jillian comes back saying that Rosie is kind of snotty.

Chapter 19 and Saturday, November 16 Analysis

Jillian is so wrapped up in her own world she doesn't think or care about anyone else. She will use and abuse anyone she can to get what she wants. Erin realizes that her brother has been there for her for all of her life. He was always the one that came looking for Erin when she was in one of her hiding spots. He would listen to her problem for why she was hiding out. He knows more about her than anyone else—even someone who is supposed to be Erin's best friend—Jillian.



Chapter 20 and Sunday, November 24

Chapter 20 and Sunday, November 24 Summary

Erin is at dress rehearsal for the play. She plans on sneaking out after the opening song to finish some of the work she has to do on the Intranet pages and then sneaking back to say her one line. When she arrives in the I-club room in her corn costumer, the kids chuckle, but Tyler and Mark both say they need her help.

Jilly tells Erin she thinks that Mark is losing interest after two weeks of going out. Jilly also announces that once they break up Erin can't be friends with Mark anymore. Erin and Jilly get into an argument. Jilly says that Erin has to choose between her and Mark. Erin declares that she will no longer be Jilly's puppet. Jilly picks up her things and leaves. After she's gone, Erin sobs.

Erin writes on her blog that she can't believe Jilly just walked out when Erin wouldn't choose between Jilly and Mark. Later that night, Erin writes that she can't sleep. She's not sad anymore, she's furious. She also writes that she hates Jilly and she will flaunt it in her face when Mark likes her and they start going out.

Chapter 20 and Sunday, November 24 Analysis

Erin finally realizes that the things Jilly asks of her are not the things that true friends would ask each other to do. The straw that breaks the camel's back is when Jilly tells Erin that she can no longer talk to Mark once Jilly and Mark break up. When something, such as a friendship, comes to end, it is a sad occasion. Erin sobbing allows her to release the pain she feels for the ending of the friendship, but it is also an opportunity for Erin to fully embrace the new life and friends she has made over the last few months.

Erin is going through the stages of denial and loss. First, she's sad. Then, she gets mad. Finally, she wants revenge.



Chapters 21 and 22

Chapters 21 and 22 Summary

Jilly and Erin avoid each other all day at school. Rosie tells Erin that it will blow over. She also reminds Erin that Jilly didn't make Erin do anything, Erin chose to do the things she did for Jilly. For now, Erin decides to focus on getting the Intranet site finalized for its Wednesday launch date.

The play opening goes well. Erin worked all night at home on the Intranet site and put her work on a disc. Tyler waves Erin down after the play to say they need her disc. She goes to her locker to give it to him and Serena runs into her, making Erin's arm hurt, as if it might be broken.

After an X-ray, the doctor says Erin arm has a fracture. She has to wear a cast and he says she should stay home from school to rest. Erin says he cannot stay home because it's the last day before Thanksgiving break and she has an Intranet site to launch.

When Erin wakes up the next morning, she is still in pain. She also realizes it's 11 am and they were supposed to publish the site at 9 am. She asks her mother if anyone called, but her mom turned off the phones, so she says she'll bring Erin the phone so she can check messages. Erin's mom also hands her a CD, saying that her Intranet stuff is on it so they probably postponed the launch. Erin looks at the CD and realizes she gave Tyler the disc with her private website on it in error.

When Erin checks the voice mail messages, there are 57 messages. Some are from Tyler. One is from Rosie. One is from Jilly. One is from Serena. The rest are from various people she doesn't know. Most says she is mean and they hate and dislike her as much as she says she hates and dislikes them. Rosie's says that everything will be over after school. One girl admits to kissing her pillow too, as Erin writes in her blog about kissing her pillow to practice. One of the messages is from Ms. Moreno apologizing. She says she thought the other teacher was checking the files and he thought she was and that's how her private website got published.

When Erin's mom comes in the room, she takes the phone from Erin. When she listens to the messages, she just keeps saying, "Oh Erin" over and over again. Erin tells her mom everything that has happened. Erin also admits that most of the stuff she wrote was weeks ago and she doesn't even feel that way anymore. Erin's mom says they have four days off from school to figure out how to fix it and tells Erin to rest.

Chapters 21 and 22 Analysis

Erin has the work she has to do on the Intranet site to distract her from the problems with Jilly. It could be attributed to a Freudian slip that Erin gave Tyler her private website disc instead of her Intranet site disc. This would indicate that at some level Erin wants

the information she wrote to get out to the people she wrote it about. On the other hand, this could be a major setback for Erin. She has come so far in making new friends and building her self-confidence. When the people she wrote about find out what she said, this could cause her to lose additional friendships and even create more enemies.



Chapters 23 and 24

Chapters 23 and 24 Summary

Chris busts into Erin's room asking her if she's crazy for writing all of that information down. Rosie stops by after school to tell Erin about how chaotic the launch was, which caused them not to realize the information of Erin's they were publishing. Rosie says as soon as Ms. Moreno realized, she shut down the Intranet but someone had already printed and distributed Erin's information around school. Rosie says that Mark started to read it but got so embarrassed that he stopped. She says Serena cried. Rosie says everyone is calling Mark Cute Boy now and that he is very embarrassed about it.

Against Erin's pleading, her parents make her go back to school after the break. At the bus stop, Erin begs for Jilly to forgive her, but Jilly is angry and on the verge of tears. Some eighth grade boys come up and start teasing Erin. Erin runs until she reaches her neighbors' RV. She finds the key they hide under it by the front door and hides inside. At 8:20, she sees her mom speed out of the garage and driveway. Erin sneaks into the house to get some food, things to do and use the bathroom. By noon, she convinces herself to sleep so she can forget about having to use the bathroom again.

When Erin wakes up, it's 3:30, which means she can go home. She finds her worried parents and brother waiting for her in the living room. They ask where she's been and say they've been looking everywhere for her. She pleads for them not to make her return to school, but her parents tell her that she has to face her problems.

Chapters 23 and 24 Analysis

Erin's mom is speeding off to school because she's found out Erin never made it there. They are going to be searching for Erin everywhere. Ironically, the entire time, she is in the driveway right next store to her house. After reading what Erin has been going through, Chris realizes that his sister is having even harder of a time than he. This coupled with the fact that he thought she was missing, leads Chris to be nicer to Erin. While Erin's parents sympathize with her feelings, they are trying to teach her that she has to face the consequences of the situation.



Chapters 25 and 26

Chapters 25 and 26 Summary

Erin times her arrival at the bus stop with the arrival of the bus. Jilly isn't there and the boys making fun of her the previous day are already on the bus. She endures the comments until the next stop when Rosie gets on and sits with her. All day at school people are making comments. Most are bad, but a few of them are positive. Ms. Moreno apologizes to Erin again. Mark runs from the room whenever he sees Erin. Serena tells Erin to stay away from her. After school, Erin runs into the janitor, Mr. Foslowksi. He's heard of the trouble she's in. He asks if she has a tootsie pop. She shows him the one he gave her before and then he gives her another one, but tells her not to bite it. When she gets to I-club after school, she tries to apologize to Tyler but he won't talk to Erin either.

Erin writes apology letters to Mark, Tyler, Serena and Jilly. She mails them so that they'll receive them before the last day of school for Christmas break. When she arrives at school, she finds the letters to Serena, Tyler and Jilly shoved through the slot of her locker. Throughout the day, Mark smiles at her and even asks her formatting question in word processing class.

Chapters 25 and 26 Analysis

The tootsie pops are symbolic. Mr. Foslowksi is trying to show and tell Erin that she has to be patient. She has to take her time to get to know people, take her time in making decisions and take her time in correcting a wrong. If she rushes it, aka biting into a tootsie roll pop, then it won't work out the way that it should.



Thursday, December 12 and Chapter 27

Thursday, December 12 and Chapter 27 Summary

Erin writes a blog post that she vows to delete after she writes it. She says it's been two weeks and none of them are talking to her. Erin says Ms. Moreno called to try to convince her to come back to I-club, but Erin is sticking with her punishment to stay away from computers.

Erin makes excuses to go by Jilly's house, such as walking the neighbor's dog and taking a box of Jilly's things back to her. Mrs. Hennessey answers the door, but says gently that Jilly doesn't want to be disturbed. Erin tells Mrs. Hennessey she is so sorry and Mrs. Hennessey says she is sorry too.

Erin wanders downstairs to see her mom while her mom is working. She helps her mom with a portion of a website her mom is designing. She tells her mom she doesn't know what to do. Her mom says she's done everything: apologized, wrote apology letters and even sent gifts to Jilly, Mark Tyler and Serena. She says Erin just has to let it run its course.

Erin watches TV with Chris. They see a guy who is naked, except for the sandwich board he is wearing for his cause. When Erin's dad says it's one way to bring attention to your cause, Erin realizes there is one more thing she can do.

Thursday, December 12 and Chapter 27 Analysis

Erin is trying everything she can think of to get her friends and classmates to forgive her for writing the blog. Erin realizes that even the not so good parts of the people she wrote about is what makes them individuals. She feels like the loser for putting them down and making them feel bad about themselves and for embarrassing them. Erin's idea foreshadows her wearing a sandwich board with an apology on it to all of the people she hurt.



Chapter 28 and Tuesday, January 7

Chapter 28 and Tuesday, January 7 Summary

On January 6, Erin's mom drives her to school with her sandwich board apology to everyone. Serena tells Erin she'll have to wear that until senior prom for her to forgive Erin. In the cafeteria, Tyler apologizes for the mean things he said to Erin when he's sees the message. She notices his hair isn't spiked. One of Tyler's friends says he changed his hair for Erin Erin tells him to read her letter in the Intranet the following day. at Jilly's locker, Jilly talks to Erin. Erin tells her to read her letter and Jilly agrees to read it. Erin stows the sandwich board in the janitor's closet and catches the bus home.

Erin publishes an apology letter on the Intranet site.

Chapter 28 and Tuesday, January 7 Analysis

Erin has found one more way to try to get everyone's forgiveness. While she could have just closed herself off to the world, Erin instead decides to learn a lesson from her mistakes. It shows that everyone makes mistakes. It also shows that everyone has challenges and adversity in life. It is how you choose to react to these challenges and adversities that matter.



Ch 29 and 30

Ch 29 and 30 Summary

When Erin reaches her locker, she finds a bunch of cheery tootsie pops, because she mentioned they are like friends and cherry is her favorite. One is from Mark with a note. Serena approaches Erin and tells her to stop wearing the board, which is Serena's way of saying she forgives Erin.

Mark and Erin go to the Y to shoot baskets. They talk about the letter, the blog, and the apology she published on the Intranet.

Ch 29 and 30 Analysis

Erin finally realizes the lesson the janitor is trying to teach her using the tootsie roll pops as symbols. The kids at school also take the hint, which is so many of them leave her tootsie roll pops at her locker—to show her that they support her, forgive her and understand that she made a mistake. The friendship between Erin and Mark is restored. It also foreshadows them having a romantic relationship because Mark asks Erin if she meant all the things she said about him in her blog.



Chapters 31 and Monday, June 9

Chapters 31 and Monday, June 9 Summary

At the bus stop, Jilly finally tells Erin it is time to take off the sandwich board. Jilly pulls a tootsie pop out of her bag and it only has the tootsie roll center. When Erin asks her how she did that, she said it wasn't easy. Erin produces two new pops, giving one to Jilly and eating one herself. The girls start to talk about everything that happened.

Erin says even with everything she faced in the semester, she got through it all. When they get on the bus, Jilly sits in the seat in front of Erin. Jilly says she is saving a seat for Rosie, who gets on a couple bus stops away.

Erin starts writing on her blog again. Jilly and Erin's mom throw a big surprise party for Erin's 13th birthday. She talks about all of the other things that go wrong for the rest of the year, but how all of them are no big deal, that she got over them and she handled them. She says that she and Mark tried kissing, but they realize they are better off as friends. For the first time, Erin's list of things that give her hope is longer than her other lists.

Chapters 31 and Monday, June 9 Analysis

Jilly realizes from reading Erin's blog that there was so much about Erin she didn't know because Jilly never gave Erin a chance to tell Jilly. Erin learns that she should have told Jilly more about what she wanted so that Jilly would know. Just as her dad said, Erin finds out that she is stronger than she thinks she is.



Characters

Erin Penelope Swift

Erin Penelope Swift is the main characters and narrator of the story. She says she has big feet, which helps her when she's playing basketball and soccer. Her best friend since Kindergarten is Jillian Gail Hennessey. Erin has an older brother, Chris, who is in high school.

In the relationship between Erin and Jillian, Erin is more of the follower than the leader. Jillian pretty much tells Erin what to wear and asks Erin to do a lot of things in their friendship. Erin is afraid of change, so when she finds out that she and Jillian have different class schedules when starting middle school, Erin begs her mom to call the school and get her changed to Jilly's schedule.

Erin turns out to be very resilient. She gets through going to school without Jilly on the same schedule and even makes new friends. Even after the kids start calling her a puppet and making fun of her, Erin perseveres. In the end, when Erin's personal thoughts and feelings are published to the school's Intranet site, Erin finds a way to bear with the humiliation and obtain the forgiveness of her friends.

Jillian Gail Hennessey

Erin says that Jillian Gail Hennessey is her best friend. She also describes Jillian as being very pretty and friendly. These characteristics make Erin wonder why Jillian wants to be her friend when everyone likes Jillian. Erin calls Jillian Jilly for short.

Jilly is a little bit self-centered. She convinces Erin to wear things Erin doesn't really want to wear. She is also always convincing Erin to do things that Erin really doesn't want to do, such as try out for the school play.

By the end of the novel, Jilly realizes that she hasn't always been a good person, or a good friend to Erin. She learns how to give more and take less from her friendship with Erin—making it a more equal and balanced relationship.

Chris Swift

Chris Swift is Erin's older brother. Chris is in high school. When they were little, Chris is the one that always went looking for Erin when Erin was hiding in one of her hiding spots. Erin's brother also defends her punching Serena to Amanda, Serena's older sister, who Chris has a crush on. While they do have normal sibling rivalry moments throughout the novel, Chris and Erin are there for each other.



Serena Worthington

Serena Worthington is Erin's arch enemy. Serena is always teasing and making fun of Erin. It is Serena who starts calling Serena a puppet and Jillian the puppeteer. She is also the one responsible for having the Pinocchio posters of Erin up around school. By the end, the girls realize that they have more in common than they thought, belong to the Intranet Club together and become friends.

Rosie Valerde

Rosie Valerde is a girl that Erin and Jillian have known since the first grade. They haven't been friends with Rosie because Jilly thinks Rosie is stuck-up. Rosie, however, has the same schedule as Erin, so the two girls end up becoming friends. Rosie is of Mexican heritage, so she teaches Erin that cute boys are hot tamales. Rosie has also been friends with Mark for a very long time because their families know each other. Rosie, along with Erin and Mark, also belongs to the Intranet Club. When Erin's private website is published on the school Intranet site, Rosie is the only one that stands by Erin and tells her everything will work out.

Mark Sacks

Mark Sacks is a cute boy that has the same schedule Erin has. Rosie and Mark are good friends because their families know each other. Erin starts to like Mark, especially after they work together on the Intranet Club and sit together every day at lunch. Mark ends up liking Jilly. When Erin's personal website gets posted for the whole school to read, Mark is so embarrassed that he stops talking to Erin.

Erin and Mark end up making up. They return to playing basketball together—something they enjoyed prior to the website fiasco. Mark and Erin try kissing once, but decide that they are better off as friends.

Ms. Moreno

Ms. Moreno is the word processing teacher at the junior high school. She is also one of the faculty advisers for the Intranet Club. Erin meets Ms. Moreno on the first day of school outside of the cafeteria because Erin doesn't have anyone to sit with at lunch. As the Intranet Club faculty adviser, Ms. Moreno assigns Erin as one of the group leaders in the club because Erin knows so much about websites and computers. It is also Ms. Moreno that apologizes to Erin for not checking more carefully before publishing her private website to the Intranet school website.



Mrs. Porter

Mrs. Porter is the principal of the middle school. She is also a big fan of puppets, so her office is filled with puppets. When Erin punches Serena on the first day of school, Erin is sent to Mrs. Porter's office for her punishment.

Amanda Worthington

Amanda Worthington is Serena's older sister. Amanda goes to high school with Chris, Erin's brother. Amanda has a boyfriend, but Chris has a crush on Amanda. It is Amanda that Chris gets into an argument at the mall in the food court over Erin punching Serena.

Tyler

Tyler is one of the boys in the Intranet Club. He wears a lot of gel in his hair to make it spiky. On the first day of Intranet Club, when he gets assigned to Erin's group, he makes a comment about learning from Erin. When Erin proves that she knows her stuff, Tyler learns a lot from Erin. In the end, Tyler and Erin end up being friends.



Objects/Places

Molly Brown Middle School

Molly Brown High School is the school that Erin and Jillian are going into from elementary school. The school is the primary setting for the majority of the novel. It is the girls first year in middle school, but they know a lot of the students from elementary school.

Jillian's Front Porch

Jillian's front porch is where the girls are when they open their class schedules for middle school. It is on the porch where the girls discover that they have different schedules at school. It is also the porch where Jilly convinces Erin that Erin has to get her mom to call the school to try to switch her to Jilly's schedule.

School Bus

It is on the school bus that Erin and Jilly encounter some bullies. The day after the incident with Serena, the name calling starts again right away when the girls board the bus. When Jilly and Erin aren't speaking, it also causes Jilly to choose another seat to sit on, while Rosie typically sits with Erin on the bus.

Bathroom

It is in the bathroom where Serena starts calling Erin Pinocchio and Jilly Gepetto. In the same bathroom, Erin punches Serena in the nose. The bathroom is also a respite for Erin when she is trying to get away from the Pinocchio posters that Serena and her friends have posted up all over school. While Erin is hiding in the bathroom, Rosie comes in and starts sticking up for Erin with Serena's friends. While Erin is in the stall, Rosie wiggles her fingers at Erin to let Erin know that Rosie knows she is in there.

Bus Stop

The bus stop is near Erin's house. Jilly, however, makes Erin come to her house so they can walk to the bus stop together. When Erin's blog goes public, the boys starts picking on Erin about it while waiting at the bus stop. Erin runs from the bus stop to hide in her neighbor's RV to avoid having to go to school.



Intranet Club Classroom

The Intranet club classroom is the computer lab where the Intranet club meets. The classroom is set up so the club members can interact with one another. In this classroom, Erin really gets to be outgoing and help her fellow club members learn what she knows about websites and building web pages. This is also the classroom where she gets to know Mark and Tyler better.

Locker

Erin shares a locker at school with Carla. Serena and her friends vandalize the outside and inside of Erin's locker with things when they are teasing her. Tyler also drops anonymous love letters to Erin inside of her locker. After Erin posts the apology letter on the Intranet, kids leave cherry tootsie roll pops on Erin's locker.

Posters

Serena posts posters all over school. The posters have the body of Pinocchio with Erin's face on it. When Erin sees these posters, she hides in the bathroom. Jilly indirectly takes credit for taking the posters down. Later, Erin finds it is the school janitor that took the posters down.

Disc

Erin saves her private website to a disc. She also saves the work she does from home on her pages of the school Intranet site on a disc. Although each disc is clearly labeled, Erin accidentally hands her private website disc to Tyler instead of the Intranet site disc. This is what causes Erin's private website to go public.

Principal's Office

When Erin punches Serena, she is summoned to the principal's office. Ironically, the principals' office is full of puppets. The principal loves puppets. She collects marionettes and puppets and has them on display in her office.



Themes

Relationships

One of the primary themes running through the novel is relationships. Friendship is one type of relationship that the novel addresses. First, Jilly and Erin are best friends. The girls are inseparable and have been this way since they were in Kindergarten. As Erin and Jilly are living more separate lives when they go into the seventh grade in middle school, each girl learns to live their own life. The girls also experience the trials and tribulations that friendships sometimes go through as things change and people grow. In the end, their friendship is better for the experiences the girls have - the good ones and the bad ones.

Romantic relationships are also tackled in the novel. Erin and Mark start out as friends. The more Erin gets to know Mark, the more she likes him as a boyfriend rather than just a friend. As they continue to spend time with each other, however, Mark meets Jilly and he they end up becoming involved with each romantically. In the end, their love doesn't last because Jilly moves on to liking another boy that rides the bus to school with them. When Mark finds out that Erin likes him as a boyfriend, they try kissing each other once to see if there are any feelings there. They end up deciding that they are better friends than they would be as boyfriend and girlfriend

Coming of Age

One of the primary themes that run throughout the novel is growing up and coming of age, even against adversity, such as bullying at school and having secrets revealed to everyone at school. Erin struggles with the fact that her coming of age includes having to make her own life without Jilly constantly by her side. Erin deals with the changes in her feelings and faces the consequences when her secret thoughts and feelings are revealed to the entire school.

Erin also faces the rite of passage of having her first real crush on a boy, while having to deal with the fact that her best friend is dating him. Erin especially struggles with her feelings about herself as a person because she feels awkward with her big feet and because she is tall.

Family

Family is the central theme throughout the entire novel. This is because the storyline incorporates the lives of Erin's family. While every family has their trials and tribulations, Erin's family has its own family dynamics that are the same and that are different from those of other families. In the end though, they are a family and they will get through it together, one way or the other. This is especially true of the relationship that Erin has

with her older brother, Chris. While they do have typical sibling rivalry, Erin and Chris are always there for each other throughout the novel.

Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the first-person point of view, from the perspective of the main character, Erin. The point of view of this novel is intimate, allowing a reader to connect closely with the main character, Erin. The book written in this manner allows the reader to get inside Erin's head, thoughts and inner struggles. The reader cares what happens to the narrator. The point of view also allows the author to inject her own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place around the other characters and the occurrences taking place.

Setting

The novel is set primarily in Molly Brown Middle School during the 21st century. The main characters are involved in the daily life of transitioning from elementary school to middle school. Erin is constantly trying to find her own identity without having her best friend Jilly around her all of the time.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. At first, the reader is not aware that the main character is going to become outgoing and find her own activities apart from her best friend. However, as events unfold, the Erin's identity is a constant part of the plot, the lives of the characters and even the outcome of the novel.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is relatively simple and easy to read. The language is from the 21st century, which is when the novel is set. The language is descriptive enough that it helps to explain the situations and is detailed enough for the reader to truly understand.

Structure

The novel is divided into website postings and chapters. Each website section and chapter ranges from two pages to 10 pages long. The chapters tell the story primarily in exposition and with some dialogue. The narrator injects her own voice and thoughts throughout the book, providing her opinions and feelings of the events unfolding in the novel.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot is that of human relationships such as friendship and romantic. One subplot is the coming of age of the characters, primarily Erin. Another subplot is family.



Quotes

"You're so mean! You could call right now and keep me and Jilly together, but you won't do it. I hate you" (Chapter 1, p. 8).

"Maybe in a few days you can start looking at this as an adventure. New friends, new situations" (Chapter 2, p. 12).

"Jillian is Geppetto, the master puppeteer, and you're Pinocchio. The puppet" (Chapter 3, p. 17).

"My name is Erin. I have big feet. I want to be a real boy" (Chapter 4, p. 30).

"It would be weird without you, but I'd still like to do it" (Chapter 5, p. 39).

"If Jilly were here, right now, would you be sitting with me? Would you be talking to me" (Chapter 6, p. 42).

"She knows her stuff" (Chapter 7, p. 50).

"Thanks for doing this, Erin. I don't think I could get through it without you" (Chapter 8, p. 58).

"She called you a stupid word. Who cares? Why did you get so bent about it? Unless you thought it was true" (Chapter 9, p. 67).

"Guys are weird when they like a girl" (Chapter 10, p. 74).

"Did you play basketball with Rosie on Sunday" (Chapter 11, p. 79).

"There she is" (Chapter 12, p. 89).

"He likes you" (Chapter 13, p. 95).

"I've been meaning to ask, that girl you were with at the Halloween party? Are you two, like, good friends" (Chapter 14, p. 102).

"He's kind of bummed out about it" (Chapter 15, p. 107).

"Friends" (Chapter 16, p. 116).

"You don't like him, do you" (Chapter 17, 121).



"You know I like him" (Chapter 18, p. 126).

"Well, you have to admit it isn't like you to give up time with your best friend to clean your room" (Chapter 19, p. 137).

"I think Mark is losing interest" (Chapter 20, p. 143).

"I'm going to school tomorrow. It's the last day before Thanksgiving break. It's launch day" (Chapter 21, p. 155).

"I'm Harriet in Harriet the Spy" (Chapter 22, p. 162).

"He read some, but he was so embarrassed he stopped reading. But other people told him about it" (Chapter 23, p. 169).

You'll get through this Erin. You're stronger than you think" (Chapter 24, p. 177).

"If only we'd waited" (Chapter 25, p. 179).

"People always want to know the bad in other people, that's what my mom says. It's a way for them to feel better about themselves" (Chapter 26, p. 186).

"But that's one way to call attention to your cause" (Chapter 27, p. 192).

"You're either incredibly brave or incredibly stupid" (Chapter 28, p. 194).

"So, I'll see you at the Intranet Club, right" (Chapter 29, p. 202).

"That stuff about you like me. You know. More than a friend" (Chapter 30, p. 204).

"Only a real friend would do all that" (Chapter 31, p. 210).



Topics for Discussion

Who is the true Erin Swift? When do you think she figures out she can make it without Jilly always by her side? When Erin has a chance to tell Jilly she likes Mark, why do you think she opts to stay silent? Why do you think Erin needs to keep a private website? What does Erin ultimately realize about her relationship with Jilly?

Discuss the relationship between Erin and Jilly. Are they schoolmates, best friends, crutch and user, or somewhere in between? Is there true competition in their relationship? How does Erin feel about Jilly? How does Jilly feel about Erin? How do Erin's feelings change? What does she do about it? What happens to Jilly?

Discuss the relationship between Erin and Mark. Are they friends, crushes, or somewhere in between? Is there true competition in their relationship? How does Erin feel about Mark? How does Mark feel about Erin? How do Mark's feelings change? What does he do about it? What happens to Mark and Erin's relationship?

Discuss the relationship between Erin and Rosie. Are they friends, schoolmates or somewhere in between? Is there true competition in their relationship? Why doesn't Erin become friends with Rosie sooner? Why do you think Rosie stands by Erin through all of her troubles at school?

Who is the true Jilly? Why do you think that she tells Erin what to do? Do you think she is really selfish or that she doesn't realize she's being bossy? Why does Erin forgive Jilly and why does Jilly forgive Erin?

Who is Mark Sacks? Is he a good person or simply a normal teenager? Do you think he has a crush on Erin before he meets Jilly? What role does Mark play in the troubles Jilly and Erin's friendship encounters?

Discuss Erin's self-esteem. What impact does it have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them and how does it derail their lives?