

How To

Survive

4TH GRADE



By Eva Baxter

Chapter 1: Terrible Places Called 4th Grade. “And that is why 123abc Ridiculously Terrible Makeup is the best makeup! It burns up your face!” The commercial ends, and the TV flashes with horribly matched color. “Welcome back to Flipping Disgusting Houses Boringly with Bored Yuckson!!!” I am sitting on the couch with my mom. And I’m being bored. Yup. Very bored. Watching the world’s most boring show ever. And I am grateful for that. Because I know, that later on it’s not going to be very boring at all. Not like on some of the kids TV shows, where there’s a group of kids traveling around the house or city or country or planet or SOLAR SYSTEM on a adventure or a quest. Finding treasure, and learning facts. It’s just like that, but then stuff it into an iPad and add a sprinkle of poisonous annoying mess and awful schoolwork seasoned with all the opposites of happy, glad and joyful. I, Coco Summer, have to go to terrible places called 4th grade in just 9 days, 7 hours, 39 minutes, and 8 seconds. Yes, I’ve been counting!

I figured out 4th grade would be crummy about 2 days ago, when we were finding out who was in our class. It was on my iPad though, because I go to Butterfly Heights Online Elementary school, which (as you can imagine thanks to the name) is an online school. So, I don't need to go to an actual in-person place. Unless we go in for testing, which is like, 2 days. We did it last year, in 3rd grade, and I think we might do it in 4th. The best part about last year is that that's the awesome year I met my besties, Koralii and Lilian Rose. We're best friends forever, and we have video meetings every single week. Soon enough, it was the moment of truth, exactly 2 days ago. Koralii was frantically emailing me. "What class are you in?" "Do you know yet?" "Coco, are u there?" "COCO. BFF. HELLO?!" I finally answered. "Lol Koralii. Idk what class yet. Rooting for the same class OMG! Your bestie, Coco." Finally, I was sent to a breakout room for a teacher named Ms. Celie. My cats, Cupcake, Sprinkle, and Icecream were purring in support. Since "Ms. Celie" wasn't there, I popped to the main call quick and saw a smiling Lilian Rose and her older sister, Iris Marie.

Seeing one of my best friends gave me just a burst of happiness. She disappeared quickly, so I rushed back to see her in the breakout room. But after I pressed the button, the digital smiling icons I saw were highly disappointing. It was my old 3rd grade friend, Jenny, or as we called her, Jenniboo. Ms. Celie was there too, so I took my eyes off Jenniboo and my scrambled mind off my utter annoyance on the best-friendless breakout room and stuttered hi to my new 4th grade teacher, even though it was still summer break.

“Hello, Colette. Am I pronouncing your name correctly?” The teacher looked nice, so I tried to smile, but I was not happy that neither Koralii or Lilian Rose were even able to be there. “Hi, Ms. Celie...? Yeah, my name is being pronounced right... but I go by Coco.” I mumbled. “Ummmm, can I ask—” my mom butted in. “Hello, Ms. Celie. My name is Sugar Summer, and I am Coco Summer’s mom.” I pushed my mom away. “Ms. Celie? Um... can I ask if there is anyone named Lilian Rose or Koralii, spelled K-O-R-A-L-I-I?”

She searched through the class. “I’m sorry, I don’t see them.” I exploded inside but held a soft smile on the out. Half expecting this and half in total disbelief, I search all over my stumbling brain for my next words. My mind is going crazy, thinking of random sentences I could say like “THE BANANAS SHALL rEvEnGe!?” Or singing “It’s a wonderful mutant exploding beauty” out loud like a banshee. Finally I mumble “ok thanks.” I guess I had, say, 2% hope, but then I saw Korali’s email that “she and Lilian Rose are in the same class and their teacher is Mr. Ben!”. *I have Ms. Celie*, I thought—moaned. That was 2 days, 5 hours, and 2 minutes ago. And here I am, staring at the TV. After Bored Yuckson’s wife Borina Yuckson helped dust a sewer (it showed every piece of dust being swiped and every slimy disgusting thing) it showed yet another weird ad. It’s where 3 girls are running and playing and painting each other’s portrait at school. The ad was for toothpaste that tastes like okra, but I didn’t care. All I saw was the three girls having fun together, and I wished that was Korali, Lilian Rose, and I.

I wake up horrified. I dreamed a terrible dream that Koralii and Lilian Rose forgot all about me, and then I got stuck being best friends with a monster kid who was secretly planning to eat me. Relief suddenly washed over me that it was just a nightmare. I woke up right before the monster's fangs were on me, ready to feast like I was a delicious dinner. I popped on my glasses. They have heart shaped lenses, and they're colored with a bright cyan blue. The sparkles on them shine and jump out like stars. I press them on my face, still relieved to be out of the dream. I hopped out of bed, discovering I slept till almost one! I accept that I only have 8 days left before the year of doom, then went to find my mom. The smell of chocolatey, steamy waffles brushed in my face with a little bit of strawberry fragrance. I assume she must of ordered breakfast from The Wondrous Waffle-y Whale, which, obvi, makes waffles! There are no whales involved, so I don't know exactly what's with that.

“Hi, Mom! I say, glad that the the terrible place called 4th grade is not yet happening. “Good morning, Coco!” She smiles and gives me a hug. “I got breakfast from The Wondrous Waffle-y Whale, for whenever you’re ready.” I knew it! I giggle a little bit. Glancing back at the clock, I realize I’d better eat up. We have our video meet at 2, and I have an Important Thing to tell Koralii. I put a piece of waffle into my mouth and let myself savor the breakfast food’s yummy goodness. The sponge is just right, and it’s smothered with chocolate and strawberries and powdered sugar. After I finish the delicious sweet waffles, I open my iPad and check my mail. 2 emails are sitting in my inbox, so I examine each one. I glance at Koralii’s and decide to read it first. We aren’t in the same classsss, the email literally screams, followed by a trillion hundred thousand cry emojis. *She does know*, I think-groan. I wanted to tell her on the meet today. In fact, that was the Important Thing that I needed to admit at the meet.

I finally responded after 10 minutes of staring at the iPad. “Ikr.” I typed. I quickly added 85,969 frowning and temper tantrum emojis. Yes, I was counting! After I stopped panting from my oddly frantic typing, I opened Lilian Rose’s response with a shaky finger . It was similar to Koralii’s except it just said NO and then had the exact same amount of emojis. The emojis were different though, instead a mix of angry emojis, sad emojis, and emojis that have their mouths zipped shut. I didn’t know what to say. I closed my iPad and walked into my room, ready to get dressed. It’s not really my room. Me and my mom live in a condo in downtown Icecreamville. Our place is only a 1 bed, 1 bath, so we have to share a room. We each have a ‘room’ though. My stuff is on one side, and hers is on the other. I got out of my ADORABLE kawaii cat onesie PJs and into a cute, girly, colorful outfit. Sometimes I wore my kitty onesie during the day, but I know I won’t get to wear those when school starts. So I started wearing some of my cute summer outfits before I’m stuck at Butterfly Heights Online.



I ended up wearing a vibrant aqua t-shirt with spirals and a smiling kawaii girl hugging a tiny, purring kitten against her cheek. My shorts were purple and cheetah print, and I pulled on a denim vest complete with bubblegum pink buttons. I was also wearing my new swimsuit underneath, the one that's a fun sky blue with a cheerful swirl of lime green and a ice cream sundae on front. After my meeting (which ended at 3), we were going to the water park. I checked the sparkly kitty cat watch I had popped on my wrist. 1:59 the curly sweet font practically sang. I raced out of the room and snatched my tablet. With my nose I determined I had more waffles, but I had no time for snacking. I typed in the code and waited to be let in. The app we use for our meets and for the terrible place that shall not be mentioned (school) is a average app called MarshmallowMeet. It sounds good, but it's just any old app. In fact, most of the apps and objects that are originally from around here have names of pretty plants, awesome animals, and most of all, the best sweet, sugary things they can think of.

I pop into the meet. “COCO!!!” Koralii screams. Now we’re all here! Who wants to play LollipopCartwheel?!” Without a nanosecond to spare, Lilian Rose raised an uproar. “YEAH!!!” Koralii giggled as I squealed with her. Koralii presented her tablet screen. Her icon showed her pop into the website. “Which game mode? I want Coco to pick, since she’s not in Mr. Ben’s class.” I stopped laughing, remembering the tragedy discovered what was 3 days ago. Lilian Rose paused too. We were silent for what felt like a century. Finally, after a long sigh, Koralii finally asked me the question again. “Coco, which game mode?” She repeated, trying to sound normal. I shrugged. “Maybe Hula Hoop?” Hula Hoop is my total fave. You can choose from some cute characters before the game starts. When the game starts, you have to hula hoop as many hoops as possible, by either buying a hoop or stealing one from someone else. Whoever has as many hoops get 1st! “Ok! Let’s start!” Koralii cheerfully said. She pressed on the button.

A wave of pinks, purples and greens filled Koralii's screen. A firework of white exploded, and its remnants swirled around, like little white fireflies. The sparks formed into words, and dramatically, it practically *SANG* "Loading game pin".

LollipopCartwheel is really popular for all its cutely matched bursts of color. Suddenly, my heart ached. Koralii, Lilian Rose and I were popular girls back in 3rd grade. What if we wouldn't be popular because we didn't have each other? Mermaid, one of our old classmates, was popular. I didn't know if she had best friends, but she probably was just fine. I pushed that horrible thought out of my mind. The game pin finally had loaded, and both Koralii and Lilian Rose were in. "Earth to Coco! Come on, we gotta start!" Koralii and Lilian Rose were sing-shouting. I giggled and logged in. Maybe I should just forget about it today. I win the Hula Hoop game. We play another before the meet has to end. When it's done, I get ready for the water park.

Chapter 2: Bye Bye Popularity. The rest of the 8 days passed light lightning, and now, here I am. It's the **DAY OF THE FIRST DAY OF 4TH GRADE!** I run around, screaming. School starts at 8:30 am. It's 8:29, so I plop down and snatch up my tablet. My mom is literally sitting right next to me, and I'm not sure how I'm feeling. My stomach feels like it hasn't eaten in a century, even though I just gobbled down some bacon, broccoli with cheese, and a gourmet cinnamon roll. My mom tells me the code to get to Ms. Celie's class, and I turbo-type it into **MarshmallowMeet**. I almost join the meeting, but I feel a churn in my stomach. I feel nauseous, and I want to throw up and get sick and cough like crazy if it means not joining this meet. But it's almost 8:31, and I don't want to be late. I click on the glowing, inviting join button and instantly feel a wave of deep regret. Unfamiliar names and faces fill my tablet's screen and my teacher says hello to each one of the icons. I don't recognize many of the names, profile pictures, or faces. "Hello Jenniboo, hello John, hello Coco, hello Ann..." Ms. Celie is saying. She's smiling **SUPER DUPER HARD**. A boy named Dash pops in.

Dash was in my class last year in 3rd, so I say hello to him. Dash sends a smily emoji reaction and mumbles hello, making sure his video still was off. Most of the kids in my classes are usually shy. I get it. Dash and Jenniboo literally are the only ones in Ms. Celie's class who I know from 3rd grade. I wonder where Lilian Rose and Koralii are for just a split second. I shake my head. What am I, crazy? I've known for 11 DAYS that my best friends wouldn't be with me. Ms. Celie introduces herself, and school begins. My mom leaves after a few minutes. I sit there, feeling dizzy. I could barely contain myself any longer. *I don't want to learn math! When does this thing have a LUNCH BREAK?!* I thought. What if fourth graders didn't get lunch?!? It was 12:00 noon after all! 5 long minutes trudged by. I felt like I had been run over by a truck, a car, a bus, a train, all within a NANOSECOND! Finally, after CENTURIES, the teacher FINALLY let us off for lunch break. All 20 kids happily shouted "bye" at the TOP OF THEIR LUNGS. *I* left without saying anything.

I sighed loudly. *4th grade lunch is 20 whole minutes SHORTER than the one in 3rd grade. That's the absolute best news I've heard. Lucky us.* I thought sadly. Sarcastically. Before my mom could force me off my tablet, I quickly popped into my mail app. 2 emails appeared, as if they were a mist that has suddenly filled the air. The first one was from Mom. I haven't added her to my contacts yet, so it just says 'Sugar' for my mom's name: Sugar Summer. I SHOULD add her to my contacts. I've been procrastinating on that for a pretty long time. I add her to my iPad and changed her name to 'Mom'. I sigh, feeling that short, smooth satisfaction of FINALLY doing something I've meant to do for what seems like FOREVER. I read her message, scanning the letters, words and sentences that seem to be spinning from my horrifying day.

Hi, Coco!

We get to go to The Roller Blade Poké Place for dinner tonight!

Have a good day at school!

Yum! The Roller Blade Poké Place! It sells mochi ice cream, bubble tea, and of course, my favorite food, poké. Poké is like Hawaiian sushi in a bowl. I always choose Build-Your-Own. The Roller Blade Poké Place is really cool, and all the staff roller blades around the restaurant. They also have a humongous skate park in the back. It's my total favorite restaurant. I see my mom preparing to serve my lunch, so I have to hurry to check Koralii's email.

Hiya Coco bestie!!! 4 real, who is in ur class? In our class, besides Lilian Rose, we have Joe, John, Jake, Jack, and Mermaid.

Mermaid?! Whyyyy does Mermaid have to be in Mr. Ben's class? She's mean to me sometimes, but she can be nice, AND she's popular! She'll replace me in OUR OWN bestie group! I responded to Koralii's email stat ("Dash and Jenniboo") and ran away to write in my diary before mom could call me for lunch.

I snuggle up in covers, cuddled with my plushies. My imaginary friends, Berry and Cherry plop down beside me. I've always been glad for those two. Berry is a mermaid, and Cherry is a girl with cat ears (and a tail). I pull out my diary and start to write.

Dear Diary,

My goodness, it's already the **FIRST DAY OF 4TH GRADE!** As you know, this is gonna be a dreaded year of doom. But something even worse has been discovered. Mermaid is Mr. Ben's class with my besties! Rosie hasn't mentioned anything, and Koraliï hasn't said a word. But what if they'll want her to be their bestie **INSTEAD** of me! I mean, if our popularity goes away, since we aren't together for it, she'll make them popular again!

Before I can finish what I'm writing, I hear my mom calling. "COCO! Lunch is ready!" She yells from across the condo. I ignore her.



I begin to finish my diary entry.

I feel like I need a plan. I don't know for what, but I definitely, absolutely, totally do. So, Diary, I need to start now.

“COCO?” My mom is still calling. “I made tea for you!” I put a pillow over my head, not wanting to stop writing. What do I need to have a good plan?

I need to become Detective Coco! Lii and Lilian Rose can't help me this time around, but Detective Coco is still on the case.

“Colette Sugar! School starts in 10 minutes! Come in each lunch!” Then she starts giving me a countdown to say ok.

I gotta go! Detective Coco out!

I dash out, ready to eat. Berry and Cherry follow.

Chapter 3: Detective Coco Strikes Again. The day dragged on and on. Dash turned on his camera for the first time. Jenniboo has been giggling since one of the girls told a joke. (It was corny.) Half the kids in the class already have best friends. For all I know, Koralii and Lilian Rose are already making some new friends to replace me. I sighed. *Geez Louise*, I thought. *Does school ever end?* I wished I could slam my iPad against the wall. We got a break, but it was only 10 minutes. *Back in 3rd grade we would of had a longer break.* I thought. I tried to email Koralii. I asked if she wanted to talk, like we used to in 3rd grade on practically every pause. Finally, a response came up.

Hey Coco!

Sorry it took me so long. Lilian Rose and I are in class still. Gotta go, bestie!

Lii

Great. Koralii and Lilian Rose probably talk with each other on ALL their breaks. Since when did classes have such different schedules?! Ms. Celie's voice cuts through my angry thoughts. "Alright, class! Time for math!" I scream-groan as I go back to MarshmallowMeet. I hate school. The whole lesson is so boring, I almost fall ASLEEP. I sat there, listening to Ms. Celie going on and on about fractions and whatever and whatever and whatever. Oddly, the kids on the screen were smiling and acting like how to add the fractions  $\frac{2}{8}$  and  $\frac{6}{8}$ s to get  $\frac{8}{8}$ s is the world's funnest thing. Last year, kids were moaning and groaning and not participating and always asking the teacher if we could play a game or something. Afterwards, we had music, then more math. By time 1, I was done with school. I called my imaginary friends up again. "Berry! Cherry!" They appeared right away.

We rushed and snatched my diary. It was time for Detective Coco to strike again. My cats ran in front of us. Cupcake sprung into the air, hoping to tackle Icecream. But before she could get caught, sneaky Icecream dodged the attack, leaving Cupcake hurling towards Sprinkle. The cat's playful wrestle match was blocking our way! I flew over Cupcake. Berry dove under Sprinkle. Cherry dodged around Icecream. Together we ran to the bedroom. I belly-flopped on my bed, my imaginary friends following me. I carefully unlocked my diary and opened it up. "What should I do as Detective Coco?" I think aloud. I nibble on cookies for support. Berry and Cherry think with me. "Well, what's your goal?" Prompts Cherry. "Then you can write a plan in your diary." My imaginary friends always know what to do. "Thanks Cherry. That's great!" I toss a cookie in my mouth. "I need to save my friendship with my besties. That's what I need." I pull out a pen and start frantically scribbling in my diary.

Dear Diary,

Well, as a detective, I need clues on what to do. How do I save a friendship? I need clues...clues...clues...

How did we become besties in the first place? Well, we were nice to each other, and we did cool stuff with each other. Um...and we tried to be nice to Mermaid together even though I don't think she liked us very much. Why do I keep on thinking about Mermaid? She can't and won't steal our friendship! BFFL means best friends for life!

I smile down at my diary. Case closed! I pop a few more cookies in my mouth and put my diary away. My imaginary friends skip along behind me as I make my way to the kitchen. I grab more cookies and a glass of cool milk. I glance at the clock. *OMG! IT'S 1:58?! My meeting with Koralii and Lilian Rose is at 2!*

I dash across the room with my cookies and milk. My imaginary friends are panting to keep up with me. I toss 5 pillows on the floor for cushion, cover it with a purple fluffy blanket, and add a last pillow on top. I grab a tiny table and sit down my little snack. I leap to get my iPad and twirl down as I furiously type in the code. Berry and Cherry are just standing there, giggling. “Coco, that had to be the world record for getting prepared. It’s not even 1:59 yet!” Berry laughed. I nodded my head. “Yeah, I kinda freaked out when I saw the time.” I agreed. I popped into the meeting at 2 on the dot. “Coco!” Screamed Koralii and Lilian Rose in unison. “There’s this boy who told a really funny joke in our class and his sister is also in our class because their twins and do you remember Felicia from the other class we met her last year well this year she’s in our class and—“ I stare at them, not sure what to say. Suddenly, we all burst out laughing. I dip my cookie in the milk and we all chat. I dunno, but somehow I feel like this is a success for

**DETECTIVE COCO!**

Chapter 4: Coco, Mermaid, and The Meeting. I can't believe that it's already been 4 long weeks of 4th grade. I can't believe how surprisingly easy it was, either! A lot of kids in my class still need to review the stuff from 3rd grade. So we've spent a lot of time relearning perimeter and how  $\frac{2}{4}$  is the same as  $\frac{1}{2}$ . I dunno, but this grade isn't hard after all! We've been having meetings ALMOST everyday. We can't have them on Wednesdays anymore, and we've never had them on weekends. But of course, we email, like a lot! Whenever we can. Though I still can't always email them on breaks, there are those few times where all 3 of us are free to chat! It was 1:30. My imaginary friends were braiding each other's hair, and I was watching my favorite show. It was Tuesday, our day off. Of course, on weekends and days off, I was back to wearing my kitty-cat onesie. I carefully took it off and put on an outfit. Summer had come to an end. The first snowfall had fell, and snowflakes dusted the browning grasses and wilted flowers. Orange autumn leaves were all over, covering entire parks and forests.

Thinking of the cold, I put on a warm, bright lavender sweater with a picture of a adorable baby koala partying with a kitten eating cotton candy and a puppy with ice cream. I pulled on a sparkly, blue sweater and some jeans. I put on my cute little kitten slippers and I was ready for the day! I sat down to finish watching my show. 30 minutes later, I leap up and grab my iPad. The alarm is practically singing, **IT'S 2:00! GET TO YOUR MEETING!** I turn off the alarm and get ready for my meeting. By time I pop in, I'm panting. When I look down at the iPad, I get a surprise of a lifetime. **Mermaid is here! Mermaid is at OUR MEETING!** "Hey Coco!" Says Mermaid. "I didn't know you would be here?" I grumble quietly so she could hear. "Um, yeah, I always come." I might stop always coming if she keeps coming. I stare at Korali. Lii invited Mermaid, didn't she? I'm super surprised! Last year, she made sure Mermaid never got her hands on the code! Why is she here? I shoot Korali a super quick email.



Lii, WHY is Mermaid here? Why?

I get a response right away.

She's just here, she's not a best friend or anything.

I pop back to the meet and shrug. Maybe, if I'm nice to Mermaid, she'll be nice and I'll discover she's not mean. I hope. I gulp and bring the courage to ask a question. "Do you want to play LollipopCartwheel?" Mermaid smiles and nods her head. Maybe we'll be friends after all! After a half hour of laughing, giggling, and fun, with Koralii AND Mermaid, Lilian Rose pops in. "Hey besties!" She says. "Want to see something? So my sister and I—" Rosie suddenly stops. And then again, she asks it. "Lii, WHY is Mermaid here? Why?" Mermaid frowns. Koralii turns off her camera. And I send Lilian Rose an email.

Hate 2 say it, but, dat was kind of mean, Rosie.

Lilian Rose frowns when she receives the email.

Yeah, kinda it was. Neither Koralii or Mermaid are saying anything. Srry

I frown when I receive the email.

Maybe u should say srry, 2, like Mermaid and Lii.

Rosie frowns again.

Fine.

I frown again too. Apologies are made, and things go back to normal in our meeting. Kind of. We all play LollipopCartwheel again. We have a drawing contest. And we sing to our favorite songs!

After many meetings like that, I thought that we were all happy. Earlier in our meetings, we had established that Mermaid...was a bestie. Kind of like this. It was the end of a meeting, and we were like, "bye!" And Mermaid was like, "bye besties!" And Koralii and Rosie shouted "Besties!" At first, besties with Mermaid was awesome. But then it happened. The joke. As best friends forever, we love playing jokes and pranks on each other. But there is 1 out of us 3 who cannot get enough of those pranks. Lilian Rose! Rosie plays this certain prank almost every meeting, and Koralii and I have grown to not mind. You see, Lilian Rose will pretend that she's upset or something. She's really convincing, so she really can get you thinking she's sad. Then, all of a sudden, she'll just be like, "jk! I was joking!" She hasn't done it in a while though, since last time it caused 2 arguments over random things. So when she did it with Mermaid, it was the last thing that we expected and Mermaid didn't know what to say. "What do you mean it's jk?! I thought you were actually sad!"

She cried. "What do you mean?!" Lilian Rose got defensive. "Well, you pranked me in class! Who are you, the Prank Queen?" She yelled. "I SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF FUN TOO!" Mermaid growled. "Fun? Well it's NOT fun to play mean jokes on people!" Koralii and I shot each other a look on MarshmallowMeet. So far, this play date was going terribly. We were thinking the same thing. EMAIL TIME! I threw her an email.

Um, Lii, what should we do? Lilian Rose and Mermaid really aren't getting along.

I could see Koralii frantically typing, a horrified look sprawled across her face.

Idk! I might have 2 pretend da meeting is ending if it will get them 2 stop!

I sat there, thinking. In the back of my head, I could hear Rosie and Mermaid fighting. "I thought maybe you guys could be my very best friends! But I'm not coming here if you're gonna be mean!" Mermaid screamed. "I'm not!" Lilian Rose frowned. "I didn't expect you to be here anyways! So you can leave!" I sent an email.

Plz don't! Ik what 2 do!

Koralii just nodded her head.

What's da plan?

I typed quickly.

I need 2 be Detective Coco. And I need you, Detective Lii, w/ me! If we can figure out what da goal is, then use clues 2 think through the answer, we can stop this!

Koralii smiled.

I could hear them still grumbling and fighting. It was no good. Koralii sent an answer.

When Lilian Rose and u had a fight, when u changed your mind and made a picture collage 2 say 'I'm sorry.' Maybe Mermaid could do dat, since we know dat it stops Rosie from being angry.

It was a good idea, but something was wrong.

But we can't make Mermaid do dat.

I sighed.

Oh right. Well, now we gtg. We can figure it out soon!  
Email when u can!

I sighed again.

I'll email! And keep on working on it! We have another meeting tomorrow and we want Mermaid to come! But if she does, it could cause catastrophe!!!

Chapter 5: Mermaid the Best Friend. After dinner, I ran to prepare. Of course, Detective Coco needed to step up with her best friend Detective Koralii. Of course, all great detectives need tools. I tossed on my green kawaii kitty detective hat and sparkly blue trench coat. I ran to snatch my binoculars and magnifying glass! I put a little powdered sugar in a baggie to use like fingerprint powder. My iPad to email Lii, and some cookies for energy. And my diary for notes, since every great detective needs a way to record her thinking. I run off and flop on my bed, tossing a cookie in my mouth. I pull out my diary.

Dear Diary,

Maybe Lii was onto something. She said that Lilian Rose could get a picture collage from Mermaid. But we can't make Mermaid do that. So what should we do?

I sit and think, staring at my diary. That's when I spot my iPad. It's the tool I need!

I leap up and shout the secret code. “My cat’s a detective from France who lives in a library on a beach!” I scream. Berry and Cherry instantly appear. My mom glances in the room, looking confused. But she walks away. Berry giggles. “What’d you find out, Detective Coco?” She asks. I dance around the room. “I have a plan! But, we need to look through my emails with Lilian Rose first, to find out more about her!” I stop dancing and flop on my bed. I consume another cookie. “Okay! We can keep track of what we know about Rosie in your diary!” I twirl with drama and nod my head up and down! Berry looks through my emails while I take notes. Cherry is just pacing through the room. “Aha!” We all scream at the same time. We all laugh. “This email says that Lilian Rose knew Mermaid before she even knew us!” Says Berry. I send a thumbs up. “Noted!” I tell her. Cherry cheerfully jumps on my bed. “Well I know what we can do!” She says. “Maybe, since they knew each other, they are also close friends! Before the argument, they got along really well!



I gasp. “That’s true! I feel like something about that and the picture collage is giving me an idea!” I eat a cookie and start writing in my diary. My imaginary friends watch my every move.

Well, Diary, I think I have an idea!

Berry and Cherry gasp.

What if we could invite them both to a show at the meeting tomorrow? I’ll invite Rosie, and Koralii can invite Mermaid!

“But what’s the show?” Asks Cherry. “Tell me!” I just giggle.

It can be a photo collage about best friends!

“That’s a great idea!” Screams Berry. She dances around the room.

I sigh. “Well, if I’m gonna make it work, I’ve gotta email Koraliï.” The next day arrives, slowly and nervously. I wake up 30 minutes earlier than normal. I get into a cute blue dress with ruffles and buttons that look like teddy bears. I want to do school at the park, but it’s cold out there! I open the window and a 40 degree wind flies onto me. “Gah!” I yell. I close it back. I comb and braid my long hair. I realize I didn’t put on my glasses, so I pop them on. I run out to the kitchen. Berry and Cherry appear, ready for breakfast! But when they see me, they burst out laughing. I look at them, confused. Why are my imaginary friends giggling? “Coco, look, I’m sorry, but, I, um gotta break it to ya. You-you’re like, only kinda, but kinda sorta really wearing your mom’s glasses.” Breathes Cherry. “Aaaand um look but also your hair is sticking up off your head. And your dress is backwards, aaaaand kinda inside out.” I run to the mirror to check out what she’s talking about. “Yikes! That’s true!” I shriek. “Oops! I must have been rushing again. I need to see if Koraliï responded. I didn’t work on any of it last night!”

I gasp. “Oh! And neither of them have been invited! Without the invitation, Mermaid may NEVER want to come back!” I’m running around thinking of all the problems and possibilities when Berry and Cherry stop me. “Woah woah woah!” Says Berry. “I can see why you got your preparations wrong! You are really worrying about stuff!” Cherry nods. “Maybe you should just eat breakfast. We’ll think about the show, glasses, hair, and dress later.” I slowly walk to the table and eat my breakfast. I savor the deliciousness of the cinnamon roll, it’s frosting going over the side of the pastry. I take down my hair. I think I’m too tired to do my braids today. I just wear my hair down. I give my mom her glasses and put on my own. And of course, I put on my dress, forwards and right-side out. I rush to my iPad, Berry and Cherry following. Did Koraliū respond?

She did!

Cool! i invited Mermaid already, just so you know. And i started on da photo collage. Now all u have 2 do is add on! Hope you don't mind!

“She thought I would mind?!” I shouted. “Guys, this is awesome! She did sooo well! And it's giving me so many ideas!” I told my imaginary friends. “Woo woo!” Shouts Berry and we all laugh. I send Lilian Rose an invitation and we begin working. It was 8:00, so I needed to work quickly to create the invitation before school started at 8:30! 8:05 and I added more photos. 8:15 and they had captions and decorations! 8:20 and it was made into a video presentation! 8:25, sound effects and music! 8:28 and I sent it to Korali! 8:29 and she sent me an email!

Thumbs up!

Years flew by. I've been waiting for 800 years, but school never ended. I may be waiting here for all of eternity... well it's not all that dramatic, but it did take a long time. Luckily, I didn't mind school anymore. Recently, the lessons had been getting oddly funner. We played math games and told math jokes! And there was lots of yummy math too, like adding my 2,468 chocolate cupcakes to Jenniboo's 7,531 vanilla cupcakes to get 9,999 cupcakes in total but, after all, I was happy when school ended at 1. One step closer to the show! I figured I could use this last hour to give Koralii an email.

Hey Lii? Um, who's sharing their screen and who's talking?

I wait for an answer.

You can talk, I'll share.

I gulp.

Okay...but wut do i say?

Her answer comes in almost right away.

Whatever you want. Try to make a script. It helps.

I breathe.

Okay, if you say. I gotta go write my script and practice!

I run and get my detective tools and diary. My imaginary friends help me carry them. We carry them all to my room and let the materials fall onto my bed. My imaginary friends and I sit there, considering what we should do. “Um...so maybe we should wing it and just begin?” Prompts Cherry. “It’s 1:15 and we have less than an hour to finish this.”

“Meh. I’m on the verge of quitting.” I sigh. “There’s no point of going if I’m uninspired. This detective-ing isn’t working very well any more!” My imaginary friends nod their heads. “That’s true, Coco. That’s true.” Sighed Berry. “We need to come up with a new system for stuff like this.” A book fell on my head. “Yow!” I screamed, studying the book. It was blue, and covered in glitter. It smelled just like... a book. It read ‘Cats’ in fancy, curly handwriting. Cherry’s handwriting. “Sorry!” squeaked Cherry, who was jumping on my bed. “I didn’t mean to drop it on your head.” I hand it to her as she flips, leaps, and twirls on the soft, springy mattress. I roll on my side and think some more. There has to be another way to make stuff work! Berry looks worried. “It’s 1:25. Hurry up!” She screams. She dramatically begins throwing pillows. “We’ll never do this in time!” Agrees Cherry, trying to dodge Berry’s soaring cushions. When nobody is looking, I skip out of the room. Too much distraction!

I must have fallen asleep, because next thing I know my imaginary friends were shaking me awake. “Coco! Wake up!” Shouted Cherry. “It’s 1:55! Are you going today?!” I start to shake my head no when it hits me. I don’t have a choice. I HAVE to go. Koralii is depending on me! “Yeah.” I yawn. “I’m just going to have to wing it.” Cherry shrugs, but Berry shakes her head. “Coco, you can’t just wing it. That’s like expecting that if you choose dare on Truth or Dare, that Koralii isn’t going to ask you to close your nose and say ‘MarshmallowMeet’. Unbelievable right?” I laugh at Berry’s illustration, and she laughs too. The time ticks by quickly as I work. By time 1:59, I screamed and threw my iPad on my head.

“AUGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH” I screamed. “THIS WILL NEVER WORK!” My imaginary friends look at the time, look at each other, then look at me. “Um, maybe you will have to wing it.” Shrugs Berry. “Hopefully this works!”



I shudder and try to join my meeting. I immediately pop in, and I see Koraliï. “Share your screen!” I shout. “Quick! Before the other BFFs come!” As Koraliï shares her screen. Mermaid and Lilian Rose simultaneously pop into the meeting. They frowned when they saw each other, but didn’t say a thing. *Phew, I thought. At least there aren’t any loud arguments.* Koraliï’s screen shows a red curtain. Mermaid and Lilian Rose looked confused. “Is this some kind of play?” Mermaid asked. I shook my head. Koraliï hits play and the video begins. I looked at the screen, not knowing what to say. Cherry tapped my shoulder. “Just say what the screen says.” She whispers. “Maybe that’ll work?” I give her a thumbs up as I begin to speak. The show goes on perfectly, and by the end, Rosie and Mermaid are best friends again! We go back to our fun, games, and singing and as I joke around with my friends, I know I’ve found my new technique to make things right again.

Chapter 6: The Next 2 Years. Well, I've always known that after 4th and 5th grade, you go to 6th grade. But when only two years are separating you from middle school, it kinda stresses you out. I don't know anything about it, and not knowing about things scares me. And when I really get thinking about the future, it seems so close I can't breathe. I mean, now it's October 15. Some months until June and then boom! It's summer break. Then, when school starts again in September, it's 5th grade! June again, September again, middle school! See what I mean? It's so quick, it's almost creepy! It's 7:30, so I hop out of bed. I press my heart-shaped glasses on my face as I leap to my dresser to put on an outfit. I pull out an adorable warm wool sweater with a kawaii bunny sipping a mug of glorious steaming hot coco and holding a plate of crumbly cookies. My sweatpants are bubblegum pink with lime green and movie star kittens on the knees. I smile when I realize it's Friday again.

I put my long hair in a flowing braid and snap on a banana yellow bow at the end. I skip out of the bedroom to see what's for breakfast. After chowing down on a strawberry banana smoothie, I went to check my emails. *Nothing there!* I thought. I shrugged and checked the time. It was 8:00 AM on the dot, so I had 30 minutes to do whatever. I set a quick alarm on my iPad for 8:20 and collapsed on the couch for a before-school nap. Sure enough, before I knew it I was fast asleep, and horrible dreams begun forming in my head. They were all about how terrible middle school would be. I wake up, panting. The alarm I set is playing in the back, so I hop up. *8:25, yikes...* I thought. *I slept 5 minutes through my alarm.* I turn it off, sit in my desk chair, and prepare to start school.

Later that day, after reading time, Ms. Celie gave us a break to chat. Still thinking about middle school and what will happen, I ask my classmates a question. "Have you guys realized how close middle school is from now?" I wonder. "It's only 2 years until it's time for goodbye to elementary, and hello 6th grade!" My classmates nod their heads in agreements. "I know right, Coco?" Sighs Jenniboo. "And we don't even know what will happen." The conversation goes on and on. Dash thinks that in middle school that we will have to go to in-person school. A girl named Robin agrees, but she thinks that we'll ride there in flying cars driven by AI powered robots. A boy named Ben thinks that for only two years in the future from now, that's a little too high tech. Hearing my classmate's mix-matched ideas on middle school almost makes it funny.

The day goes on and on. I check the temp outside to see if I can take an after-school walk, but I frown to see a forecast of it getting into the the 40s, 30s, and even late 20s. I shiver and pull on a blanket. It's now 1:52, so I'm preparing for our bestie meeting. I make a little mattress for me to relax on, and I bring a juicy pear with a chocolate sauce for dipping. My imaginary friends are licking their lips while looking at my snack, but I stop them before they dig into the fruit. "Stop!" I giggle-shout. "It's for the fun meet!" Cherry collapses and all 3 of us laugh. I'm still thinking about middle school, oddly enough. Thanks to my classmates, I'm no longer scared. But I think it might be interesting to see what other students think... especially my besties! Soon enough, after I rescued my pear from Cupcake, got a pillow for my head, and snatched a warm blanket, it was time for our meeting. Mermaid, Lilian Rose, and Lii were giggling and joking and goofing around.

“Hey besties!” I cheerfully said. “I have a question for you.” My besties’ 3 pairs of eyes all widened and they happily began jumping up and down. “Tell us!” They cried. “We want to hear!” I began to jump too. “OMG, have you realized that middle school is only 2 years from now?” I squealed. “I mean, it will be 5th grade in just 11 months! And with the add on of a year more, **MIDDLE SCHOOL!**” Koralii screamed and fell over. “What?!” She gasped. “In just 1 year and 11 months?!” A hush of silence fell over the group. After ten long seconds, we suddenly began to laugh. “I don’t know anything about middle school.” Mermaid thought aloud. “Maybe we’ll get ice cream sandwiches for lunch or something.” She happily closed her eyes, daydreaming of an all-you-can-eat ice cream sandwich bar at school. I laid my head on my pillow and dipped a slice of pear in the chocolate dip. “Maybe we’ll learn how to convince your parents to do anything you want.” I contently sighed. “I’d love to get an A+ in **THAT** kinda school subject.” Koralii and Lilian Rose giggled.

“We could learn to fly huge spaceships. Warp speed fast, high tech ones.” giggled Koraliï. “Up to the asteroids, planets, stars, to the ends of the universe and keep on going.” Mermaid, Koraliï and I all sighed. Lilian Rose thought for a second. “I bet *ALL* of those things will happen,” she singsong-squealed. “And our teachers will give us unlimited cotton candyyyyyy!” She laughed and leapt up. Of course, with it being online, I couldn’t see where she was going, but I had a feeling she was going to her kitchen. Lilian Rose came back with a pre-packaged bag of cotton candy. I laughed and ate another slice of pear. The 4 of us sat, imagining a school that serves ice cream and cotton candy and teaches you how to blast out of the galaxy and get anything you want. Berry and Cherry happily sat on a pillow. “You see?” says Berry. “There’s absolutely nothing to worry about.” I nod my head in agreement. I mean, why be afraid of a school that does fun things for kids like that? I almost want to go to middle school right **NOW** if that’s what happens.

After a terrific meeting giggling with my awesome besties, I leapt onto the squishy couch with a blanket and hot chocolate. *If I go with the flow, everything will work out!* I happily thought. *Just like how I just winged it with that show!* The rest of the day flew by. Dinner was some delicious buttered corn on the cob and scrumptious pork chops, and dessert was the biggest ice cream sundae you'd ever seen. It was bigger than dinner, and it had cookies and maraschino cherries and caramel sauce and chocolate sauce all over it. At the very tippy top there was one finally juicy cherry nestled in a puff of whipped cream. I immediately dug in and it was SOOOO good! It was my favorite flavor of ice cream, mint chocolate chip. Little pieces of frosting and cake was inside, and I found a few of my favorite candy. The big dessert took me until 8, but it was totally worth it. I went on to drink some soda, watch a movie, and play Rollerblade Boba Tea Party (my personalized version of tea parties).



At 2 am, I finally decided to go to my mom and I's room. I arrange my bed just the way I like it. I turn a lot in my sleep, so I have a blanket rolled up as a long wall to keep me from falling off the bed. I spread a sheet decorated with kawaii bunnies around and I pull on the fluffiest, softest blanket ever. I belly flop onto the marshmallow squish of my cushion and snuggle under the covers. Of course, I always stay up late on a Friday. I read some favorite books and doodle comics in my diary. Eventually, at 3, I decide to go to bed. I *never* can stay up past 3 in the morning, and I know that I'm going to sleep till 1 pm tomorrow. As I cuddle in and begin to snore, good dreams come into my head. I dream that I'm 11 and that I'm strutting into middle school, where Mermaid and Lilian Rose are snacking on ice cream sandwiches and cotton candy. I snack and laugh with them until I see the most amazing thing: Koralii in a super high tech, futuristic space ship. In the dream, me and my besties are floating through the multiverse where we enter a cat universe where my mom will give me anything I want.

I wake up and my cats are licking my face. Cupcake, Sprinkle, and Icecream are yodeling the loudest meows I've ever heard. I squeeze their chubby cheeks and give them some tuna, and I discover I woke up just in time to watch some of my favorite show. I smile. All I did was go with the flow!

Chapter 7: Aliens on January 1st! I wake up and feel the cold seeping through my pjs. I pull the blanket over my head. It's the weekend, and it's already the last day of December. I sigh as I get up and check my iPad. "Oh jeez," I mutter. "It's that cold?" It's getting up to 32 Fahrenheit again, but right now it's 17. I put on a bright bubblegum pink sweater matched with cotton candy blue overalls and I skip out of the room. My mom is sitting on the couch, watching some boring grown-up show. "Hi Coco!" My mom greets. "What do you want for breakfast?" I think hard. "Waffles." I finally say. "Can we get it from the Wondrous Waffle-y Whale?" My mom gives me a thumbs up. I glance at the time in the kitchen. *I slept in*, I think. *It's 11:46*. "Want to dine in this time?" Asks my mom, standing up. I immediately begin to jump up and down. "Sure, sure, sure!" I bounce-squeal. "I love dining in!" I'm doing flips on and off the couch once we leave. We hop in the car. We have so much fun! We eat the steaming waffles and drown them in chocolate. Afterwards, we skate at the outdoor rink and get some hot coco from a nearby cafe. We park our car and ride the elevator home.

When we get home, I put on my pajamas, wrap up in a blanket, and watch a movie. I check the time. Then I read a very long new book I had. 300 pages in 2 hours. Yeah! *It's 11:59 pm!* I think. *A whole another YEAR starts in just one minute.* My eyes are glued to my iPad as the time changes. My mouth falls open, mind blown. I was amazed at how it was an entire new year with the change of a swift nanosecond. Satisfied, I eat a slice of chocolate tres leche cake and hop in the bed. And then I hear a crash. Berry and Cherry jump. I imagine they'd feel a little safer if I had one more imaginary friend, a third one. I could name her Blueberry, and she could be a girl with a unicorn horn. I decide to introduce Blueberry to my imaginary friends tomorrow. Remembering the loud crash, I slowly crawl out of bed to see my cats. They were spooked, and I could see that they had knocked over a lamp. *But what spooked them?* I shivered, imagining an alien monster making Icecream jump, Sprinkle hiss, and Cupcake puff up her tail. I petted my cats as they purred and then I went back to bed. Winter break was only for a few more days, so I wanted to have the energy to enjoy it tomorrow.

I calmly fell asleep, but deep inside I was suspicious on what could have freaked out my little kittens. I wake up the next morning, feeling surprisingly toasty. I was wrapped up a warm, soft, fluffy blanket. I crawl out of bed. Evidently, my mom's sleeping in. Berry and Cherry had set me a bowl of my favorite cereal and were crunching on their own. I remembered Blueberry, my new 3rd imaginary friend. "Hey Berry and Cherry!" I told them. "I have somebody I'd like you to meet." Blueberry skipped out of the room. She was wearing some kawaii otter onesie and was hugging a little stuffed bear. "Hi!" She happily greeted. "Nice to meet ya!" My 3 imaginary friends happily chatted and ate. Afterwards, we watched the best shows on TV before they went off. I glanced out the window at January's bare, bald, leaf-less trees. But then I saw it. A quick, large circle's shadow appeared out of nowhere. It flew by like a hawk, and suddenly, the shadow dissipated again. I shook my head fast and leaped on the sofa.

That had to be a hallucination. But still, I couldn't help wondering the question. Omg, were there aliens on January 1st?

Chapter 8: Weird. It's January 4th, the official end of Butterfly Heights Online School's winter break. I trudge to my desk, angry. Was this really happening? I mean, like was I having some weird dream that Winter Break was over and it was actually still December. Of course it's not. If so, my whole life would be a dream. After all, my life is weird. Like, for example, this. Of course, I got an email from Koralii, one from Lilian Rose, and one from Mermaid. But for the first time, I got one from Dash! It said:

**Hey Coco! IM SO MAD DA BREAK ENDED  
GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR**

After that, here's all I could think: *weird*. And when I got into school, all the kids were singing gibberish in unison. *Weird*. My day went by in an awkward fashion with a side touch of strange and a sprinkle of odd. At lunch break, Cherry, Berry, and Blueberry started doing some strange, imaginary friend acrobats. *Weird*. But there was one weird thing that stuck out to me.

Mermaid. She was not being very nice that day and I did not know why. I had just joined our 2:00 meeting. “Look at this drawing I made!” Shouted Koralii. She had made a very nice drawing of the four of us, surfing on the waves. It was on a fabulous drawing app we all have. It always looks so realistic. “Ooh la la!” Complimented Lilian Rose. “That’s awesome, Lii!” I bounced up and down. “Totally!” I agreed. “Super sweet!” Koralii smiled. “Thanks!” She said. Mermaid just sat there. “Want to see mines?” I asked. “I made one of us eating one big puff of cotton candy.” My besties jumped up and down. “Yea yea yea!” They screamed. Except Mermaid. I presented anyways. The three of us were giggling and complimenting each other’s drawings. It turned out that Lilian Rose made a really cool one where the 4 of us were cats. And finally Mermaid spoke. “Can we do something?” She asked. She sounded a little bored. I don’t think that she realized that it sent the message that she didn’t like my cotton candy, Koralii’s surfing, or Rosie’s cats.



“Yeah, sure.” I said at last. Koraliū and Lilian Rose eagerly nodded their heads, but they didn’t look as happy anymore. “We can play LollipopCartwheel!” says Mermaid. “I’ll host this time!” As she said, she hosted, and we played LollipopCartwheel, but it wasn’t as fun as it normally is. Suddenly, I was worried. Worried about Mermaid, my cats, aliens, and stuff like that. Especially weird stuff.

Chapter 9: It's Snowing, It's Pouring. I hate when this kind of year comes around. It's still January 10th, and I think January feels like the longest month of the year. And it SNOWS. Oh yeah, where I live in downtown Icecreamville, it really snows. Earlier this morning, it was 33 degrees and sunny. There was still snow on the ground of course, but that was thin compared to what it is now. At around noon, the city was taken over by a thick white blur. You guessed it. Blizzard! Somehow, it dropped from 33 to -2. It felt like you could get frostbite by even touching the window. We only talked about things in school that seemed to make me even colder. In morning meeting, we played a Winter Would You Rather. In reading, we read a book about polar bears. In science, we learned how snowflakes form. Even in math, we learned about negative numbers. It was very unpleasant and I found myself in a blanket the whole time.

And then...kaboom! The blizzard went away with the end of school. And what I saw was amazing. I winter wonderland. The trees were frosted with snow like cupcakes. There were so many people making snowmen and having snowball fights. Somebody even drew a very long hopscotch course into the snow! And it was 3 feet deep! My mom and I tried to go outside. I fell on my back and I was almost buried in snow. We had to go upstairs because my mom was afraid of slipping on the ice. And of course, that caused a problem. There was so much snow we couldn't do anything! And then I made a decision. I'd have to be Detective Coco again. I needed to find entirely indoors things to do. And so that's what I did. I made little cupcakes. I added some powdered sugar on top of them to look like snow. We ate it with vanilla ice cream and it tasted so good! It tasted like snow. And one of my cats, Icecream, inspired me to redo 'It's Raining, It's Pouring.' I wrote it in my diary.

Dear Diary,

It's snowing, it's pouring, And Icecream is snoring.  
She made a mess, flopped down to rest, and was a  
lazy cat in the morning.

I sang that song all day, everyday for the next few  
snowing weeks. I just made the funniest cat video? I  
sing that song. Lilian Rose just emailed me? I sing  
the song. I'm doing a cartwheel? I'm singing. It's  
finally Friday? La la laaaaa! I feel crazy singing this  
made-up song, but it's passed some time. There's been  
days where in my free time I'd just sit on the couch  
and start singing. I even sang it when meeting with  
my besties! The 4 of us laughed and giggled and sang.  
"It's snowing!" I started. "It's pouring!" Koralii did a  
cartwheel out of sight. "And Icecream is snoring!" She  
added. Lilian Rose was next. "She made a mess!"  
Giggled Rosie. Now it was Mermaid's turn. "Flopped  
down to rest!" She sang. For the final verse, we sang  
together. "And was a lazy cat in the morning!" We  
sang in unison.

I was absolutely less bored. The weeks flew by, and eventually, it was February. It was only one month before March, yet snow still made its way out of the clouds and blew along in the wind. A few rains made in its way, and there was a little bit of sun. But it never did much. The sun never melted the thick icy snow, and the rain froze when it got cold. Every day's high seemed to be 35, and all the Fahrenheit lows were 24. The third month of winter was here, and it got to be depressing. I couldn't even enjoy the white, fluffy, cool snow, because the cars polluted it with brown, and dogs and puppies made yellow snow. It was not enjoyable at all. Not even when I sang my song. I'd drank so much cocoa that we ran out of anything we had to make hot cocoa. We used all of the cocoa mix, sipping chocolate mix, cocoa powder, sugar, chocolate sauce, and milk. I had chocolate chips and water, but that would've made some pretty nasty cocoa. I, Coco Summer, adore cocoa and summer, but I didn't get to have either. Even though it's in my name.

*Chapter 10: Everything Sucks. Colette Summer, the brave astronaut is boarding her super-sonic, warp-speed ship, the Summerboard, to be the first person to venture past the solar system and even the galaxy to find life throughout the universe. This ship will travel so fast to the Andromeda galaxy that it would not be exactly wrong to say this brave girl is teleporting. And the ship is off! It's already halfway there. She made it! She's already at the first suspected habitable planet. Ah ha! For the first time, in the year 3999, life on other planets has been discovered! These creatures have thousands of eyes. I'm sure that they know that we come in peace—Oh no! Coco is running back onto the Summerboard. What's going on? The alien creatures are attacking her! One is eating the Summerboard. Alert! Mission Control! Nooooooooooooo!*

I wake up, panting. I am sucked back to real life, and it's no longer the far-off year of 3999. Back in the 21st century. I shake the dream off of me and hug the cat onesie jammies I'm wearing. I've only had bad dreams for the past few days.

Everything sucks. It's a Friday. I STILL have to go to school. Everything sucks. I only have nightmares and I'm absolutely sure that there are monsters or aliens in that room. I choose a soft, cute outfit, covered in sequins and cute designs. I skip out, ready to go to school. Everything sucks. Online school absolutely does. I have bad internet connection, for one. And of course, we have a substitute teacher. And she's pretty strict. What happened to kindergarten's smiling subs with fun activities? School starts off with a no talking rule, a no tattling rule, and no games in morning meet. We immediately leap into the hardest long division. Berry, Blueberry, and Cherry are sitting around when school ends. "Well, both Detective Coco AND going with the flow seems to be working now." Groans Cherry. "What are you going to do?" I stop in my tracks. When I used Detective Coco to come up with my song, I didn't even think about that. I still don't know which one really works. I sit down and think. Which strategy makes things work? Now, until I figure it out, I'm not gonna try to make things work at ALL. Yep, everything sucks.

But that decision made everything suck even more. Since I wasn't trying to make things right, Mermaid got offended, my mom gave me punishment, and Cupcake got bit and tackled by Sprinkle when she tried to eat her own tuna. She accidentally bit me too as she hissed in warning at poor little Cupcake. Now my ankle had fang-marks from the doggone cat. I wash it off—ow! It stings me like a poisonous snake. I need to figure this out NOW. I already felt like something somewhere was angry at me—no—**FURIOUS** at me. But now, my ankle, Mermaid, Mom, and Cupcake were all very mad. Oh yeah. I need to figure it out. That night, I flop into bed and pull up my fluffy, soft blanket. I cuddle into the marshmallow cushion of my mattress. I yawn. I'm tired, but I can't go to bed yet. I refuse to go to bed until I figure it out. It's 3 in the morning now. I'm holding my eyes open with my last strength, refusing each yawn and shaking my head fiercely when I nod off. My diary is full of plans go wrong, my blanket has been pushed straight off the bed with my planning and writing and groaning. Cherry is shaking Berry and Blueberry awake, and I can't even tell her to stop screaming at 3:17 AM.



I give in. I fall asleep yet again.

*Coco Summer is the most ancient person in this arm of the galaxy. Here, in the year 2672, this woman, born in 2013, is turning 659! Tell us, Summer, what is your secret? \*Gasp!\* She can't tell the rest of humankind because she doesn't have a strategy to make things right! An angry crowd is swarming Summer. "Tell us more!" "Now!" "Don't keep secrets!" All of humankind is coming against Summer! "What good are secret-keepers for 2672? What good are secret-keepers for 2672!? WHAT GOOD ARE SECRET-KEEPERS FOR 2672!?!?"*

I wake up. Shivering, I snatch my glasses and run out of the room. That was a terrifying dream, and I don't want to be 659 years old. I shiver again. I must have fallen asleep before I could figure anything out. I sigh. It's a Saturday, at 1:20 pm. *Must of really slept in*, I start to think. Then I slap my forehead. *Of course* I slept in late. I stayed up till 3:20 in the morning, even my mom was asleep!

I yawn and plop on the couch. I stare out the window to see brown, polluted snow and gray, leafless trees. Worthless to even look. January is SO ignorant of what winter's supposed to be: vanilla ice cream snow, dusted, iced, frosted across trees. Snowmen and snowgirls, snowball fights. Come back to real life. My mom is sitting on the couch, watching one of her home repair shows. "And we come back to: Home Repairing for an Hour with our host: Designia Repairia!" Saturday: Home Repairing for an Hour with Designia Repairia Day. Bor-ing! I plop onto the couch, thinking about *anything* else I could *possibly* do. That's when I got an idea. Instead of watching home repair shows with my mom or wasting my time writing countless plans, I could actually do something! I could draw! I gather my kitty-cat lap desk, some art supplies, and paper. By the end of the day, I've made a painting of the galaxy, a sculpture a kitten, and my own manga style comic book. Everything sucks...but at least you can occasionally get rid of it by **NOT** thinking of it.

Chapter 11: Purrfect Day Part 1. The beginning of February is certainly cold where I live in Icecreamville, but at least we have hope with spring starting in March. Today was one of those days. It was sunny and 45 degrees, and some early birds were coming back. And today was going to be a perfect day. I was hosting my very own... cat party and sleepover! It would start off at my fave park, where we would bring our cats. Then we'd do things to make the party—no—*purr-ty* more fun for the cats. We'd give them tuna, polish their claws, give them kitty facials, and groom their fur. Afterwards, we'll take the kitties home and head over to my house for the most epic sleepover ever!! And who was invited to my sleepover? None other than Koralii, Lilian Rose, and Mermaid! I couldn't even wait to have this fun kitty slumber party with my besties! We're riding in the car on the way to the park. Icecream, Cupcake, and Sprinkle were in the backseat, their carriers clattering every time the car hit a pothole.

I was eating a donut. And not just any donut! A sweet, fresh, warm glazed donut. I took a final bite of it and sighed. Noticing the crumbs on my super-cute outfit, I quickly brushed off my shirt and pants. I did not want to have dirty clothes for my perfect day. My shirt was a warm yet light sweater with a kitty having a sleepover on it. Her slumber party guests were a crowd of other adorable animals. The crowd of pets were hugging pillows, teddies, and blankies. I giggle just looking at it, with it being the perfect shirt for a cat themed party and sleepover! My pants are normal jeans, but they have some really cute boba tea patches sewed onto it. I love this adorable outfit, and it's wonderful for a perfect day! We arrive at the park at 3:18 pm, so we can get it all set up before the start time at 4:00. My mom and I set up 2 tables, on which we put 3 cat carriers containing Icecream, Cupcake, and Sprinkle. Lilian Rose and her parents were the first to arrive. "COCO!" she screamed. "Woo-hoo!" We stood there bouncing up and down. Lilian Rose is a bit shorter than me. She's 8, because she started school at 4. "I didn't bring any cats," she said. "I don't have any." I nod my head.

Instead she has a dog named Bark and a pig named Oink. Koralii was next to arrive, her long ponytails flying behind her as she ran. She was holding her kitty Pawline's carrier, and her twin sister Khloe Lizz was on her heels. Their mom was behind them, taking a video of them bound. Khloe Lizz is in my class.

"Koralii! Khloe Lizz!" I happily shouted. "Oh! And hiiii, little Pawline!" Pawline was a elegant white Persian cat, only 1 by 3 days. She seemed to dread the bouncing of her carrier that came as my bestie bounded towards me. She plopped Pawline down next to my cats, the 4 felines beginning to playfully mew at each other. "Hey Coco!" The two sisters overlappingly said. Koralii sat down in a chair. "Hey, is it okay if Khloe Lizz joins our sleepover?" She asked. Khloe Lizz gave me pleading eyes. "Sure," says my mom. "If Coco is ok with it." I give Koralii a thumbs up, and the sisters cheer. Rosie, Koralii, Khloe Lizz and I sat on our seats, waiting for Mermaid to arrive. Finally, she came along. She and her triplet sisters, Griffin and Unicorn, were each dragging along seven carriers. The 4 of us and our parents stood there, our mouths hanging open. SEVEN?!

Mermaid saw our gaping mouths. "I know, seven kitties is a crowd!" She giggled. "Everybody, meet Catnip, Furancine, Queen Fluff, King Fluff, Prince Fluff, Cookie Cream, and Purrincess." Everybody leaps forward, cooing and introducing the kitties to the other 4. Then we all help the triplets and their parents carry the furry seven to the table. I jump up and down. "Great! Everybody's here!" Khloe Lizz, Koralii, Mermaid, Griffin, Unicorn, and Lilian Rose begin to bounce too. "What the first the first activity?" Asks Lilian Rose. I take a sheet of paper with the agenda on it. "Looks like the first thing is...oh! Petting the cats! And put these cat robes on them." I hold out 12 fluffy robes with cupcakes printed on them. The robes are small, with four holes at the bottom and a hole in the back and front. "Perfect!" Gasps Koralii. "They'll look so cute on the kitties!" Everybody grabs the robes for their cats, leaving me 4. "Lilian Rose!" I call. "I bought you an extra one. I know you don't have any cats, but these would fit a doggy dog too!" Lilian Rose happily grabs her robe. "Thank you!" She says. "Bark is going to love this!"

Rosie tucks away her robe and follows to help pet my cats and put the robes on them. We give Icecream, Cupcake, and Sprinkle lots of chin scratches before gently putting their heads, paws, and tails into the holes. “The kitties look FABULOUS! And really cute...” says Khloe Lizz, cooing at a nearby cat. “Is it time for the kitty makeover?” I know this part by *heart*, and I don’t even have to *glance* at the agenda. “Yes!” I respond cheerfully, and all of the besties, siblings, parents, and kitties roar. “SQUEE!” Everyone cheers and jumps. The dogs from the nearby dog park drop their balls and stare at us, confused. I pass out kitty claw polish, cute kitty outfits, tiny bows, and cat facials. I help sit the cats on luxurious cat beds decorated with the fluffiest pillows, faux gold, and tiny little faux diamonds. “The beds are also yours to keep!” I say happily. Everyone squeed some more and begun painting the claws of the kitties. The fab felines patiently lay there, happily being treated as kings and queens, which was obvi already part of the life of King Fluff and Queen Fluff.

The cats were just starting to be dressed in dresses, movie star outfits, and crowns. But suddenly the cats started squirming, their ears turned in. “What’s wrong, your Fluffy Highness?” I heard Unicorn whispering to Queen Fluff. Koralii was holding Pawline. Soon, we could hear it too. “It sounds like a stampede of elephants!” Screamed Griffin, holding her ears shut. Khloe Lizz leaped behind Koralii. And the parents just furrowed their eyebrows. Suddenly, Mermaid, Griffin, and Unicorn yelp. Everybody turns to look at them. “Dogs!” The 3 scream. A crowd of cat-chasers fly through, racing under our feet. There are poodle pooches tripping me and Doberman doggos making Rosie fall. King Fluff hisses, trying to look fierce. But the dogs growl back, startling the cats. Starting with Pawline, Furancine, and Prince Fluff, our beloved mousers dash off throughout the park. I look up to see Koralii hidden under the table. Beside her, Khloe Lizz is doing the stop, drop, and roll. “Sis, this isn’t a fire.” I faintly hear Lii say. The air is filled with murmuring park-goers, yowling cats, growling dogs, and angry dog owners.



“What just happened?” Screeches Mermaid. “And where are the cats??” I leap up to see the furry friends entirely gone. Suddenly, our entire group begins to ask questions. “Are you okay?” Screams Khloe Lizz. “Is the party over?” Asks Koralii’s mom. “Excuse me, have you seen 11 cats?” Asks Unicorn to a confused family with a mom, a dad, a teenage girl, and a toddler. “Ye—no? Uh—I-I mean—what did they look like?” Asks the mother of the family. The mother has bubblegum pink hair and is wearing a sparkly dress. “Uh, can we help you look for them?” Everybody, including me instantly pleads: “We need all the help we can get!” With the running away cats and the odd dogs, maybe today isn’t so perfect. My friends, the parents, the family, and I all start running. “Today is crazy...” I mutter. “I know, right?” Says the teenage girl. She’s half a head taller than me, with 4 blue streaks in her wavy, light brown hair. She’s wearing a matching vest, sweat pants and shirt with cookies on them.

“I was just walking my dogs, Cupcakums and Lollipopums. Really sweet dogs, Yorkies.” She explains. “When suddenly they saw your cats. And they bust through the fence that separates the normal park from the dog park. I tried to pick up Cupcakums, but she growled and tried to bite me.” I gasped. What was wrong with the pets today? “Once, my cat Cupcake did me like that too.” I said. “But it was nothing like this. She just didn’t want to take a bath!” The girl laughs. “Well we need to find all the cats and dogs so we can figure out what’s possibly going on!” Koralii, who was listening in, agreed. “For the pets.” All of us girls screamed, “FOR THE PETS!” We all ran in search of the cats. Berry, Cherry and Blueberry appeared. “Coco!” Blueberry screams. “You have got to do something!” Berry nods her head. “Yeah! This is *your* party!” I shake my head. “*No way!*” I screech. “Remember? I don’t have a strategy, and I can’t go without a strategy!” Cherry looks frantic. “Well, doing nothing is still using one of your strategies. Ya know, it’s going with the flow!” She explains. “Maybe both of them work, just in different situations!!!”

I thought about that for a second. “Well, I guess maybe...” I say. “Ok, fine, I’ll try Detective Coco. But I’m not telling anyone that’s what I’m doing.” Cherry breathes a sigh of relief. “Ok, great!” She screams. “Maybe, if you solve the problem, your mom will even take you and your friends for boba tea! And the animals will be safe and home!” At that, I instantly gallop forward. It’s time to solve this case.

Chapter 12: Purr-fect Day part 2. After a little while, I wasn't quite as hyped up still. There were absolutely no clues. And my helpful diary and energizing cookies? Totally at home. Suddenly, I lost my balance, hurling down to the ground. *Oof!* Everybody turned to look at me. "Are you okay?" Asks Koralii. She looks worried. "Yep." I say, once I hop to my feet after a bit. "But what did I trip on?" I look behind me and smile. "A CLUE!" I scream. Everyone gasps. *Oops, I'm not supposed to let anyone know I'm being detective Coco!!* I ignore what I said about clues, but my mind's still swirling. I tripped over a cat collar! A very familiar cat collar. I pick it up, studying the pet-wear closely. It has gold lining, with diamond hearts in between. Sprinkles and candy dance, weaving between the gemstones. I gasp. "This is Sprinkle's collar!!!" Murmurs go through the crowd. Koralii, Mermaid, and Rosie all walk towards me. "And what is that?" Says Lii, searching a tuft of fur near it. Mermaid jumps up and down. "It's KING FLUFF'S FUR!" She shouts. Everyone gasps, and Unicorn and Griffin dash over.

“One of our cats!” The triplets say in unison. Khloe Lizz walks over too. “We should probably follow the direction the fur and collar go!” She says, bending down. “It goes...right.” Everyone begins to follow me, my besties, and their sisters right. Unicorn takes a snapshot of the clue with her phone, and I pick the clue up and tuck it in my pocket. About 12 minutes of searching passes. By now, everyone is panting. “It’s just so hooooooot!” Whines Koralii, wiping of some sweat. “MY PHONE SAYS IT WENT FROM 41 TO 68! IT’S FEBRUARY!” “You can say that again.” Agrees Griffin, rummaging in her backpack. Griffin’s backpack is adorable, with cotton candy blue, bubblegum pink, and banana yellow buttons. It has a tiny kitten squishy hanging off of it. After a bit, Griffin pulls out a tiny blue and white cooler. A frozen mist drifts off as she opens the cooler and the ice hits the sun. She pulls out something in a white package and begins handing them out. As people slowly unpeel the containers, a delicious, gourmet sweet smell drifts through the air.

“Ice cream sandwiches!” Says Griffin. “I made them at home. The cookies are cotton candy flavored, and the ice cream is cookies and cream.” *Thanks you* and *mmm* and *gourmet!* fill the air. Sprinkles coat the cold, sweet goodness. We’re all walking, eating our sandwiches and thanking Griffin when a sound fills the air. *SNAP!* We all jump, causing our scrumptious treats to start to crumble in our hands. Lilian Rose and I I dive behind Khloe Liz and Koralii. Mermaid and her sisters look uneasy. “We can take another break maybe...” the teenage girl’s mom says. Rosie and I look at each other, nodding our heads in silent. Mermaid and Lii see our move, repeating it. We all dig through our kawaii matching backpacks. They all are bright blue, with a picture of a kitten nibbling on a s’more. We pull out our iPads, zip our backpacks back, and all go to email. I take a breath and decide to make a decision.

Im doing Detective Coco.

I send.

Korali's email zips in.

Great idea, Coco! I'm doing Detective Lii!

We send even more emails back and forth. Mermaid has a concern.

Uh, guys, how do we know the cats are ok? What if da doggos have rabies or something?

We all shiver at the thought. Rosie sends every emoji on her iPad out of concern. Then she writes.

**AND DID ANYONE FORGET ABOUT DA  
CRACKING SOUND?!?! DAT IS PROB NOT OK!**

The sound cracks again and my besties, their siblings, our parents, and the family all jump. And I just shiver again.

Dats st bestie.

I send. Two identical messages pop in the Mermaid and Lii, and Lilian Rose sends Lol and a few concerned emojis. Mermaid sends one in too.

ROFL! Omg besties, come over gtg show u something! Bring Khloe Lizz 2!

Koralii, Khloe Lizz, Rosie and I dash over to where Mermaid and her twin sisters are. We all gasp. A kitten! “One of ours, Cookie Cream!” Unicorn whispers cheerfully. “She was making the cracking sound with a twig!” The grownups, who were still panting, surrounded us too. I scoop up Cookie Cream, who purrs and snuggles my cheek. I hand her to Mermaid, who gently tucks the tiny kitten into her kitty carrier. She scoops a little bit of tuna kibble in a portable bowl. Khloe Lizz whispers something in Koralii’s ear, and my bestie gasps. Lii takes her iPad back out, and starts to type.



Two things. Lizzy wants 2 know where y'all got ur cats. Also, imma add her 2 dis email.

We all get Korali's message and I send a response.

i got my cats from Icecreamville No-Kill Animal Shelter.

Mermaid gasps and responds.

**SAME COCO!**

Khloe Lizz sends a response.

**EXACTLY!**

I'm confused. I send out a message.

Lizzy, Lii, dats cool, but wdym? Why does dat matter?

The twins wave us over, and Rosie, Mermaid and I dash to them.

“We spoke to the teenage girl who’s helping us. Her name is Sam.” Explains Koralii. “Sam got her dogs from Icecreamville No-Kill Animal Shelter too.” We must still look blank, because Khloe Lizz laughs. “If all the the pets came from the same shelter, maybe they recognize each other!” Lii continues. “That could have to do with it! Well, at least we think. But you do know what that means...” we all nod. **“TIME TO INTERVIEW SOME PET OWNERS!”** We shout in unison. Mermaid’s sisters, Sam, and the grownups look confused. Mermaid whispers the plan to her triplets. It’s time to start detective-ing. I look around. There was a woman running around. **“PUP-PUP!”** Called the woman. **“WHERE ARE YOU?”** I jump up and down. “That way!” I tell Rosie. “Come on!” Mermaid, Griffin, Unicorn, Rosie, Koralii, Lizzy and I dash off, leaving the grownups, Sam, and Sam’s family jogging to catch up behind us. “Hello!” Griffin calls when we get near the woman. “We heard you calling for your Pup-Pup?”

The woman looks relieved. “Yes, my little puppy. He’s brown and white, has on a cute little bow tie. He ran with some other dogs to chase a bunch of cats.” She smiles. “Have you seen him? He doesn’t have a microchip, and the reason I got him is because I lost my first dog!” Now she looks scared. “No, we’re really sorry!” I say. “We don’t have your Pup-Pup. But the cats he went after are our cats, and we just need to ask one question to help us find the missing pets.” The lady nods. Lilian Rose picks up where I left off. “Where did you get Pup-Pup from?” The woman looks happy again. “Oh, from the Icecreamville No-Kill Animal Shelter! Wonderful shelter, isn’t it?” Koralii and Khloe Lizz start bouncing at the same time. “Thanks so much!!” They say in unison. “Squeeee!” The detective work is back on go. We go around talking to the frantic dog owners, and all of their pooches are from the shelter. “Our prediction was right!” Koralii says. “It’s because they recognize each other! The cats are safe!”

“And, I think I know where the pets are!” Mermaid says. “Cookie Cream has a little yellow dot stuck to her fur!” We all look confused. “The shelter has a pretend honeycomb on the side, and it’s made of rubber. When we brought her from the shelter, she was trying to get in it. I think the yellow dot is a little bit of that stuff!” We all gasp. It only makes sense! The animals must be at the shelter! We spend the next 30 minutes driving to the shelter. Low and behold, in an alleyway near it, there are cats and dogs just waiting! “We did it!” I scream, squealing in delight. “We found the pets!” My besties and I cheer. “Time to take them back where they belong!” We load the pets in our cars, giving Sam Cupcakums and Lollipopums, giving the woman Pup-Pup, delivering the rest of the doggos and bringing our kitties home. We all say bye as my bestie’s parents and Mermaid’s sisters leave. It’s time for the sleepover! My besties, Khloe Lizz, and I all crawl into my mom’s car.

“Nobody can say this won’t be the world’s best sleepover!” Screams Koralii. “SQUEE!” We all laugh. “I brought nail polish!” Lilian Rose says. “Pink for me, green for Lii and Lizzy, blue for Coco, and black for Mermaid!” We cheer some more. “We’re gonna make slime, and eat giant s’more’s!” I say. “And of course, Truth or Double Truth!” Truth or Double Truth is our version of Truth or Dare. Because everyone knows that ‘Dare’ is *TOO RISKY!* Something always gets broken, and someone’s always in serious trouble! It’s time for our sleepover!

Chapter 13: The Sleepover. We stopped at our apartment building, and my mom, Lizzy, Lii, Rosie, Mermaid and I hopped out. We went up the elevator, squealing with excitement. This'll be the best! We stop at floor 900 and get off. "Last one to the door is a melted ice cream cone!" I say, taking off running. Koralii flies after me. "NO FAIR!" She pant-laughs. "You started before us!" The rest of us fly after. It turns out that NONE of us are a melted ice cream cone. We all tied! We slip our shoes off and run in the house. We took the cats back home with us of course, so my mom lets them out of their carriers. "What are we gonna do first?" Lilian Rose asks. "This'll be so fun!" Mermaid check her iPad. "I have an idea!" She says. "I found this super yummy sushi candy recipe!" Koralii gasps. "I think I saw it too!" She squees. "Is the fish melted gummies? And the rice is cake and frosting?" Mermaid jumps up and down. "Yeah!" She screams. "That one! Let's do it *RIGHT NOW!*" "YEAH!!" we all scream. We dash to the kitchen. Mermaid glances at her iPad again.

“We should probably start with the rice part first.” She says. “I’ll read out the ingredients. We need flour, sugar, cream, eggs, milk, and baking powder.” Koralii, Lilian Rose, Lizzy, and I run around gathering and measuring the ingredients that Mermaid lists. “This is fun!” I say. “Let’s mix the wet and dry ingredients!” We mix the dough, and we put it in the oven. “We probably shouldn’t melt the gummy candy quite yet...” Lilian Rose thinks aloud. “It might dry out while the cake bakes. We all agree to take a break and watch TV. We giggle at our favorite parts, and we pretend that we’re the characters! *Beeeeeeep!* the oven screeches. “Ahhh!” I scream. “Hee-hee. Sorry.” We run over to the oven. “Mmmmm!” I squeal. “It looks so spongy!” We take it out of the oven and blow on it. Then we break it into pieces, carve the bits into cylinders, slather it in frosting, and sprinkle on powdered sugar. “I brought gummy bears!” Mermaid says. She pours them out of the bag into a bowl, popping it in the microwave.

*Beep beep beep!* Mermaid put in 30 seconds. The microwave begins humming. “29! 28! 27! 26!” We all count. *Beeeeeeeeeeeeeeep!* I take it out the microwave. “Let’s pour it on the cakes!” Khloe Liz says. “It’ll be so yummy!” She takes the melted gummies, pouring it luxuriously onto the cakes. “Omigosh!” I squeee. “This looks great! And guess what’s for dinner!!” “What??” “We were going to have sushi anyways! So we’re basically having sushi for dinner and dessert!” We all giggle. “Lol!!” Rosie says. “What are we gonna do until we can have the real sushi and the cake sushi?” “We’re going to the pooooooool!” I sing-song. “My mom’s taking us to the mall first, so we can get swimsuits and snacks! It’s where we’ll get the sushi, too.” Everyone squees, gasps, and twirls. “Let’s go!!!!” We leave the house to the mall. By time we get there, we’re shouting “**POOL! SUSHI! MALL! SLEEPOVER!**” This is going to be the funnest!



We had a lot of fun at the sushi place, but me and my besties were breathing on my mom to get to the swimsuit place so we could go to the pool. After we get new swimsuits, (plus some cake flavored ice cream), we head over to the pool. “Imma just dip my toes in the water for now.” Koralii says. “Ooh! Maybe I’ll go to the water park over there!” “LET’S ALL GO TO THE WATER PARK!” Khloe Lizz screams. “YAY!” We dash across the cold tiles to the water park by the pool. “WOAH!” I scream. “This is more like a mini water AMUSEMENT PARK!” I twirl on the tiles. Mermaid and Rosie dash up behind us. “Omg, you’re right Coco!!!” Lilian Rose gasps. “Look at that water slide!!” Mermaid flies up to it. “It’s even bigger up close!” She gasps! “It’s like twenty feet tall!” We all run up to the slide. Mermaid climbs up first. “Yeah yeah yeahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!” She screams as the water pushes her down the thrilling slide. I’m next. “OMG yessssss! Ahhhhhhhhhhh!” I shout.

“That was the best thing ever!” I say dizzily. “Whoa!” I crash onto the grass laughing. “Are you sure?” Lilian Rose laughs. “You sound a bit like it was the dizziest thing ever.” I laugh again. “Rosie!” I giggle. “Well it was pretty dizzying, but it was still awesome!” “I’ll have to see it for myself, though.” She says. “Can I go next?” We give her 2 thumbs up. She runs over to the slide. “Wooo!” She hold the ‘o’ for so long, I’m not surprised when she comes down panting. Koralii and Khloe Lizz go down the slide too. “That was so much fuuuuuuun!” Koralii screams. “Okay, but we didn’t swim in the actual pool yet.” “Agreed, Lii!” Khloe Lizz says. “We should swim in the actual pool before we go back to Coco’s place. We dash back to the pool. “Wooooooooo!” I do a triple flip as I jump in the pool. “Cocooooooooo!” Mermaid laughs. “Now I’m all wet!” “What’s the point of going to the pool without getting wet, Mermaid?” Khloe Lizz points out. “You’re literally wearing a swimsuit.” “Ok, that’s true, that’s true.” Giggles Mermaid. “Time to get even wetter—whoa!”

She falls backwards into the pool, making a huge splash. “Oops! Lol!” Mermaid says. “I meant to do a flip like Coco!” Koralii, Khloe Lizz, and Lilian Rose laugh. Koralii cartwheels, Khloe Lizz backflips, and Rosie jumps in all balled up. We’re having fun splashing, swimming, and floating when my mom calls out. “It’s time to go home!” She yells. “Awww man!” We all groan. “Wait!” I say. “The cakes! Now we get to have even more sushi!” “Yay!” My besties and Khloe Lizz cheer. “SUSHI CAKE!” We all change our clothes and dash to the car, buzzing with excitement to try the cakes. “This is going to be awesoooooome!” I sing-song. “Yuuuuuuuuuum!” We arrive back home, and I swing open the car door. “We’re baaaaack, cakes!” Rosie sings. After we ride up to the 900th floor, we slip off our shoes and dash in. We fly to the kitchen, grabbing our cakes. “WAIT!” I scream. “Let’s have them with ice cream! I have mint chip and carmel cone!” “OMG!! Do you have carmel sauce? Chocolate sauce? Cherries? Sprinkles? Whip creeeeeeeeam?” “Lol Khloe Lizz. Yes, yes, yes, yes, and yeeeeeeees!”

I scoop 4 carmel cones and 2 mint chips in each of our bowls. Then we each smother the frozen treat with sugary treats. Then we press the sushi cakes onto our cold dessert. "Yuuuuuuuuuuuum!" We all say in unison. "This is delish!" By time our stomachs are filled, even more scoops of ice creams and cakes are gone forever. "Omg, I couldn't eat another bite..." I groan. "Uuuuuuuughhhhhh! Lol." "Want to play Truth or Double Truth?" Mermaid asks. "We can do that until our bellies feel good enough for s'moressssssss! Can I go first?" "Sure!" Lilian Rose says. "But please don't ask me. Yours are the most intense." Mermaid laughs. "Okay." We spend the next 2 and a half hours playing Truth or Double Truth. "Omg! We played this game from 7:00 to 9:30!" Koralii says. "I can't play more!" I stretch. "Mermaid, you said you wanted to make s'mores?" I say. "I have a really good recipe, if everyone's tummies aren't still full."

“I wanna hear it!” Koralii squees. “I wanna hear it!” We melt the marshmallows, smearing chocolate onto them and smashing them between two graham crackers. Lizzy and Rosie pour chocolaty cupcake batter into 5 mugs. Then Mermaid and I press the s’mores on top. Khloe Lizz and Lilian Rose pour more batter on top, and Koralii puts it in the microwave. 1 minute of giggling passes, and the microwave beeps. Koralii opens the door and takes the cakes out. I squeeze on marshmallow flavored frosting, and Mermaid adds a cherry and a little fondant s’more. “S’more mug cakes!” I say. We sink out forks into the mug. The cake is moist, and the marshmallow frosting is one of the best things I’ve ever tasted. “I love the s’more in the middle!” Says Khloe Lizz, who is so excited she practically has stars for eyes. “It tastes...yummy!” “Let’s watch TV!” I say. “After all, it’s only 10.” “Only 10!” Koralii yawns. “By now, Lizzy and I would already be asleep!”

Chapter 14: 12:37 AM. The sleepover was going good until about 12:37 AM, when the cats started acting funny. We were playing a game where Lilian Rose and Koralii were tasting food blindfolded. Suddenly, chaos began. "Icecream just said a *word*." Mermaid insists. "I'm 100% sure that she just said 'aliens'." "It's on my face!" I yell. "Face!" "Eeeeeeee!" Khloe Lizz screams. "COCO'S FACE!" "What?!" Koralii and Rosie scream. "Get off!!!" I yell. "Off!!!" "Omg, Coco!" Mermaid yells. "Is your face scratched??" "She hardly got me!" I say. "Barely!" Even with blindfolds, both Lii and Rosie look worried. "Ahhhhhhhh!" I yell. "Oh my cupcakes! Get off!" Lizzy dashes off. "Special bandaid delivery!" She says. "AHHH WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU LITTLE FURRY MONSTER?!" Lii yanks her blindfold off. "Omigosh Lizzy!" Koralii says. "Er—I'll go get a bandaid." She dashes off. Mermaid's rolling on the floor now. She yanks off her blindfold as Koralii comes back. "What's happening guys?" Mermaid asks. Lii nods. "Yeah, Mermaid's right. Why am I getting Khloe Lizz a bandaid?" Mermaid, Khloe Lizz, and I laugh. "The cats jumped on our faces!!!"

Chapter 15: PJs, Imaginary Friends, Random Videos, And Other Weird Things. After we've changed into our pjs, we set up our sleeping bags. Our sleeping bags all match. They're basically giant kawaii kitty plushies with a hole that you can sleep in. Their warm and soft, and perfect for our sleepover. I'm wearing my favorite kitty onesie of course. Koralii's wearing a matching one to mine, but hers has tiger stripes. Mermaid's pjs are black, with dark purple cupcakes scattered all across. Lizzy and Rosie are both wearing a nightgown with blue, pink, and white, with bows, ruffles, and sparkles galore. My imaginary friends appear. "This is going to be the best for my vlog!!!" Cherry squees. "You did so many random and funny things today, I could rule the internet by adding the weird parts of today, but with *no context!*" "Aahh!" My friends all scream. "Who are you??" I laugh. "Oops, sorry guys!" I say. "These are my imaginary friends, Berry, Cherry, and Blueberry."

“Hey!” “Yo!” “Hi!” “Hiya!” “HiHi!” “Hello!” “Nice to meet ya!” “Hiuuuu!” Everyone chats a little bit. “Hey, Cherry?” I say. “What was it you were saying about the blog?” “Vlog, not blog. And yes, I’m going to add this awesome sleepover to my vlog! But only random scenes, out of context.” “Cool!” Koralii says. “What random out of context things are there?” “Wanna see?” Cherry says. All of us come towards her. “Yeah!” We all say. It shows some funny videos, such as the cats on our faces, or when Khloe Lizz said, “You are wearing a swimsuit.” We all laugh a bit. That’s when it shows some text. “Erm, why is there text on what we thought and said?” Khloe Lizz said. “How did you type it all?” “I didn’t,” Cherry says. “We’re in a book!” “No we’re not,” Blueberry says. “Stop being silly.” “Yes we are!” I argue. “I believe her.” My best friends, Lizzy, and Blueberry look back and forth, laughing at us arguing on whether we’re in a book or not.



I get back in my sleeping bag. “You guys, can we turn the lights off. It’s 2 in the morning!” Koralii laughs. “Sure thing, Coco.” She dashes across the room, twirls as she turns the light off, and dashes back to her bean bag. “Guys? I think we need to get up again...” I whisper. “There’s a mystery we need to solve.” Koralii flies across the room and turns the light back on. “What’s the mystery?” She asks, yawning. “And can we crack the case before 3 AM?” I laugh. “I promise if it isn’t solved by 3, we can call it a night and try again tomorrow.” My friends and imaginary friends yawn again, getting out of their sleeping bags. “Let’s do it!!!” We all say. Our mission is to find out if we really are in a book. We tip toe around the room. “Huh...” Mermaid says. “Guys! Come over —yawn— here!” We walk over. “What is it?” I ask. “Do you have evidence?” She nods. “There’s —writing on the wall.” Mermaid says. “That could be the words of the book we’re in! I study the writing on the walls closely.

“I don’t think that it’s evidence personally.” I say. “It looks...oh no.” My friends look at me. “It’s NOTHING!” I say, backing off. “Totally not writing that I scribbled on when I was 3!” Everybody’s staring at me, and I’m staring at everyone. Then we all start laughing. “Cocooo...” Koralii yawns. “It’s *past* 3 AM. It’s 3:01!” I laugh. “Okay, okay.” I say. “I’m tired too.” We go to bed, after whispering in the dark for a few minutes. I dream of the treats that we had today.

*I open my eyes after a long night of sleeping, and all of the desserts we had today are floating in front of me. But I’m tiny, or maybe the treats are giant. I leap out of my sleeping bag, and I’m floating too. I see all my friends, and they’re tiny too. They’re nibbling on the treats. I propel myself through the air towards the yumminess. I take little bites of sushi cake, and I devour bits of ice cream. I stuff myself with our s’more mug cakes.*

I wake up. “Coco!” Rosie’s saying. “It’s 12:00 PM! Your mom cooked waffles.” I get up, putting my glasses on.

I change into today's adorable outfit. I'm wearing a rainbow tie-dye shirt, with cotton candy blue jeans. I pull on some cat ears and a bow as an accessory. Then I go out to stuff my face with chocolaty waffles. At around 2:00 pm, my besties are all picked up. My friends might be gone, but I'm not done solving this case.

Chapter 16: Books and Other Weird Stuff. Now it's the end of May and I still haven't figured out if we're in a book. "Oh well..." I sigh. "It's 8:15 AM. It's almost time for school, and it's kinda pointless to look."

Cherry shakes her head. "It's almost the end of the school year." She says. "I'm honestly not sure why you're still trying to solve this mystery I started back in February!" My imaginary friends and I walk over to my iPad. I check my email.

Do u still think we r in a book?—Koralii

I type a response.

No not rily. Was just trying 2 solve da mystery rn but idk, it doesn't seem real.

I take a sip of tea and pet the cats. Before I know it, it's 8:29. I dash over to start school. I'm the first to pop in. It's May 31st, and school ends on the 2nd. We're really close to the end.

School is boring, as usual. I spend all evening after school trying to solve the book mystery. We don't have a meeting today, so I work right past 2:00. "—and I still couldn't find anything!" I tell my besties the next day. I groan a little bit. "Maybe that just means we aren't." Mermaid says. "I mean, we started working on that months ago!" "That's true," Koraliu says. "Maybe you should get it a break." "I'll stop working at it when summer break starts okay?" "And to think I asked you if we would finish this before 3 AM!"

Chapter 17: Almost Being 5th Graders and Other Weird Things. It's the last day of school. I yawn, putting on my glasses. I hop out of bed. I smell a fresh strawberry, banana, and mango sorbet. "Yummy!" I say. "Hi Mom!" "Hi Coco!" She says. "It's 7:55. I made..." "Strawberry, banana, and mango sorbet!" I finish. "Yummy!" "How'd you know?" "I can smell everything! Thank you!" I dash to the table to eat the delicious sorbet. By time it's 8:00, I've eaten the yummy sorbet. "It's my last day to investigate!" I tell my imaginary friends. "I promised Koralii!" "Then you'd better hurry." Berry says. "It's 8:02 right now." My imaginary friends and I dash off. A few minutes pass of us trying to find pages and words. "Well, it's over." Blueberry says. "No more running around the house trying to discover we live in a book." I sit down at my iPad, typing in the MarshmallowMeet code for our class. Almost being 5th graders sure is weird.

The kids in my class are screaming when I get in. “Omg!!!” Jenniboo yells. “SUMMER BREEEEEEEAK! LOL!” Dash, for the second time this whole year, actually has his camera on. He’s really living up to his name, as he flies around his room while holding his iPad. Our bestie meeting is crazy today too. “SCHOOL IS OVER FOREVER!” Rosie squees. “Well, until 5th grade anyways. But still!!” We happily play Truth or Double Truth. We also have a drawing contest. I win! “Woo!” Pants Blueberry. “Take eventful day flour, mix it with excitement eggs, add some chaos baking powder, and don’t forget the noise sugar and tiring chocolate. Then mix it all together, bake it, and you get the cake of today!” I laugh. “It was tiring, Blueberry.” I say. “But you left out the fun frosting you spread on it at the end!” Me and my imaginary friends all laugh. Even the cats seem to be giggling.

We go to get ice cream with Koraliï and her family afterwards. Lizzy, Lü, and I all get 4 scoops of caramel cone and and 2 scoops of mint chip. “It might, or might not have to do with the sleepover.” I laugh. Once the ice cream is finished, we go to the park. Of course, the adults walk slowly and talk, but we can help but play Hide and Seek Tag. “Tag!” Koraliï yells. “Your it!” I pant hard. “You win for now,” I laugh. “I’m all tired out.” I flop on the grass. “Me too!” Khloe Lizz says. “I’m down for taking a break!” Koraliï laughs. “Okay, okay.” She says. She stops, thinking. “Hey Coco?” “Yeah?” “Do you still think we’re in a book?” “Absolutely not! Lol!”



## Chapter 18: Epilogue: By Koralii, Cupcake, Icecream, and Sprinkle.

Koralii: It's sure fun catsitting you three!

Cupcake: Mew meow purr meow purr hiss mew meow purr hiss purr mew hiss mew meow purr hiss.

Icecream: Mew meow purr hiss mew.

Sprinkle: Mew purr!

Koralii: What do you kitties want to do? We can play with the laser!

All three cats: Mew purr!

Koralii: Try to catch the red dot!

All three cats: \*leap\*

Koralii: \*Laughs\* You widdle kitties want the red dot?  
You wanna eat the red dot meat? \*drops the laser\*

Icecream: \*Looks around\* mew meow mew meow  
hiss?!?!

Cupcake: Mew meow hiss purr...

Koralii: Oops, sorry guys.

All three: \*Cuddle up to her, groom her\*

Koralii: You all are so cute! \*pets them\*

Door: \*someone knocks on the door\*

Koralii: \*Looks through peephole\* Oh! It's Coco and  
her mom! They're back!

\*30 minutes later\*

Koralii: Bye! \*leaves\*

All three cats: \*writes a letter and sends it\*

**Mailman: delivers the letter to Koralii's house**

**Letter:**

**Purr Koralii,**

**Mew purr hiss mew mew purr meow!**

**Meow Icecream, Cupcake, mew Sprinkle. n^ω^n**

**n^ω^n Translation: Dear Koralii, You are a great  
catsitter! From Icecream, Cupcake, and Sprinkle.**

# Coco's Kitty Dictionary!

Lizzy: Khloe Lizz

Lii: Koralii

Rosie: Lilian Rose

Omg: Oh my goodness

Lol: laughing out loud

Ikr: I know right

Rn: right now

ROFL: Rolling on the floor laughing

Idk: I don't know

Rlly: really

Da: the

Srry: sorry

Jk: just kidding

Dis: This

About Coco:

Age: 9

Favorite animal: cats

Favorite ice cream flavors: carmel cone and mint chip

Glasses:cyan blue with heart shaped lenses

About the book's author:

Age:10

Favorite animal: cats

Favorite ice cream flavors: carmel cone and mint chip

Glasses:Aqua and gold