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***Draw My Life: An analysis of the quantity and typology of emotional  
linguistic content in self-identified female and male YouTubers’  
life narratives***

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# Notation Conventions

Here we include a list of the notation conventions used in the text:

**DML:** *Draw My Life* (an autobiographical YouTube video genre).

**FDML:** A *Draw My Life* video created by a self-identified female YouTuber.

**MDML:** A *Draw My Life* video created by a self-identified male YouTuber.

**FDML #1 – FDML #100:** The codes used to refer to transcripts appearing in the study corpus of 100 DML videos created by self-identified female YouTubers. The full list of FDML codes and their references can be found in section 3.3.1.

**MDML #1 – MDML #100:** The codes used to refer to transcripts appearing in the study corpus of 100 DML videos created by self-identified male YouTubers. The full list of MDML codes and their references can be found in section 3.3.2.

The original annotation framework (described in detail in section 4.5, “Manual Analysis 2: Emotion Expression Analysis”) created in the present study consists of seven colour-coded categories – three relating to positive emotions and four relating to negative ones. Each colour was also assigned a code (PC referring to Positive Categories and NC to Negative Categories):

## A) Positive Categories:

**PC1:** Feeling happy, excited, liking/loving something or someone

**PC2:** Feeling proud, confident, brave, determined

**PC3:** Feeling calm, comforted, supported, accepted, relieved

## B) Negative Categories:

**NC1:** Feeling scared, nervous, anxious, stressed, guilty, pressured, panicked

**NC2:** Feeling shy, embarrassed, awkward

**NC3:** Feeling sad, depressed, apathetic, lost

**NC4:** Feeling angry, frustrated, jealous and disliking/hating something or someone



# **Chapter I: Introduction**

# Chapter I: Introduction

## 1.1 Summary of the Present Study

YouTube is a medium bustling with relatable digital stories which encourage viewer reflection and tap into what Stokel-Walker (2019, p. 263) calls “the human algorithm”. One particularly engaging storytelling genre on the platform is the *Draw My Life* video format, in which narrators tell their life stories in a timeframe of approximately ten minutes, describing highs and lows of their infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood — and, of course, their paths to YouTube.

Visually accompanying these spoken autobiographical narrations are often sped-up illustrative images, either (1) hand-drawn on pieces of paper or a whiteboard and recorded to be later digitalised, or (2) created digitally from the offset using illustration software. For instance, when a YouTuber describes her parents’ divorce in her *Draw My Life* video (saying “My parents decided to divorce, which made things in life slightly more difficult and it also meant that I had a lot more panic attacks” – FDML #1), the viewers are shown a whiteboard on which she draws a cartoon-style broken heart and her parents as stick figures facing away from each other.

Given their stand-out combination of autobiographical storytelling and comic-style imagery, media scholar Kemp (2017, p. 13) describes *Draw My Life* videos as a “rich and powerful genre” bringing together “existing genres that emerge from narratives or life stories, along with comics’ inventive visual resources” (p. 13). The researcher notes that despite the videos’ engaging, relatable qualities and “importance to community building and identity formation” (p. 63), they are “not researched or employed enough” (p. 63), highlighting a particular lack of studies relating to expressions of intersectional identities and gender studies based on the stories.

The most watched *Draw My Life* videos on YouTube have over thirty million views as of 2021. According to Gustafson (2013, para. 4), the stories’ immense popularity among YouTube viewers is due in part to the narrators’ intimate and reflective descriptions of “the emotions of life and the small things that make us who we are”. As might be expected from such personal accounts, emotion-related references are

commonly found in the DML stories, a feature which ties in with the suggestion of Habermas (2019, p. 10) that autobiographical narratives are an “ideal medium to understand emotions”.

In the current research, the potential for emotion analysis of the *Draw My Life* videos is viewed through the lens of Ruberg and Steenbergh’s research (2011, p. 1), which notes that “debates concerning the definition and function of the emotions have always had gendered implications”. Specifically, the current investigation’s overall aim is to verify suppositions in previous research regarding females’ “greater emotional expressivity” (Chaplin, 2015, p. 14) and males’ “restrictive emotionality” (O’Neil, Good, & Holmes, 1995, p. 176), while analysing the various social influences on this dichotomy.

With the objective of ascertaining as comprehensive and reliable data conveying the female and male YouTubers’ emotion-related expressions as possible, the study combines quantitative and qualitative research methods relying on various computerised tools as well as manual annotation processes. Baker and Egbert (2016, p. 3) describe methodological triangulation of this kind “as a means of explaining behaviour by studying it from two or more perspectives”, including “multiple methods, analysts, or datasets”.

A corpus-based critical discourse analysis framework was adopted, motivated by Baker et al.’s supposition (2008, p. 227) that Corpus Linguistics (CL) investigations “offer the researcher a reasonably high degree of objectivity; that is, they enable the researcher to approach the texts (or text surface) (relatively) free from any preconceived or existing notions regarding their linguistic or semantic/pragmatic content”. In particular, the project focuses on two equally structured corpora — one containing the transcriptions of 100 *Draw My Life* videos created by self-identified female YouTubers (248,613 words in total) and the other containing those of 100 *Draw My Life* videos created by self-identified male YouTubers (227,979 words in total).

The research falls within the domain of Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS), defined by Partington, Duguid and Taylor (2013, p. 10) as “that set of studies into the form and/or function of language which incorporate the use of computerised corpora in their analysis”. The three computerised tools used in the analysis of the sentiment/emotion-related DML data are Lingmotif, LIWC2015 (Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count) and Wmatrix4 (for a discussion of relevant emotion and sentiment-related

terminology used here, please see section 2.2 — all software-led results can be found in Chapter IV, “Analysis and Findings”).

Firstly, Lingmotif is a lexicon-based Sentiment Analysis desktop application which allows for the determination of overall sentiment intensity scores and semantic orientations, or “valence”, of each dataset (Moreno-Ortiz, 2017), which is classified as either positive or negative. Next, two further software programs were used to extract specific emotion-related terms and expressions in the texts, following Mehl and Gill’s (2010, p. 125) argument for the likelihood of fruitful results being obtained from the combined use of LIWC, a word-count-based software program especially popular in psychological research, and Wmatrix, a more complex, web-based automatic text analysis application developed within the field of Corpus Linguistics.

Mehl and Gill (2010, p. 125) propose that “the joint use of the psychological LIWC categories and the linguistic Wmatrix categories” can provide “a good balance between linguistic sophistication and psychological complexity”. Specifically, LIWC2015 data was broken down into “Positive” emotion-related words and those relating to the categories “Sadness”, “Anxiety”, and “Anger”. Wmatrix4 output, on the other hand, was divided up into comparative keywords and concordances for the emotion-related categories “Fear/Shock”, “Happy”, “Sad”, “Violent/Angry”, and “Worry”.

Lappeman et al. (2020, p. 2) suggest that “Typical sentiment analysis utilises NLP (natural language processing) only approaches, which in the absence of human assistance often is unable to accurately evaluate the nuances of human conversation”. Likewise, Tausczik and Pennebaker (2010, p. 29) describe how computerised language analysis software programs are often incapable of detecting “context, irony, sarcasm, and idioms”. In an attempt to rectify these common issues and find out whether a manual examination would result in similar findings to the revised software-led results, the present study also made use of the qualitative manual annotation of both explicit and implicit “emotion indicators of any length” (Aman and Szpakowicz, 2007, p. 199). A further manual thematic analysis of the transcripts with a focus on mediatized self-representation and gender roles was also carried out to ensure comprehensive results.

Having briefly outlined the current study, the project’s background and rationale is described in further detail below.

## 1.2 Background and Rationale for the Research

I have been captivated by YouTube since I was a teenager. In my younger years on the platform, I would spend most of my time looking up educational videos for inspiration with school projects and watching the latest music videos and comedy sketches. Later on, while studying a Master's in the U.K., I would get weekly cooking inspiration from *What I Eat In A Day* and *Cook With Me* videos. It was also during this time that I was introduced by my flatmates to the world of “vlogs”, or video blogs/logs.

On a Saturday evening, we would sit around a laptop and watch YouTubers such as beauty and lifestyle influencer Zoe Sugg (who went by “Zoella” at the time), or family vloggers Anna and Jonathan Saccone-Joly (“the SACCONEJOLYs”) describe their daily lives in compelling detail. How did Zoe’s cinema date with Alfie go? Did she wear her new dress? Did Emilia, the Saccone-Jolys’ eldest daughter, enjoy her first day at school? Just as we might with a fictional drama or soap opera, we became completely absorbed in every new “storyline”.

The more I watched, however, the more I started to view these videos through a critical lens. In particular, I could not help but ask myself how much of their content was consciously or even subconsciously constructed to appease sponsors or cater to audience expectations. Was Zoe’s dress really her “absolute fave new wardrobe addition”, or was she perhaps paid to plug it by an upcoming fashion brand? What about the ethical implications of the Saccone-Jolys sharing so much about their children’s lives online? While I was increasingly uneasy consuming the content at face value, I was still completely engrossed and fascinated from a sociological perspective.

Millions of devoted followers watch vlogs on a daily basis and many perceive the protagonists as completely open and honest, with zero hidden agendas – almost as if they were close friends. This dynamic is reflected in Chen’s (2013, p. 126) description of YouTube as a tool to “parasocially interact with others”, whereby perceived openness about personal topics and direct addresses to the camera engage the creators’ followers and build up a strong sensation of intimacy, even if these feelings are not reciprocated. The term derives from Horton and Wohl’s (1956, p. 215) Parasocial Interaction Theory, originally based on the one-way “interactions” of radio, television and film stars which gave an illusion of face-to-face relationships with the viewers.

My interest in the line between reality and construction on YouTube made me want to find out as much as possible about the creators' paths to the platform: What was it that had led them to share their lives online in the first place? How would they describe the transition from anonymity to digital fame? While searching for information about some of the most prominent creators' journeys to YouTube, I was scrolling through Zoe Sugg's main channel (with 1,111,363,000 views and 11.1 million subscribers as of 2021), and decided to sort her videos by "most popular". Following a skit with the comedy YouTuber Miranda Sings and an intimate Q&A with her boyfriend, both published in 2014, the third most watched video on her channel was called "*Draw My Life* | Zoella", published on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, 2013 (and garnering over 16,633,000 views as of 2021).

In her *Draw My Life* video, Sugg spends just over six minutes narrating her life story while a series of sped-up illustrative whiteboard images hand-drawn by the protagonist appear on the screen. As well as describing fun anecdotes about her birth and school years, Sugg spends a lot of her *Draw My Life* video opening up with followers about her struggles with anxiety and panic attacks. Despite these difficulties, she says that it was also her anxiety that led her to YouTube in the first place, as she was searching for a distraction to her problems. After finding this video and learning more about Sugg's journey, I wondered how many other YouTubers had made similar content about their life stories using the *Draw My Life* format. I typed the phrase "Draw My Life" into the searchbar, hit "Enter" and to my great excitement, copious examples appeared, with over 4,000,000 publicly shared results for the phrase "Draw My Life" on Google.

Given the numerous *Draw My Life* videos on YouTube, I looked forward to finding a proportional amount of research into the genre. However, I was very surprised to find minimal academic work available to explore, with the vast majority of published articles about the DML genre stemming from the field of pedagogy, such as those of Westraadt (2017), who encourages students to produce their own DML videos in the classroom, and Nhu-y Tran (2015), who describes DML videos as an effective way for students to connect with both their peers and counsellors. I could not, however, find any expansive studies on this emerging genre within the realm of research into mediatized self-representation, sociolinguistics, or audiovisual communication studies, and so decided to embark on my own investigation.

Several frameworks helped to shape the current project's focus, including the work of Habermas (2019, p. 10), who proposed that autobiographical narratives "are the

ideal medium to understand emotions”. Likewise, in their research on emotion and gender, Ruberg and Steenbergh (2011, p. 1) highlighted how, throughout history, “debates concerning the definition and function of the emotions have always had gendered implications”. According to the authors, while women have historically been considered more emotionally unstable and visceral, men have been seen as the more rational and less emotional gender.

Similarly, in their discussion of the period between 1980 and 2000, Fivush and Buckner (2000, p. 234) stated that although “the traditional stereotype of the weeping female and the stoic male” had “softened somewhat” during this time, “one of the strongest stereotypes related to gender” was still centred “on emotionality” (p. 234). Nineteen years later, Locke (as cited in Habermas, 2019, p. 188) also discussed how “traditional stereotypes of the emotional woman set against the rational, non-emotional man are culturally evident and endorsed”.

Socially constructed gender stereotypes such as those relating to expressive or restrictive emotionality are frequently perpetuated in the media, and especially as a humorous strategy in sitcoms (Gregori-Signes, 2017) and other TV programmes. As Gregori-Signes (2017, p. 36) points out in her analysis of the sitcom *3<sup>rd</sup> Rock from the Sun*, stereotypical gendered behaviours such as female self-deprecation or expressive emotionality are often reproduced for entertainment purposes, while simultaneously sustaining “hegemonic male dominance and female subordination by evaluating women negatively”. This type of humour relies directly on the audience’s recognition of the stereotypes conveyed.

The “boys don’t cry” stereotype, so frequently depicted in fictional media, also consistently appears in the male YouTubers’ narratives. In particular, I initially noticed that the male creators often describe the pressure on boys and men to comply with social expectations of both physical and emotional strength, while the female YouTubers more frequently describe feelings of sadness and anxiety. Given these early indications, I decided to delve further into the emotion-related references in the transcriptions.

Following Darwin’s publication of *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals* in 1872, a review of the biological changes triggered by emotions in humans and other animals, a divide between essentialist and social-constructionist emotion scholars emerged, with the former arguing for the existence of a set of basic, universal emotions,

and the latter proposing that emotions are variable and culturally bound rather than universal. Bednarek (2008, p. 5), however, states that the current consensus in emotion research is “that these two views are not completely incompatible”. The author explains how certain features of emotional behaviour have been deemed by researchers to be universal and biologically rooted, while others are “determined by socialization and cultural construal” (p. 5).

Focusing on aspects of emotional behaviour and expression influenced by social norms, Goldshmidt and Weller (2000, p. 117) take the stance that many differences in the emotional expression of females and males in particular stem “from the differing socialization of the sexes”. The authors (p. 130) explain that even though women “may talk more emotionally” than men, this does not mean that they “necessarily feel more emotional”. This distinction is at the forefront of the present analysis, with the focus on whether the female YouTubers *use* more emotional expressions in their life stories than the male YouTubers.

In the search for a systematic gauge to ascertain a quantifiable answer to this question, Keltner et al.’s (2019, p. 196) Basic Emotion Theory (BET) provided a stable and tangible framework which tied in with the unique possibilities offered by automatic text analysis (ATA) tools for the classification of emotion-related terms and expressions. Of the many ATA methods which allow for sentiment/emotion analysis, I firstly made use of Lingmotif, a lexicon-based Sentiment Analysis desktop application which made it possible to determine the overall sentiment intensity scores and semantic orientations, or “valence”, of each dataset (Moreno-Ortiz, 2017). Once the overall orientations of the texts had been determined through the Lingmotif data, I used two further software programs to examine specific emotion-related terms and expressions in the texts.

My software selection was based on Mehl and Gill’s (2010) argument for combining LIWC (Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count), a word-count-based program especially popular in psychological research, and Wmatrix, a more complex, web-based automatic text analysis application developed within the field of Corpus Linguistics. Mehl and Gill (2010, p. 125) propose that “the joint use of the psychological LIWC categories and the linguistic Wmatrix categories” can provide “a good balance between linguistic sophistication and psychological complexity”. In the current study, the LIWC2015 data was broken down into “Positive” emotion words and those relating to the categories “Sadness”, “Anxiety”, and “Anger”. The Wmatrix4 output, on the other hand, was



divided up into comparative keywords and concordances for the emotional categories “Fear/Shock”, “Happy”, “Sad”, “Violent/Angry”, and “Worry”.

To ensure an accurate analysis, it was crucial to manually revise the software output, setting aside a substantial portion of references due to issues with *erroneous meanings* (e.g. “dreadlocks” erroneously indicating anxiety), *weak/diminished intensity in context* (e.g. the diminished intensity of the non-literal “hit” in “hit 700,000 subscribers”), *personal reference displacement* (e.g. “It annoyed my siblings” rather than the annoyance being felt by the narrator), *negative constructions* (e.g. “I wasn’t happy” as a false indicator of happiness), *longing/questioning/tense issues* (e.g. “I thought it’d be funny” as a description of an event not really deemed funny by the narrator) and *sarcasm/irony* (e.g. “the joys of being a teenager” indicating the opposite of what is literally expressed). All these references would have offset the validity of the software results had they not been manually revised and discarded. For further discussion of these software issues and my reasons behind setting specific references aside, please see Chapter IV, “Analysis and Findings”.

An additional manual analysis allowed for the detection of “emotional implicatures” (Mackenzie and Alba-Juez, 2019, p. 15), or “figurative displays of emotion” (Foolen, 2012, p. 364), and to find out whether a manual examination would bring about similar findings to those obtained through the software analyses. The original annotation framework (described in detail in section 4.5, “Manual Analysis 2: Emotion Expression Analysis”) consisted of seven colour-coded categories – three relating to positive emotions and four relating to negative ones.

The revised software output was contrasted with the results of the qualitative annotation process focusing on both explicit and implicit emotion-related references in the transcripts following Becker et al.’s (2016, p. 52) argument that by “performing an additional level of analysis on Qualitative Coding (QC) with Sentiment Analysis (SA), we can gain additional insight into the emotional colouring of statements”. Having provided an overview of the background and rationale for the current research project, the subsequent section lays out the research questions and objectives underpinning the process.

### 1.3 Research Questions and Objectives

The analytical framework for the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the emotion-related expressions in the female and male YouTubers' life story transcripts draws on the insights of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and methodological principles of Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS).

While Corpus Linguistics allowed for the examination of “lexical patterns” (Baker et al., 2008, p. 296) in the *Draw My Life* texts and provided a “quantitative dimension” (Baker et al., 2008, p. 296) to the research, CDA allowed for a qualitative examination of the overt and covert socio-political norms and values relating to gender roles revealed in the YouTubers' stories, keeping in mind Hans et al.'s work (2011, p. 304) on online performances of gender. With the objective of assessing the differences in emotional linguistic content between the self-identified female and male creators' *Draw My Life* videos, the following research questions were posed when reviewing both the software and annotation-led data:

1. *Will the female or male YouTubers include a higher frequency of overall emotional linguistic content in their Draw My Life stories?*
2. *What will be the quantity and typology of positive emotional linguistic content in the female and male YouTubers' Draw My Life stories?*
3. *What will be the quantity and typology of negative emotional linguistic content in the female and male YouTubers' Draw My Life stories?*

In short, the study's main aim was to explore how the female and male YouTubers externally construct, or “shape and share their lives” (Lundby, 2014, p. 23), on the platform through the *Draw My Life* genre — and how their emotional expressions are incorporated into this shaping of their mediatized self-representation (Hjarvard, 2008; Lorenzo-Dus, 2009; García-Gomez, 2010; Gregori Signes & Pennock Speck, 2012; Couldry and Hepp, 2013; Lundby, 2014; Duplantier, 2016; Chen, 2016; García-Rapp, 2017).

In line with the results of previous emotion and gender-related studies described in Chapter II, it was expected at a general level that the female YouTubers would include a higher frequency of overall emotional linguistic content, with less positive emotional linguistic content and a higher frequency of negative emotions expressed in their

narratives. More specifically, as regards the typology of the negative emotional linguistic content in the *Draw My Life* videos, it was anticipated that the females would refer more frequently to sadness and anxiety, while the males would express feelings of anger more often. This hypothesis is based on studies such as that of Chaplin (2015, p. 19), who discusses socialization-influenced tendencies in emotional expression:

Girls who show an exaggerated “female” pattern of coping with stressors by expressing high sadness, anxiety, and empathy, unfelt cheeriness, and by suppressing anger displays, may be at risk for internalizing distress and developing depression and anxiety.

Boys who show an exaggerated pattern of expressing un-modulated anger and by suppressing sadness and anxiety may be at risk for developing behavior problems and possible substance abuse.

The software- and annotation-led results of the current study can thus be used to support a questioning of societal shared knowledge regarding women’s innate emotional expressiveness and men’s innate emotional restrictiveness, in line with De Boise and Hearn’s (2017, p. 780) argument for the encouragement of “emotional communication” as a “key to fostering greater gender equality”.

Having specified the research questions and objectives prompting the current project, the organisation and content of the thesis will now be summarised.

## 1.4 Overview and Organisation of the Thesis

The doctoral dissertation is divided into six chapters with the following structure:

The present introduction has included a summary of the project's background, rationale and the research questions motivating its undertaking.

Chapter II, entitled “Digital Storytelling and Emotion Categorisation Frameworks”, begins with a section called “The YouTube Platform and Online Storytelling”. Here, a discussion of the history of the YouTube platform and its current policies is followed by an exploration of studies regarding self-presentation and particularly digital self-presentation, such as Horton and Wohl (1956), Goffman (1959), Duplantier (2016) and Hjarvard (2008). Also included is a description of digital storytelling, focusing on De Fina and Perrino (2019), Gregori-Signes and Pennock-Speck (2012), and an examination of notable storytelling genres on YouTube. Lastly, the *Draw My Life* genre itself is discussed, as well as Hans et al. (2011), Coates (2015), and related work into online performances of gender.

The second part of Chapter II, “Describing and Categorising Emotions”, turns to existing – and notably varied – emotion classification frameworks such as Chaplin (2015) and Coats and Feldman (1996). This section also addresses a recent debate over modern masculinity which stemmed from a November 2020 Vogue shoot and ties into Charteris-Black and Seale's (2009, p. 108) call for “a redefinition of what it means to be powerful”. The last part of the chapter focuses on the functioning and analytical possibilities offered by Lingmotif, LIWC2015 and Wmatrix4 for sentiment/emotion analysis.

Chapter III, “Description of the Corpus and Methodology”, provides an overview of the characteristics of the video databases created for the present study as well as the project's research questions and the Corpus Linguistics tools and methods of analysis used to answer them. Among others, Baker et al.'s (2008) description of Corpus Linguistics (CL), Partington, Duguid and Taylor's (2013) discussion of Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) and Wodak's (2015) Discourse-Historical Approach to linguistics research are reviewed and applied.

Chapter IV, “Analysis and Findings”, has two main sections. The first part includes a discussion of the software-related findings and the second focuses on the manual annotation-led results.

The thesis concludes with Chapter V, in which the study's research questions are answered by drawing on all of the qualitative and quantitative data obtained throughout the investigation process. The answers lead to reflections on the interrelated social influences likely to be affecting the YouTubers' discourse. A series of possible future research lines are also reviewed here.

Following the conclusion, in Chapter VI, there is a summary in Spanish of the current study's methodology and key findings. Next, there is a list of bibliographical references used in the project.

The appendix has two sections. The first, entitled "Video Database", contains a list of YouTube links with details about the videos and their creators. Next, "Study Corpus" shows the data resulting from the LIWC2015 and Wmatrix4 software output revision processes and manual colour-coding of emotion displays in the transcripts.

For ease of access and organisational purposes, the raw (unrevised) software output (all raw data on frequencies, keywords and clusters) was classified thematically and uploaded to a supplementary online appendix at the following website: <https://mural.uv.es/ankay/Appendix.html>.

**Chapter II:**  
**Digital Storytelling and Emotion**  
**Categorisation Frameworks**

# Chapter II: Digital Storytelling and Emotion Categorisation Frameworks

## 2.1 The YouTube Platform and Online Storytelling

### 2.1.1 Introduction

“Broadcast Yourself” — YouTube’s evocative slogan sums up the platform’s immense possibilities for the transmission of personal stories and events. Through their videos, YouTubers immerse viewers in everything from seemingly mundane to completely life-changing moments.

Loyal and new followers alike are given front-row seats to prom dates, proposals, weddings, and births. Viewers get invited into YouTubers’ homes and even their bedrooms, where, as if talking to a close confidant through the camera lens, they discuss whatever is on their mind, or perhaps, what they deem will garner the most views — favourite lipstick shades, bread recipes, workout routines, or childhood memories. While television actors avoid breaking the “fourth wall”, YouTubers purposefully do exactly that. As Stokel-Walker (2019, p. 178) explains:

On YouTube, creators lock you firmly in their gaze, never breaking eye contact, a ready, beaming easy smile to hand. It feels almost like a conversation with an old friend – particularly now that apps like FaceTime, Skype and Snapchat encourage us to interact with friends face-to-face, but mediated by a screen.

Stokel-Walker’s description of the similarities between interaction with friends via apps such as FaceTime and one-way “conversations” with YouTubers is illustrated in one of the top comments in a January 2021 vlog on lifestyle YouTuber Anastasia Kingsnorth’s channel (*IKEA TRIP! Move With Me Episode 1*): “I love how Anna talks to us like we’re her friends on FaceTime with her”. The video shows Kingsnorth purchasing home furnishings with her mother and brother before moving into a new apartment. Another popular comment on the video shows the viewers’ high level of personal involvement with the YouTuber’s life: “(I’ve never been more excited for someone else who doesn’t even know me to move in ahhhhh!!! (I)t’s gonna (*going to*) look so good xxx”.

Likewise, in a video on Grace Booth's vlogging channel, "Extra Grack" (*Mystery Packages and Christmassy London #VLOGMASDAY5*), the food/lifestyle YouTuber mentions that her channel manager has given her a present. Some of the commenters on the video replied with surprise over the fact that someone who feels "like a friend" has a professional helping her to land brand deals and make decisions about her channel content. One said, "For some reason, I find it so bizarre for YouTubers to have managers. Especially when I heard Grace has one cuz (*because*) she literally feels like a friend, like her channel is so casual, easy going kind of vibes which makes us as an audience feel closer to her".

Similarly, the fashion and lifestyle content creator Emma Chamberlain uploaded a vlog about temporarily moving back to her parents' house after a period living alone (*THE "OLD EMMA" IS BACK?*). The top comment on the video, with over 25,000 likes as of 2021, is "idk (*I don't know*) about ya'll (*you all*) but Emma is literally my best friend and she doesn't even know it". Another popular comment in the thread is "When I watch Emma I literally feel like she's talking to me and only me". Sentiments like these are also expressed in the comments section of a vlog on singer and environmentalist Dani Calleiro's channel [*My Hopes, Dreams and Talking About What Happened In 2020 (Night Time Chit Chat)*], in which one follower admits, "Sometimes (I) forget you're a YouTuber and not a friend".

Within the YouTube context, content consumers are far from passive. As Bou-Franch et al. (2012, p. 516) argue, "The YouTube universe constitutes an unquestionable force within contemporary popular culture, a universe created collectively by all its participants". Unlike the traditional television medium, with fixed schedules and a limited number of channels, the platform puts much of the control firmly in the hands of the viewers. The whole world is quite literally at their fingertips, and they decide what to engage with, and how and when this engagement takes place:

When a user, after selecting a return from a given search or algorithmic suggestion, chooses to watch a particular video from start to finish, which is pretty rare on YouTube, then that proved to be an even more memorable consumption activity as consumer agency plays such a significant part in the consumption exercise. TV happens to consumers, but consumers happen to YouTube. (Duplantier, 2016, p. 147)

YouTube's mission statement on the site's "About" page (*About – YouTube*, n.d., paras. 1-2) gives us a glimpse into the company's core aim: "Our mission is to give



everyone a voice and to show them the world. We believe that everyone deserves to have a voice, and that the world is a better place when we listen, share and build a community through our stories”. This dual objective places the focus on both the content creators, who choose to share their stories, and content consumers, who choose to listen to them.

The company’s values, based on four essential defining freedoms, are also summarised on YouTube’s “About” page (*About – YouTube*, n.d.). In first place is “Freedom of Expression”, stemming from the notion that “people should be able to speak freely, share opinions, foster open dialogue, and that creative freedom leads to new voices, formats and possibilities” (para. 4). Here, the encouragement of dialogue is key. YouTube is a highly interactive platform, which offers the possibility of liking, disliking and commenting on videos — as long as the YouTuber has not disabled comments. This possibility of interaction with content creators adds to the sense of user control and engagement.

Next comes “Freedom of Information”: “We believe that everyone should have easy, open access to information and that video is a powerful force for education, building understanding and documenting world events, big and small” (para. 5). The platform’s potential as a facilitator for raising intercultural awareness is highlighted.

The third freedom to be defined by YouTube on the “About” page in conjunction with its company values is the “Freedom of Opportunity”, whereby “everyone should have a chance to be discovered, build a business and succeed on their own terms, and that people – not gatekeepers – decide what’s popular” (para. 6). YouTube is depicted as a democratic platform, where the content creators and consumers shape trends rather than intermediary TV executives or scriptwriters influencing the process: “For the first time, viewers could find an ocean of alternative videos unmediated by television executives” (Stokel-Walker, 2019, p. 34).

Duplantier (2016, p. 147) also highlights the relative freedom provided to the viewer by the YouTube platform versus the traditional television format: “An affective moment of formation on YouTube is vastly different than TV because television imposes its content and structure upon the viewer. (...) (YouTube) has the potential to be a substantially more liberatory viewing experience than TV”.

The last freedom put forward by the company (*About – YouTube*, n.d.) is the “Freedom to Belong”: “We believe that everyone should be able to find communities of

support, break down barriers, transcend borders and come together around shared interests and passions” (para. 7). While technology is often thought of as cold and impersonal, YouTube aims to draw people closer together, giving them a space to feel understood and comforted by likeminded community members. YouTube’s objective of transcending borders is supported by data on the website’s “Press” page (*Press – YouTube*, n.d.). For instance, YouTube can be navigated in 80 different languages and local versions have been launched in over 100 countries (paras. 4-5).

The company’s “Press” page (*Press – YouTube*, n.d.) also breaks down other staggering figures that help to put its overarching mission statement into perspective. For example, as of 2020, over two billion logged-in users visit the site every month, with over a billion hours of video content being watched daily, generating billions of views (para. 2). Interestingly, over 70% of YouTube’s content is consumed via mobile devices (para. 3). This ties in with the abovementioned aim of providing easy and open access to information. Users can consume content on their mobiles or tablets while sitting at the bus stop, on the train or waiting for a table at a restaurant. As long as a Wi-Fi or mobile data connection is available, they are free to explore at any place and time.

The “Freedom of Opportunity” emphasises the potential for YouTubers to build their own successful businesses via the site. The statistics on the company’s “Press” page (*Press – YouTube*, n.d.) show just how lucrative YouTube can be. In 2020, the number of channels earning six figures a year on the platform grew by more than 40% y/y and the number of channels earning five figures a year grew more than 50% y/y (paras 7-8). YouTube and many of its users are clearly thriving, with the number of channels with over a million subscribers growing by more than 65% y/y in 2020 (para 9). In fact, as of 2020, YouTube was the second most visited site worldwide (*Top Websites Ranking*), “behind only Google (whom we ask about life), but ahead of Facebook (with whom we share our lives)” (Stokel-Walker, 2019, p. 13).

The company’s humble beginnings are a far cry from the current boom, however. As detailed by Stokel-Walker (2019, Chapter 3), the site’s co-founder, Jawed Karim, moved to the U.S. when he was a teenager with his German mother and Bangladeshi father. While studying Computer Science at the University of Illinois, Karim had started working for an online payment start-up company – PayPal. Also working at PayPal at the time was another university friend, Steve Chen, whose family had moved to Illinois from Taiwan. Chen had briefly also worked for Facebook, started by Mark Zuckerberg, a

fellow young computer programmer. At PayPal, Karim and Chen joined forces with Chad Hurley, a fine artist who designed the company's original logo.

On Valentine's Day of 2005, Karim, Chen and Hurley registered YouTube.com and its original slogan, "Your Digital Video Repository". A couple of months later, on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005, Karim uploaded "Me at the zoo", the first ever video to appear on the site. The 18-second clip was shot by Karim's high-school friend, Yakov Lapitsky, and features the co-founder at San Diego Zoo in front of the elephant exhibit, noting the length of their trunks. In the *Los Angeles Times*, Pham (2010, para. 4) noted that "As the first video uploaded to YouTube ("Me at the zoo") played a pivotal role in fundamentally altering how people consumed media and helped usher in a golden era of the 60-second video". Baer (2015, para. 7), who ranked the clip as the most important YouTube video of all time, described its style and content as "representative of YouTube—it doesn't need to be this fancy production; it can be approachable. The first YouTube video is something anyone could create on their own". This approachability factor was summed up by Hurley when asked by reporters about the co-founders' vision. He said, "We're the ultimate reality TV, giving you a glimpse into other people's lives" (Hurley, quoted in Stokel-Walker, 2019, p. 27).

Between January and July 2006, YouTube's traffic quadrupled. By July 2006, the platform was in the world's top 50 most-visited websites (Stokel-Walker, 2019, pp. 35-6). Around the same time, the already successful Google Inc. had launched Google Video, a direct competitor. However, it was no match for YouTube. According to Stokel-Walker (2019, p. 36), Google Video lacked YouTube's exciting and engaging visual content: "Some of its content was dull compared to YouTube. Google employees uploaded staid lectures to Google Video, while YouTube hosted viral sensations. Google was deft with data, but less so with visual entertainment".

In the end, Google decided to stamp out the competition entirely, buying out YouTube for 1.65 billion dollars in October of 2006. Although economists at the time were sceptical about the decision, Stokel-Walker (2019, p. 37) describes the purchase as a "bargain". In fact, in October 2019, Needham & Company analyst Laura Martin (as cited in Strauss, 2019, para. 1) suggested that YouTube "could be worth as much as \$300 billion if it were a standalone company".

Following Google's cash injection, YouTube began on its path towards global consolidation and expansion. At the time, it was crucial to ensure what Stokel-Walker (2019, p. 37) describes as a "sustainable commercial future for the platform", so in August 2007, they began to run targeted advertising across the site for 1,000 official partners, such as The Simpsons Movie and BMW. As the author explains (p. 37), "(YouTube) meticulously A/B tested ad formats to ensure that they did not alienate viewers".

Key to the success of the platform, YouTube did not want to estrange content creators either, and so gave a significant portion of ad revenue to YouTubers based on their views and interaction levels (number of likes/dislikes and comments on each video). The platform proved (and still very much proves) particularly enticing to many brands eager to reach out to an often young and loyal demographic, drawn in by the relatability and perceived authenticity of their favourite YouTubers.

Why "perceived" authenticity? A case in point is the American YouTuber "lonelygirl15", or Bree Avery, a 16-year-old who would record from her bedroom and tell her followers all about her everyday life – home-schooling, crushes, and her own favourite YouTubers – in the form of video blogs/logs, also known as "vlogs". She posted her first vlog on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2006. Soon, she had become the most followed individual on YouTube and her loyal fans would interact with her via not only YouTube, but also through her MySpace page (another popular social network at the time).

However, the very same loyal fans were confused – and very concerned – when Avery told them that a mysterious group called "The Order" had been targeting her. Not long afterwards, the Los Angeles Times dropped a bombshell – Bree Avery had been an entirely fictional persona all along. The character was played by Jessica Lee Rose, a 19-year-old actress working for three filmmakers who had been aiming to prove that "short-form scripted drama on YouTube could be taken seriously as normal TV" (Stokel-Walker, 2019, pp. 175-6). The plan paid off, as they were offered jobs at a famous Hollywood talent agency.

What was clearly a successful business move for the filmmakers ended up shaking the foundations of YouTube and bringing to light the prospect of completely constructed "authenticity" for profit and fame. Although "lonelygirl15" came across as an entirely authentic and relatable 16-year-old, she was simply a well-constructed and believable act. As Duplantier (2016, p. 115) notes:

The core problematic of YouTube is its duality: the YouTube occurring inside conventional media practice and the one occurring exterior to it. In the minds of amateur users decrying Lonelygirl15, there was their version of YouTube, the one its current slogan “Broadcast Yourself” is intended for, and in the minds of professional content producers and copyright holders, there was the other YouTube, the one its original slogan “Your Digital Video Repository” was meant.

In the YouTube realm, thus, things are not always as they seem. Although the Lonelygirl15 case may be extreme, what about those YouTubers who are not fictional characters? Even if a content creator sets out to share an authentic identity on the platform – a side of her or his character entirely in line with the non-virtual self – to what extent is this possible? In fact, what is an “authentic” representation of oneself in any context?

## 2.1.2 Online Self-Presentation

In 1959, American sociologist Erving Goffman published his highly influential work entitled *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, listed as the tenth most important sociological book of the 20th century by the International Sociological Association (*Books of the XX Century*, n.d.). Goffman (1959, p. 1) intended the piece to be “a sort of handbook detailing one sociological perspective from which social life can be studied”, describing “a set of features (...) that can be applied to any concrete social establishment, be it domestic, industrial, or commercial” (p. 1). The perspective in question is that of the theatrical performance.

Goffman draws on dramaturgical principles to analyse how individuals present themselves and their activities in social contexts, in order to guide the impressions that others form of them. He proposes the following (1959, p. 1):

When an individual enters the presence of others, they commonly seek to acquire information about him or bring into play information about him already possessed. They will be interested in his general socio-economic status, his conception of self, his attitude toward them, his competence, his trustworthiness, etc. (...) Information about the individual helps to define the situation.

Aware of their listeners’ expectations, speakers aim to bring forth a positive impression of the self, constantly adapting their physical appearance and manner of social performance in interaction. This tenet is the core of impression management-related theories, whereby social actors are seen to control their behaviour and the information

they provide in communication with the aim of showcasing themselves in the best light possible. In their framework, for example, Baumeister and Hutton (1987, p. 71), describe two main reasons for self-presenting: to match one's self-image or to match the audience's preferences and expectations. Self-presentation strategies can thus be employed to maintain self-esteem, save face, avoid letting others down or to appeal to their idealised image of us – or perhaps a combination of any of these aims in context.

Applying these suppositions to the YouTube context, the notion of self-presenting to live up to audience preferences and expectations is key. For instance, the idea is clearly echoed in García-Rapp's 2017 work on intimacy building in the videos of the British-Chinese beauty/lifestyle YouTuber Lindy Tsang, known as "Bubzbeauty". As García-Rapp explains (2017, p. 282), "For online celebrities, there is a strong expectancy of authenticity, due to social media's implicit values of immediacy and spontaneity (...). Successful online celebrity practice implies building intimacy through disclosure and connection-seeking".

A sensation of authenticity and intimacy is what YouTube viewers are expecting and successful YouTubers often strive to provide. As Kevin Allocca, YouTube's Head of Culture and Trends, explains in a video about digital media trends during the COVID-19 pandemic, "In place of more formal entertainment, these (YouTube) creators and their formats represent a kind of extreme authenticity or radical relatability" (Culture and Trends Team, 2021, 8:45). The majority of content creators, then, are essentially selling *themselves* to their audience – personality traits, quirks, hobbies, and interests – everything that makes up their "extremely authentic" or "radically relatable" online identities. Be it consciously or subconsciously, however, they also make constant decisions as to which parts of *themselves* to bring to the performance, and which parts they leave backstage.

Goffman (1959, p. 2) finds that "if the individual offers the others a product or service (...), the individual will have to act so that he intentionally or unintentionally *expresses* himself, and the others will in turn have to be *impressed* in some way by him". Here, Goffman can be seen to draw on the influential research into person perception of Ichheiser (1970, p. 150), who formulated the following highly relevant idea to YouTube studies: "What **seems to be** often constitutes a more solid psychological reality than **what actually is**" (emphasis added).

As Goffman (1959, p. 2) postulates, an observer must “rely on what the individual says about himself or on documentary evidence he provides as to who and what he is”. Indeed, in most social contexts – with YouTube as no exception – we have no other option but to take the speaker’s words and behaviours at face value. The sociologist goes on, “Many crucial facts lie beyond the time and place of interaction or lie concealed within it. For example, the **‘true’ or ‘real’ attitudes, beliefs, and emotions** of the individual can be ascertained only indirectly, through his avowals or through **what appears to be** involuntary expressive behavior” (p.1; emphasis added).

According to Duplantier (2016, p. 115), YouTubers’ participation on the platform is not “predicated on their ‘realness’ or whatever selfhood remains after their digital mediation”. We cannot ignore the fact that, as the author highlights, YouTubers “dictate the terms of their mediation” (p. 115). Chen (2016, p. 233) also puts emphasis on the possibility to either bring forward or hide certain parts of one’s identity on YouTube and other social media channels: “With the advent of new technology, mediated experience may allow for a more open digital self-expression and also enable consumers to conceal aspects of their selves that they find undesirable”.

It is useful here to distinguish between the concept of *mediation* of selfhood in communication and the overarching idea of *mediatization* of self-representations in the digital sphere. According to media scholar Hjarvard (2008, p. 114), while *mediation* “describes the concrete act of communication by means of a medium in a specific social context,” *mediatization* “refers to a more long-lasting process, whereby social and cultural institutions and modes of interaction are changed as a consequence of the growth of the media’s influence” (p. 114). Likewise, Couldry and Hepp (2013, p. 197) describe mediatization as a category necessary to comprehend how “the overall consequences of multiple processes of mediation have changed with the emergence of different kinds of media”. It can therefore be asserted that constantly developing media platforms such as YouTube have fundamentally changed both how we interact with one another and how we mediate our selfhood in communication.

To contextualise the social significance of this shift, Hjarvard (2008, p. 132) describes the mediatization undergone by society at large as “a modernization process on a par with urbanization and individualization, whereby the media (...) both contribute to disembedding social relations from existing contexts and re-embedding them in new

social contexts”. It is important to keep in mind that, as a mediatized social context, mediation of selfhood on the YouTube platform works in several similar (and yet also very different) ways to traditional face-to-face communication.

Along these lines, in a study of Taiwanese YouTube consumption patterns, Chen (2013, p. 126) describes YouTube as a tool “to digitally self-construct, self-present, and parasocially interact with others”. The notion of “parasocial interaction” derives from Parasocial Interaction Theory, coined by Donald Horton and Richard Wohl (1956, p. 215), in their essay *Mass Communication and Para-Social Interaction: Observations on Intimacy at a Distance*:

One of the striking characteristics of the new mass media – radio, television and the movies – is that they give the illusion of face-to-face relationship with the performer. The conditions of response to the performer are analogous to those in a primary group. The most remote and illustrious men are met *as if* they were in the circle of one’s peers; the same is true of a character in a story who comes to life in these media in an especially vivid and arresting way. We propose to call this seeming face-to-face relationship between spectator and performer a *para-social relationship*.

Horton and Wohl’s research (1956, p. 215) analysed viewers’ reactions to the performers they followed on radio, television and film, and found that despite not having met them in person, they had built up what felt like bonds with them as if they were real-life friends, and especially if the performer was regularly available and created a suggestion of intimacy:

The audience (...) responds with something more than mere running observation; it is, as it were, subtly insinuated into the program’s action and internal social relationships and, by dint of this kind of staging, is ambiguously transformed into a group which observes and participates in the show by turns.

Although “interaction” with television hosts was almost completely one-way, a lot of the time these hosts would use direct addresses to the camera, aimed at engaging the viewer and building up feelings of bondedness and intimacy: “Sometimes the ‘actor’ – whether he is playing himself or performing in a fictional role – is seen engaged with others; but often he faces the spectator, uses the mode of direct address, talks as if he were conversing personally and privately” (Horton and Wohl, 1956, p. 215). This description could be likened to “lonelygirl15”, because the fictional YouTuber would tell her followers all about her home-schooling and crushes, as if they were her best friends. Once again, adjustment of language and behaviour to cater to audience expectations is brought into the equation: “The more the performer seems to adjust his performance to the



supposed response of the audience, the more the audience tends to make the response anticipated” (p. 215).

Horton and Wohl (1956, p. 215) also highlight that the spectator is free to withdraw from the parasocial relationship at any time. In the same way that a radio or television channel can be turned off, YouTube consumers can also stop watching and even unsubscribe from a content creator’s channel if they so wish. Likewise, if the consumer decides to remain involved in the parasocial relationship (by watching the content produced), “these para social relations provide a framework within which much may be added by fantasy” (p. 215). This fantasy aspect can also be seen in the YouTube context, with fans sharing entirely invented “fan fiction” stories about their favourite YouTubers on different online blogs such as Wattpad or speculating about their lives on web forums such as Guru Gossip and Tattle Life.

Although parasocial interactions are characterised by a lack of reciprocity and always controlled by the performers, Horton and Wohl (1956, p. 215) note that “there are, of course, ways in which the spectators can make their feelings known to the performers and the technicians who design the programs”. In the 1950s, this process was limited to writing a letter or perhaps a phone in, actions which the authors (p. 215) believed to “lie outside the para-social interaction itself”. Currently, however, there are a whole host of ways in which spectators can make their feelings known to content creators – from Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and Facebook to the YouTube comments section itself.

Viewer feedback can also often be given to content creators synchronously, via live streams on video-oriented platforms such as Instagram Live or Twitch. In addition, the YouTube platform offers “YouTube Live” for live streaming and commenting on the site, as well as “YouTube Premieres”, which allows YouTubers to schedule a video to be played at a certain time with a live chat feature. A public watch page and two-minute countdown are displayed before the premiere, and while the video plays, the creators can connect and interact in real-time with followers via a chat box.

These contemporary feedback channels, which allow for spectators to interact directly with creators, seem to be encouraging a notable shift in the power dynamics and further heightening feelings of bondedness and engagement. Along these lines, Rasmussen (2018, p. 284) analysed the social interaction of YouTubers in the beauty

community with their followers. She describes how “the presence of parasocial interaction could be strengthened by the viewer’s ability to post a comment or send an email to a persona, somewhat simulating a more realistic social interaction, regardless of whether the message is received”.

Despite this strengthening of feedback channels leading to heightened feelings of closeness (perceived especially on the part of the viewer), Rihl and Wegener’s (2019, p. 667) research into parasocial interaction of German YouTubers indicates that the inequality between content creator and consumer at the core of 1950s framework still very much applies in many ways:

Not only the intensity but also the form of parasocial relationships changes through YouTube actors’ specific staging mechanisms and users’ higher levels of activity. Admittedly, these changes remain within the confines of parasocial relationships as opposed to social ones. Thus, while the feedback channel strengthens the parasocial relationship, it fails to create an orthosocial relationship in which all parties act on the same level and perceive each other equally.

Thus, although new versions of parasocial interaction are taking place via YouTube and other social media channels, the content creators are still very much in control of both their mediatized self-representations and the ways in which they interact – or not – with their followers.

### **2.1.3 Digital Storytelling**

De Fina and Perrino (2019, p. 1) have spoken of a “growing interest in storytelling within online contexts given the centrality of digital practices in our everyday life”. Scholars in many different fields are now taking note of online narrative forms and strategies, and breaking down their particularities and applications. The authors make a clear distinction between early work on digital narratives, which “focused mainly on genres and their different realizations with respect to face-to-face interactions” (p.1), and what they call “second wave studies”, which have “decidedly moved towards the analysis of narrative practices in digital contexts by focusing on the different ways in which individuals and communities use narratives to communicate experience in a wide variety of social media” (p. 2). This second wave of research takes a different approach: it goes past distinctions between in-person and digital communication, and towards more in-depth examinations of online personal storytelling.

In particular, De Fina and Perrino (2019, p. 2) describe how social media sites such as YouTube are now being examined “not only as platforms per se, but also as springboards of the genres that emerge within those practices and the participation forms and frameworks that are deployed in these different online environments”. Although the second wave has been picking up pace in recent years, the authors suggest that “existing sociolinguistic literature on digital storytelling is still very scant” (p. 2):

In our view, narrative scholars need to look more closely at these new digital contexts because it is through the analysis of semiotic processes within them that new light can be thrown on the types of new storytelling genres that are emerging. The analysis of these processes will also help scholars study: (1) the ways in which these new genres are managed, (2) the ways in which the affordances of digital environments shape tellings, (3) the ways these tellings are shaped by their virtual narrators, (4) the many forms of participation that digital environments provide, and (5) how these new spaces affect the production and reception of narratives. (2019, p. 2)

Research into digital narrative delineation such as that described by De Fina and Perrino (2019) has been carried out by Gregori-Signes and Pennock-Speck (2012), who provide a critical review of various studies into digital storytelling. The authors describe digital stories as “short multimodal stories made with inexpensive equipment and mainly about personal experiences” (2012, p.3), in line with the classical model of Digital Storytelling developed in the 1990s in the United States, promoted by the Centre for Digital Storytelling (Lambert, 2010).

Gregori-Signes and Pennock-Speck (2012, p. 6) propose a genre typology that “allows an initial classification of digital storytelling into two main types: educational and social”. However, the authors note that it is not possible to completely separate these two sub-genres: “Educational stories are not divorced from the social context they are created in and stories with a more social bent in the wider social context also have message to convey, and, as such, are partly pedagogical in nature” (pp. 6-7).

Along these lines, Illera and Monroy (2009) highlight digital stories’ immense capacity for transmitting human-led narratives and social knowledge in an educational context, and Lundby (2014, p. 20) reviews the “socio-cultural dynamics of mediatization in digital storytelling when people shape and share their lives”, investigating “how self-representation in digital storytelling may build competence and media literacy through

informal learning”. In both studies, the dual social/educational potential of digital storytelling is once again highlighted.

The opportunity for community bonding and learning through digital storytelling is fulfilled in various ways and through several genres on the YouTube platform. As seen in section 2.1, even YouTube’s mission statement refers to community building through the sharing of personal stories. Testament to this opportunity is the *Story Time* genre, for example, in which YouTubers share stories about often shocking or cringeworthy life events with their followers: “Many YouTubers are capitalizing on their crazy and embarrassing stories by documenting them in Story Time vlogs” (Respass, n.d., para. 1).

Respass highlights the advantages of this type of narrative content, such as captivating the listener through relatable stories and increasing fan interaction via spectator comments about similar situations which they have faced. She notes, “Story Time vlogs make your fans feel a deeper connection”, and so “they leave more comments” (para. 3). The author also discusses two key aspects of *Story Time* videos which serve to pique the interest of spectators – a captivating video title and eye-catching thumbnail, or the image YouTubers select to represent their video. The function of “effective thumbnails” is further described on YouTube’s Creator Academy page (*Make effective thumbnails and titles*):

Thumbnails and titles act like billboards to help viewers decide to watch your videos. Well-designed thumbnails and titles can attract more fans to your channel, encourage viewers to watch through your videos because they know what to expect, and make your content appealing for a broad range of advertisers. (para. 1)

Thumbnails are usually the first thing that viewers see when they find one of your videos, and 90% of the best-performing videos on YouTube have custom thumbnails. When you customise your thumbnails, make sure that you’ve got a strong, vibrant image that looks great large and small, and conveys key information about your video. (para. 4)

An example of a *Story Time* video with an impactful title and thumbnail is Maddie Joy’s *I Was Almost Kidnapped.. Story Time*, whose thumbnail includes a photo of the YouTuber supporting her head with her hand, indicating despair and stress. A nervous, sweating emoji also appears in the left-hand corner of the image to catch a potential scroller’s attention. The video description highlights the creator’s wish to share useful information that will keep her followers safe, an aim reminiscent of the aforementioned educational digital story:

First off, THANK YOU so so much for 50k subscribers, ily (*I love you*). Second off, I hope you guys found this video helpful. Always be aware of your surroundings. I'm so thankful to be safe and healthy... there will be more fun and happy videos coming soon, don't worry :) -mads

In the comments, followers share similar experiences and express their appreciation for the advice shared:

- Thank God you're safe (M)addie 😊 Also thank you for your advice to us 😊😊😊
- I'm so glad that you guys are safe and nothing extremely bad happened, thanks for spreading awareness that this could happen to anyone. Love you guys ❤️❤️
- I love you so much, just know that we are here for you no matter what ❤️❤️
- That is so scary. I'm very glad you guys are safe. Whenever I go on walks around my neighborhood, I always check behind me, and all around. I always take different routes, because I don't want sketchy people to figure out that I'm walking the same pattern every day, and me end up getting kidnapped. You really can't trust people. Praying for you guys ❤️

Another instance is Olivia Cara's *MY \*EMBARRASSING\* PERIOD HORROR STORIES / STORY TIME*, in which the title text is seen in a contrasting red, black and white font across a thumbnail which features an embarrassed monkey emoji and the YouTuber's shocked face alongside an embracing and naked (although blurred) couple in the background. In the video's description, Cara highlights community and intimacy building:

I shared what happened when I first found out I had my period, and 3 embarrassing period horror stories. Oh man, they were honestly terrible. Hopefully this video isn't TMI (*too much information*)! There's something I just love about sharing personal things with you guys so we can all laugh together, and you feel like we know each other on a personal level. (I) love you so much.

Viewer replies such as "(I'm) on mine (*my period*) rn (*right now*), and MALE PE TEACHERS ARE THE WORST BC (*because*) THEY THINK IT ISN'T BAD AND FORCE YOU TO DO GYM!", "'with food in my braces' I laugh as I pull food out of my braces" and "'it gets real cray cray (*crazy*) on the second day' I LAUGHED SO HARD BUT MOSTLY BC I RELATE" serve to reinforce the relatability and feelings of connection created by Cara's stories within the genre.

Lastly, in a Hollywood/YouTube crossover, actor Will Smith launched a YouTube channel at the end of 2017. While his initial videos were mainly promotional content for

his Netflix film *Bright*, since then, he has shared many videos about his life, relationships and health, including his vlogging of a colonoscopy procedure to spread colorectal cancer awareness. As Ashton (2020) notes:

Nowadays, we're seeing more and more vloggers become bonafide celebrities through their popular YouTube channels. So much so that genuine movie stars and TV personalities are not only taking notice and turning themselves into prominent YouTubers as well. The results are... interesting, to say the least. Not every superstar has what it takes to be YouTube famous — surprisingly enough — but there are a handful of famous, popular media personalities who've made the jump into YouTube stardom, including Will Smith. (para. 1)

Smith will produce content on a monthly, sometimes even weekly, basis for his followers. The results are high-energy and comical, though he'll occasionally get serious when discussing his passions and beliefs. (para. 2)

One of Smith's most popular videos, published in 2018 and garnering over 7.9 million views as of 2021, is his *How I Became The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air | STORYTIME*. In the video, he talks about going from a “broke”, struggling actor to signing a contract that would lead to his most famous role. In the story, he highlights the support of his girlfriend at the time, who encouraged him to follow his passions. The video's thumbnail features two pictures of Smith, one during the 1990s with a bright yellow background and dressed as the character The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, and the other smiling in the current day. The video itself combines black and white illustrative animations with clips of the show and of Smith at a park telling the story.

Fan comments praise Smith's humble outlook and achievements, and, as with the previous YouTubers, find parallels between the creator's story and their own life paths:

- I listened to my gf (*girlfriend*) taking an internship after I said no way in hell, and received success in ways I couldn't ever have imagined. So yeah, Will's right. And I married her.
- I love it how 30 years and many many millions later, he tells how the people around him (even his ex) helped him out of the hole, praises them instead of himself, and stays thankful.

Another popular storytelling genre on YouTube is *Answering Questions I've Avoided*, in which creators address topics which followers have been speculating about but that they have failed to openly discuss on their channels before. A related genre is *Quick Fire Assumptions*, in which YouTubers have a set amount of time to confirm or deny assumptions that followers have about them. Often, these questions and assumptions are sent in by viewers via social media channels such as Instagram.

Several YouTube narrative genres combine storytelling with other activities. For instance, *Chit Chat/Chatty GRWM (Get Ready With Me)* videos show the YouTuber putting on makeup, styling hair and/or getting dressed up in preparation for different activities, such as a date, first day of school/college, or a night on the town. Issues discussed with followers while the YouTubers are getting ready include aging and health concerns (e.g. rxstrmom's *Chatty GetReadyWithMe ~ DID I HAVE A FACELIFT? ~ OVER 70~ SHOUTOUT*), self-esteem and relationships (e.g. INMYSEAMS' *Chatty get ready with me: weightloss, grad school, my breakup after 5 1/2 years*) and sexuality, transgender issues and politics (e.g. Samantha Lux's *Get Ready With Me! My Sexuality, Election Day, + more!*).

A variation of this genre is the *Get Unready With Me* video, in which creators return from daily activities and take their make-up off, unwind and get ready for the evening or night ahead. For instance, in *UNWIND WITH ME | Teacher Night Routine, Get Unready With Me*, second-grade teacher Madison Campbell tells her followers about her work and relationship while getting “unready” after a day of teaching and then heading off to the gym. Likewise, in her version of the genre, college student Peyton Rodge shares all the steps of her night routine, from lighting a candle, to watching a film and putting in her retainer (*MY REALISTIC COLLEGE NIGHT ROUTINE 2020 | GET UNREADY WITH ME | Peyton Rodge*). The viewer comments indicate Rodge's frequent interaction and community building with her followers. For example, to the spectator request “Am so in love with your videos ♡ can you please do video how you use ur (your) iPad for school(?) I really can't decide with (whether) to buy one”, she replies, “Yes girlyyy I gotchu (*I've got you covered*)! I think I'll make a study video soon and include that 😊♡”.

Beauty YouTuber Paige Koren, on the other hand, shows how important it is to make even sponsored content feel authentic and relatable. Although she goes into vivid detail about why she loves some of her supposed favourite make-up removing products in *GET UNREADY WITH ME! JUICY Q&A | Paige Koren*, some of her viewers are not convinced by the authenticity of these descriptions (e.g. “I feel like these sponsored videos are so scripted and not your complete honest opinions. I would love to see your, non-sponsored, real nightly skincare routine! ☺”).

It is also worth noting the sudden popularity of a related combined storytelling genre during the worldwide lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic: the *Get Ready With Me To Go Nowhere* video. Examples such as Darcei Amanda's *CHAOTIC GET READY WITH ME TO GO NOWHERE CAUSE ITS A PANDEMIC*, Rachel Cantu's *get ready with me to go nowhere (thanks corona)* and Anastasia Kingsnorth's *Get Ready With Me To Go NoWhere* show the YouTubers sharing their frustrations and fears over the pandemic, and highlighting the positive mental health impact of getting "done up", even when staying at home. Fan comments are powerful examples of community building and support during trying times:

- Darcei: making everyone's life 10000x better during quarantine
- "I gonna (*I'm going to*) be getting ready...to go nowhere" everyone in the UK atm (*at the moment*) x
- Anna is so needed as we are on lockdown 🤔❤️ self isolation and this just makes my day 🙏
- I'm still working at the moment as my work is one of the few still open. But when/if we do close, I plan on getting better at my baking skills and back into gaming. I'll use the time to save my hair from any heat damage and give my skin a nice break, but I'll do the odd day of makeup/hair to make me feel put together :)

A very popular and rather unique combined storytelling genre on YouTube is the *Mukbang*, which derives from the Korean words for "eating" and "broadcast". Harris (2020, para. 3) explains, "Filming the consumption of 4,000-calorie (minimum) meals began over a decade ago in South Korea, but Mukbang videos have evolved to become a lucrative, worldwide phenomenon". Essentially, YouTubers sit in front of the camera and chat about a whole host of topics while they eat a variety of foods. While there is now no minimum number of calories to be consumed, often the videos still feature calorie-heavy fast food.

As of 2021, YouTuber, actress and singer Colleen Ballinger has over 8.5 million subscribers on her personal channel and over 10 million subscribers on "Miranda Sings", her satirical comedy channel featuring a fictional character called Miranda. Ballinger has uploaded many storytelling-style *Mukbangs* to her personal platform with friends, family members, fellow YouTubers and also on her own. Examples include videos eating and chatting about the labour and delivery of her first child (*MY INTENSE BIRTH STORY! - Mukbang w/ Trisha Paytas*), ghost stories (*MY CRAZY GHOST EXPERIENCE! - Taco Bell MUKBANG*), religion and family life (*My Religious Background - Taco Bell*



MUKBANG) and professional opportunities (*I CAN FINALLY TALK ABOUT MY NETFLIX SPECIAL! - In-N-Out Mukbang*).

What is it about *Mukbang* videos that are appealing to so many viewers? Harris (2020, paras. 21-23) cites the comments of users of the web content rating and discussion site Reddit under the thread “What is up with the mukbang videos?”:

Devotees frequently cite companionship as a reason for tuning in; in an increasingly lonely digital age, they say, viewers often eat while watching mukbang clips to simulate communal dining.

"I don't like to eat alone," one Redditor wrote, "and the ones I watch tell stories and stuff, so it's interesting to listen to and it feels like you're with a friend."

"These videos fulfill that need for social bonding while eating," another clarified.

The sensation of bondedness through parasocial interaction acquires a new dimension through the *Mukbang* genre. Although the spectator may not be in the same room or even country as the YouTuber, they are able to eat together while sharing/listening to stories, an act so often seen as private and intimate.

All of the genres discussed here can overlap in different ways, forming even more sub-genres of digital storytelling on the platform. For instance, we find Anastasia Kingsnorth's *Answering Questions We Normally Avoid Mukbang*, in which she sits in her car with her mother, both women eating Taco Bell and responding to viewers' questions about fashion, makeup, and relationships. Similarly, Audrey Rivet does her hair and makeup while addressing viewers' assumptions about her in a *GRWM/Assumptions* crossover (*Get Ready with Me | Reading your assumptions while doing my hair & makeup!*) and, along the lines of Ballinger's *Mukbang* videos, Stephanie Soo intertwines a *Story Time* and *Mukbang* (*There Was An Intruder In Our House (Storytime) + Most Popular Fast Food Vegan Options Mukbang*), much to the delight of her fans:

- People don't like her because she talks too much, but that's exactly the reason I like her. She explains everything very detailed, and it's the best when she tells stories. I get very interested and I want to watch more, keep up the good work and don't let anyone bring you down Steph!!
- Steph is so interesting, like usually I HATE mukbangs, but I like hers cuz (*because*) she's so talkative and explains everything very good energy as well luv U (*love you*) steph!

A recurring component of digital storytelling on YouTube, then, is personal disclosure through parasocial interaction, which leads to a sensation of intimacy,

understanding and community building. This therefore falls in line with Gregori-Signes and Pennock-Speck's dual genre typology (2012), with their aforementioned classification of digital stories into educational and social types, with room for overlapping between the two.

As Stokel-Walker (2019, p. 262) suggests, "YouTube is far more influential, far more powerful, and far richer than most people realise". With any variations of the *Story Time*, *Answering Questions I've Avoided*, *Quick Fire Assumptions*, *Chit Chat/Chatty GRWM (Get Ready With Me)* and storytelling-centred *Mukbangs*, the spectators learn about the creators' lives, or, at least, what they have decided to share about their lives in the digital sphere. While watching the above examples, along with (potentially sponsored) anecdotes about food, make-up, and other personal grooming products, they also are encouraged to reflect on issues regarding personal safety, health, self-esteem, politics, religion, and family life/relationships. This certainly encapsulates the didactic side of some of these videos.

The (para)social side of the digital storytelling genres on YouTube is also present in many ways. With the disclosure of each intimate, relatable life event and every "ily" (I love you) or "I gotchu" (I have got you covered), the fourth wall is shattered. YouTubers invite their followers to catch up, unwind, and even have a bite to eat or get ready for a night out, as they would with the very closest of friends. As long as the view counts keep creeping up, does it really matter to the creator whether the person on the other side of the screen is following along or not? Are these relationships reciprocal in any way? Olivia Cara's wording of her *Story Time* video description gives us some insight: "There's something **I** just love about sharing personal things **with you guys** so **we** can all laugh together, and **you** feel like **we** know each other on a personal level". Who is doing the sharing? Cara. Who *feels like* they know her personally? The viewer.

#### 2.1.4 The *Draw My Life* Genre

Perhaps one of the most exemplary and varied digital storytelling genres on YouTube was started on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2011, when the Irish YouTuber and musician Bry O'Reilly – known professionally as Bry – uploaded his life story in video form and called it "Draw My Life". The story was hand-drawn with felt tips on pieces of paper and narrated by O'Reilly himself (*Draw My Life*).

Although this first example of the genre was unpublished in 2017, since then, many other YouTubers have followed in Bry's footsteps and created their own versions. In fact, as of 2021, there are over 4,000,000 publicly shared results for "Draw My Life" on Google. Kemp (2017, pp. 36-7) classifies the genre as a "digital comic", and distinguishes between what she calls "digitized" and "digital" types of DML videos:

Digitized comics are comics that have been created by hand, then filmed and turned digital due to the necessity of broadcasting or uploading them to YouTube. (...) Digital comics, on the other hand, are never physically material. Instead, digital comics are created through computers, such as with a graphics tablet and digital art software or a drawing application. Then, these digital creations are filmed via a screencast. Screencasting occurs when someone uses a screen-recording software on their electronic device to show all that occurs on that screen for a set amount of time. (...)

In summation: dry-erase and whiteboard comics become digitized comic vlogs, whereas digital comics are screencast and become digital comic vlogs.

Whether the DML videos are digitized, like Bry's original hand-drawn creation, or digital comics from the outset, their content always revolves around the narrator's autobiographical narrative: birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood – all of the trials, tribulations and triumphs of life, neatly summarised into around ten minutes.

The relatability of the stories is heightened by the level of emotion and reflection incorporated by the narrators. Along these lines, Gustafson (2013, para. 3) describes *Draw My Life* as a "remarkable illustration of a new subgenre of videos appearing on YouTube that breaks the mold of what is possible with the language of comics". In the comic book reviewer's description of American YouTuber Jenna Marbles' *Draw My Life* video, he highlights the many reflective and relatable qualities at play:

Marbles' video is funny, but it is also a pensive, honest, reflective work of autobiography touched with loss, uncertainty and sadness. Marbles covers the broad strokes of her life in eight minutes but it works because **it is about the emotions of life and the small things that make us who we are**. Any memoir is selective, and here her narrative here can be seen as rather sad - ultimately it isn't. Life is a weird journey filled with professional and personal mishaps that build to who we are. The video is ambiguous. While she may not be happy with her personal situation and the losses she has suffered along the way - the loneliness and uncertainty of life that we all share - she has found some modicum of professional success and artistic satisfaction, a success she knows may be fleeting. (para. 4; emphasis added)

(...) it tells a story of someone's life **in all its sadness and joy**, briefly but with an acute perceptiveness. (para. 6; emphasis added)

In Pérez-Torres et al.'s (2018, p. 64) research into YouTube as a space of interrelation and the impact of the platform on the construction of adolescent personal identity – including self-impression and its links with gender identity, sexual orientation and vocations – *Draw My Life* videos are described as a reflection of self-concept and self-esteem, often leading to emotional connection: “In general, telling your life story is a common topic for YouTubers as a strategy to emotionally connect with followers and for the latter to identify with the YouTuber”. In a similar study, Scolari et al. (2020, p. 284) describe *Draw My Life* videos as a part of “teens’ transmedia universe” and an effective format for the expression of ideas.

Also in the realm of pedagogy, Art Education professor Georina Westraadt (2017, pp. 248-9) advocates for the application of the *Draw My Life* genre in the classroom. In her opinion, “Draw My Life stories gather cognitive and emotional information from the visual, auditory, kinaesthetic, and memories”. She suggests, “Our most powerful autobiographical memories almost always come with vivid visual images”. In related work, counsellor Trisha Nhu-y Tran (2015) describes the DML genre as an effective way for students to connect with their both their peers and counsellors. She explains:

In the digital age, building rapport and connecting with high school students in session is a challenge that counselors must overcome in order to provide effective services. Effective career counseling seeks to motivate students to share their interests and aspirations. (para. 1)

(...) “Draw My Life” (DML) is popular among students because it allows them to share their stories, experiences and aspirations toward their future. (...) DML serves as a powerful tool for narrating the student’s personal story. The exercise helps students reflect on their own experiences, draw out their interests, and acknowledge their progress toward their futures. (para. 2)

The varied didactic potential of *Draw My Life* is testament to the genre’s deeply engaging qualities. When creating their own life narrative videos, students make conscious decisions as to how to summarise and describe selected parts of their personal stories and combine multimedia elements in a coherent and cohesive structure. Through largely autonomous decision-making and digital storytelling of this kind, then, “the student undoubtedly learns to learn” (Gregori-Signes, 2014, p. 241). Moreover, when watching other people’s *Draw My Life* videos, as with other storytelling genres on YouTube, viewers are prompted to consider the similarities and differences between their own lives and those of others. In this reflection process, parallels may be drawn not only

with specific life events, but also with the reported behavioural and emotional ways of dealing with such events.

YouTubers' autobiographical *Draw My Life* narratives epitomise what Duplantier (2016, p. 147) calls "YouTube's immeasurable density of human expression". In line with Baumeister and Hutton (1987, p. 71), however, the emotions described may well be consciously or subconsciously constructed to maintain self-image or fulfill audience expectations. When considering the effect on the listener or viewer, though, the mere expression of emotions in the videos transcends fiction and mediation in many ways. "Distinct from human interiority, emotions no longer have to be 'felt' but only 'expressed'", says Duplantier (2016, p. 95).

The very act of engaging with others' – albeit constructed – stories of joy, sorrow, anger or fear taps into "the human algorithm", as Stokel-Walker (2019, p. 263) puts it. The author suggests that the YouTube platform at large, and especially the varied storytelling genres within it, convey "what we enjoy, what we need". They make us "laugh and cry", reflecting back to us "our best aspects and our worst, amplifying them at the same time" (p. 263).

## 2.1.5 Gender and YouTube

In her research on identity conveyance through the transgender YouTuber Kat Blaque's *Draw My Life* story, Kemp (2017, p. 13) describes DMLs as a "rich and powerful genre" combining "existing genres that emerge from narratives or life stories, along with comics' inventive visual resources". Her work (2017, pp. 3-4; emphasis added) focuses on how Blaque describes her gender identity and transition process in her autobiographical narrative, highlighting "how transitioning can be a source of empowerment and survival":

As a transgender black woman, Blaque's contribution to the video genre details her life growing up "different" from the friends around her. Blaque uses animation to represent her intersectional identity and compose her narrative through a digital platform, similar to that of the other *Draw My Life* tag contributors. While **each of these narratives incorporates emotion and experience to connect with viewers**, Blaque's complex and distinct narrative separates her from her fellow vloggers and presents an opportunity to examine the intricacies of her narrative.

According to Kemp (2017, pp. 62-3), “despite its importance to community building and identity formation”, the DML genre “is not researched or employed enough”, with a particular lack of studies relating to expressions of intersectional identities and gender studies based on the narratives. The author’s investigation is reminiscent of Hans et al.’s work (2011, p. 304) on online performances of gender. The researchers, who describe the internet as “a space where gender identities can be enacted and performed in new ways”, propose Judith Butler’s theory of gender performativity as an effective framework for analysing computer-mediated communication (CMC) and its links with gender expression.

According to Butler (1988, p. 527), gender “is real only to the extent that it is performed”. Drawing on this idea, Hans et al. (2011, p. 304) make a distinction between *biological sex*, which they describe as “a mere accident of birth”, and *gender*, which is “produced and maintained through cultural discourses”. In Butler’s (1988, p. 519) work entitled *Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory*, she draws on existentialist feminist Simone de Beauvoir’s notion of *becoming* a woman rather than being born one:

Philosophers rarely think about acting in the theatrical sense, but they do have a discourse of ‘acts’ that maintains associative semantic meanings with theories of performance and acting. (...) When Simone de Beauvoir claims, ‘one is not born, but, rather, *becomes* a woman,’ she is appropriating and reinterpreting this doctrine of constituting acts from the phenomenological tradition. In this sense, gender is in no way a stable identity or locus of agency from which various acts proceed; rather, it is an identity tenuously constituted in time – an identity instituted through a *stylized repetition of acts*.

Sociolinguist Coates (2015, p. 215) notes that, since Lakoff’s seminal work *Language and Woman’s Place* (1973), “language and gender has established itself as a key research area in sociolinguistics”. Like Butler, Coates (2015, p. 4) makes a clear distinction between sex as biological and gender as social: “‘Sex’ refers to a biological distinction, while ‘gender’ is the term used to describe socially constructed categories based on sex”.

Coates’ *Women, Men and Language* was first printed in 1986. A second and revised edition was then released in 1993, and a third rewriting was published in 2004 by Pearson and 2015 by Routledge. In the author’s preface (vi) to the third edition, she discusses the ongoing changes in society’s and scholars’ perceptions of language and

gender, with a move away from rigidity and towards an understanding based on diversity and intersectionality:

Rewriting *Women, Men and Language* hasn't been easy (...). In the early 1990s, the concepts 'language' and 'gender' seemed clear-cut and unproblematic. Researchers set out to document differences in women's and men's language use and to expose inequalities. This early sociolinguistic work on language and gender built up a solid set of research findings which formed the basis of my book. However, there has been a 'postmodern shift' (Swann 2003: 625) in the way 'language' and 'gender' are perceived, a shift from relative clarity and fixity to relative complexity and fluidity. (...)

The notion that gender is a cultural construction has led researchers to take a much wider view of talk as a gendered performance.

Coates (2015, pp. 5-6) explains that linguists have historically approached gender and language from several different perspectives. Namely, the deficit approach, the dominance approach, the difference approach and the dynamic, or social-constructionist approach. First of all, the deficit approach characterised early research such as that of Lakoff (1973), which, as Coates (2015, p. 6) states, "claims to establish something called 'women's language' (WL), which is characterised by linguistic forms such as hedges, 'empty adjectives' like charming, divine, nice, and 'talking in italics' (exaggerated intonation contours)". According to the deficit framework, WL is weak, unassertive, and implicitly "deficient by comparison with the norm of male language" (2015, p. 6). This perspective has been criticised due to its implication that there is something fundamentally at fault with women's language.

Secondly, the dominance approach views "women as an oppressed group and interprets linguistic differences in women's and men's speech in terms of men's dominance and women's subordination" (2015, p. 6). Studies within this framework attempt to demonstrate how male dominance is conveyed through language. In contrast, the third perspective — the difference approach — highlights the idea that "women and men belong to different subcultures" (2015, p. 6). Contrary to the two previous frameworks, women are not treated as inferior, but rather, are celebrated for their difference (p. 6):

The 'discovery' of distinct male and female subcultures in the 1980s seems to have been a direct result of women's growing resistance to being treated as a subordinate group.

Women began to assert that they had 'a different voice, a different psychology, and a different experience of love, work and the family from men' (Humm 1989: 51). The advantage of the difference model is that it allows women's talk to be examined outside a framework of oppression or powerlessness. Instead, researchers have been able to show

the strengths of linguistic strategies characteristic of women, and to celebrate women's ways of talking.

Deborah Tannen's *You Just Don't Understand* (1991) applied the difference approach in an analysis of male-female "miscommunication" in mixed talk. Coates lists critics of Tannen's work, such as Troemel-Ploetz (1991), Cameron (1992) and Freed (1992), who contend that the issue of power cannot be ignored in research on mixed talk.

Lastly, we find the dynamic approach, which "places an emphasis on dynamic aspects of interaction" (Coates, 2015, p. 6). Recent research, such as the current PhD project, frequently adopts this social-constructionist framework, in which "gender identity is seen as a social construct rather than as a 'given' social category" (p. 6). To sum up the dynamic approach, Coates (2015, p. 6) puts forward West and Zimmerman's (1987) notion that "speakers should be seen as 'doing gender' rather than statically 'being' a particular gender" (Coates, 2015, p. 6).

Coates (2015, p. 7) notes that the four approaches "do not have rigid boundaries", adding that "researchers may be influenced by more than one theoretical perspective". Although the deficit approach is now considered outdated by scholars and the social constructionist paradigm prevails in more recent work, Coates suggests that the dominance and difference approaches have also "yielded valuable insights into the nature of gender differences in language" (p.7). Despite the overlapping of the dominance, difference and dynamic approaches, the author notes that what has changed is linguists' sense that "gender is not a static, add-on characteristic of speakers, but is something that is accomplished in talk every time we speak" (p. 7).

This key description, underpinning the present research, points to a *performance of gender*, along the lines of Goffman's framework of performance of the self in communication (described in section 2.1.2), whereby speakers make decisions as to which parts of *themselves* to bring to the performance, and which parts they leave backstage. Coates (2015, p. 220) suggests that when "speakers perform gender, they are inevitably influenced by the prevailing norms, even if they choose to resist them".

Along these lines and of particular relevance to the present study is Wotanis and McMillan's (2014) discussion of performances of gender on YouTube. Like Gustafson (2013), the authors focus on the videos of creator Jenna Marbles, real name Jenna Mourey. The first social media celebrity to have a wax figure displayed at New York's



Madame Tussauds Museum, Mourey announced in June of 2020 that she would be taking an indefinite hiatus from the YouTube platform. This decision was in large part due to backlash she had been receiving for what critics deemed controversial and offensive content in videos from the past, including an immensely popular series about gender stereotypes, which she has now unpublished.

Although Wotanis and McMillan's work is from six years ago, the researchers (2014, p. 924) were already highlighting the "harshly critical" and often "sexually-aggressive tone" of Mourey's commenters at the time – harsher, the authors found, than criticism against her male counterparts for similar content. Interestingly, the scholars (p. 924) interpret the explicit and implicit gender-stereotypical aspects of Mourey's online performances as a form of implementing "performance strategies to negotiate a hostile environment":

Mourey performs male gender explicitly in videos like "What Boys Do On The Internet" and also "What Boys Do In The Car". In these videos, Mourey ties up her long, blonde hair and hides it beneath a baseball cap. She dresses in male attire and paints a curly black moustache on her face. She talks in a more masculine voice and employs speech patterns that could be considered "typical", if not exaggerated, behaviors of men. For example, in "What Boys Do On The Internet", Mourey imitates a man as he surfs the web, looking for sports statistics on ESPN.com first, then quickly making his way to sites containing pornography.

By constructing and performing explicit gender-related jokes and personas in this way – and showing that she can switch between stereotypically masculine and feminine behaviours – Wotanis and McMillan (2014, p. 924) imply that Mourey takes control over her internet presence and perception: "She utilizes both explicit and implicit male and female behaviors in her videos to attract and keep audiences comprising men and women. Her performance serves as a means to capitalize on cultural norms of gender while simultaneously critiquing them".

Wotanis and McMillan (2014, p. 922) also highlight what they refer to as Mourey's more implicit gender-related performances: "Beyond these examples of overt gendered performance, Mourey also employs implicit masculine and feminine characteristics and behaviors in almost every one of her videos". They go on to clarify what they understand as "implicit gender performance", including "patterns of speech, behavior, and appearance" (p. 922), such as Mourey's introduction to her videos. In the introductory image, shown at the start of all of her videos published between 2011 and

2018, she is seen posing “in football pads with a bare midriff, her long blonde hair worn down, and eye black under her eyes” (p. 922). The authors view this outfit as “projecting an objectified, sexual appeal while simultaneously appearing as “tough” or “masculine” by her chosen attire (and lack thereof)” (p. 922).

Mourey’s patterns of speech are also interpreted by Wotanis and McMillan from a gender studies perspective. In line with Mehl and Pennebaker (2003, p. 866), who found in their comparative study of female and male undergraduates’ natural conversations that “men’s transcripts contained fourfold the amount of swear words”, Wotanis and McMillan deem Mourey’s often explicit language as prototypically masculine sounding (2014, p. 922):

Furthermore, Mourey typically has a “potty mouth”. She frequently uses foul language and sometimes, in doing so, uses an elevated volume of speech. Mourey has roots in Rochester and Boston, and while she does not use a pronounced accent from either of these locations, she tends to employ the “tough guy” manner of speech that might be considered typical or representative of men in these northeastern cities.

This notion of Mourey putting on online performances to consciously negotiate a hostile environment – while criticising and capitalising on gender norms – is consistent with West and Zimmerman’s (1987) notion of speakers “doing gender”, and can be observed in the DML narratives produced by the Canadian couple Simon and Martina Stawski, who both published their autobiographical videos on their shared channel “simonandmartinabonus” in 2013.

In their respective narratives (FDML #51 and MDML #67), the Stawskis focus on different aspects of their lives and relationship. For instance, while Martina makes several self-deprecating jokes about her physical appearance (“To add to my already overwhelming sex appeal...”) and storytelling skills (“Thanks so much for watching my long *Draw My Life*. I hope you didn’t fall asleep”), Simon highlights his sports skills (“I became pretty phenomenal at basketball”) and academic strengths (“I was so good at school and so smart that I skipped a grade”). Likewise, while Simon frequently uses explicit language (“Fuck that shit”, “What the fuck was she thinking?”, “Holy shit!”), Martina uses cutesy nicknames (“My snugliest duck!”, “My little snuggly pom-pom”). When discussing their relationship, on the other hand, Martina focuses on how supportive and funny Simon is (“He makes me laugh more than anyone else I have ever met, and he is so supportive of everything I do”). However, Simon’s descriptions of Martina when they first meet (“she had big boobs”) and get married (“Booya! I even wifed her! You see

that!? Now she's mine for life! Ha!") exemplify the unfortunately commonplace female objectification in the male corpus.

Collins (2011, p. 296), suggests that "just as the content of professionally produced media is likely to be influenced by the gender of those who create it, content created by users in interactive environments, whether videos, blogs, or comments on such, is likely to be influenced by gender". In her work (p. 296), she argues that it is important to "track this content and the gender of participants in these media platforms and content types", among other reasons, to raise awareness of issues of inequality. For instance, she highlights (p. 290) how "women are under-represented across a range of media and settings". Like Wotanis and McMillan's description of Jenna Marble's online presence, Collins suggests that when women are portrayed in any media platform, "it is often in a circumscribed and negative manner" (p. 290). In particular, she highlights how they are "often sexualized – typically by showing them in scanty or provocative clothing" and "subordinated in various ways, as indicated by their facial expressions, body positions and other factors" (p. 290).

Döring and Mohseni (2019, p. 519) also focus on forms of male dominance on YouTube, inspired by Wotanis and McMillan's previously related findings based on female underrepresentation and hostile feedback on the platform. Their research confirmed the former authors' conclusions: "Male dominance and sexism are visible problems on YouTube. Women are clearly underrepresented in the top 100 YouTube channels of nine different countries, even more so than in traditional media". As with Wotanis and McMillan's research, female YouTubers were found in Döring and Mohseni's work (2019, p. 519) to receive "more negative and hostile video comments". Crucially, the authors suggest that this negative feedback could in turn discourage female YouTubers from producing more content, thus adding to the underrepresentation issue.

Along these lines, Amarasekara and Grant (2019, p. 73) carried out a study into YouTube videos about science, technology, engineering and mathematics, with the aim of "exploring gender effects on YouTube STEM communication by examining differences in audience reception or sentiment to the gendered presences of channels and videos". Of a total of 23,005 channel comments reviewed, the authors (p. 79) found that "female hosted and team hosted channels" receive "less positive and neutral/general discussion and more appearance, critical/negative, sexual and hostile commenting by

viewers”, with “female science communicators on YouTube” continuously facing “bias and social discrimination” on the platform. As Santaemilia (2005, p. 9) affirms in this regard, “sexual language is an important source for insulting women”.

In the same way that Döring and Mohseni (2019) argue that negative feedback and hostility on YouTube could discourage female YouTubers from content production, Amarasekara and Grant (2019, p. 79) describe it as “vital for more women to participate fully and successfully within the YouTube STEM community”, in order to maximise visibility and engagement with STEM content, but also, and importantly, to provide potential audiences with what the authors call a “diversity of voices and presenters” (p. 79). As Szostak (2013, p. 47) argues:

Some YouTube community members have adopted the mindset that content created by male YouTubers is “default” content that can be enjoyed by everyone regardless of gender. In contrast, content created by female YouTubers is regarded as specialized content that could only interest fellow female viewers. As a result, women users on YouTube may feel like they have been placed in a category of content labeled “Other.” This serves as a contradictory message, as though the community is telling female vloggers to “Broadcast Yourself,” but only if they conform to an established set of societal norms.

In a related exploration of the gender divide on YouTube, Molyneaux et al. (2008, p. 10) analyse the creation and reception of vlogs and gender differences in vlog creation and YouTube use. Their content and audience analysis indicate “a gendered imbalance in both the creation and reception of vlogs” (p. 10), with women vloggers posting less frequently than men. Despite posting less often overall, the authors point to the fact that women are “more likely to communicate with the vlogging community” (p. 10) by asking questions and responding to questions and posts of other platform users.

Also with the aim of assessing gender biases on the YouTube platform, Blanco-Ruiz and Sainz-de-Baranda (2018, p. 98) set out to review the content of the most popular LGBT+ YouTubers among Spanish young people. The authors describe media as “one of the socializing agents that serves to transmit sociocultural learning” with a “key role in identity construction, especially through the transmission of gender stereotypes” (p. 98). In line with the previously noted international studies on underrepresentation of women on the platform, their research indicates that in Spain, out of the 30 YouTube channels with the highest number of subscribers, only one is produced by a woman. Other findings of the study show that gender stereotypes tend to be perpetuated in many YouTubers’ videos, with the majority of male creators focusing on “toilet humour and gaming”, and

women seemingly “obsessed with make-up tutorials and knowing ‘what to wear’” (2018, p. 101). Lastly, and also of particular relevance to the current investigation, is Blanco-Ruiz and Sainz-de-Baranda’s discussion of how YouTubers use the platform to “transmit their emotional experiences about their processes of gender and sexual identity construction” (2018, p. 101), a finding which ties in with Duplantier’s description (2016, p. 147) of “YouTube’s immeasurable density of human expression”.

In their analysis of presentations of gender identity on weblogs (typed, online diaries), Van Doorn et al. (2007, p. 156) note how “lifelogs offer an important forum for *both* men and women to present their gender identities in multiple ways”. Their focus on multiplicity in gender presentations of both men and women is reminiscent of Coates’ (2015, p. 221) description of the transition in gender studies from more rigid, correlational analyses to those embracing plurality:

Sociolinguistic research has moved on from the simple correlation of linguistic form with social category. Researchers now analyse spoken and written data with the aim of understanding how gender is constructed in everyday life and of assessing the role of language in the creation and maintenance of contemporary masculinities and femininities. There is increasing emphasis on the need to be aware of similarities as well as differences between male and female speakers, as well as to assert the plurality of masculinities and femininities.

Just as De Fina and Perrino (2019) distinguished between first-wave narrative studies comparing in-person and digital communication and second-wave, more plural examinations of personal storytelling, within gender studies, there has also been a move away from rigidity and towards an understanding based on diversity and intersectionality. YouTube, and in particular *Draw My Life* videos, so full of fascinating online performances of gender, provide a rich source of varied and much unexplored data within these realms.

## 2.2 Describing and Categorising Emotions

### 2.2.1 Introduction

As mentioned in the first section of Chapter II (“The YouTube Platform and Online Storytelling”), Gustafson (2013, para. 4) believes that *Draw My Life* videos are effective because they are “about the emotions of life and the small things that make us who we are”. Likewise, in his work on autobiographical narratives and emotion, Habermas (2019, p. 10) proposes that “stories are the natural medium to explore the intricacies of human intentions and wishes and how they interact between individuals over the course of time – and they are the ideal medium to understand emotions”.

Inspired by the work of pioneering American psychologist Paul Ekman, Habermas (2019, p. 97) cites some of the most typical situations in which emotions are elicited, including “speaking about feelings, narrating one’s own or other’s past emotional experience”, and “reading about others’ situation (reading, viewing, or listening to a narrative)”. Habermas adds (p. 99), “if the story is about a personal experience of the narrator (and not a second-hand story), listeners will tend to react more emotionally because they will feel obliged to the narrator to express some form of moral support”. This notion is apparent in the viewer support constantly expressed towards the narrators in the *Draw My Life* comments sections (e.g. in a comment about MDML #4, the viewer describes being moved by the YouTuber’s description of his grief following the death of his father: “I literally started crying when Mark started talking about his dad, and that’s something you would probably never hear from me. (...) It was truly a sad moment even to watch”).

To gain a clearer understanding of the “emotions of life” (Gustafson, 2013, para. 4) expressed in *Draw My Life* videos and also elicited by them, it would be helpful to firstly examine existing – and notably varied – emotion classification frameworks. In fact, in a survey of emotion analysis categorisations, Kim and Klinger (2018, p. 1) describe the difficulty of providing a neat definition of the term “emotion” itself: “Defining the concept of emotion is a challenging task. (...) Indeed, different methodological and conceptual approaches to dealing with emotions lead to different definitions”.

Kim and Klinger (2018, p. 3) highlight the “long and rich tradition” of emotion research, following on from Darwin’s publication of *The Expression of the Emotions in*

*Man and Animals* in 1872, which reviewed the many bodily changes triggered by emotions in humans and other animals. Concerning Darwin's extremely influential work, Habermas (2019, p. 2) suggests that "although he stopped short of developing a communicative theory of emotions himself", Darwin certainly "laid the basis".

The second edition of Darwin's in-depth and influential analysis was edited by his botanist son, Sir Francis Darwin. In the conclusions (1904, pp. 389-90), we find Charles Darwin's passionate defence of emotion studies, given his theory that emotions (1) link us to other species (in the book, he discusses how insects, for instance, express anger, fear, jealousy or love through stridulation, or the sounds produced when they rub together certain body parts), and (2) help us to understand each other, thus improving our individual and communal wellbeing:

We have seen that the study of the theory of expression confirms to a certain limited extent the conclusion that man is derived from some lower animal form, and supports the belief of the specific or sub-specific unity of the several races; but as far as my judgment serves, such confirmation was hardly needed. We have also seen that expression in itself, or the language of the emotions (...), is certainly of importance for the welfare of mankind. To understand, as far as is possible, the source or origin of the various expressions which may be hourly seen on the faces of the men around us, not to mention our domesticated animals, ought to possess much interest for us.

As Habermas (2019, p. 2) explains, Darwin "framed emotions from an evolutionary perspective, constructing parallels between human facial and gestural emotional expressions and behaviors of animals in specific situations". Habermas discusses a parallel drawn by Darwin between the snarling of dogs, with their teeth shown, ready for an attack, with humans' frequent baring of teeth when angry, adding that humans only "bite metaphorically" (p. 2), through language. Darwin saw human expressions of emotion as "inherited remnants of the initial phases of actions that once served to prepare the ensuing actions" (p. 2). This concept of an inherited basis leads to the conceptualisation of emotions as essential, or universal.

Along these lines, Locke puts Darwin as a forefather of essentialist psychologists such as Ekman, who argued for the existence of a set of basic emotions "that are cross-cultural, universal across time and place, and due to innate human physiology" (Locke, as cited in Habermas, 2019, p. 186). Ekman (1992), whose theory proposed that emotions should be considered distinct categories rather than continuous/overlapping, suggested

seven basic emotions (fear, anger, joy, sadness, contempt, disgust, and surprise), and later took “contempt” out of his framework, simplifying even further to six.

In a fascinating series of conversations published as *Emotional Awareness: Overcoming the Obstacles to Psychological Balance and Compassion*, the Dalai Lama and Ekman (2008, pp. 11-12) draw on Buddhist teachings and emotion research to answer questions relating to emotional experience. On the topic of animals feeling emotions, they proposed the following tenets, once again highlighting what Ekman sees as the inherited basis of emotions:

Ekman: We have known for a long time, but scientists have just recently acknowledged, that animals other than humans have emotions. Everyone who has a pet knows this, but scientists were afraid for many years of being anthropomorphic, of falsely attributing human characteristics to animals. Now the evidence is overwhelming that animals have emotions. (...)

Dalai Lama: Of course, the visibility and obviousness of emotions and moods may be different for humans and animals, but the general pattern ought to be the same. If human beings have emotions and moods, one would expect that animals, too, have emotions and moods.

Other emotion set-oriented research like Ekman’s (1992) includes a) Wilhelm Wundt’s (1896) theory of emotional experience, based on three bipolar dimensions: pleasant/unpleasant, tense/relaxed, excited/depressed; b) Plutchik’s Wheel of Emotions (1980), which is constructed from four dimensions: joy/sorrow, anger/fear, trust/disgust, and surprise/anticipation (in this framework, all other emotions are considered as various mixes of these basic ones), and c) James Russell’s Circumplex Model (1980), based on dimensions of valence (level of pleasantness/unpleasantness felt) and arousal (degree of calmness or excitement), instead of specific emotional categories.

When discussing emotion set-oriented, essentialist models such as the aforementioned, Locke (as cited in Habermas, 2019, p. 186) explains that “although there is still some disagreement as to the number of basic emotions and the labels given to them, this [essentialist] view within psychology is immensely popular with many emotion theorists endorsing it”. For instance, James (1884), Arnold (1960), Frijda (1994), and Lazarus & Lazarus (1994) all argue for the existence of a set of essential emotions (e.g. Ekman’s fear, anger, joy, sadness, disgust, and surprise), in contrast with Geertz (1973), Averill (1980), Harré (1987), Weber (2004) and Aranguren (2017), who propose that emotions are fundamentally variable and culturally bound rather than universal.



The results of Ekman's more recent work into universality in emotion supports Locke's claims in this regard. In a study summarising points of agreement in numerous emotion researchers' frameworks, Ekman (2016, p. 31) notes that "fifty years ago, only a handful of scientists pursued the study of emotion, but in recent years, experiments in this field have grown enormously". In order to assess the current status of the field, he sent an email survey in mid-June of 2014 to 248 scientists using quantitative methods to study emotion at the time. The scientists had the following criteria in common (p. 31):

(a) They had published five or more times in the past 8 years within or across the following scientific journals: *Emotion*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, *Psychological Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Psychological Review*, *Psychological Bulletin*, *Journal of Neuroscience*, *Neuron*, *Nature*, *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, or *Science*; (b) they were on the editorial board or reviewed articles for the journal *Emotion*; (c) they had contributed to the first edition of the *Nature of Emotion*, edited by P. Ekman and R. A. Davidson (21 of the original 24 contributors were still alive); or (d) they were invited by R. A. Davidson and associates to contribute to a second edition of the *Nature of Emotion*.

Ekman (2016, p. 31) received a response rate of 60%, and found that existence of "compelling evidence for universals in any aspect of emotion" was endorsed by 88% of the participating respondents. In response to the question "Which of the following best captures your orientation toward emotion in your research?", 49% chose "discrete emotions (anger, fear, etc.) combining both biological and social influences", 11% chose "emotions as constructed, either socially or psychologically to fit current conditions", and 30% indicated that they used both approaches.

When asked which emotion labels (out of a list of 18) should be considered to have been empirically established (2016, p.31), there was high agreement about five emotions (all of which were described by both Darwin and Wundt): anger (91%), fear (90%), disgust (86%), sadness (80%), and happiness (76%). Shame, surprise, and embarrassment were endorsed by 40-50% of the participants. Other emotions currently under study by several investigators drew less support: guilt (37%), contempt (34%), love (32%), awe (31%), pain (28%), envy (28%), compassion (20%), pride (9%), and gratitude (6%). Ekman (p. 31) also found high agreement about whether "specific moods may be related to specific emotion(s) such as anger to irritability" (88%), whether "specific personality traits are related in some way to specific emotions, such as fear to shyness" (82%), and whether "specific emotional disorders are related in some way to specific emotions, such as disgust to anorexia" (75%).

In a similar investigation carried out by Ekman and Davidson in 1994 with the 24 most active emotion researchers at the time, “there was no agreement then about universals or about what emotions should be considered” (Ekman, 2016, p. 31). Considering this shift and drawing on his 2016 survey results, Ekman (p. 31) notes that the majority of emotion scientists now “find both a modular and a dimensional view of emotions useful in their research, as suggested by Wundt more than 100 years ago”. Here, Ekman is referring to the aforementioned theory of emotional experience based on three bipolar dimensions proposed by Wilhelm Wundt (1896).

Keltner et al. (2019) also largely support the adoption of Basic Emotion Theory (BET) in twenty-first century emotion studies. They argue that “although BET-inspired researchers diverge in specific ways, they are guided by the broader assumption of this framework – that emotions are measurable states that evolved to serve distinct functions in human social life” (2019, pp. 195-6). The authors purport that BET is useful to researchers because it “offers a clear basis for defining emotion” (p. 196). In their framework, an emotion can be described as “a brief state that arises following appraisals of interpersonal or intrapersonal events, and involves distinct antecedents, signaling, physiology, and action and appraisal tendencies that demonstrate some coherence and are observed in related form in our primate relatives” (p. 196). This view is clearly reminiscent of Darwin’s emotion theory.

According to Keltner et al. (2019, p. 196), “framed by BET, the field is making open-ended progress toward a taxonomy of emotions”. In contrast, however, there are several scholars who argue against BET’s essentialist-leaning, universal view of emotion and support a social-constructionist leaning instead. Locke (as cited in Habermas 2019, pp. 187) gives the example of anthropologist Clifford Geertz (1973), who argued that different cultures “have different concepts of self and that emotions are part of this notion of self, hence emotions are culturally bound up with, and enacted as, social processes”. Along these lines, Ho (2020, p. 4) suggests that “the way we infer emotions in ourselves and others is heavily contextually and culturally dependent, rather than universal”.

Locke (as cited in Habermas 2019, pp. 188) also highlights how emotion labels have transformed greatly over time, “tied to changes in moral orders, social relations and accountability”, creating “problems for the inner, discrete, and universal conceptualisation of emotion”. In particular, Locke (as cited in Habermas 2019, pp. 188)

discusses the work of Edwards (1997), who examined the etymology of the word “worry” and Sarbin (1986), who focused on the word “emotion” itself:

[*The term worry*] shifted from referring to strangulation in the eighth century, to sheep being attacked (‘worried’) by dogs in 1380, to today’s meaning in which the term denotes an anxious mind-set. Theodore Sarbin (1986) moves the argument one step further to examine the etymology of the word ‘emotion’ itself and found that until approximately three hundred years ago: [e]tymologically, emotion denoted outward-directed movement, as in migrations. The meaning was transferred to movements within the body. For the past 300 years or more, observers have focused on such perceived or imagined internal movements.

Mackenzie and Alba-Juez (2019, p. 13), whose research focus is the emotive/expressive function of language, discuss several of the terms that researchers have used within the field of emotion studies: “emotion”, “affect”, “mood”, and “feeling”:

Scholars from the different disciplines that research emotion have used different terms to describe and define it. Batson, Shaw & Oleson (1992: 295) state that in psychology, the terms *affect*, *mood* and *emotion* are most often used interchangeably. However, this is not totally accurate. Psychologist Silvan Tomkins (1981: 354), for instance, distinguishes between *affect* and *feeling*, the former being “the primary motivational system” (an innate biological mechanism) and the latter being a conscious awareness of an affect. He also distinguishes between *affect* and *emotion*, the latter being a combination of an affect, a feeling and a memory of previous experiences of the initiating affect, and between *affect* and *mood*, the latter being a persistent state of emotion.

Kim and Klinger (2018, p. 1) also add the term “sentiment” to those which researchers have sometimes used interchangeably with “emotion”. Even though “sentiment” is most commonly understood as a reference to the overall positive/negative leaning of a text, the authors note that there are “cases where researchers analyze only positive and negative aspects of a text but refer to their analysis as emotion analysis. Likewise, there are cases where researchers look into a set of subjective feelings including emotions but call it sentiment analysis”.

Despite apparent confusion over the relevant terminology, Kim and Klinger (2018, p. 1) point towards what the majority of emotion theorists agree on: “that emotions involve a set of expressive, behavioral, physiological, and phenomenological features”. In particular, the authors concur with Mayer et al. (2008, p. 2), who propose that an emotion can be broadly defined as “an integrated feeling state involving physiological changes, motor-preparedness, cognitions about action, and inner experiences that emerges from an appraisal of the self or situation”.

In Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), “appraisal” (Martin and White, 2005) refers to writers’ or speakers’ approval or disapproval of something. The linguistic system of appraisal/evaluation is seen in Mackenzie and Alba-Juez’s emotion framework (2019, p. 17) as interconnected with, and yet different from, that of emotion: “In congruence with both linguistic and psychological appraisal theories, we believe that emotions always have an evaluative component, but evaluations do not necessarily have to have a ‘purely’ emotional component”. When the authors (p. 17) talk of “appraisal”, then, they focus on “those utterances or that discourse whose main function is an evaluative one”. In contrast, when they talk of emotion, the focus is on “discourse whose main function is an expressive one”.

Mackenzie and Alba-Juez (2019, p. 17) make it clear that the evaluative and expressive functions may be fulfilled at the same time and in the same utterance, although “there will be utterances whose main function is clearly evaluative, while there will be others whose main function will undoubtedly be expressive”. They provide the example of a girlfriend who has been cheated on by her boyfriend and says, “He is a despicable man!”, whereby the utterance could be said to express both evaluation and emotion, or “affect” in Martin & White’s (2005) Appraisal model. The evaluation (“despicable”) is seen at the lexical level (“overt”), whereas the emotive function is “most effectively realized by phonological means (through intonation and a high pitch) and through pragmatics” (p. 17), specifically, the *emotional implicature*. These emotive elements serve to indicate to the hearer(s) that the girlfriend is feeling angry. Therefore, we see that here, the evaluation is overt (“despicable”), while the emotion (anger) is inferred by the hearer from the speaker’s evaluation.

The term *emotion* is used by Mackenzie and Alba-Juez (2019, p. 15) to encapsulate “feelings, moods and all kinds of affective experience”. They further expand on their framework (2019, p. 18) by describing emotion as “a (dynamical) system of language which interacts with the system of evaluation but whose main function is the expression of the speaker’s feelings, mood or affective experience”. The authors define emotion as “a *function* that speakers fulfil in discourse” (2019, p. 16) – not a fixed state, but rather, a dynamic process which involves cognition, bodily and verbal behaviour, and the environment as well. Along these lines, they highlight how emotions can manifest themselves in both verbal and non-verbal ways (e.g. smiling, blushing, crying, etc.), depending on the discursive context.

Cognitive linguist Foolen focuses specifically on verbal displays of emotion, breaking them down into both literal and figurative expressions (2012, p. 363):

The way emotions “inform language” is at least threefold (...): Emotions are (a) conceptualized in languages by a variety of word forms, with “literal” and figurative meaning, (b) can be expressed in a more direct way by prosody, morphology, syntactic constructions and by the use of figurative speech, and (c) are foundational for processing language and its ontogenetic and phylogenetic genesis and development.

In his work, Foolen (2012, p. 350) provides examples of nouns, such as “love”, “anger” and “surprise”, with which we can talk about emotions, and other parts of speech pertaining to emotions, including verbs (“to love”, “to hate”, “to fear”) and adjectives (“happy”, “sad”, “angry”). He also differentiates between *conceptualization* of emotions, with cognition serving as an intermediary between language and emotion, and *direct expression* of emotion via expressive language (also often called “emotive” or “affective” language by other scholars). Foolen (p. 350) illustrates the difference between conceptualization and expression of emotion with the following example: “One can become aware of one’s emotions and say *I find that food disgusting* or one can express the same emotion directly by uttering *yuk!*”. He further explains (p. 350):

These two different ways of communicating the same feeling differ semiotically in a fundamental way: the first one is symbolic, using words with relatively context-independent meaning (the indexicals *I* and *that* need of course context to be interpreted), and the second is a ‘symptom’, a reflex, showing that the speaker in the here-and-now has a specific emotion (disgust).

Based on Mackenzie and Alba-Juez’s framework on emotional implicatures, both of Foolen’s examples would contain overt evaluation (the food is “disgusting”/“yuk”), and inferred emotion (disgust). As discussed in more detail in section 4.5 (“Manual Analysis 2: Emotion Expression Analysis”), one of the main aims of the current study’s qualitative manual analysis is to detect *emotional implicatures* (Mackenzie and Alba-Juez, 2019, p. 15), or *figurative displays of emotion* (Foolen, 2012, p. 364), using colour-coded tags based on both explicit and underlying emotion-related references. The entire process was fundamentally motivated by Foolen’s (2012, p. 350) argument for the importance of ongoing linguistic research into the expression and interpretation of emotions: “The ‘emotional revolution’ that took place in psychology 15 years ago, has finally reached linguistics”, he declares. “Linguistics cannot neglect the emotions anymore and, for that matter, that emotion research cannot neglect linguistics” (p. 350).

## 2.2.2 Gender and Emotion

In their *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Gender and Emotion*, Ruberg and Steenbergh (2011, p. 1) note that “emotions have been studied since classical antiquity, being inextricably connected to major concepts in Western philosophy like rationality and subjectivity”. Throughout history, the authors highlight that “debates concerning the definition and function of the emotions have always had gendered implications” (p. 1). As they suggest, while women have historically been considered more emotionally unstable and visceral, men have been seen as the more rational and less emotional gender (p. 1):

In the classical and medieval conception of the body, rooted in the humoral model, women were regarded as colder and moister than men and hence more emotionally volatile than men, whose hot and dry constitution gave them more stability (Perfetti 2005, 5). Since the seventeenth century, Cartesian mind-body dualism included gendered connotations, whereby emotions and the body were associated with femininity and the mind and rationality with masculinity.

Emotion researchers Keltner and Ekman fundamentally disagree with this historical division between emotionality and rationality. In an interview (*Opinion / The Science Of ‘Inside Out’*) with the *New York Times* about their collaboration with Disney Pixar on the 2015 film *Inside Out*, they suggest that “emotions organize — rather than disrupt — rational thinking” (para. 9) when describing the character of “Sadness” and its eventually positive effects on the main character Riley:

Traditionally, in the history of Western thought, the prevailing view has been that emotions are enemies of rationality and disruptive of cooperative social relations. But the truth is that emotions guide our perceptions of the world, our memories of the past and even our moral judgments of right and wrong, most typically in ways that enable effective responses to the current situation. For example, studies find that when we are angry we are acutely attuned to what is unfair, which helps animate actions that remedy injustice. (...) (para. 9)

Scientific studies find that our current emotions shape what we remember of the past. This is a vital function of Sadness in the film: It guides Riley to recognize the changes she is going through and what she has lost, which sets the stage for her to develop new facets of her identity. (para. 11)

Similarly, Lazarus and Lazarus (1994, p. 3) contend that the idea that “emotions are irrational and do not depend on thinking and reasoning” is one of many emotion-related socially upheld myths. They explain (p. 3), “Actually, emotions and intelligence go hand in hand, which is why humans, highly intelligent beings, are such emotional animals”. The authors determine that emotions are in fact “a vital tool for getting along

in the world”, helping us to navigate through life and understand ourselves and those around us.

Linking gender studies with the previously discussed essentialist vs. social-constructionist debate in emotion analysis, Locke (as cited in Habermas 2019, p. 185) explains that “in many social psychological studies, two main approaches have been taken to differences between the sexes with regards to emotional experience and expression: the essentialist and the social-constructionist approach”. The author (p. 186) describes each approach in relation to gender and emotion research in particular: “the essentialist approach of emotions in psychology treats differences in emotion and sex as a matter of fact and puts them down to reasons of presumed physiological difference between men and women with studies reporting differences in physiological reaction or brain structure”.

As defined by Locke (as cited in Habermas 2019, p. 186), social-constructionist approaches to emotion, on the other hand, argue that “emotions have a socio-cultural backdrop, and are not simply matters of biology”. When analysing the connections between gender and emotion, then, social constructionists move past biology and also examine how “emotion terms are considered within a society, in particular within their assumed gendered usage” (p. 186). In their social-constructionist project, for example, Widen and Russell (2002, p. 248) suggest that gender differences in emotion expression are partly a result of socialisation. In their research, pre-schoolers in the USA were observed to attribute emotions based on gender stereotypes:

A person’s gender plays a role in the emotion children attribute to that person, even given unambiguous cues to a basic emotion. Eighty preschoolers (4 or 5 years of age) were asked to name the emotion of either a boy (Judd) or a girl (Suzy) in otherwise identical stories about prototypical emotional events and, separately, as shown with identical prototypical facial expressions. Boys more often labeled Judd than Suzy as disgusted, both in the disgust story and with the disgust face. There was also a trend for girls to label Suzy as afraid more often than Judd, both in the fear story and with the fear face.

Relatedly, Locke (as cited in Habermas, 2019, p. 188) mentions the work of researchers who “argue that traditional stereotypes of the emotional woman set against the rational, non-emotional man are culturally evident and endorsed”, such as Lutz (1990, p. 151), who argued that “qualities that define the emotional, also define women” and “for this reason, any discourse on emotion is also, at least implicitly, a discourse on gender”. Just as Hans et al. (2011, p. 304) proposed Butler’s theory of gender

performativity as an effective framework for analysing computer-mediated communication (CMC) and its links with gender expression, Locke (as cited in Habermas, 2019, p. 191) draws on Butler's work in her description of emotion in relation to identity performance:

If, as Judith Butler argues, gender is a performative construct (1990), one that is performed through our daily activities, then, emotion and the norms of its expression are part of this performance. Emotions can be seen as something that we learn through our cultural socialisation to express or not express, depending highly on the contexts of both gender and situation. Thus emotion can become part of our identity, something that we express appropriately in the light of social norms.

For Locke (as cited in Habermas, 2019, p. 192), the idea that women are more emotional than men is "so ingrained in western cultural beliefs", that this makes it difficult to "dismantle this myth as a social construction". Likewise, in her developmental contextual framework for emotion and gender, Chaplin (2015) argues that the empirical literature provides support for a bio-psycho-social model of gender differences in emotional expression. The author begins by acknowledging what she sees as the minor part that biology plays in behavioural differences between biologically female and male infants: "there may be small biologically related gender differences in behaviors present at birth, such as boys' greater reactivity and energy level and girls' greater language skills" (p. 19).

According to Chaplin (2015, p. 19), however, these biologically motivated differences are largely affected by "socialization pressures from adults (and peers) to channel these differences into gender-role-consistent gender differences in emotion expressions as youth develop from infancy into the toddler/preschool period and childhood". She adds that both biology- and socialization-influenced tendencies in emotional expression depend on the "particular social environment and larger cultural context in which [the speakers] are found" (p. 19). Given what she sees as its potentially substantial impact on future patterns of stress management in adulthood, Chaplin (p. 19) argues for the necessity of more research to be carried out in the field of gender and emotion, and particularly towards a clearer understanding of the expression of gender and emotion in childhood and adolescence:

Girls who show an exaggerated "female" pattern of coping with stressors by expressing high sadness, anxiety, and empathy, unfelt cheeriness, and by suppressing anger displays, may be at risk for internalizing distress and developing depression and anxiety.



Boys who show an exaggerated pattern of expressing un-modulated anger and by suppressing sadness and anxiety may be at risk for developing behavior problems and possible substance abuse.

Like Chaplin, in their research into gender differences in nonverbal correlates of social status, Coats and Feldman (1996, p. 1014) emphasise the different ways in which females and males deal with anger. With the aim of pinpointing emotions of different importance in the establishment of male and female friendships, the authors investigated the capacity of 146 women and men to nonverbally communicate, or “encode”, three emotions – happiness, anger, and sadness. Although sadness was not found to be important in either women’s or men’s social networks, a fundamental difference was found in relation to the expression and encoding of anger and happiness in female and male friendships (p. 1020):

Not only were women better able to encode happiness, but the extent to which they could express happiness predicted their social status. Similarly, not only were men better able to encode anger, but the extent to which they could express anger predicted their social status.

Anger and happiness are thus seen by Coats and Feldman to “play different roles in the social lives of men and women” (1996, p. 1020). They explain that expectations of competitiveness in men and empathy in women have a direct impact on this difference: “whereas men must learn to deal effectively with competitive interactions within a strict hierarchy”, women, on the other hand, “must learn to establish rapport and to communicate support and understanding” (p. 1020).

Goldshmidt and Weller (2000, p. 117) also view gender differences in language and emotion as “stemming from the differing socialization of the sexes”. They focus on the speech of Israeli women and men, in an attempt to determine whether the former are more likely than the latter to express emotions in several conversational contexts. The authors (p. 127) draw on different emotion classification frameworks, including:

(1) social emotions (Shott 1979), such as guilt, shame, love, and jealousy, that involve and connect two or more social actors; (2) coarse emotions (Scheff 1985), such as grief, fear, anger, shame, joy, and love attachment, that seem to have strong biological resonance; (3) introjected-extrojected emotions (Kemper 1978), distinguishing whether the self or the other is viewed as the agent for the emotion; (4) primary physiologically grounded emotions (fear, anger, depression, satisfaction) and secondary sociologically acquired emotions (guilt, shame, pride, gratitude, love, nostalgia, ennui, etc.; Kemper 1987).

Conversations in several contexts were analysed by Goldshmidt and Weller (2000, p. 127), including children in a kindergarten, anonymous telephone conversations with switchboard operators, and people playing a social game in a community centre. The researchers reviewed the data, searching for emotion terms relating to all of the above frameworks. Some words from each group were found across the board. Goldshmidt and Weller's findings (2000, p. 129) indicated that in about half of the samples, more women than men spoke about personal and intimate topics. It was also found that women used more polite terms than the men in three-quarters of the samples. Lastly, and of particular relevance to the current study, all eleven samples indicated that the women used verbal expressions of emotion more often than the men.

Also highly significant is Goldshmidt and Weller's (2000, p. 130) clear distinction between the *use* of more emotional words and actually *feeling* more emotional: "the finding that women use more emotional words does not necessarily mean that they are more emotional than men; they may talk more emotionally but not necessarily feel more emotional than men". Lastly, focusing on the (conscious and subconscious) effort involved on both sides to either hide or express emotions, they state that "while men work on themselves to avoid expressing emotions", women "work on themselves to express emotions" (p. 130).

De Boise and Hearn (2017, p. 779) also argue for an understanding of emotions that "engages with both physiologically grounded and postconstructionist debates". The authors (p. 789) describe their dual framework in relation to what they deem as the limitations of either extreme:

Existing research on men, masculinities and emotions veers uneasily between biological determinism – suggesting that emotions are inherent but 'hidden' – and constructionist determinism – suggesting that their development and exhibition are solely a product of cultural forces or discursive constructions. The former fails to offer an understanding of collective or individual change and ignores complexity. The latter prioritizes a form of cognitivism which reinscribes the mind/body dualism by overlooking the importance of physiology in semi- and non-conscious action.

In their description of the emotion-related research of Balswick & Peek (1971), Branney and White (2008), Cleary (2012) and Robertson and Monaghan (2012), De Boise and Hearn (2017, p. 780) discuss the fact that a "focus on the role of socialization in shaping gendered-emotion narratives" has been seen as "key to tackling men's underreporting of mental health issues, both separately and in connection with high

suicide rates”. Relatedly, they suggest that encouraging and improving “men’s emotional communication is key to fostering greater gender equality” (p. 780). In addition, of particular interest to the current study is De Boise and Hearn’s (p. 790) proposal that “video diaries, life histories” and “memory work” are “methods where affective practices may be rendered visible” and therefore examined.

In her analysis of gender and emotional expressiveness, Parkins (2012, p. 47) notes that “there have been few studies conducted on how emotional expressiveness is marked within online discourse and how different genders use emotional markers” in the online sphere. Her work in this field focuses on “six common markers that are creatively employed to deliver prosodic features and therefore help express emotions” (p. 47) on Facebook and Twitter posts produced by a sample of 50 Australian women and men. Parkins (2012, p. 47) draws the same distinction as Goldshmidt and Weller (2011), Fabes and Martin (1991) and Kelly and Huston-Comeaux (2002), who focus on women’s more frequent *use* of emotion-related expressions, rather than whether they actually *feel* more emotional than men:

It is important to note that we are talking about the expression of experiences and not the actual experience itself; the external rather than the internal. Studies such as Fabes and Martin (1991) show that women are perceived to express emotions more than men but that there was little difference in the perception of men and women’s emotional experience. “Therefore, it appears that the consistent gender differences in the emotion stereotype literature are based on beliefs about the expression of emotion more than they are on beliefs about the emotional experience.” (Kelly & Huston-Comeaux 2002).

In her work, Parkins (2012, p. 48) observed six common emotional expressive markers on Facebook and Twitter which females were found to use more frequently than males:

- The extensive use of punctuation markers (such as !! and ??)
- The use of extensive full stops used within a speech sample (e.g. ....); only three or more were considered to be extensive use, as two could merely be a typing error.
- The use of capitalized text
- The addition of the same letter within a word (e.g. *yeeeeeees*)
- The general use of emoticons
- The different means of expressing laughter (e.g. *lol, hehe, haha*)

The findings (2012, p. 53) supported Parkins’ hypothesis that “gender stereotypes to which Australians are exposed from early childhood” have a direct impact on the ways in which the genders express themselves online. Across the board, women were found by

the author to be “the more emotionally expressive gender” (p. 53). In addition, just as Goldshmidt and Weller (2011) found that Israeli women employed more politeness/face-saving strategies than Israeli men, Parkins (2012, pp. 52-3) found similar results regarding Australian women and men, based on their use of positive emoticons. The study showed that in the same number of posts, females used 285 positive emoticons, while males used only 129:

It was interesting to observe that women used more positive emoticons (e.g. smiley faces and laughing faces) when communicating with other females. This may have something to do with face value. Studies have shown that women are concerned about how they are perceived and the positive image that they portray. Using numerous emoticons that are representative of positive emotions may be their way of trying to build up their positive image online. This would be a very significant topic for further research.

In related work into emotion and gender within the Spanish context, Maíz-Arévalo (2018, p. 156) studied emotional self-presentation in 206 WhatsApp profile statuses of both females and males. The results, highly relevant to those obtained in the present research, indicated that the female users outnumbered the males “in the use of emotive speech acts in their WhatsApp profile status, hence helping to strengthen the sociocultural gender stereotype that women are more emotional than men”. Thus, Maíz-Arévalo (p. 154) explains that the “female users may be expressing emotives so as to play the gender role expected from them”. The author also noted that male participants were found to “rarely express their love for others” (p. 154), with more frequent expressions of aggression and pride in their statuses than the females’ ones.

In another study on emotion and gender based on autobiographical memory (AM), Gryzman et al. (2017, p. 289) argue that “individual differences in elaborated emotional expression in AM is an important topic, and gender has emerged as a critical factor”. Drawing on Dan McAdams’ (2001) research on psychology and life stories, Gryzman et al. describe autobiographical memory (AM) as “integrally related to both identity and health” (p. 289), highlighting that “how we remember our personal past both influences and is influenced by our current sense of self” (p. 289). This idea is also key to understanding *Draw My Life* videos, because the YouTubers’ construction and presentation of past memories cannot be separated from their current sense of self. As will be discussed in section 4.4, reflection and personal mediation are frequently inevitable when disclosing autobiographical memories.

Gryzman et al.'s research (2017) was based on data from 196 participants aged 18 to 40, split evenly between self-identified women and men. The participants were asked to narrate four memories — a neutral event, high point event, low point event, and what they considered to be a self-defining memory. Afterwards, they completed ratings of emotional intensity for each event. The findings (2017, p. 294) confirm gender differences in autobiographical memory description, with the women reporting more emotionally intense memories and narrating memories “that expressed more emotional content than did males”. The authors (2017, p. 296) argue that both implicit and explicit factors relating to gender identity have an impact on what they call the “emotional quality of memories”. However, they admit that “the processes are complicated” (p. 296) and highlight how much is still to be done in this field of research. In particular, Gryzman et al. note “the importance of carefully crafted and theoretically motivated methods for studying gender and gender identity” and also “the central roles these factors play in deepening models of emotion and AM” (p. 296).

Another gender-oriented study into emotional expressions in the description of autobiographical events was carried out by Charteris-Black and Seale (2009, p. 82), who describe their work as falling within a “growing body of contemporary theory” which proposes that “the performance of masculinity is heterogeneous” and influenced by “local contextual factors (e.g. Bergvall 1999; Brod and Kaufman 1994; Connell and Messerschmidt 2005; Emslie et al. 2006; Galasiński 2004; Hearn and Morgan 1990; O'Brien et al. 2005; Whitehead and Barrett 2001)”. In line with these social-constructionist perspectives, men are regarded as “agents in creating their own gendered identity” who “draw on a range of culturally available discursive repertoires according to their communicative purposes within specific contexts of interaction” (p. 82).

Charteris-Black and Seale (2009, p. 82) were interested in investigating how “the biographical disruption of illness may reflect in men's language use”, focusing on the “impact of serious illness on gendered performance”. They found that within the specific context of communicating about personal experiences of illness, “women use more ‘on the record’ strategies to express feelings such as the use of the powerful negative adjectives: ‘frightened’, ‘awful’ and ‘terrified’” (p. 107), while men “express their emotions through a wide range of strategies that include on the record ones such as swearing, and off the record distancing strategies such as metaphors, external perspectives and generalization” (p. 107).

Despite women being found to use more on the record strategies overall, Charteris-Black and Seale's thematic analysis showed that many men struggling with illness seem to "undergo a degree of identity transformation", perhaps because "illness forces them to discover more about themselves and accept their vulnerability" (2009, p. 107). For instance, one of the male participants with colorectal cancer discusses the changes brought about by his experience of the illness: "I feel a better person for it. Not necessarily stronger, I think I, in some ways I feel more vulnerable because I, I have been through quite a lot but I do, it's made me think a lot about what is important in life" (p. 103).

Charteris-Black and Seale (2009, p. 107) suggest that this acceptance of vulnerability "does not fit with the patterns one might have expected from ideological depictions of 'hegemonic' tough masculinity", and thus, the experience of illness "may challenge the 'masculine' identity of some men more than it challenges an equivalent 'feminine' identity" (p. 107). The research questions whether some "men concealed their vulnerability prior to their experience of illness", and this experience has possibly "led them to rediscover a part of themselves concealed by later socialization" (p. 107). Along these lines, Charteris-Black and Seale believe that their work supports Seidler's (1989, p. 153) view of socially influenced suppression of male outward expressions of pain and vulnerability:

In concealing our [male] vulnerability to ourselves and others, we learn to present a certain image of ourselves. We become strangers to aspects of ourselves. This reflects in our relationship to language as we distance and disown parts of ourselves. We refuse to experience parts of ourselves that would bring us into contact with our hurt, need, pain and vulnerability since these threaten our inherited sense of masculinity.

According to Charteris-Black and Seale (2009, p. 107), men facing illness are forced to deal with helplessness, and this complex process often leads to emotional reconciliation. "Rather than experiencing themselves as heroic achievers", at least initially, men facing illness "underwent feelings of inadequacy and lowered self-esteem" (p. 107). It is suggested that these feelings "necessitated a significant change in their self-perception, as well as in their definition of masculinity, which now included emotional expressiveness – albeit through indirect strategies such as metaphor" (p. 103). The men's initial frustrations are seen to be "replaced by self-knowledge and emotional understanding" (p. 108), with them appearing to strive towards "a new construction of identity" that "may enable a redefinition of what it means to be powerful" (p. 108).

According to del Saz-Rubio (2007, p. 245), “the discourse of the mass media has been, from its beginnings, an instrument of cultural reproduction that is highly involved with power structures”. An intense debate over what it means to be “powerful” and “manly” hit the international media in November of 2020 when Harry Styles (of One Direction fame) became the first solo man to appear on *Vogue*’s cover in the magazine’s 127-year history. Styles wore a dress in the shoot, prompting the right-wing media personalities Candace Owens and Ben Shapiro to severely criticise this style choice and its perceived implications for modern masculinity.

Owens (2020) tweeted, “There is no society that can survive without strong men. The East knows this. In the west, the steady feminization of our men at the same time that Marxism is being taught to our children is not a coincidence. It is an outright attack. Bring back manly men”. Shapiro (2020) replied, “This is perfectly obvious. Anyone who pretends that it is not a referendum on masculinity for men to don floofy dresses is treating you as a full-on idiot”.

The notion that Styles wearing a dress is an attack on “manliness” incited other Twitter users, including Hollywood actor Elijah Wood (2020), who tweeted back to Owens: “(I) think you’ve missed the definition of what a man is. Masculinity alone does not make a man”. Fellow actor and choreographer Harry Shum Jr. (2020) also showed support to Styles, tweeting that “Being comfortable in your own skin as a man is manly. However that is expressed. Props to Harry Styles for doing him. There are plenty of men who are so insecure w/ themselves already so spare me ‘the world only needs more agro/aggressive men’ crap”. Actor and director Zach Braff (2020) also took part in the debate, expressing his frustration at the constant pressure on boys and men to comply with social expectations of manliness: “Our whole lives boys and men are told we need to be manly. Life is short. Be whatever the fuck you want to be”.

On the digital media and entertainment website Refinery29, mental health advocate Elly Belle (2020, para. 8) also argued against Owens’ plight to bring back “manly men”. “Owens’ whole argument is a baseless one”, she says. “There is no such thing as a stereotypically ‘strong man’. All she is doing is promoting ideas that are rooted in toxic masculinity, or restrictive expectations of manhood and masculinity that harm people of all genders”. Relevant to the current project’s framework is Belle’s description of the links between the notion of toxic masculinity and repressed emotionality/pressure

to be in control: “Internalized toxic masculinity says that men can’t cry or show emotions, that they must dress a certain way to distinguish themselves from women, that they must exert power and control — especially over women” (para. 8).

Charteris-Black and Seale’s (2009) call for a redefinition of power and strength comes into play here. “Somehow in Owens’ eyes”, says Belle, “wearing a dress takes away Styles’ — or any man’s — ability to be strong” (para. 8). The author argues against this idea, highlighting that “there is no one definition of what it means to be a man” (para. 8). She concludes, “we are all multifaceted people, and no one aspect of our lives determines our gender, which is ultimately a performance, anyway” (para. 8), evoking Goffman’s *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (1959) discussed in section 2.1.2.

In the same month that Harry Style’s *Vogue* cover was released, a thread was published on the web content rating and discussion site Reddit entitled *Men, In What Ways Do You Feel the Most Misunderstood By Women?: Askmen*. One of the replies which received the most interaction was, perhaps unsurprisingly, about emotion. One user states, “I’m really, honestly, not emotionally deep. I don’t have hidden agendas when I am clueless or do something stupid. It’s because I really am clueless and stupid regarding emotions”. Another commenter replies, “See I’m the opposite. I think that I’m an emotional person, but I’m not good at expressing it. I’m just not comfortable with emotions”. While the first user professes to lacking emotional depth, the second, while feeling in touch with his emotions, admits to difficulty expressing them.

One responder says that he has to “care” enough about a person or situation to be in a position to “summon” his emotions: “It’s not a question of depth. It’s that I often just don’t care enough to summon forth emotions”. In line with social-constructionist approaches which argue for a socio-cultural backdrop to emotion, one commenter replies to this notion of “summoning” emotions by entering into the nature vs. nurture debate. He shares his belief that all humans are born emotional, yet women are socialised to *value* emotions more:

All human beings are inherently emotional creatures but if that emotional world isn’t nurtured (as is often the case with men) it gets compartmentalised. Men still make just as many emotional decisions as women but they can’t explain why they did it, and hence they don’t attribute the action to a particular emotion. Is this wrong? I think it is wrong. You’re right that men are as emotional as women, I just think they’re taught to *value* it less.



Now obviously those are massive generalisations, no-one is destined for either by circumstance of birth, and both extremes can be incredibly toxic, but I've found my relationships with women have improved once I started valuing their *emotional reaction* to a situation more than I valued the reality of the situation itself.

While some commenters focus on social pressures on boys and men to be less emotionally expressive, others describe what they deem as men naturally being less emotional than women: "Sometimes, men aren't repressing or bottling up emotions. Sometimes, men actually don't get as upset or emotional about some of the things a lot of women do". One commenter adds in this regard, "I have no control over my absence of an emotion. I'm not suppressing it. I just don't have it. Never have as far as I can remember". Along these lines, another user refers to his emotions as naturally "pretty muted", even though he says that he is perfectly able to empathise with those of others ("Not being emotional is not the same as not having emotional intelligence. I'm good at picking up on emotions and I'm empathetic, but my own emotions are pretty muted").

In the same sub-thread, one commenter makes a distinction between physical displays and internal feelings of sadness in particular ("Just because we're not bawling our eyes out doesn't mean we're not genuinely, deeply sad about something"). Another user refers to what he calls a self-imposed emotional filter built up slowly over years of what he feels were awkward mistakes made when attempting to establish emotional connections:

My two cents on this is that part of what makes me emotionally clueless sometimes is just a self-imposed filter that I have for seeing the world, which blocks or weakens signals related to other people's emotions. This filter has been built up over decades of me feeling like I made awkward mistakes when I try to connect with people on an emotional level.

In the same sub-thread, a fellow commenter offers his understanding and encouragement, sharing his belief that emotional awareness and availability can be improved with practice, and are therefore not fixed:

The fact that you recognize this filter/wall and are aware of it goes to show that you are not emotionally clueless. It is very difficult to look into yourself and be able to recognize what's going on with yourself mentally in order to work on it (if you feel that you want to). I think you should give yourself more credit. If you want to be more emotionally aware of others or more emotionally available to others, that's something you can actively practice doing.

Tellingly, one user posts about a willingness to share his emotional state with others and yet a perceived lack of interest from them in response: “See I’m very much the opposite tho (*though*). Everything is deep for me, but nobody asks. For once in my life I want someone to say, ‘Hey, what’s up with that weird punctuation in your text message?’ and I’ll be like ‘lemme (*let me*) tell you a story’”. While this user longs to be prompted to open up emotionally, several commenters on the thread describe being rejected by women in romantic relationships for being seen as overly emotional. One user even feels as if he has to warn potential partners about his emotional tendencies:

“I promise you I’m gonna (*going to*) end up crying before you do, I’m emotional and sometimes need a bit more support than the average guy.” A warning I give every woman that I start dating. Every single one always says they are up for it and every single one gets worn down by it, even though I’ve worked hard at understanding what I have to just eat down and work through myself.

The reference to “eating down” and “working through” emotions alone rather than openly discussing them with others is reminiscent of Goldshmidt and Weller’s (2000, p. 117) description of men typically working on themselves “to avoid expressing emotions”. Also on the topic of difficulties faced by men in romantic relationships, one commenter admits to having shared what he describes as “emotional weak points” in an abusive relationship, causing “gaslighting” and subsequent trust issues:

Let’s not forget - if you share your emotional weak points with the wrong person, you’re literally handing them the keys to seriously fuck with your head. Source: opened up to the wrong person. Cue gaslighting and emotional abuse. I’m not saying that we shouldn’t open up. It’s just that it takes time and trust. And trust takes time. Lots of time. I want to open up, but I need to know that you’re the right one to open up to.

According to physical and mental health advocacy site *Healthline* (*Gaslighting: Signs and Tips for Seeking Help*, 2017, para. 1), gaslighting is “the act of manipulating a person by forcing them to question their thoughts, memories, and the events occurring around them”. The description highlights how “a victim of gaslighting can be pushed so far that they question their own sanity” (para. 1), and the term originates from a play and later film called *Gaslight*, in which a husband (played by Charles Boyer) manipulates and abuses his wife (played by Ingrid Bergman), leading her to believe that she is going insane.

In response to the topic of trust in a relationship, one commenter compares what he sees as women's protection of sexual sanctity with men's defence of emotional sanctity: "The phrase I heard that I believe in is 'Men protect their emotional sanctity the way women protect their sexual sanctity'. People you trust get to see your emotions, they and only they". Another user agrees, describing lack of trust as an important reason for not sharing emotions: "Basically what I'm saying is: when I don't want to be "deep" with someone, it's not because of toxic masculinity, a fear of being seen as weak, or some other social issue surrounding men's mental health. It's because I still need that base relationship of really strong trust". The comment indicates a strong awareness and rejection of the different reasons often attributed to men's restrictive emotionality.

Some of the thread comments tie in with Coats and Feldman's (1996) notion of anger being easily encoded and manifested by men, such as that of one user who explains that unless a situation angers him, he is unable to express what his wife would interpret as true sympathy:

If my wife, the person I care about more than anyone, had an absolutely horrible day and was distraught over it, I would not have an emotional reaction to her situation unless it was something that angered me (which virtually never happens). So long as the situation was simply something stressful or upsetting, I would listen to her but I would not be able to show a level of sympathy that she wouldn't recognize as me 'faking it'.

In response to the many references to the emotions of female friends, girlfriends and wives in the thread, several female Reddit users also took part in the discussion. For instance, in the nature vs. nurture sub-thread, one woman expresses her support for the idea that nurture is the most influential factor: "I like how you explained that, basically men and women are born the same, with the same emotionality, but nurture is what causes the genders to diverge". She goes on to express how unfortunate it is that "society discourages men from examining their emotions like women do".

Another female user describes her disappointment at her boyfriend's reluctance to open up to her about his emotions, bringing up his preference to talk to male friends about his feelings while intoxicated rather than doing so with her while sober:

The bizarre thing to me is that my boyfriend absolutely has these emotions. Sometimes he'll make a more emotional decision but he won't even tell me about it. I don't even learn he was feeling those things until he's having a beer with a friend and then randomly throws out a "Yeah dude I was having an existential crisis a couple nights ago" and I'm like what! He didn't even tell me. It just seems like he doesn't even like opening up

emotionally unless he's had a beer or is high and with his male friends. It makes me a bit sad but I just accept that the environment needs to be specific for him to open up emotionally to some things, and in the end I'm not always the right person.

In a similarly themed post, one woman pleads with men to ignore societal expectations and embrace their “soft”, emotional sides for the good of their relationships:

I love my boyfriend like crazy. But sometimes when we talk about things that are hurting me or causing me emotional distress he is little to no help. I have to try to engage him with prompts, “What do you think? Have you encountered this before? What should I do? Do you even care?”

So, I highly encourage any men reading this not to discount emotional intelligence. The bedrock of good human relationships- communication and empathy- depend on this. Fuck societal expectations. Be in touch with your soft, emotional side.

A related Reddit thread posted in the same month asks men the question “[SERIOUS] Men of reddit, who are unable to share their emotions with anyone, what would you like to share?” (2020). The responses give equally rich insight into men’s relationship with their emotions.

One comment which received a lot of support and replies indicating relatability was, “Shit I just tried writing something for the past hour and I can’t share my emotions, even to a bunch of strangers on reddit, so I guess that’s something to share at least”. In response, another user suggests that he “find a ‘list of emotion words’ on google” and “go through some of them and see if that helps you get started”.

In an attempt to help the original poster to understand and share his emotions, one commenter uploaded a page from his journal (Figure 1), in which he had copied out a list of emotions that his friend had sent him. The basic emotions displayed were “happy”, “sad”, “anxious”, “embarrassed”, “angry” and “hurt”, with seven further emotion-related words listed under each of these umbrella terms (e.g. angry – grumpy, frustrated, annoyed, defensive, irritated, offended, spiteful).



Figure 1: Reddit emotion journal entry.

While the original poster describes feeling stunted and frustrated by what seems to be a lack of practice tapping into and reflecting on his emotions, the following commenter puts his frustration down to societal expectations of strength in the face of adversity. He describes feeling immense pressure from his wife to hide any signs of weakness and maintain the persona of “a super-masculine, hyper-dominant ‘real man’”:

My wife needs me to be mentally and emotionally strong, capable, confident, able to make decisions, able to lead and manage. I cannot show weakness, anxiety, indecision or exhaustion in front of her. I cannot make mistakes. But I *am* weak, anxious, indecisive and exhausted - because I am only human. 2020 has been a tough year for everyone, but in addition to Covid I have started a new job, in a new country, and borne the brunt of all the administrative, logistical and financial management of moving us. I have decision fatigue. I wake up with a sense of dread. All I really want to do is hibernate.

But I can't show it. She 'loses faith in me' if I don't keep a stiff upper lip and just 'handle it like a man'. She supports in lots of practical ways - shopping, cooking, cleaning, childcare - but what I need now is a friend, someone I can be myself with, and can share my fears and vulnerabilities with, can have the liberty to be less than perfect with. She won't let me do that, because it scares her too much. She needs a strong man to cling to, and if her man turns out not to be strong she lashes out in fear.

So I have to kind of bottle it up. I used to have a group of male friends - I couldn't really discuss these things, but at least we could go out for a drink once in a while and unwind - but Covid and moving have put an end to that. I now feel that I have no-one, really, who is close enough with whom to share this crushing burden of responsibility.

It is affecting our marriage - because it doesn't feel like a partnership. A husband and wife should first and foremost be friends, but she says she can't be my friend because friends don't have to rely on each other financially. It's like being married to a housekeeper / secretary. We have sex from time to time, but without the emotional support of a friend I feel like that, too, is a performance - that I have to put on a persona of a super-masculine, hyper-dominant 'real man'; anything less she says is 'disgusting'. She doesn't even like cuddling afterwards because she thinks it's 'pathetic' and 'real men don't cuddle, they f\*ck and leave'.

I'm deeply, deeply unhappy. But the only people who know are random internet strangers. One day I swear I'm going to crack. The only reason I don't is because we have a kid.

A commenter in the original thread sums up the importance of re-establishing societal expectations regarding men and emotional expression. He says that in the current context, men being in touch with their feelings is seen as a flaw given pervasive stereotypes such as “big boys don't cry” (an extremely common theme in the *Draw My Life* transcripts, as shown in section 4.4). The user points to an ideal future in which a fresh set of expectations are set for men so that forthcoming generations will not “suffer” like many men do currently:

As it stands (a sorry state of affairs), emotional intelligence is not valued in men. In fact, more often than not, being "in touch with your feelings", empathy for others and so on

are regarded as flaws - big boys don't cry, man up etc etc. So on a personal level, there is no real advantage for me in building or, rather, displaying emotional intelligence. However, I think we can mostly agree that just because "this is the way things are" does not mean it is "the way things should be". With that in mind, it is worth building EI, showing emotions, displaying empathy etc so that we can try to set expectations for the generations that are coming after us, so that they do not have to suffer what we have.

As Fivush and Buckner contend (2000, p. 234) and the Twitter and Reddit threads discussed here demonstrate, “one of the strongest stereotypes related to gender continues to centre on emotionality”. Traditional stereotypes regarding gender roles, power dynamics and emotion are still hotly debated, and while the authors noted that from 1980 to 2000, “the traditional stereotype of the weeping female and the stoic male” had “softened somewhat”, another twenty years have passed, and it is evidently still going strong.

### **2.2.3 Mapping Emotion**

As discussed in section 2.2.1, Foolen's (2012) call for linguistic research into the expression and interpretation of emotion leads to the question of the most effective way to interpret emotions in textual data.

Firstly, and according to Aman and Szpakowicz (2007, p. 199), there are many qualitative benefits to be reaped from the manual labelling of emotion categories. In their research, the authors collected a series of internet blog posts and asked annotators to manually highlight words relating to six basic emotion categories, drawing on Ekman's BET work (also described in section 2.2.1) – happiness, sadness, anger, disgust, surprise and fear. In order to cater to emotion-related expressions longer than one word, they allowed annotators to “mark in a sentence any number of emotion indicators of any length” (p. 199). The researchers explain that “emotion is often conveyed by longer units of text or by phrases”, and thus, the flexibility provided by manually analysing spans of text – including both individual words and strings of consecutive words – “could help identify a broad range of affect-bearing” text (p. 199).

On the other hand, Mehl and Gill (2010, p. 109) point to automatic text analysis (ATA) as a more time- and cost-effective option overall. The authors use ATA synonymously with “computer content analysis”, “computer-assisted content analysis”, “computer-assisted text analysis” and “computerized text analysis”, and describe them as

“a set of methods that automatically extract statistically manipulable information about the presence, intensity, or frequency of thematic or stylistic characteristics of textual materials” (p. 109).

For Mehl and Gill (2010, p. 110), there are several reasons to consider ATA a valuable method for research in Corpus Linguistics. First of all, textual data, ATA’s input, is abundant and easily accessible online. They explain, “the global and archival nature of the Internet has made it possible to simulate the virtual equivalent of a multisite, longitudinal study conveniently and retroactively from the investigator’s office computer” (p. 110).

The authors (2010, p. 110) also highlight the fact that ATA is able to provide effective, low-cost means for exploratory data analysis of extensive data sets without what they describe as the “burden of manual coding”. For example, in online surveys, researchers often include open-ended questions, yet participant responses may remain under- or unanalysed due to time and material constraints. “ATA can efficiently content analyze free responses”, say Mehl and Gill (p. 110), who provide the example of a web-based survey of responses to the 9/11 attacks including the open-ended question, “Is there anything else you would like to add?”. Many participants responded in substantial detail, and it is suggested that an “ATA of cognitive complexity in such stories” could help to “reveal individual differences in the processing of traumatic life events” (p. 110).

According to Mehl and Gill (2010, p. 111), ATA methods are also desirable given that “they are objective in the sense that they ensure measurement equivalence across studies and labs using the same tool”. Along these lines, the researchers also highlight how ATA results “are expressed in a nonarbitrary, naturally meaningful metric”, which is “the number or percentage of words in a text that fall into a certain category” (p. 111), such as positive/negative emotion words. These features are described as positively affecting “the generalizability and ecological validity of text-analytically derived findings” (p. 111).

Computational linguist Mohammad (2017, p. 6) composed a practical guide to Sentiment Analysis (SA), and described research projects within the field as having “the goal of determining the valence or polarity of a piece of text”, or, in more general terms, “determining one’s attitude towards a particular target or topic”. Of particular relevance

to the current study, the author describes sentiment analysis projects which determine the “emotional or affectual attitude” (p. 6) of texts.

Mohammad agrees with Aman and Szpakowicz’s (2007, p. 196) assertion that “work on sentiment analysis has typically focused on recognizing valence – positive or negative orientation”, with less explored areas of research relating to “the recognition of types of emotions and their strength or intensity”. The researcher highlights a notable gap in the field, with a “relatively small amount of work on detecting emotions such as anger, frustration, sadness, and optimism” (Mohammad, 2017, p. 6). He suggests, “detecting these more subtle aspects of sentiment has wide-ranging applications” such as in “developing customer relation models, public health, military intelligence, and the video games industry, where it is necessary to make distinctions between anger and sadness (both of which are negative), calm and excited (both of which are positive), and so on” (pp. 6-7). Along these lines, marketing researchers Hartmann et al. (2019, p. 21) quote industry reports estimating the market volume of automated text analysis to reach “8.8 billion USD by 2022, with annual growth up to 17.2%”.

According to Mohammad (2017, p. 14), sentiment tracking systems work most effectively when researchers incorporate what he describes as “carefully chosen baselines”. He gives the example that “knowing the percentage of tweets that are negative towards Russian President, Vladimir Putin, is less useful than, for instance, knowing the percentage of tweets that are negative towards Putin before vs. after the invasion of Crimea” (p. 14). Comparative strategies considering specific contexts such as those analysed in the current project are therefore more likely to provide fruitful findings.

Moreno-Ortiz and Fernández-Cruz (2015, p. 338), computational linguists and members of the Tecnolengua research group at Spain’s University of Malaga, describe the expression of emotion as “an aspect of language that, as seems apparent, permeates language, and languages”. Moreno-Ortiz (2017, p. 133) links the recent growth of Sentiment Analysis with the surge of online user-generated content (UGC):

Sentiment Analysis (SA), along with text analytics in general, has experienced increased attention in the last 15 years, no doubt due to the ever-increasing surge of user-generated content (UGC) on the World Wide Web, a vast body of knowledge that companies and organizations seek to sift, probe, and make sense of. Since text is the form that most of this knowledge is encoded as, it is no surprise that text analytics, or text mining, has become the focus of many research efforts.



Moreno-Ortiz (2017, p. 133) distinguishes between two different approaches in automatic sentiment analysis. Firstly, statistical Machine Learning techniques, which he describes as “mostly supervised methods, where the SA problem is seen as one of classification: a text is either positive or negative (sometimes finer-grained categories) to be classified under one of these classes”. He explains that “in these systems, a set of tagged examples of the type the classifier is meant to deal with (the training set) is used to train the classifying algorithms” (p. 133). Next, the algorithm is “evaluated against a second set of tagged examples (the evaluation set), and accuracy metrics (in terms of precision and recall) are obtained that allow such systems to be compared in terms of performance” (p. 133).

Although Machine Learning (ML) classifiers “generally work well with the type of content they have been trained for”, Moreno-Ortiz notes that their performance tends to drop “almost to chance” when used with other types of texts (p. 133). He highlights (2017, p. 134) that ML tools are “almost invariably geared toward short texts where opinion or sentiment is known to be expressed: user reviews, tweets or other online UGC”, while their “applicability to longer, multi-topic texts is simply not considered”.

On the other hand, the second Sentiment Analysis approach discussed by Moreno-Ortiz (2017, p. 134) “involves the use of rich lexical sources where sentiment-carrying lexical items are listed”, whereby the task of determining the semantic orientation of a text consists of identifying items in the input texts, analysing their context, and performing calculations based on the identified items.

Within this second lexicon-based approach, Moreno-Ortiz designed Lingmotif, a part of the Research Project FFI2011-25893, carried out between 2012 and 2015, and further developed between 2017 and 2019 with Project FFI2016-78141-P on Sentiment Analysis, both funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and created by the Tecnolengua Group at the University of Malaga. It should be noted that Lingmotif 2, an updated version of the software, was released by the group in April 2021.

Several researchers have used the original version of Lingmotif in their projects, such as Fernández-Cruz (2017, p. 5), who discusses its educational applications and notes that “thanks to Sentiment Analysis, we can measure the sentiment of students’ interactions with educational software and online learning”. Among other examples, he mentions the possibility of “analysing the emotional part” of students’ written work and

“automatic processing of students end-term evaluations and self-evaluations” using Lingmotif (p. 5).

Moreno-Ortiz and Pérez-Hernández (2017, p. 40) also used the platform to classify polarity of Spanish tweets, noting the “salient role that curated, high-quality lexical resources play in sentiment analysis”. Among relevant findings (2017, p. 37) was the fact that the tweets generated by “public figures (artists, politicians, journalists) with a large number of followers” were more predictable both in terms of language and content: “most of these tweets contain very compact but carefully chosen language, expressing users’ opinion or evaluation of politically or socially relevant events” (p. 37). Conversely, when a database with no apparent user selection was reviewed, tweets were found to include more spelling errors and colloquial terms, making the automatic analysis more challenging.

In a related project, Moreno-Ortiz and Fernández-Cruz (2015, p. 334) extracted financial terms from domain-specific corpora (the “Mag-Finance” and “News-Money” sections of the Corpus of Contemporary American English) and matched them against Lingmotif’s existing general-language polarity database with the aim of obtaining sentiment-bearing words whose polarity may be domain-specific. For instance, the authors (2015, p. 337) describe the words “expand” and “expansion”, which can have “any polarity in general language, but are always positive in finance”. Moreno-Ortiz and Fernández-Cruz (2015, p. 330) explain that domain specificity can be dealt with via “the introduction of context valence shifters (context rules)” at the sentence level, or a manually activated plugin approach for text-level valence:

Our approach to dealing with specialized domains is based on the idea of “plug-in” lexical resources which can be applied on demand. A simple 3-step model based on the weirdness ratio measure is proposed to extract candidate terms from specialized corpora, which are then matched against our existing general-language polarity database to obtain sentiment-bearing words whose polarity is domain-specific.

Mehl and Gill (2010) compare two further ATA tools which they believe to be capable of effectively extracting quantitative data to be subjected to posterior statistical analysis – LIWC, a word-count-based program especially popular in psychological research, and Wmatrix, a more complex, web-based automatic text analysis application developed within Corpus Linguistics. The authors (2010, p. 109) highlight three characteristics shared by LIWC and Wmatrix. Namely, both tools: “cover a range of ATA

needs”, “are user friendly and operate fully automatically” and “are maintained by researcher groups with a track record in the field”.

Given the programs’ similarities, which of the two – LIWC or Wmatrix – can be said to be more effective? According to Mehl and Gill (2010, p. 125), “unique insights” can in fact result “from a synergy of both approaches”. Of particular relevance to the current *Draw My Life* analysis, the researchers propose that the “the joint use of the psychological LIWC categories and the linguistic Wmatrix categories” can provide “a good balance between linguistic sophistication and psychological complexity” (p. 125).

Addressing arguments for more sophisticated Machine Learning (ML) methods over lexicon-based approaches, Mehl and Gill (2010, p. 125) suggest that it is not the “computational sophistication of an ATA tool that determines the validity of a text-analytically derived finding”. Rather, the authors believe that what should serve to confirm an ATA tool’s validity is “the degree to which the extracted linguistic information unambiguously answers a research question” (p. 125).

Numerous projects within linguistics, psychology and many other wide-ranging fields have used both LIWC and Wmatrix with an array of research aims. For instance, Sera (2020, p. 45) recently carried out a corpus-based analysis of the emotions expressed by the readers of Sir Kazuo Ishiguro’s literary works. In the study, a database of book reviews published online on the Goodreads website was collected and through a Wmatrix-based semantic analysis, Sera found that “sadness” is “the most characteristic emotion” expressed by Ishiguro’s readers when discussing their thoughts on his writing.

In other recent research, Van der Lee et al. (2019, p. 94) used LIWC to analyse the “thought processes, emotional states, and intentions” of writers of online dating profile texts. “Text analysis tools such as LIWC have become more popular with the surge of social media”, suggest the authors (p. 94). “Researchers want to assess, for instance, the sentiment of social media users on various matters, and lexicon-based text analysis tools can provide help with that” and especially in the case of “investigating large textual datasets” (such as the corpus of *Draw My Life* transcripts).

Van der Lee et al. (2019, p. 94) highlight that the outcomes of lexicon-based approaches like that of LIWC are “often taken at face value, without knowing how they compare to human attributions”. To avoid this, their study used “human judgment scores

as a baseline” and found that LIWC is a “viable text analysis method” (2019, p. 98) for the tasks at hand, with the LIWC labels correlating with thematic labels assigned manually by humans. Van der Lee et al. (2019, p. 98) conclude that “humans and all classification models scored similarly on accuracy and performed above chance, suggesting that LIWC does cover categorical differences between long-term relationship and date seekers”.

In an entirely different context, Bostan et al. (2020) used Wmatrix to assess the linguistic register used by managers to convey to stakeholders a positive view of their company within the context of the business sustainability. The authors compiled a corpus of letters and statements written by managers of European multinational companies listed on the Stock Exchange. They explain (2020, p. 1) that “the identified key words, the preferred semantic domains and the tone of emotional register from the letters of managers provide significant evidence on what kind of information they contain and how these managers want to share it with their stakeholders”.

Bostan et al.’s results (2020, p. 1) indicated that “managers are interested in the optimistic presentation of the mission, results and future plans of their companies” and use words such as “like”, “confidence”, “proud” or “trust” in their letters. The researchers explain that their study “systematizes a set of key-words and semantic domains used to convey positive emotions, avoiding those with negative connotations, in order to provide an image of a company that acts in a sustainable manner” (p. 1). They suggest that this set could be “successfully used by corporate communicators of a wide range of companies who want to comply with the best practices of integrated reporting” (p. 1).

Another study into emotional expression using LIWC was carried out by Kahn et al. (2007, p. 263), who implemented three experimental studies to assess verbal expressions of sadness and amusement. The authors analysed written autobiographical memories narrating sad and amusing events and also assessed participants’ transcriptions of reactions to emotionally provocative film clips. Despite the researchers noting issues with comprehensiveness (specific negative emotions such as shame, guilt, embarrassment and positive emotions such as optimism fall within broader LIWC categories), the program was overall found to be “a useful means of measuring one’s verbal expression of amusement and sadness” and “a meaningful indicator used as an alternative or complement” to manual reports (p. 280).

In the political sphere, Jinshuang and Rong (2020, p. 24) used Wmatrix to analyse the speeches given by President Xi Jinping on two major diplomatic occasions since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic — the Opening of the 73rd World Health Assembly and Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit (both in 2020). The researchers extracted the speech transcriptions from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, and used Wmatrix to generate word frequency lists and conduct a keyness analysis, which, within computational linguistics, refers to “the statistically significantly higher frequency of particular words or clusters in the corpus under analysis in comparison with another corpus, either a general reference corpus, or a comparable specialized corpus” (Baker et al., 2008, p. 278). In this case, the BNC sampler of spoken words was used as a reference corpus and results showed a notable amount of “positive and appreciative vocabulary” to highlight “China’s effectiveness and experience in fighting epidemics” (Jinshuang and Rong, 2020, p. 24). Words like “love”, “compassion” and phrases such as “without reservation” also demonstrate “appreciation for the active role played by international organizations” in the fight against COVID-19 (p. 29).

Within the legal sector, McQuaid et al. (2015, p. 617) used Wmatrix to investigate verbal cues to deception, providing what they describe as “further validation of the use of automated linguistic tools like the Wmatrix in forensic contexts”. Their study examined the language of 78 individuals “pleading for the return of a missing loved one during a televised press conference” (p. 617). 35 of the pleaders were lying and in fact responsible for the disappearances, while the rest of the participants under study were genuine pleaders. Transcripts of the pleas were reviewed for a range of linguistic markers, and “results revealed that deceptive pleaders used the word ‘they,’ singular indefinite pronouns (e.g., ‘anybody,’ ‘somebody’), and exclusivizers/particularizers (e.g., ‘just’) significantly more than genuine pleaders, while genuine pleaders used more temporal words (e.g., ‘days,’ ‘weeks’), and the word ‘we’ more frequently in their pleas” (McQuaid et al., 2015, p. 617).

McQuaid et al. (2015, pp. 618-9) highlight other research indicating the effectiveness of LIWC at detecting the veracity of true/false statements and of Wmatrix at identifying common semantic themes in the language of psychopaths and non-psychopaths:

For example, Newman, Pennebaker, Berry and Richards (2003) compared untrained human judges to the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC; Pennebaker, Francis, &

Booth, 2001) program. They found that use of the LIWC program resulted in significantly better than chance prediction of the veracity of participants' true and false statements pertaining to their opinions on abortion, while human judges did not.

Using the Wmatrix program (Rayson, 2008), Hancock et al. (2013) were able to effectively identify common semantic themes in the language of psychopathic murderers – characterized by a callous disregard for others, shallow affect, and antisocial behavior (Porter & Woodworth, 2006).

According to McQuaid et al. (2015, p. 618), automated linguistic analysis programs such as LIWC and Wmatrix “have the ability to reliably and objectively identify virtually all aspects of an individual’s linguistic output which would be an extremely challenging task for human coders”. Of particular interest to the current study is a gender-oriented sub-analysis conducted by the researchers as part of the same project, which showed that the language of genuine male pleaders tended to include fewer emotional discourse markers and increased use of more precise temporal details than that of genuine female pleaders. The authors (p. 627) believe that their results are in line with previous studies in which “males have been found to be less emotional and more precise in their language use”.

One such gender-related study was carried out by Newman et al. (2008, pp. 211-2), who used LIWC to analyse a database of over 14,000 written and spoken text samples. The findings showed that women “used more words related to psychological and social processes”, while men “referred more to object properties and impersonal topics”, with this overarching pattern being especially evident in “tasks that place fewer constraints on language use”. According to Newman et al. (p. 233), LIWC technology can work with a “broader sample than any hand-coded study could ever manage”. The authors suggest that word-count strategies such as LIWC, with their “statistical power and coding consistency” are “a viable, highly efficient alternative to linguistic analysis based on human coders” (p. 233).

Despite this evident statistical capability and constancy, it is crucial to keep in mind Sánchez’s (2017, p. 238) assertion that “software tools are still not well-equipped with mechanisms to deal with figurative language or ironic and sarcastic references”. Likewise, Lorenzo-Dus and Kinzel (2019, p. 20) suggest that focusing corpus linguistics research entirely on “automated (software-enabled), decontextualized, single word analysis – as enabled by the LIWC software – disregards the proven link between the textual context in which words are used and their meaning”. This is why the researchers

advocate instead for the “integration of automated and manual methods” which are “guided by specific research questions” (p. 20) — a combination chosen in the current study to ensure comprehensive results.

Chapter III, “Description of the Corpus and Methodology”, will provide a detailed description of the combined quantitative and qualitative methodological processes involved in the application of Lingmotif, LIWC2015 and Wmatrix4 along with several manual coding processes in the present research. The study corpus of the project will also be described, with a focus on the corpus design, content and ethics involved in the data selection procedures.

## **Chapter III:**

### **Description of the Corpus and Methodology**



# Chapter III: Description of the Corpus and Methodology

## 3.1 Ethics

While consolidating the study corpus, it was extremely important to ensure firstly that all of the YouTubers were over the age of 13 when they uploaded the narratives, in line with the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act. As can be observed in the data tables in section 3.3 below, at the time of publication of the DML videos, all of the YouTube creators exceeded the platform age requirements. On this topic, Heitner (2018, para. 4) explains:

YouTube is intended for users who are at least 13 because Google, its parent company, collects and markets user data, but many younger children have channels. Advocacy groups are taking Google to task, though, for failing to rigorously enforce the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act.

Another crucial aspect of the corpora to be reviewed was that all of the video content complied with YouTube’s Community Guidelines. As explained on the *YouTube Community Guidelines and Policies* section on the site (*Rules and Policies*), a combination of human revision and machine learning is implemented to review the immense amount of video content constantly uploaded to the platform (para. 1):

With hundreds of hours of new content uploaded to YouTube every minute, we use a combination of people and machine learning to detect problematic content at scale. Machine learning is well suited to detect patterns, which helps us to find content that is similar to other content that we’ve already removed, even before it’s viewed.

Although machine learning strategies and over 10,000 YouTube employees are in charge of “detecting, reviewing and removing content that violates” the site’s policies (*Flagging Content - How YouTube Works*, para. 1), YouTube also relies on the viewing community itself to flag content that they deem inappropriate. Users are told, “If you see content that you think violates the Community Guidelines, you can use our flagging feature to submit content for review” (*Flagging Content - How YouTube Works*, para. 2).

Given the frequent discussion of mental health-related issues in the videos, I looked up YouTube’s stance on content relating to these topics. The guidelines for posting

mental health-related content (*Suicide & Self-Injury Policy - YouTube Help*) state that “awareness and understanding of mental health is important” and highlight that YouTube supports “creators sharing their stories, such as posting content discussing their experiences with depression, self-harm, or other mental health issues” (para. 2). However, content fitting any of the following descriptions is not permitted (para. 11):

- Promoting or glorifying suicide
- Providing instructions on how to self-harm or die by suicide
- Graphic images of self-harm posted to shock or disgust viewers

While several of the *Draw My Life* creators discuss suicidal thoughts and self-harm, none of them promote/glorify suicide or provide instructions on how to self-harm or commit suicide. No graphic images of self-harm are included in any of the videos either.

Another vital part of the platform’s Community Guidelines to be kept in mind when reviewing the DML content was the section relating to hate speech policies, which states that “hate speech is not allowed on YouTube” (*Hate Speech Policy - YouTube Help*, para 3). In particular, the platform prohibits any content “promoting violence or hatred against individuals or groups based on any of the following attributes” (para. 3):

- Age
- Caste
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Gender Identity and Expression
- Nationality
- Race
- Immigration Status
- Religion
- Sex/Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Victims of a major violent event and their kin
- Veteran Status

Once again, although topics relating to sex/gender and religion, for instance, were frequently discussed very frankly in the stories, no hate speech of this kind was detected. Community Guidelines also prohibit “violent or gory content intended to shock or disgust viewers” (*Violent or Graphic Content Policies - YouTube Help*, para. 2). After reviewing

all relevant policies on the site, it was possible to confirm that none of the DML videos violate these either.

Having verified fulfillment of the YouTube Community Guidelines, it was also vital to consider the ethics behind using data available on the platform for research purposes.

Hu (2019, para. 5) explains that “most research using data from human participants” requires “scientists to obtain informed consent (most often in the form of waivers)”. However, given that “YouTube videos are considered publicly available information” (para. 5), studies based on data from the platform are not classified as “human subjects research” per se. While “YouTube users own the copyright to their own videos”, she describes how “researchers using clips could make the argument that their work qualifies as ‘fair use’ of copyrighted materials”, given that “the end result is ‘transformative’ of the original work” (para. 5).

The YouTube platform provides further details about “fair use”, describing it as a “legal doctrine that says you can reuse copyright-protected material under certain circumstances without getting permission from the copyright owner” (*Fair Use on YouTube - YouTube Help*, para. 1). The example of the United States is provided, where “works of commentary, criticism, research, teaching, or news reporting might be considered fair use” (para. 2).

Although YouTube videos can therefore be considered “fair use”, in her work on transcripts of YouTube videos posted by self-identified biracial individuals, Patterson (2018, p. 765) highlights the importance of keeping in mind and attending to “potentially problematic power dynamics that occur when the researcher interacts with participants through the medium of the Internet”. Researchers have an ethical responsibility to treat the content creators – and their narratives – with the respect and tact that they deserve. Along these lines, Patterson (p. 765) suggests that we must “realize the gravity of the responsibility of working with participants in online spaces”:

Although some would suggest mining this world of seemingly endless data points, it is important that the data points not become disassociated from the individuals who breathe life into them. YouTubers and the videos they choose to share in that venue have the propensity to tell us innumerable things about the ways they see the world, the ways they see themselves, and the ways they want to be seen. To learn from these stories as

researchers--and more importantly as humans sharing this earth--we just have to be willing to listen to them. We can prove our willingness to critically listen and to cultivate knowledge production from which others can benefit as well when we prioritize trust as the foundation of our efforts and when we allow our thoughts to be enhanced through engagement with the thoughts of others.

Inspired by Kinloch and San Pedro's (2014) concept of Projects in Humanization (PiH) and their work on the space in between "Listening and Storying" (ethical implications of listening to and retelling the narratives of others), Patterson (2018, p. 761) argues for online researchers to adhere to the "ethical and methodological obligation to retain the participants' humanness" in their studies. Along these lines, she suggests that scholars should constantly keep at the forefront of their minds "the human conditions" (p. 761) of uploaders when engaging with their content.

Explaining her own process of interaction with the YouTube content produced by self-identified biracial creators, Patterson (2018, p. 761) says that "in the absence of individuals with whom to engage in traditional two-way dialogue", she "committed to engaging with the stories shared through YouTube in humanizing ways": "I listened to the stories, watched them be told, transcribed them, read them, reread them, re-watched them, immersed myself in them, allowed the data to talk to me, and eventually also talked back to the data" (p. 761). In the current DML project, Patterson's advocacy for humanisation of online data was upheld at every step of the research process. I ensured that the transcripts were faithful to the narrations, and that the analysis strategies were driven by the data itself and underpinned by the utmost respect towards the people behind the stories.

Legewie and Nassauer (2018, p. 51) suggest that "as scholars, we are only beginning to formulate standards for ethical research in online settings and for the use of online video data". They highlight (p. 5) how researchers in this sphere do not have direct contact with the creators, and thus cannot be said to have "research participants, but rather research subjects". The authors provide a series of reflection points for online data collection which proved very useful when weighing up the ethics of the current study.

Firstly, "in ethical terms, the overall unique potential needs to be weighed against lack of consent" (Legewie and Nassauer, 2018, p. 23). In this case, I believe that the *Draw My Life* genre provides a unique dataset and equally unique potential to study mediated self-representation and the differences between emotional expressions of female and male YouTubers. The extensive transcribed data gave me the opportunity to implement a range

of software- and manual annotation-led techniques and gain what I believe to be unique insights into the female and male YouTubers' "emotional colouring of statements" (Becker et al. 2016, p. 52) in their narratives. Without the data, these findings would not have been possible.

Secondly, Legewie and Nassauer (2018, p. 28) propose that "using video data from platforms with limited purpose, limited audience, and limited access should be regarded as more ethically challenging than using data from general-purpose, general-audience, and open-access platforms". In the case of YouTube, the company value of Freedom of Information reviewed in Chapter II comes into play: "We believe that everyone should have easy, open access to information and that video is a powerful force for education, building understanding and documenting world events, big and small" (*About – YouTube*, para. 5). The content creators posted their *Draw My Life* videos on a general-purpose, general-audience, and open-access platform described by the company behind it as a powerful force for education and documentation.

Lastly, Legewie and Nassauer (2018, p. 28) posit that "if a video depicts a situation or event that has the purpose or entails the expectation of public visibility, this makes its use despite lack of consent less problematic than if the video depicts a context that was meant for a limited audience or people expect the context to be private". All of the *Draw My Life* creators in one way or another make it clear that they are aware of their audience (e.g. "it's not even about the thousands of followers – it's just the fact that we interact all the time" – FDML #81) and many of them explain that they are sharing their stories with the aim of their broad audience getting to know them better (e.g. "I thought I'd give you an insight into a little bit of my life, so you guys can get to know me better" – FDML #30). Even YouTubers with lower view counts make similar statements (e.g. "I thought I'd do a video that's a bit more personal so that you guys can get to know me a little bit better" – MDML #64). Thus, it can be ascertained that YouTubers creating content within the *Draw My Life* genre expect some extent of public visibility.

The final ethical quandary came about when I was reviewing the view counts of each DML video in October of 2020 for up-to-date statistics to be included in the current chapter. It was then that I noticed that three of the male YouTubers and seven of the female YouTubers had unpublished their videos since I had originally transcribed the data several years before. In order to maintain the accuracy of the results acquired while also respecting their decision to unpublish their stories, I decided to delete any reference to

their names or other private details in the transcripts. In the DML data tables in section 3.3 below, these cases are noted as “Anonymous” in the “YouTube Channel (YouTuber name)” column and “Unpublished” in the “Video Views as of Oct. 2020” column.

### 3.2 Corpus Design: Preliminary Selection of Videos

With the aim of obtaining genre representativeness through extensive, comparable data, two equally structured corpora were built for the current project: one containing the transcriptions of 100 *Draw My Life* videos created by self-identified female YouTubers (248,613 words in total) and one containing those of 100 *Draw My Life* videos created by self-identified male YouTubers (227,979 words in total), as shown in Figure 2 below:

	<b>Corpus A: female</b>	<b>Corpus B: male</b>
<b>Number of words:</b>	248,613	227,979

**Figure 2:** *Draw My Life* corpus word counts.

Firstly, to find the videos which would constitute the corpora data, I looked up the phrase “draw my life” in the YouTube searchbar. Initially, I filtered by “view count” and manually selected *Draw My Life* videos with English-speaking female and male narrators (the view counts of the videos have since fluctuated, so the transcript order in the study corpus is not always an indicator of current view count order). It was also necessary to choose *Draw My Life* videos with human narrators (not cartoon/video game characters). Moreover, I avoided videos with multiple narrators (e.g. Wassabi productions, Threadbanger, Katherine and Rachel), openly jokey/parodical versions of the genre (e.g. KSI, Miranda/Glozell, watermelondrea) and videos about specific life episodes (e.g. *How I Almost Died! Draw My Life*), rather than those narrating entire life stories.

For the present study’s purposes, it was also imperative to avoid videos published by the extremely popular channels “Draw Their Life”, “TikTak Draw” and “Draw The Life TikTak”. These channels feature videos with the same comic-style format and life story content to be expected from the genre, however, they are scripted and not narrated by the featured protagonists (sometimes they do use first person pronouns, though). For instance, the “Draw The Life TikTak” channel includes *Draw My Life*-style videos of famous personalities from the past, such as Salvador Dalí or Martin Luther King, obviously narrated by actors working for the channel.

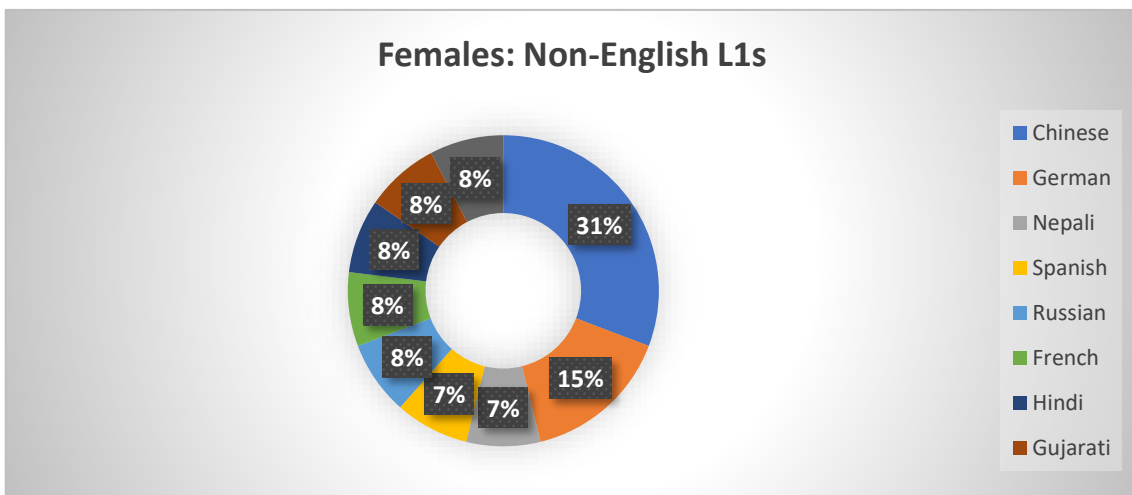
Once all of the video data (title, publishing date, channel name, birth year/first language of narrator) and links had been saved in a word document, I set about transcribing the videos in full. Here, I made the decision to transcribe the introductions and conclusions to each video, even if they were not strictly related to the narrators' life stories. For instance, before beginning to detail her autobiographical narrative (by describing the circumstances surrounding her birth), the narrator of FDML #12 opens her *Draw My Life* video with a warning about how awful her drawing skills are going to be (“Hello! So, I see a lot of people who do these drawing life videos, and some people have been asking me to do one and I’m going to do one, but **definitely not that good at drawing**”). Likewise, in FDML #13, after rounding up her description by bringing the autobiographical story to the present day, she concludes by expressing excitement over future plans for her channel (“**I can’t wait** to see where this takes us next”). Neither of these references are found strictly within the life story description portions of the videos (depictions of birth, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood). However, without including them in the transcriptions, relevant annotations of expressions of insecurity in the first case and excitement in the second would have been lost.

It is also relevant to note that I kept track of the 200 creators' channels and noticed that several YouTubers such as “Thatcher Joe” (real name Joe Sugg) created updated versions of their DML narratives at a later stage in their YouTube journey (often years after the creation of the first video) under the name “*Draw My Life: Part 2*” or similar. I decided to transcribe both the original and the updated versions of the videos, and then combine them with an asterisk symbol in between the two transcripts for future reference. In this way, I was able to ensure comprehensive data and allow for the possibility of tracking changes from the original videos to the updated ones (examples of these cases are discussed in section 4.4, “Manual Analysis 1: Thematic Analysis”).

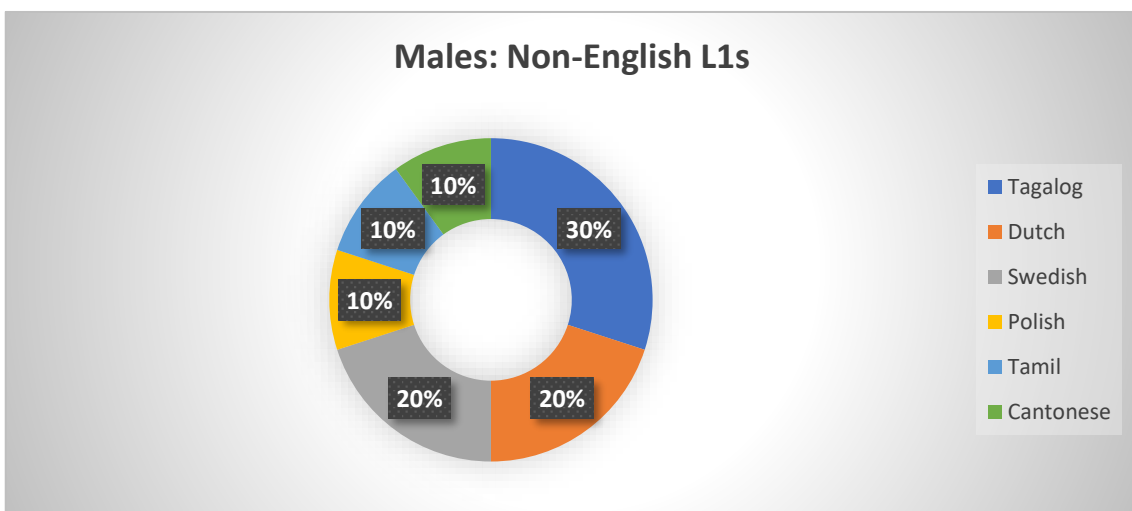
To prepare the corpora for the software analysis process, the transcriptions were streamlined based on the LIWC Operator's Manual guidelines (Pennebaker et al., *Operator's Manual*). All 200 *Draw My Life* videos transcribed were originally narrated in English, with the vast majority of the narrators speaking English as a first language. Given the extremely high viewing figures of some of the non-native English speaking YouTubers — PewDiePie (MDML #1), for example, a native Swedish speaker, has the most watched *Draw My Life* video in the entire study corpus — I ruled out the possibility of omitting their videos from the research. I did, however, aim to ensure a relative

balance between L1 and L2 speakers of English in each corpus, given research such as that of Ożańska-Ponikwia’s (2014, xi) into “probable changes in the perception and expression of emotions in both L1 and L2”, with expressions of love or anger, for example, described by bilingual speakers as carrying a “superior emotional force” in their L1 (Gawinkowska et al., 2013, para. 9).

The desired balance was achieved, given that 87% of the female creators speak English as a first language, and 90% of the male creators do. Especially in the case of the females, the non-English L1 languages are notably varied, with four Chinese L1 speakers, two German L1 speakers and one speaker of each of the following L1 languages: Nepali, Spanish, Russian, French, Hindi, Gujarati, and Filipino. Other than the 90 male creators who speak English as an L1, three speak Tagalog, two speak Dutch, two Swedish, one Polish, one Tamil and one Chinese. These statistics are depicted in Figures 3 and 4 below:



**Figure 3:** Female YouTubers’ non-English L1s.



**Figure 4:** Male YouTubers’ non-English L1s.



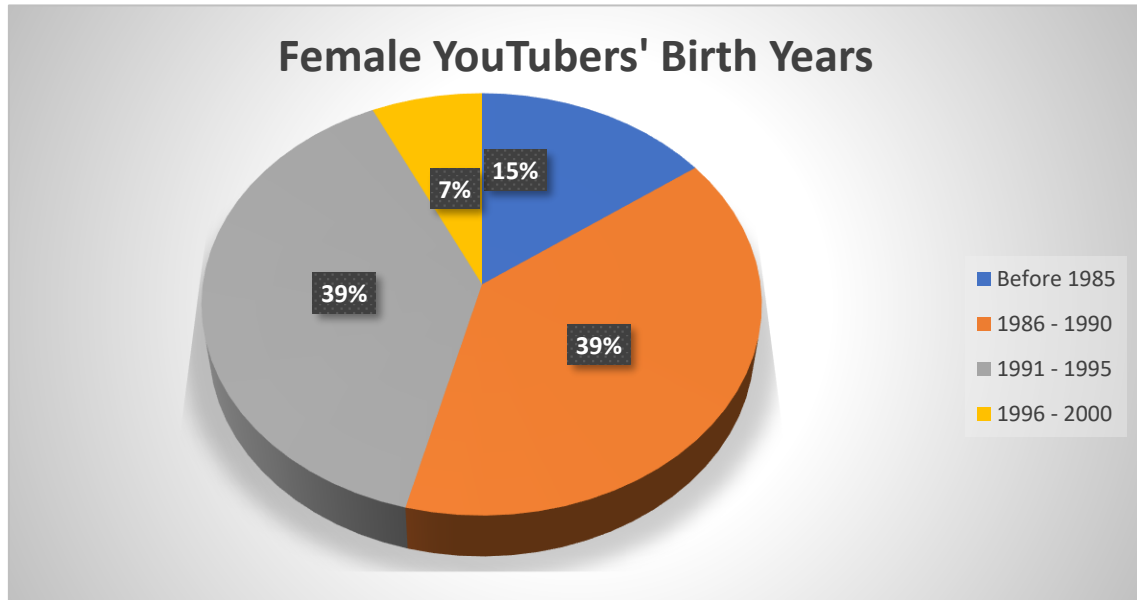
### 3.3 Data

#### 3.3.1 Corpus A: Female YouTubers

The publication timeframe of the female YouTubers' *Draw My Life* videos is between 2013 and 2018. In terms of word count, the 100 *Draw My Life* videos created by the female YouTubers include a total of 248,613 words, meaning that each story has an average of 2486.13 words.

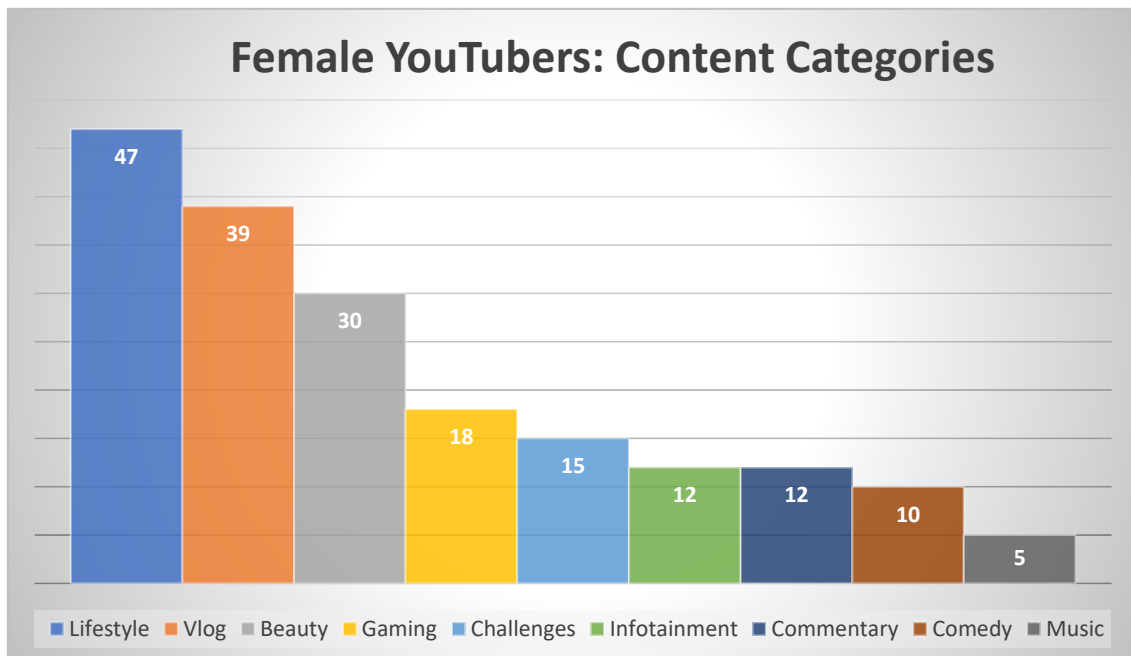
Regarding view counts, the female YouTuber with the highest viewcount is Zoella (Zoe Sugg, FDML #1), with 16,622,753 views as of October 2020. The female creator with the lowest viewcount at this time was MissMikaylaG, real name Mikayla Greenwood (FDML #92), at 16,712 views.

Focusing now on the YouTubers' years of birth, firstly, 15% of the female creators were born in either 1985 or before this year and 39% were born between 1985 and 1990. In the penultimate category, between 1991 and 1995, 39% of females were born. Lastly, 7% of the females were born between 1996 and 2000, as shown in Figure 5:



**Figure 5:** Birth years of female YouTubers.

Another dataset relevant to the current research is the main channel content categories of the YouTubers in question, or what the focus of the majority of the videos on their main channel is (some YouTubers have secondary channels with alternative content as well). In the case of the female creators, the most frequent content category is Lifestyle (47), followed by Vlogging (39), Beauty (30), Gaming (18), Challenges (15), Infotainment (including sexuality and trans-related issues, as two of the female YouTubers – FDML #17 and FDML #80 – are transgender) (12), Commentary (12), Comedy (10), Music (5), Art (3), Animated Stories (2), Cooking (2), ASMR (2), Pranks (1), Fashion (1), Religion (1), Travels (1), DIY (1). The most frequent channel content categories of the female YouTubers are depicted in Figure 6 below:



**Figure 6:** Content categories of female YouTubers.

The study corpus table below includes the video references which will be used when discussing research findings based on the female-created *Draw My Life* videos in section 4.4’s manual thematic analysis (with “FDML” referring to a *Draw My Life* video created by a self-identified female). The table also contains each YouTuber’s channel name and personal name (only indicated when publicly available), main channel content, birth year, nationality, and first language. The years of publication and word counts of their DML videos are also shown below.

**Table 1: Study Corpus A - Female YouTubers**

Video Reference	YouTube Channel (YouTuber name)	Main Channel Content	YouTuber Birth Year	YouTuber Nationality	YouTuber L1	Video Views as of Oct. 2020	Video Year of Publication	Video Word Count
FDML #1	Zoella (Zoe Sugg)	Lifestyle/Beauty	1990	British	English	16.622.753	2013	1332
FDML #2	Anonymous	Comedy/ Commentary	1986	American	English	Unpublished	2013	1526
FDML #3	iHasCupquake (Tiffany Garcia)	Gaming	1988	American	English	15.340.439	2013	1269
FDML #4	ISuperwomanII (Lilly Singh)	Comedy	1988	Indian/ Canadian	English	12.688.290	2013	1631
FDML #5	Michelle Phan	Beauty/Lifestyle	1987	American	English	11.907.754	2013	1792
FDML #6	LaurDIY (Lauren Riihimaki)	Infotainment/ Challenges	1993	Canadian	English	4.031.274 13.191.873	2013 2016	Part 1: 2736 Part 2: 2767
FDML #7	Wengie (Wendy Jie Huang)	Challenges/ Pranks/ Infotainment (life hacks)	1986	Australian/ Chinese	English/ Chinese	12.790.785	2016	1924
FDML #8	SSSniperWolf (Alia Shelesh)	Gaming/ Comedy	1992	British	English	15.655.149	2014	1578
FDML #9	LDShadowLady (Elizabeth Dwyer)	Gaming	1992	British	English	9.834.399	2015	2688
FDML #10	Bubzbeauty (Lindy Tsang)	Beauty/Lifestyle	1986	British (Northern Ireland)/ Chinese	English/ Chinese	7.427.502	2013	2096
FDML #11	dope2111 (Promise Phan)	Beauty/ Challenges/ Lifestyle	1989	Nepalese/ American	Nepali	6.970.124	2013	2821
FDML #12	Meghan McCarthy	Vlogs/ Challenges	1991	American	English	6.212.606	2014	1355
FDML #13	ItsFunneh (Kathrine La)	Gaming	1995	Canadian	English	14.268.943	2017	2204
FDML #14	Niki and Gabi (narrator: Nicola DeMartino)	Beauty/Lifestyle /Challenges /Music	1995	American	English	6.005.358	2013	2422
FDML #15	Aphmau (Jessica Bravura)	Gaming	1989	American	English	6.251.419	2015	1625
FDML #16	MayBaby (Megan DeAngelis)	Lifestyle/ Challenges	1995	Canadian	English	4.378.637 1.108.462	2013 2016	Part 1: 1571 Part 2: 2079
FDML #17	Gigi Gorgeous (Giselle Loren Lazzarato)	Lifestyle/ Infotainment (transgenderism -focused)	1992	Canadian	English	4.353.086	2013	2106
FDML #18	Inquisitor Master (Alexandra Teran)	Gaming	1994	American	English	8.508.890	2017	2227
FDML #19	Let Me Explain Studios (Rebecca Parham)	Animated Stories	1987	American	English	10.652.420	2018	3392
FDML #20	2011teenagemom (Vanessa Garitano)	Vlogs/Lifestyle	1992	American	English	3.610.360	2013	1837
FDML #21	AndreasChoice (Andrea Brooks)	Beauty/Lifestyle	1986	American	English	3.230.069	2013	2369
FDML #22	Gloom (Kassima Isabelle)	Comedy/ Gaming/	1990	Canadian	English	4.033.231	2013	2623

<b>FDML #23</b>	Kyutie (Ellen Pellon)	Gaming/ Comedy/Vlogs	1997	Australian	English	3.234.178	2016	1553
<b>FDML #24</b>	Meredith Foster	Lifestyle/Vlogs	1995	American	English	2.805.344	2013	2175
<b>FDML #25</b>	Shay Mitchell	Lifestyle/Beauty /Challenges	1987	Canadian	English	2.940.114	2016	688
<b>FDML #26</b>	blndsundoll4mj (Trisha Paytas)	Music/Vlogs/ Commentary	1988	American	English	1.992.112	2013	4828
<b>FDML #27</b>	Dulce Candy	Beauty/Lifestyle	1987	American	English/ Spanish	1.940.606	2013	3713
<b>FDML #28</b>	Anonymous	Beauty/Lifestyle /Vlogs	1993	American	English	Unpublished	2013	1995
<b>FDML #29</b>	Strawburry17 (Meghan Camarena)	Vlogs/Lifestyle/ Challenges	1987	American	English	1.725.246	2013	2418
<b>FDML #30</b>	Kelly & Carly (Kelly Fitzsimmons)	Gaming/ Challenges/ Vlogs	1995	Irish	English	1.864.197	2017	2123
<b>FDML #31</b>	MyHarto (Hannah Hart)	Cooking/ Infotainment /Vlogs	1986	American	English	1.649.019	2013	1298
<b>FDML #32</b>	Anonymous	Vlogs/Gaming	1991	Canadian	English	Unpublished	2013	5278
<b>FDML #33</b>	Wolfychu (Kayleigh Smyth)	Animated stories	1995	British	English	3.197.010	2018	1332
<b>FDML #34</b>	Baylee Jae (Baylee Brazeau)	Infotainment (art-focused)	1990	Canadian	English	1.451.485	2013	2908
<b>FDML #35</b>	Anonymous	Lifestyle/Beauty	1990	Australian	English	Unpublished	2013	3794
<b>FDML #36</b>	LaToya Forever (LaToya Wilson)	Lifestyle/ Challenges/ Beauty	1987	Canadian	English	1.394.922	2013	1621
<b>FDML #37</b>	Yammy (Yasmin Uddin)	Gaming	1994	British	English	2.071.413	2017	2026
<b>FDML #38</b>	JesssFam (Jessica Jean Skube)	Vlogs	1992	American	English	1.546.524	2013	2485
<b>FDML #39</b>	LaurenzSide (Lauren Weber)	Gaming/ Comedy	1989	American	English	3.198.558	2014	2125
<b>FDML #40</b>	Catrific (Catherine Elizabeth Valdes)	Lifestyle/ Challenges	1989	American	English	1.262.427	2013	1555
<b>FDML #41</b>	Tama Hero (real name not public)	Infotainment (Pokémon-focused)	1993	American	English	1.279.481	2013	2503
<b>FDML #42</b>	Sierra Furtado	Beauty/Lifestyle	1993	American	English	1.263.368	2013	2482
<b>FDML #43</b>	Olga Kay	Vlogs/ Infotainment	1982	Russian/ American	Russian	1.141.482	2013	2334
<b>FDML #44</b>	Pokimane (Imane Anys)	Gaming	1996	Moroccan/ Canadian	English/ French	1.793.457	2017	1529
<b>FDML #45</b>	LeahLouu (Leah Shaye)	Art/Vlogs	1993	American	English	937.753	2013	2015
<b>FDML #46</b>	Amy Lee (Amy-Lee Hart)	Gaming	1988	British	English	789.287	2017	680
<b>FDML #47</b>	Shaaanxo (Shannon Harris)	Beauty/Fashion	1992	New Zealander	English	697.183	2013	2071
<b>FDML #48</b>	Anonymous	Vlogs/ Challenges	1994	American	English	Unpublished	2016	3298
<b>FDML #49</b>	goInspo (Ayesha Curry)	Cooking/ Lifestyle	1989	Canadian/ American	English	1.130.680	2017	1980
<b>FDML #50</b>	SaydeeWhoa (real name not public)	Infotainment (LPS-focused)	1999	American	English	668.768	2016	1533

<b>FDML #51</b>	Simonandmartina bonus (Martina Sazunic)	Vlogs	1983	Canadian	English	636.870	2013	2876
<b>FDML #52</b>	Anna Akana	Lifestyle/Music	1989	American	English	691.039	2016	623
<b>FDML #53</b>	Amena (Amena Khan)	Lifestyle/Vlogs	1983	British	English	602.405	2013	2234
<b>FDML #54</b>	Art ala Carte (real name not public)	Infotainment (art-focused)	1977	American	English	553.208	2015	3468
<b>FDML #55</b>	The Michalaks (Hannah Michalak)	Vlogs/Lifestyle	1989	British	English	478.147	2013	3052
<b>FDML #56</b>	GlitterForever17 (Breland Emory Kent)	Lifestyle/Beauty	1987	American	English	466.892 369.750	2013 2018	Part 1: 3898 Part 2: 4718
<b>FDML #57</b>	Chriselle Lim	Vlogs/Lifestyle/ Beauty	1985	Korean/ American	English	461.985	2013	2183
<b>FDML #58</b>	Kelly Eden	Lifestyle/Vlogs/ Beauty/Gaming	1989	American	English	372.596	2016	2885
<b>FDML #59</b>	Sejal Kumar	Vlogs/Lifestyle	1995	Indian	Hindi/ English	363.969	2016	1333
<b>FDML #60</b>	Maqaroon (Joanna Zhou)	Infotainment (crafts-focused)	1984	Chinese/ Austrian	Chinese	480.415	2018	2558
<b>FDML #61</b>	WhispersRed ASMR (Emma Smith)	ASMR	1978	British	English	673.521	2017	9948
<b>FDML #62</b>	Mortem3r (Suzanne Berhow)	Beauty/Lifestyle /Vlogs	1989	American	English	418.790	2014	890
<b>FDML #63</b>	HeyBrittany (Brittany Joyal)	Lifestyle/Vlogs	1991	American	English	276.005	2013	1572
<b>FDML #64</b>	Emzotic (Emma Lock)	Infotainment (animals- focused)	1988	British	English	460.185	2018	4077
<b>FDML #65</b>	Jessie Paege	Lifestyle/Beauty	1999	American	English	371.882	2018	4692
<b>FDML #66</b>	Holistic Habits (Sarah Nagel)	Lifestyle/Beauty	1991	Canadian	English	331.739	2015	3365
<b>FDML #67</b>	Emilia Fart (real name not public)	Vlogs/ Commentary	1989	Canadian	English	859.631	2018	1150
<b>FDML #68</b>	polandbananas20 (Christine Riccio)	Comedy	1990	American	English	207.460	2013	1994
<b>FDML #69</b>	Sacha Stevenson	Comedy/Vlogs	1982	Canadian	English	184.019	2013	2214
<b>FDML #70</b>	Julia Graf	Vlogs/Beauty/ Lifestyle	1979	Swiss- Canadian	German	155.316	2013	3844
<b>FDML #71</b>	Kate Murnane	Vlogs/Lifestyle	1990	British	English	151.342	2013	2567
<b>FDML #72</b>	Lana McKissack	Vlogs/ Challenges	1984	American	English	128.468	2013	1231
<b>FDML #73</b>	Emily Norris	Vlogs/Lifestyle	1983	Canadian	English	116.582	2017	3632
<b>FDML #74</b>	MyInvisible Chrysalis (real name not public)	Infotainment (wigs-focused)/ Beauty	1983	American	English	103.453	2013	1975
<b>FDML #75</b>	Samantha Schuerman	Beauty/Lifestyle	1985	British	English	98.959 76.775	2013 2013	Part 1: 2559 Part 2: 4250
<b>FDML #76</b>	BeautyQQ (Queenie Chan)	Beauty/Lifestyle	1972	Chinese/ Australian	Chinese	98.224	2013	1674
<b>FDML #77</b>	SophieMichelle ASMR (Sophie Goodall)	ASMR	1997	British	English	235.109	2018	2582

<b>FDML #78</b>	LizziesAnswers (Lizzie Estella Reezay)	Infotainment (religion- focused)/ Lifestyle	1994	American	English	83.245	2013	4231
<b>FDML #79</b>	SabsBeauty (Sabrina Novenschi)	Vlogs/ Infotainment (studies- focused)/ Lifestyle	1996	American	English	69.047	2013	1451
<b>FDML #80</b>	Kat Blaque	Commentary/ Infotainment (transgenderism -focused)	1990	American	English	100.005	2013	2239
<b>FDML #81</b>	Kati Morton	Commentary/ Infotainment (mental health- focused)	1983	American	English	121.013	2013	2723
<b>FDML #82</b>	Saloni Srivastava	Vlogs/Lifestyle	1992	Indian	Gujarati	107.004	2018	1319
<b>FDML #83</b>	Jewel (real name not public)	Gaming/ Commentary	1995	American	English	53.818	2016	5497
<b>FDML #84</b>	Kayla Marie (real name not public)	Beauty/Lifestyle	1991	American	English	53.136	2013	2821
<b>FDML #85</b>	Damielou Shavelle	Music/ Commentary	1992	Australian	English	52.749	2013	1131
<b>FDML #86</b>	Emilythebrave (Emily Carson)	Commentary/ Vlogs	1993	American	English	47.108	2013	595
<b>FDML #87</b>	Anonymous	Beauty	1994	Austrian	German	Unpublished	2014	1450
<b>FDML #88</b>	Anonymous	Lifestyle/ Commentary	1993	American	English	Unpublished	2013	1769
<b>FDML #89</b>	Lindee Link	Music/Lifestyle	1995	American	English	34.997	2015	1296
<b>FDML #90</b>	Abi Abroad (Abigael Taiwo)	Commentary (travel- focused)/Vlogs	1990	British	English	33.102	2013	3173
<b>FDML #91</b>	Sally Jo (Sally Jo Hickey)	Vlogs/Beauty/ Lifestyle	1993	New Zealander	English	26.264	2016	2778
<b>FDML #92</b>	MissMikaylaG (Mikayla Greenwood)	Lifestyle/Beauty /Vlogs	1995	Canadian	English	16.712	2013	1709
<b>FDML #93</b>	Oxminaox (Marina Preciado)	Commentary/ Lifestyle/Vlogs	1999	American	English	82.385	2018	2570
<b>FDML #94</b>	SuzelleDIY (Julia Anastasopoulos)	Infotainment (DIY-focused)/ Comedy	1983	South African	English	68.559	2018	588
<b>FDML #95</b>	Meghan Rienks	Commentary/ Lifestyle/ Challenges	1993	American	English	1.929.652	2013	2292
<b>FDML #96</b>	RealAsianBeauty (Kristine Rocas)	Beauty/Vlogs/ Lifestyle	1986	Filipina	Filipino	228.082	2013	1125
<b>FDML #97</b>	Lily Pebbles (Lily Garnham)	Lifestyle/Vlogs/ Beauty	1987	British	English	143.348	2016	2153
<b>FDML #98</b>	Tadelesmith (Taylor Adele Smith)	Beauty/Gaming /Comedy	1993	American	English	119.898	2013	877
<b>FDML #99</b>	Grace Helbig	Commentary	1985	American	English	1.622.849	2013	1413
<b>FDML #100</b>	Farah Dhukai	Beauty/Vlogs	1987	Canadian	English	539.882	2013	5059

### 3.3.2 Corpus B: Male YouTubers

The male YouTubers' *Draw My Life* video publication timeframe is between 2013 and 2019, slightly more extended than the female YouTubers' one. In terms of word count, the 100 DML videos created by male YouTubers include a total of 227,979 words, with an average of 2279.79 words per story. The females' narratives were therefore, on average, longer.

As of October 2020, the male YouTuber with the most viewed *Draw My Life* video is PewDiePie, real name Felix Arvid Ulf Kjellberg (MDML #1), with 35,605,210 views (in October 2021, his DML is still the most viewed in the corpus). The male-created DML video with the lowest viewing figure is MDML #93, with 409 views prior to the YouTuber unpublishing his video and therefore being noted as anonymous in the database for privacy reasons. Both the most and least viewed DML videos in the corpora were therefore produced by male YouTubers.

Regarding the male YouTubers' years of birth, 13% were born before 1985 and 37% were born between 1985 and 1990. A total of 35% of the male creators were born between 1991 and 1995, and lastly, 15% were born between 1996 and 2000. Overall, as represented in Figure 7 below, the male YouTubers are slightly younger than the female YouTubers, but the differences in birth year group distribution are minimal:

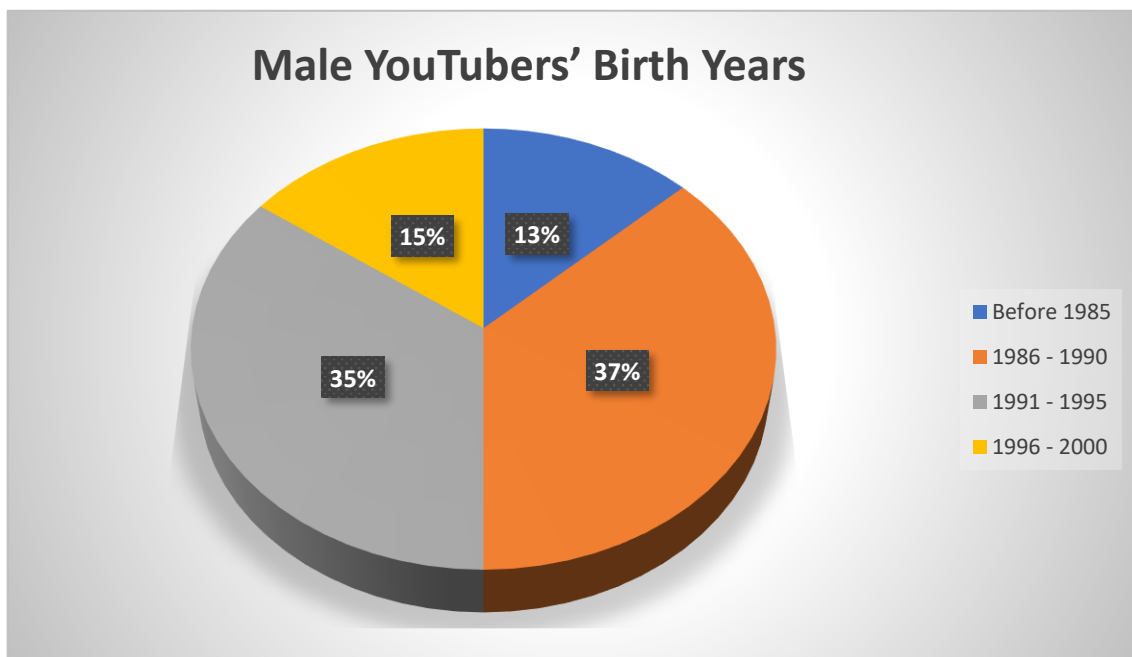
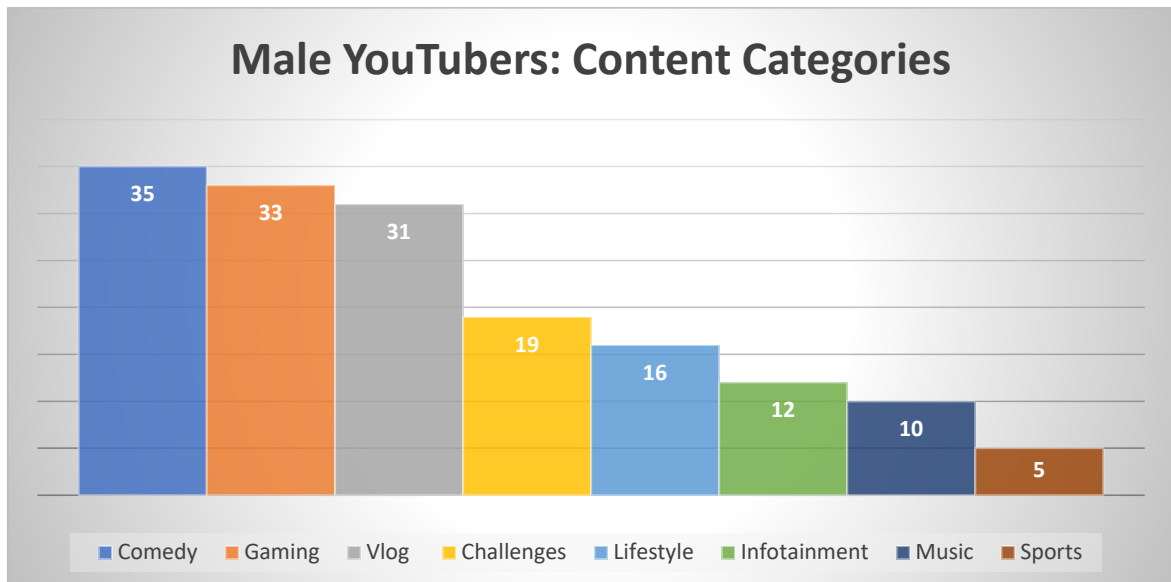


Figure 7: Birth years of male YouTubers.

The most frequent channel content categories of the male creators are Comedy (35), Gaming (33), Vlogging (31), Challenges (19), Lifestyle (16), Infotainment (12), Music (10), Sports (5), Travels (2), Art (2), Cooking (2), Horror (2), Fitness (1), DIY (1), Storytelling (1), Social Commentary (1), Dance (1), Unboxing (1), Magic (1), Pop Culture Commentary (1), Tutorials (1), Reactions (1), and Make-up (1). The most common channel content categories of the male YouTubers are shown in Figure 8 below:



**Figure 8:** Content categories of male YouTubers.

As shown in the data, while the most frequently produced female content often revolves around discussing everyday life and beauty, the top category of the male creators is comedy (often including constructed personas) and gaming (which involves competitive, aggressive content). Please see section 4.4 for reflections in this regard.

The data table below includes the video references which will be used when discussing research findings based on the male-created *Draw My Life* videos in section 4.4’s manual thematic analysis (with “MDML” referring to a *Draw My Life* video created by a self-identified male). The table also contains each YouTuber’s channel name and personal name (when publicly available), main channel content, birth year, nationality, and first language. The years of publication and word counts of their DML videos are also shown.



**Table 2: Study Corpus B - Male YouTubers**

Video Reference	YouTube Channel	Main Channel Content	YouTuber Birth Year	YouTuber Nationality	YouTuber L1	Video Views as of Oct. 2020	Video Year of Publication	Video Word Count
MDML #1	PewDiePie (Felix Kjellberg)	Comedy/ Gaming/ Commentary	1989	Swedish	Swedish	35.605.210	2013	896
MDML #2	Niga Higa (Ryan Higa)	Comedy	1990	American	English	34.013.570	2013	1960
MDML #3	Dan TDM (Daniel Rober Middleton)	Gaming	1991	British	English	31.262.569	2013	2217
MDML #4	Markiplier (Mark Edward Fischbach)	Gaming/ Comedy	1989	American	English	29.802.954	2013	2669
MDML #5	Guava Juice (Roi Fabito)	DIY/Vlogs/ Entertainment	1991	Filipino/ American	Tagalog/ English	35.166.937	2016	1207
MDML #6	Denis (Denis Kopotun)	Gaming	1996	Canadian	English	28.921.210	2016	2391
MDML #7	The Game Theorists (Matthew Patrick)	Gaming	1986	American	English	16.060.202	2013	1981
MDML #8	Jacksepticeye (Seán William McLoughlin)	Gaming	1990	Irish	English	15.324.415	2014	3048
MDML #9	Preston (Preston Blaine Arsement)	Gaming	1994	American	English	16.179.215	2015	4472
MDML #10	Jake Paul	Comedy/ Pranks	1997	American	English	14.005.160	2016	2730
MDML #11	Boogie2988 (Steven Jay Williams)	Gaming	1974	American	English	13.772.537	2013	2248
MDML #12	Joey Graceffa (Joseph Michael Graceffa)	Vlogs/Gaming	1991	American	English	14.339.287	2013	1544
MDML #13	SuperMario Logan (Logan Austin Thirtyacre)	Gaming	1994	American	English	20.643.878	2014	4629
MDML #14	Daniel Howell	Comedy	1991	British	English	8.664.584	2013	1901
MDML #15	ThatcherJoe (Joseph Sugg)	Comedy/ Pranks	1991	British	English	8.042.079 3.732.048	2013 2015	Part 1: 1274 Part 2: 2136
MDML #16	Domics (Dominic Panganiban)	Comedy/ Storytelling	1990	Filipino/ Canadian	Tagalog (till 7)/English	9.253.850	2015	2628
MDML #17	Tyler Oakley (Mathew Tyler Oakley)	Social commentary/ Comedy	1989	American	English	7.428.685	2013	1464
MDML #18	Thinknoodles (Justin Andrew Watkins)	Gaming	1977	American	English	9.096.705	2013	1797
MDML #19	CaseyNeistat	Vlogs/Lifestyle	1981	American	English	8.359.579	2015	1780
MDML #20	CaptainSparklez (Jordan Maron)	Gaming	1992	American	English	6.035.286	2014	4985
MDML #21	Gabriel Conte	Vlogs/Lifestyle	1994	American	English	9.078.494	2017	2413
MDML #22	PointlessBlog (Alfie Deyes)	Vlogs/ Challenges	1993	British	English	5.094.776	2013	906
MDML #23	Joe Weller (Joseph Weller)	Sports/Gaming/ Music	1996	British	English	4.811.994	2013	1092

<b>MDML #24</b>	AmazingPhil (Philip Lester)	Lifestyle/ Comedy	1987	British	English	4.646.808	2013	1354
<b>MDML #25</b>	Caspar (Caspar Lee)	Challenges/ Pranks/Comedy	1994	South African/ British	English	4.380.193 2.610.017	2013 2015	Part 1: 912 Part 2: 1112
<b>MDML #26</b>	Anonymous	Comedy/ Challenges	1993	American	English	Unpublished	2013	686
<b>MDML #27</b>	Connor Franta	Lifestyle/ Comedy	1992	American	English	3.963.284	2013	1040
<b>MDML #28</b>	Anthony Padilla	Comedy/ Lifestyle/ Challenges	1987	American	English	5.855.411	2016	1534
<b>MDML #29</b>	DeStorm Power	Music/Comedy/ Challenges	1982	American	English	3.967.847	2013	2992
<b>MDML #30</b>	The DOMINICshow (Dominic Kyle Sandoval)	Comedy/Dance/ Lifestyle	1985	American	English	3.552.209	2013	1090
<b>MDML #31</b>	Tanner Braungardt	Sports/ Challenges/ Lifestyle	2000	American	English	3.923.391	2016	2330
<b>MDML #32</b>	JoshuaDTV (Joshua Evans)	Vlogs/Music	1984	American	English	3.520.619	2014	3406
<b>MDML #33</b>	DOPE or NOPE (Matthew Fredrick)	Comedy/ Unboxing	1988	American	English	3.941.450	2013	1421
<b>MDML #34</b>	Jacksfilms (John Douglass)	Comedy	1988	American	English	3.630.422	2013	1811
<b>MDML #35</b>	Jim Chapman	Vlogs/Lifestyle	1987	British	English	3.055.971	2013	1310
<b>MDML #36</b>	Alex (Alexander Stephen Orman)	Gaming	1995	British	English	3.802.550	2017	1526
<b>MDML #37</b>	Oli White (Oliver Alan White)	Vlogs/ Challenges	1995	British	English	2.832.009 1.261.328	2013 2016	Part 1: 1058 Part 2: 722
<b>MDML #38</b>	Jazza (Josiah Brooks)	Art	1989	Australian	English	3.910.532	2013	1822
<b>MDML #39</b>	Zach King	Magic/Vlogs	1990	American	English	3.067.339	2013	932
<b>MDML #40</b>	FunForLouis (Louis John Cole)	Vlogging/ Travels	1983	British	English	2.467.195	2013	1365
<b>MDML #41</b>	Anonymous	Comedy/ Pop Culture Commentary	1990	American	English	Unpublished	2013	3046
<b>MDML #42</b>	JC Caylen (Justin Caylen Castillo)	Vlogs/ Challenges	1992	American	English	2.194.602	2013	1153
<b>MDML #43</b>	TGFBro (Jamie Michael Swingler)	Challenges/ Comedy	1995	British	English	2.628.959	2013	1383
<b>MDML #44</b>	Burnsy (real name not public)	Gaming	1986	American	English	1.879.333	2013	2174
<b>MDML #45</b>	Infinite Lists (Caylus Cunningham)	Challenges/ Comedy	1997	American	English	6.358.515	2017	2297
<b>MDML #46</b>	Shonduras (Shaun McBride)	Vlogs/Sports	1987	American	English	4.512.426	2015	2211
<b>MDML #47</b>	Julien Solomita	Vlogs/Cooking	1992	American	English	1.999.864	2014	2129
<b>MDML #48</b>	Alex Aiono	Music/Vlogs	1996	American	English	1.682.266	2017	1214

<b>MDML #49</b>	Kwebbelkop (Jordi Maxim van den Bussche)	Gaming/ Comedy	1995	Dutch	Dutch	1.634.505	2014	3078
<b>MDML #50</b>	Jonathan Joly	Vlogs/Comedy	1980	Irish	English	1.553.300	2013	4511
<b>MDML #51</b>	Jus Reign (Jasmeet Singh Raina)	Comedy	1989	Canadian	English	1.621.462	2013	1915
<b>MDML #52</b>	DavidParody (real name not public)	Parodies/Vlogs/ Challenges	1991	Canadian	English	1.274.566	2013	1187
<b>MDML #53</b>	SmallishBeans (Joel Batty)	Gaming	1993	British	English	1.672.017	2017	2525
<b>MDML #54</b>	KickThePJ (PJ Liguori)	Comedy/Art/ Lifestyle	1990	British	English	1.100.680	2013	1052
<b>MDML #55</b>	Moretoki (Motoki Maxted)	Comedy/ Lifestyle	1996	American	English	1.219.954	2017	1645
<b>MDML #56</b>	CreepsMcPasta (real name not public)	Horror	1991	British	English	1.029.875	2015	2926
<b>MDML #57</b>	FaZe Teeqo (Jakob Swärden)	Gaming/ Lifestyle	1993	Swedish	Swedish	1.458.795	2016	2996
<b>MDML #58</b>	Tom Daley	Sports/Lifestyle	1994	British	English	1.007.413	2016	939
<b>MDML #59</b>	Conan Gray	Vlogs/Music	1998	American	English	2.160.727	2016	3251
<b>MDML #60</b>	Sky Williams	Gaming	1990	American	English	884.499	2013	3478
<b>MDML #61</b>	Unspeakable (Nathan Graham)	Gaming	1997	American	English	3.792.274	2018	2495
<b>MDML #62</b>	Chrisandthemike (Christopher Foltz)	Gaming	1989	American	English	949.844	2014	1556
<b>MDML #63</b>	Anonymous	Comedy/Vlogs/ Tutorials	1993	American	English	Unpublished	2016	2166
<b>MDML #64</b>	Mr. Fruit (Christian Miller)	Gaming	1994	American	English	954.435	2017	4537
<b>MDML #65</b>	Matthew Santoro	Infotainment	1985	Canadian	English	922.641	2017	2558
<b>MDML #66</b>	LordMinion777 (George Barnes)	Gaming/ Challenges	1989	American	English	599.651	2013	3218
<b>MDML #67</b>	Simonandmartina bonus (Simon Stawski)	Vlogs	1983	Canadian	Polish/ English	569.125	2013	2791
<b>MDML #68</b>	Truegreen7 (Ron Sroor)	Gaming (Pokémon)	1996	American	English	819.465	2017	1546
<b>MDML #69</b>	Behind The Meme (Kyle Bryce)	Infotainment	1989	American	English	523.138	2017	2543
<b>MDML #70</b>	Bijuu Mike (Michael Lucas)	Gaming/Vlogs	1992	American	English	606.086	2016	1974
<b>MDML #71</b>	LHUGUENY (Logan Hugueny-Clark)	Music/Comedy	1986	American/ French	English	548.790	2017	2011
<b>MDML #72</b>	JayzTwoCents (Jason Langevin)	Infotainment/ Gaming	1981	American	English	471.117	2013	3703
<b>MDML #73</b>	Graser10 (Zachary Graser)	Gaming	1997	Canadian	English	384.165	2016	1393
<b>MDML #74</b>	C4ETech (Ashwin Ganesh)	Infotainment	1987	Indian	Tamil/ English	486.515	2015	798
<b>MDML #75</b>	JeffreyFever (Jeffrey Chang)	Vlogs/Lifestyle	1994	Canadian	English/ Cantonese	306.476	2017	4213
<b>MDML #76</b>	SoCloseToToast (real name not public)	Music/ Challenges/ Comedy	1991	American	English	243.689	2013	1505
<b>MDML #77</b>	Mrwhosetheboss (Arun Maini)	Infotainment (Technology)	1995	British	English	353.382 684.895	2016 2019	Part 1: 1840 Part 2: 1537

<b>MDML #78</b>	Simon Clark	Infotainment	1990	British	English	224.553	2015	3932
<b>MDML #79</b>	Doug Armstrong	Music/Lifestyle	1992	British	English	138.208	2013	1500
<b>MDML #80</b>	The Ukulele Teacher (John Atkins)	Music	1980	British	English	129.947	2013	1128
<b>MDML #81</b>	Charisma On Command (Charlie Houpert)	Infotainment (self-help-focused)	1987	American	English	141.233	2018	3602
<b>MDML #82</b>	Muyskerm (Bob Muyskens)	Gaming	1989	American	English	95.306	2014	2815
<b>MDML #83</b>	SAMTIME (Sam Alan Tucker)	Infotainment (tech-focused)/ Comedy	1990	Australian	English	102.402	2016	1553
<b>MDML #84</b>	Troll Munchies (Cody Roeder)	Vlogs/Pranks	1990	American	English	59.098	2014	1591
<b>MDML #85</b>	Patrick Villarin	Vlogs/ Challenges/ Reactions	1991	American	English	36.633	2013	1839
<b>MDML #86</b>	Adorian Deck	Vlogs/ Infotainment (self-help-focused)	1993	American	English	36.730	2013	2317
<b>MDML #87</b>	CakesByChoppA (real name not public)	Cooking (baking-focused)	1979	Australian	English	32.958	2014	1423
<b>MDML #88</b>	Plan Zero (Kyle Skelly)	Sports	1993	British (Scottish)	English	35.980	2018	2023
<b>MDML #89</b>	MrKravin (Mike Norris)	Gaming	1986	American	English	7443	2016	2235
<b>MDML #90</b>	Lane Fournerat	Vlogs/ Infotainment (gardening-focused)/ Lifestyle	1981	American	English	3721	2016	2650
<b>MDML #91</b>	Jay Swanson	Vlogs/Travel	1985	American	English	6729	2017	1585
<b>MDML #92</b>	Ryann Soriano	Vlogs	1986	American/ Filipino	English/ Tagalog	668	2013	1030
<b>MDML #93</b>	Anonymous	Vlogs/Lifestyle	1999	Russian/ American	English	Unpublished	2018	1113
<b>MDML #94</b>	Jessethereader (Jesse George)	Infotainment (literacy-focused)	1992	American	English	146.580	2013	1135
<b>MDML #95</b>	Pinkstylist (Charlie Short)	Infotainment (make-up-focused)	1989	British	English	1.364.251 90.060	2013 2018	Part 1: 4437 Part 2: 4549
<b>MDML #96</b>	ImJayStation (Jason Ethier)	Vlogs/ Challenges	1990	American	English	3.162.662	2019	4177
<b>MDML #97</b>	ZacharyZaxor (Zachary Todd)	Gaming/ Challenges	1998	American	English	2.799.657	2018	1776
<b>MDML #98</b>	Browney (Stan Browney)	Infotainment (fitness-focused)/ Challenges	1999	Dutch	Dutch	162.371	2017	3491
<b>MDML #99</b>	Aaron Burriss	Vlogs/ Challenges	1989	American/ Filipino	English	677.180	2014	935
<b>MDML #100</b>	Jamie Miles	Vlogs/ Infotainment (studies-focused)	1993	British	English	35.312	2014	4858

## 3.4 Methodology

### 3.4.1 Introduction

With the aim of ascertaining reliable, objective data conveying the YouTubers' emotion-related expressions and their "gendered implications" (Ruberg and Steenbergh, 2011, p. 1), the current study combined qualitative and quantitative research methods relying on computerised tools as well as manual annotation processes. Baker and Egbert (2016, p. 3) describe processes of this kind as "triangulation". The authors explain that triangulation can involve the use of "multiple methods, analysts, or datasets, and it has been used for decades by social scientists as a means of explaining behaviour by studying it from two or more perspectives". Likewise, McEnery and Hardie (2011, p. 209) refer to methodological triangulation as providing "a multiplicity of perspectives", which, according to the authors (p. 233), is "critical to the future agenda of corpus linguistics" due to its comprehensive approach.

In particular, a corpus-based critical discourse analysis framework was adopted, motivated by Baker et al.'s (2008, p. 227) supposition that Corpus Linguistics (CL) investigations "offer the researcher a reasonably high degree of objectivity; that is, they enable the researcher to approach the texts (or text surface) (relatively) free from any preconceived or existing notions regarding their linguistic or semantic/pragmatic content". In order to verify suppositions in previous research regarding females' "greater emotional expressivity" (Chaplin, 2015, p. 14) and males' "restrictive emotionality" (O'Neil, Good, & Holmes, 1995, p. 176), the following research questions were posed:

1. Will the female or male YouTubers include a higher frequency of overall emotional linguistic content in their *Draw My Life* stories?
2. What will be the quantity and typology of positive emotional linguistic content in the female and male YouTubers' *Draw My Life* stories?
3. What will be the quantity and typology of negative emotional linguistic content in the female and male YouTubers' *Draw My Life* stories?

As can be observed, the research questions of the current study focus on the emotion-related **linguistic** content in the *Draw My Life* videos. The emphasis here is on terms and expressions describing the "feelings, moods and affective experiences" of the

speakers in their videos, drawing on Mackenzie and Alba-Juez (2019, p. 18). While outside the scope of the current study, the immense possibilities of the genre for varied multimodal approaches are detailed in Chapter V (e.g. shifting the focus from the transcripts to the YouTubers' whiteboard/digital drawings and pitch/intonation while telling their life stories).

Below is a description of the Corpus Linguistics tools used to help answer the above-mentioned research questions: Lingmotif, LIWC2015 and Wmatrix4.

### **3.4.2 Corpus Linguistics Tools**

The current project falls within the domain of Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS), which are defined by Partington, Duguid and Taylor (2013, p. 10) as “that set of studies into the form and/or function of language which incorporate the use of computerised corpora in their analysis”. The computerised tools used in the current research are Lingmotif, LIWC2015 and Wmatrix4.

Lingmotif is a part of the Research Project FFI2011-25893, carried out between 2012 and 2015, and further developed between 2017 and 2019 with Project FFI2016-78141-P on Sentiment Analysis, both funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and created by Antonio Moreno-Ortiz through the Tecnolengua Group at the University of Malaga. It is a lexicon-based multi-platform Sentiment Analysis desktop application with the aim of performing Sentiment Analysis on input texts of any topic and length. Moreno-Ortiz (2017, p. 139) suggests that this lexicon-based approach, when combined with a careful curation of its resources, “results in highly accurate results”. Sentiment Analysis through Lingmotif works in this manner (p. 134):

Lingmotif is a lexicon-based SA system, since it uses a rich set of lexical sources and analyzes context in order to identify sentiment laden text segments and produce two scores that qualify a text from a SA perspective. In a nutshell, it breaks down a text into its constituent sentences, where sentiment-carrying words and phrases are searched for, identified, and assigned a valence (i.e., a sentiment index).

Moreno-Ortiz and Fernández-Cruz (2015, p. 337) describe the process in further depth as follows:

1. The input text is preprocessed, tokenized, lemmatized, and part-of-speech tagged. Multiword expressions are identified and tagged, too.

2. Lexical words and MWE's are looked up in the sentiment lexicons. If found, they are assigned the corresponding valence.
3. Context rules are searched for each lexical word or MWE. Matching segments are assigned the valence resulting from the application of the context rule.
4. Affect intensity (i.e., the proportion of sentiment-carrying vs. neutral units) is calculated.
5. The final Global Sentiment Value (GSV) is calculated.

Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC), on the other hand, was created by University of Texas researchers James W. Pennebaker and Martha E. Francis in 1993 and developed as part of an exploratory study of language and disclosure. Subsequent updates were released with the collaboration of University of Auckland Medical and Health Sciences researcher Roger J. Booth in 2001 (LIWC2001) and 2007 (LIWC2007), and then again in 2015 (LIWC2015) with Lancaster University computational social and behavioural scientist, Ryan L. Boyd. Pennebaker, Booth and Boyd plan on releasing another updated version of the software along with social psychology researcher and ex-Microsoft developer Ashwini Ashokkumar in 2021 (personal communication, October 2, 2020).

In their description of LIWC, Tausczik and Pennebaker (2010, p. 24) suggest that we are “in the midst of a technological revolution whereby, for the first time, researchers can link daily word use to a broad array of real-world behaviors”. Contextualising the immense opportunities available to researchers, they add that “we are standing on the threshold of a new era of language analysis. The expanding galaxy of computer-based text analysis methods have the potential to add to our current ways of thinking about language” (2010, p. 38). Tausczik and Pennebaker (2010, p. 38) define the LIWC tool as “a transparent text analysis program that counts words in psychologically meaningful categories”, capable of detecting “meaning in a wide variety of experimental settings, including to show attentional focus, emotionality, social relationships, thinking styles, and individual differences” (p. 38). Of specific interest to the current study is the domain of emotionality.

In terms of emotion analysis efficacy, Tausczik and Pennebaker highlight (2010, p. 32) how LIWC is able to effectively identify positive and negative “emotion in language use” and how the tool’s ratings of emotion words have proven to “correspond with human ratings of writing excerpts” (p. 32), such as in the work of Alpers et al. (2005), who analysed emotional messages posted on an online breast cancer support group using

both manual and LIWC-based methods. The LIWC dictionaries break down emotional words into those relating to positive and negative emotion. The negative emotion category is further broken down into those relating to sadness, anxiety, and anger.

Tausczik and Pennebaker (2010, p. 26) explain what prompted Francis and Pennebaker to start the LIWC project in the first place: “In the 1980s, we discovered that when people were asked to write about emotional upheavals in their lives, they subsequently evidenced improvements in physical health (e.g., Pennebaker & Beall, 1986)”. The researchers decided to generate “hundreds of writing samples that revealed deeply moving human stories” (p. 26) and asked a team of judges to manually annotate the writing samples, highlighting features deemed of psychological interest. However, during this manual annotation process, the scholars noted three key problems (p. 26):

- (a) Even with in-depth training, judges do not agree with each other in rating most dimensions when evaluating a broad range of deeply personal stories.
- (b) Rating essays by multiple judges is extremely slow and expensive.
- (c) Judges tend to get depressed when reading depressing stories.

To avoid potential issues such as those relating to individual bias and to ensure a quicker and cheaper text assessment process, Francis and Pennebaker (Tausczik and Pennebaker, 2010, p. 26) “turned to the promise of computerized text analysis programs”. They note that at the time, “no simple text analysis program existed”, and so they set about developing one. “Our goal was to create a program that simply looked for and counted words in psychology-relevant categories across multiple text files”, they explain (p. 26).

LIWC has two main features: the processing component and the internal dictionaries, or “collection of words that define a particular category” (Tausczik and Pennebaker, 2010, p. 26). The processing feature works by opening manually uploaded text file(s) and going through each word in the text(s), comparing them to words in the dictionary files. When building the more subjective LIWC dictionaries such as those including emotion-related words, human judges were required “to evaluate which words were suited for which categories” (Tausczik and Pennebaker, 2010, p. 26). An initial selection of word candidates was collected from “dictionaries, thesauruses, questionnaires, and lists made by research assistants” (p. 26). Groups of three judges were then asked to independently rate whether they felt that each word candidate was



appropriate to the assigned word category. Tausczik and Pennebaker explain (2010, p. 28) that a further judging process was then carried out for each subjective category:

- (a) A word remained in the category list if two out of three judges agreed it should be included.
- (b) A word was deleted from the category list if at least two of the three judges agreed it should be excluded.
- (c) A word was added to the category list if two out of three judges agreed it should be included.

The complete process was repeated for one last time by a separate group of three judges, with the final percentages of the judges' agreement levels for the second rating phase ranging from 93% to 100%. This initial phase of LIWC judging took place between 1992 and 1994, and significant revisions were undertaken in 1997, 2007, and then further streamlining was carried out again in 2015 (*LIWC 2015: How it Works / LIWC*, para. 5):

The LIWC2015 master dictionary is composed of almost 6,400 words, word stems, and selected emoticons. For each dictionary word, there is a corresponding dictionary entry that defines one or more word categories. For example, the word *cried* is part of five word categories: Sadness, Negative Emotion, Overall Affect, Verb, and Past Focus. Hence, if the word *cried* was found in the target text, each of these five subdictionary scale scores would be incremented. As in this example, many of the LIWC2015 categories are arranged hierarchically. All sadness words, by definition, will be categorized as negative emotion and overall affect words.

In contrast to the 2007 version of LIWC, the 2015 version, used in the current research, has the following features (*LIWC 2015: Compare Versions / LIWC*):

- Capacity to analyze pdf, rtf, and csv files
- Capacity to analyze text in excel and other spreadsheets
- Dictionaries can include phrases, numbers, and punctuation
- Easy-to-build dictionaries and analyze text in non-English languages and character sets
- Capacity to export output directly to excel, csv, or tab-delimited files
- Capacity to run new LIWC2015 dictionaries
- Big data friendly – can analyze millions of files with thousands of dictionary categories

Despite user-friendliness and streamlined processing/examination, Tausczik and Pennebaker (2010, p. 29) admit to some of the ongoing issues with computerised language analysis software like LIWC, such as the fact that they often “ignore context, irony, sarcasm, and idioms”. The authors provide the word “mad” as an example of this weakness, as the software always codes it as an anger-related term. They explain that “when people say things such as ‘I’m mad about him,’ or ‘He’s as mad as a hatter’ the meaning and intent of their utterances will be miscoded” (p. 29). Manual reviewing, therefore, is vital to correct miscoding of this kind. For an in-depth discussion of the

LIWC2015 manual revision processes undergone in the present study, please see section 4.2.

It is clear that the development of these automatic text analysis (ATA) tools is still very much underway, with software designers constantly finetuning their capacity for accurate text analysis. Despite the inevitability of software misinterpretations requiring posterior manual revision, the LIWC site (*LIWC 2015: How It Works / LIWC*, para. 14) highlights how results based on large datasets will be much more likely to be reliable: “The more words that you analyze, the more trustworthy are the results. A text of 10,000 words yields far more reliable results than one of 100 words”. Based on this assumption, with 248,613 words in the current study’s FDML corpus and 227,979 words in the MDML one, the odds of reliable results can be expected to be higher than if the corpora were smaller.

Tausczik and Pennebaker (2010, p. 38) predict that upcoming text analysis programs “will be able to analyze more complex language structure while retaining LIWC’s transparency”, with some projects already looking into “*n*-grams, groups of two or more words together” in the same way that LIWC is able to analyse single-word frequencies. One such more complex program of this kind is Wmatrix, which has the capacity to calculate 2-5-word *n*-grams and also produce collapsed-grams (or *c*-grams), which are merged lists of recurrent word sequences.

Wmatrix was created by Paul Rayson through Lancaster University’s REVERE project, a UK-funded study originally aimed at researching the extraction of information from software engineering documents. The tool was later extended and applied to Corpus Linguistics during Rayson’s PhD work (Rayson, 2003). Its name, he explains, derives from the mathematical term “matrices” (*Wmatrix Corpus Analysis And Comparison Tool*, para. 23):

Why the name, Wmatrix? Originally, I wrote a piece of software called Matrix which presented tables of frequency information from corpora, hence the named is partially derived from mathematical ‘matrices’. This was Unix terminal based using ‘curses’. I then wrote an X-windows version with a graphical user interface and named it Xmatrix. The web based version came next, hence Wmatrix.

Wmatrix uses software developed by Scott Piao, Computing and Communications researcher at Lancaster University, and fellow developer Andrew Stone, whose software was implemented by Rayson in the tool’s *C*-grams feature. Since 2003, there have been

four versions of Wmatrix, with Wmatrix4 being released at the end of 2018. Testament to the tool's potential for extensive text analysis, Rayson (2009, p.1) states that "Wmatrix is designed to cope with corpora up to several million words in size".

In the author's PhD dissertation (Rayson, 2003, p. 157), he breaks down the following novel contributions to the field of the software:

1. A data-driven method for corpus comparison has been developed which uses macroscopic analysis (the study of the characteristics of whole texts or varieties of language) to inform the microscopic level (focussing on the use of a particular linguistic feature) by suggesting linguistic features to be further investigated.
2. The method integrates the comparison of corpora with word-class tagging and lexical semantic tagging, it extends the keywords procedure to key grammatical categories and key concepts.
3. The method can be used for comparison of differently sized corpora, not just equal-sized pairs.
4. The method can be applied to the full frequency profile without requiring a lower frequency boundary.
5. A comparison of the reliability of the log-likelihood and chi-squared statistics with various combinations of corpus size, word probability and ratio of corpora.
6. An annotation-aware software tool implementing the method has been developed.
7. The application of the software tool to political linguistics, vocabulary studies, learner corpora and information extraction has been shown.

The Wmatrix tool therefore allows for corpus analysis/comparison and provides a web interface to access both word frequency lists and concordances. Wmatrix users upload their texts to the server via a web browser. Then, the first corpus annotation tool applied to the uploaded text is CLAWS, which assigns a part-of-speech tag to each word in the text "with about 97% accuracy" (Rayson, 2003, p. 157). Next, SEMTAG (a semantic tagger) applies a second layer of annotation, assigning "a semantic field tag to every word in the text with about 92% accuracy" (p. 157).

The tool employs the UCREL Semantic Analysis System, a framework which carries out automatic semantic text analysis and is "loosely based on Tom McArthur's Longman Lexicon of Contemporary English (McArthur, 1981)" [*UCREL Semantic Analysis System (USAS)*, para. 2]. The system "has a multi-tier structure with 21 major discourse fields, subdivided, and with the possibility of further fine-grained subdivision in certain cases" [*UCREL Semantic Analysis System (USAS)*, para. 2].

The fields are as follows (Archer et al., 2002, p. 2):

A general and abstract terms  
B the body and the individual  
C arts and crafts  
E emotion  
F food and farming  
G government and public  
H architecture, housing and the home  
I money and commerce in industry  
K entertainment, sports and games  
L life and living things  
M movement, location, travel and transport  
N numbers and measurement  
O substances, materials, objects and equipment  
P education  
Q language and communication  
S social actions, states and processes  
T time  
W world and environment  
X psychological actions, states and processes  
Y science and technology  
Z names and grammar

Each semantic tag is composed of the first two elements in the below list, with the final four elements being optional, depending on required specificity (Archer et al., 2002, p. 1):

1. an upper case letter indicating general discourse field.
2. a digit indicating a first subdivision of the field.
3. (optionally) a decimal point followed by a further digit to indicate a finer subdivision.
4. (optionally) one or more 'pluses' or 'minuses' to indicate a positive or negative position on a semantic scale.
5. (optionally) a slash followed by a second tag to indicate clear double membership of categories.
6. (optionally) a left square bracket followed by 'i' to indicate a semantic template (multi-word unit).

The semantic field of emotional actions, states and processes, of particular interest to the current research aims, is broken down in the following way (Archer et al., 2002, pp. 10-11):

E1: General terms depicting emotional actions, states and processes  
E2: Liking Terms depicting fondness/affection/partiality/attachment, or the lack of  
E3: Calm/Violent/Angry Terms depicting (level of) serenity/composure/anger/violence  
E4: Happy/sad

- E4.1: Happy/sad: Happy Terms depicting (level of) happiness
- E4.2: Happy/sad: Contentment Terms depicting (level of) contentment
- E5: Fear/bravery/shock Terms relating to (level of) trepidation/courage/surprise, etc
- E6: Worry, concern, confident Terms relating to (level of) apprehension/confidence, etc.

In section 3.4.3 below, the present study's method of analysis will be described, including the specific application of these three Corpus Linguistics tools: Lingmotif, LIWC2015, and Wmatrix4.

### **3.4.3 Method of Analysis**

As described in sections 3.2 and 3.3, the current project focuses on two equally structured corpora. One contains the transcriptions of 100 *Draw My Life* videos created by self-identified female YouTubers (248,613 words in total) and the other contains those of 100 *Draw My Life* videos created by self-identified male YouTubers (227,979 words in total). In the analysis of these corpora, a multi-layered method was implemented:

#### **3.4.3.1 Application of Software Tools**

Several automatic text analysis methods were applied as a way of ensuring non-arbitrary and objective results (Mehl and Gill, 2010). The sentiment/emotion analysis software programs Lingmotif, LIWC2015 and Wmatrix4 were used to obtain raw data on valence, keywords and key clusters. For ease of access and organisational purposes, all raw software output was classified thematically and uploaded to the following site: <https://mural.uv.es/ankay/Appendix.html>.

In particular, Lingmotif was used to determine overall sentiment intensity scores and the semantic orientations of each dataset. The output of this program was classified into Sentiment/Text Analysis data, Positive/Negative Word Clouds and Top Positive/Negative Items for both corpora (for further information about these classifications and the results obtained, please see section 4.1). The program also generated a "Detailed Text Representation", which specified the positive and negative items detected by Lingmotif in the first 1000 words of each corpus.

Next, and in line with Mehl and Gill's dual framework proposal (2010, p. 125) described in section 2.2.3, both Wmatrix4 and LIWC2015 were employed with the aim

of gaining “unique insights” provided by the “linguistic sophistication” of the first method and “psychological complexity” of the second.

LIWC2015 data was broken down into positive emotion words and those relating to the categories Sadness, Anxiety, and Anger. For future reference purposes, LIWC’s general, non-emotion-related output variables for each corpus and every individual *Draw My Life* text were also saved and uploaded to the Appendix site. These inbuilt categories included scores relating to frequency of pronoun, auxiliary verb and filler word usage as well as scores for frequency of terms relating to money, religion and health.

Wmatrix4 output, on the other hand, was divided up into comparative keywords and concordances for the emotional categories Fear/Shock, Happy, Sad, Violent/Angry, and Worry. For organisational purposes, I created separate word documents to compile data relating to each emotional category of the two programs, as follows (LIWC2015 results can be found in section 4.2 and Wmatrix4 results in section 4.3):

**Wmatrix4 documents:**

Wmatrix4 - Fear/Shock

Wmatrix4 - Happy

Wmatrix4 - Sad

Wmatrix4 - Violent/Angry

Wmatrix4 - Worry

**LIWC2015 documents:**

LIWC2015 - Positive

LIWC2015 - Sadness

LIWC2015 - Anxiety

LIWC2015 - Anger

When reviewing the computerised output data in each document, I was forced to set aside, for revision purposes, a substantial portion of references due to the softwares’ erroneous detection of words with meanings unrelated to emotion (e.g. “dreadlocks” erroneously indicating anxiety), weak/diminished intensity in context (e.g. the diminished intensity of the non-literal “hit” in “hit 700,000 subscribers”), personal reference displacement (e.g. “It annoyed my siblings” rather than the annoyance being felt by the narrator), negative constructions (e.g. “I wasn’t happy” as a false indicator of happiness), longing/questioning/tense issues (e.g. “I thought it’d be funny” as a description of an event not really deemed funny by the narrator) and sarcasm/irony (e.g. “the joys of being

a teenager” indicating the opposite of what is literally expressed). For further descriptions and examples of these revision categories, please see sections 4.2 and 4.3.

The issues requiring revision were in line with Tausczik and Pennebaker’s (2010, p. 29) description of how computerised language analysis software programs are not able to pick up on “context, irony, sarcasm, and idioms”. The revised words and phrases were manually colour-coded in all Wmatrix4 and LIWC2015 output as follows (before being set aside from the accurate data):

unrelated meaning

weak/diminished intensity in context

personal reference displacement

negative construction

longing/questioning/tense issue

sarcasm/irony

Once the problematic references had been set aside, I was left with a specific number of accepted references per category and per corpus. In order to allow for direct comparison between the female and male corpora, the output of the different software programs, and each of the emotion categories — without the results being impacted by the female YouTubers’ more extensive corpus (248,613 words vs. 227,979 words) — it was then necessary to calculate proportional rule-of-three percentages of each emotion category within each overall emotion-related FDML and MDML sub-corpus (out of 100%).

### 3.4.3.2 Qualitative Thematic Analysis

In 2007, Kendall interviewed Ruth Wodak about Critical Discourse Analysis. During their conversation, Wodak described her understanding of the term “critical” in a research context (*What Is Critical Discourse Analysis?*, para 17):

“Critical” means not taking things for granted, opening up complexity, challenging reductionism, dogmatism and dichotomies, being self-reflective in my research, and through these processes, making opaque structures of power relations and ideologies manifest. “Critical”, thus, does not imply the common sense meaning of “being negative”—rather “skeptical”. Proposing alternatives is also part of being “critical”.

Motivated by Wodak's argument against "taking things for granted", my next methodological step was to embark on qualitative, critical reflection over the quantitative software-led finding that the female YouTubers refer more frequently to anxiety and depression in their life narratives. Along these lines, Fuster Márquez and Almela (2017, p. 10) explain how "corpus research is empirical, with a preference for inductiveness, that is, the careful analysis of data in representative corpora". Likewise, as Baker et al. describe (2008, p. 293), Critical Discourse Analysis attempts to "explain or interpret the reasons why certain linguistic patterns were found (or not found)", taking into account the "social, political, historical and cultural context of the data" (p. 293).

In the case of the present study, I manually highlighted and annotated discourse in the transcripts expressing themes relating to gender norms/stereotypes and their potential links with the often stark differences in typology and quantity of verbal emotion displays between the self-identified female and male creators. This methodological step drew on the work of Chaplin (2015, p. 19), discussed in Chapter II, who argues for a bio-psycho-social model of gender differences in emotional expression. The research step was also consistent with Lazar's (2005, p. 5) encouragement of "critiquing discourses which sustain a patriarchal social order" and reflecting on the reasons behind their production.

### **3.4.3.3 Manual Annotation of Emotion Displays**

The following stage of manual corpus analysis involved a continuation of the qualitative thematic annotation of the corpora, this time focusing specifically on "emotionally laden discourses" (Katriel, 2015, p. 57) in the narratives using colour-coded tags based on both explicit and underlying emotion-related references.

Although I was able to rectify some of the irregularities in the software output, I felt that manually annotating the corpora with colour-coded tags indicating both explicit and underlying references to emotions would be a useful complementary process. I was especially motivated by a willingness to detect *emotional implicatures* (Mackenzie and Alba-Juez, 2019, p. 15), or *figurative displays of emotion* (Foolen, 2012, p. 364), and a desire to find out whether a manual examination would result in similar findings to those achieved through the software analyses.



The annotation process was progressive, given that the framework was constantly modified/expanded in order to cater to the wide range of explicit and implicit emotion-related discourse that gradually came up in the corpora. As I went along and pinpointed new explicit or implicit descriptions of “feelings, moods or affective experiences” (Mackenzie and Alba-Juez’s, 2019, p. 18) in each narrative, I evaluated whether their content fitted into an already established sub-category (e.g. happy), or whether a new related one should be added (e.g. excited). Sometimes, when I did not deem the content to logically fall semantically within one of the already formed sub-categories, a completely new colour-coded category was created and placed under either the positive or negative umbrellas. When a new category was added, I reviewed all previous transcripts to search for any expressions within the categories which could have been previously missed or more accurately classified under the new tag colour.

It is important to note here that I followed Aman and Szpakowicz’s (2007, p. 199) suggestion to “mark in a sentence any number of emotion indicators of any length”, based on the notion that “emotion is often conveyed by longer units of text or by phrases”. By manually annotating spans of text – including both individual words and strings of consecutive words expressing specific emotions – I hoped to be able to “identify a broad range of affect-bearing” (p. 199) text.

When both corpora had been fully reviewed and annotated, the framework consisted of seven colour-coded categories – three relating to positive emotions and four relating to negative ones. The emotion-related expressions were classified into the following colour-coded positive categories (PCs) of explicit and implicit references to:

- **PC1: Feeling happy, excited, liking/loving something or someone**
- **PC2: Feeling proud, confident, brave, determined**
- **PC3: Feeling calm, comforted, supported, accepted, relieved**

Below are examples of each sub-category:

PC1:

- Feeling happy: *I just feel so happy in life...*
- Feeling excited: *I was so excited to move into university halls.*
- Liking something or someone: *I liked living in Canada...*
- Loving something or someone: *I loved that show.*

## PC2

- Feeling proud: *I became even more proud of my videos...*
- Feeling confident: *I felt so confident in my cute outfits...*
- Feeling brave: *I came out of Europe so much braver.*
- Feeling determined: *I was really determined.*

## PC3

- Feeling calm: *I just felt so calm and collected...*
- Feeling comforted: *These people comforted me...*
- Feeling supported: *My teachers encouraged me to keep writing...*
- Feeling accepted: *I finally felt like I really belonged.*
- Feeling relieved: *I'm relieved I didn't leave university.*

The negative emotion-related expressions were classified into the following colour-coded negative categories (NCs) of explicit and implicit references to:

- NC1: Feeling scared, nervous, anxious, stressed, guilty, pressured, panicked
- NC2: Feeling shy, embarrassed, awkward
- NC3: Feeling sad, depressed, apathetic, lost
- NC4: Feeling angry, frustrated, jealous and disliking/hating something or someone

Below are examples of each sub-category:

## NC1

- Feeling scared: *I was going to be the new kid and I was really scared.*
- Feeling nervous: *I was nervous I was going to get beaten up...*
- Feeling anxious: *I found myself getting into my old just socially anxious tendencies.*
- Feeling stressed: *Uni and life basically just stressed me out.*
- Feeling guilty: *I felt so guilty that I couldn't save her.*
- Feeling pressured: *I felt pressure to go to uni...*
- Feeling panicked: *I was panicking about what I wanted to do with my life.*

## NC2

- Feeling shy: *Throughout my years in school, I was always really shy...*
- Feeling embarrassed: *I was always embarrassed by my condition...*
- Feeling awkward: *My first year at college was incredibly awkward to say the least.*

## NC3

- Feeling sad: *I was sadder than I've ever been...*
- Feeling depressed: *At this point in my life, I felt super depressed...*
- Feeling apathetic: *I had no ambition. I didn't care about the future.*
- Feeling lost: *I was just a bit lost and I just wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my life*

## NC4

- Feeling angry: *I got really angry, trying to handling it on a physical level...*
- Feeling frustrated: *I was kind of at a crossroads and just frustrated.*
- Feeling jealous: *She had long straight hair that I was super jealous of.*
- Disliking something or someone: *I didn't really like school much...*
- Hating something or someone: *I hated my program.*

As mentioned before, in the above emotion classification framework, in each category, I aimed to group together what I deemed semantically independent and yet interrelated expressions describing the “feelings, moods and affective experiences” of the speakers in their narratives, drawing on Mackenzie and Alba-Juez’s research (2019, p. 18). Along these lines, an example of interrelatedness can be seen in how loving someone can make a person feel happy or feeling relieved can lead to a sensation of calmness, where these interlinking feelings would fall under the same respective colour-coded umbrellas.

Given that the software programs’ output relating to positive emotions was rather limited (Wmatrix’s “happy” category vs. LIWC2015’s even broader “positive” grouping), in the manual analysis, I made a conscious effort to further break down the types of positive emotions expressed in the narratives. This process was very much driven by the texts, as I kept noticing references to pride and individual determination (PC2) in the male-created stories, and what seemed like a higher number of references to feeling

comforted by external support and acceptance by others (PC3) in the female-created stories. This leaning resonates with Fitch et al.'s (2019, p. 510) autobiographical analysis work drawing on Bakan's (1966) agency/communion distinction:

Agency designates an orientation toward the self, and communion designates an orientation toward other people. (...) Women tend to exhibit communion in autobiographical narratives describing vivid memories of major life events. Men, on the other hand, tend to exhibit more agency in these narratives.

Once the transcripts of each of the 200 narratives had been fully annotated/ revised using the above framework, I counted up the number of references pertaining to each sub-category per text. This information was saved in a word document with a new column for each transcript, as depicted in Table 3 below:

<b>Emotion-related expression category</b>	<b>MDML #1</b>
PC1: Feeling happy, excited, liking/loving something or someone	23
PC2: Feeling proud, confident, brave, determined	5
P3: Feeling calm, comforted, supported, accepted, relieved	1
NC1: Feeling scared, nervous, anxious, stressed, guilty, pressured, panicked	5
NC2: Feeling shy, embarrassed, awkward	4
NC3: Feeling sad, depressed, apathetic, lost	6
NC4: Feeling angry, frustrated, jealous and disliking/hating something or someone	5

**Table 3:** *A table used during the manual annotation analysis of MDML #1 to calculate the number of emotion-related references pertaining to each sub-category.*

Next, using the individual figures, I counted up the overall number of emotion-related references belonging to each category included in the 100 female-created and 100 male-created texts. Once I had a total number of references per sub-category and per gender, for comparative purposes, it was then necessary to calculate proportional percentages, based on the respective number of emotion-related references. The rule-of-three calculations provided proportional percentages per category, and, as with the software analysis, allowed for direct comparison without the results being impacted by the female YouTubers' more extensive corpus.

**Chapter IV:**  
**Analysis and Findings**

# Chapter IV: Analysis and Findings

## 4.1 Software Analysis 1: Lingmotif

### 4.1.1 Lingmotif Results

Lingmotif provides researchers with two main sentiment measures of a text which are reflected in two different quantitative measures (Moreno-Ortiz, 2016, p. 11): Text Sentiment Score (TSS) and Text Sentiment Intensity (TSI).

The TSS is calculated by weighing the scores of positive, negative, and neutral lexical items (grammatical words do not enter into the equation), which can be either an individual (non-grammatical) word (e.g. ‘excellent’ - pos, ‘death’ - neg, ‘mouse’ - neu), multiword expression (e.g. ‘fresh air’ - pos, ‘a hard time’ - neg, ‘inner self’ - neu), or CVS (context valence shifter) segment (e.g. ‘incredibly good’ - pos, ‘not a good idea’ - neg, ‘absence of hostility’ - neu). Moreno-Ortiz (2016, p. 12) explains that “each item is assigned a (positive, negative or neutral) score during analysis, and the final TSS is calculated based on the percentages of the accumulated scores, factoring in text size”.

The TSI, on the other hand, is calculated as the proportion of sentiment (positive or negative) vs. neutral scores. Moreno-Ortiz (2016, p. 11) describes the TSI as “an absolute measure itself”, categorised by text length. According to the author’s framework, the longer a text is, “the more improbable it is that all its words carry sentiment”. In sum (2016, p. 26), “the higher the proportion of sentiment-carrying words and multiword expressions, the higher the TSI”. Moreno-Ortiz (2016, p. 27) states that the Text Sentiment Score “is the most important value offered by a Lingmotif analysis”, as it is considered to be an indicator of “the global valence for a text”. As with the TSS, function words (conjunctions, prepositions, pronouns, etc.) are ignored for TSI calculation purposes.

Moreno-Ortiz (2016, p. 28) provides a summary of the Text Sentiment Score and Text Sentiment Intensity ranges and categories, clarifying that the “ranges are meant to reflect the –inherently vague– meaning of the quantifiers (slightly, fairly, very, etc.), which is why they differ in size”:

**TSS ranges and categories:**

- 0-20: extremely negative
- 21-30: very negative
- 31-40: fairly negative
- 41-47: slightly negative
- 48-53: neutral
- 54-60: slightly positive
- 61-70: fairly positive
- 71-80: very positive
- 81-100: extremely positive

**TSI ranges and categories:**

- 0-54: factual
- 55-59: slightly intense
- 60-74: fairly intense
- 75-84: very intense
- 85-100: extremely intense

Regardless of text length, these are absolute measures. Moreno-Ortiz (2017, p. 137) also explains how Lingmotif uses context rules to deal with sentiment shifters: “They work by specifying words or phrases that can appear in the immediate vicinity of the identified sentiment word”. Like Polanyi and Zaenen (2006), Kennedy and Inkpenn (2006), and Taboada et al.’s frameworks (2011), the program uses “simple addition or subtraction” (p. 137) of integers on a -5 to 5 scale. In Lingmotif, every context rule specifies the following (p. 137):

- The part of speech and polarity of the sentiment word.
- The form, location (left or right), and span (in number of words) of the shifter.
- The result of the rule application.

The table below includes examples of Lingmotif’s context rule types, which are “compiled by extensive corpus analysis, studying concordances of common polarity words (adjectives, verbs, nouns, and adverbs), and then testing the rules against texts to further improve and refine them” (Moreno-Ortiz, 2017, pp. 137-8):

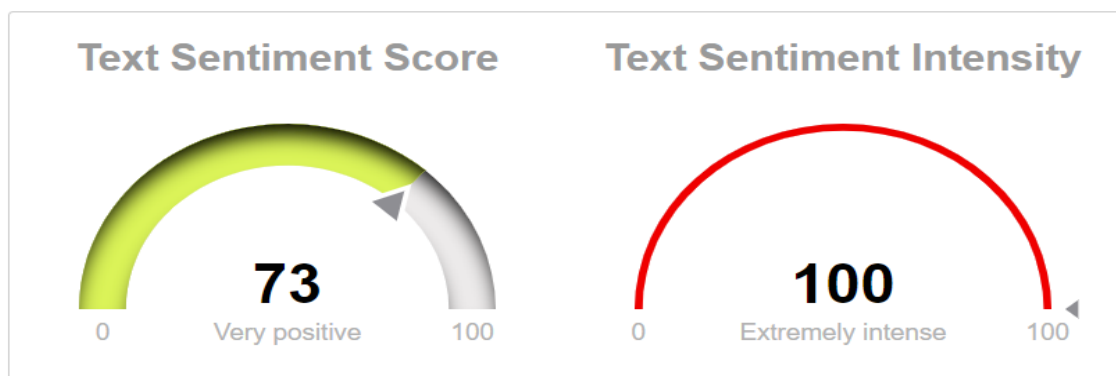
Shift type	Example Context Rule
Inversion	NN, -, avoid*, LR, 5, INV0
	JJ, +-, not, L, 2, INV0
Intensification	JJ, +-, seriously, L, 2, INT3
	VB, +-, may_well, L, 1, INT1
Downtoning	NN, -, mild, L, 2, DOW1
	NN, +-, a_bit, L, 2, DOW1

**Table 4:** *Examples of Lingmotif’s context rule types*

Therefore, if a sentence includes the phrase “seriously happy”, the intensifier would be noted by the program. Likewise, if a speaker refers to feeling “a bit angry”, downtoning would be applied. In what follows, the Lingmotif findings based on the female and male YouTubers’ *Draw My Life* transcripts will be summarised. In particular, the Text Sentiment Scores and Text Sentiment Intensity scores, top positive/negative items and word clouds created by the program will be described.

#### 4.1.1.1 Lingmotif Results: Female YouTubers

In Figure 9 below are the TSS and TSI of the female YouTubers’ *Draw My Life* transcripts. As we can see, the overall Text Sentiment Score of the FDML corpus indicates a very positive leaning and the Text Sentiment Intensity is at the highest possible level of 100:



**Figure 9:** *TSS and TSI of the female YouTubers’ Draw My Life transcripts.*



The Lingmotif text analysis classifies the individual non-grammatical words and multiword expressions in the female corpus as 111,071 neutral items, 7,358 positive items, and 5,961 negative items. In Table 5 below are the top 50 ranked positive and negative items in the female corpus (with frequencies garnered following prior application of context rules).

**Table 5: Top 50 positive and negative items in the female corpus detected by Lingmotif, including rank and frequency.**

<b>Top Positive Items</b>	<b>Top Negative Items</b>
1. love: 304	1. crazy: 67
2. loved: 235	2. really sad: 58
3. happy: 150	3. anxiety: 52
4. thank you: 143	4. sad: 52
5. good: 143	5. hated: 49
6. excited: 120	6. really bad: 48
7. best: 120	7. bad: 48
8. best friend: 115	8. scared: 42
9. like: 97	9. wrong: 40
10. the best: 84	10. obsessed: 38
11. help: 80	11. depression: 38
12. favourite: 78	12. lost: 37
13. awesome: 75	13. did not like: 32
14. really good: 70	14. crying: 30
15. beautiful: 70	15. unfortunately: 30
16. better: 66	16. cried: 29
17. so happy: 63	17. pain: 28
18. helped: 58	18. stuck: 25
19. cool: 57	19. horrible: 25
20. liked: 56	20. broke up: 24
21. really happy: 55	21. depressed: 22
22. really cool: 51	22. terrible: 22
23. support: 50	23. died: 22

24. nice: 50	24. cancer: 22
25. beauty: 49	25. problems: 22
26. really nice: 46	26. die: 21
27. so much fun: 44	27. hurt: 21
28. luckily: 35	28. too much: 21
29. confidence: 31	29. so bad: 20
30. cute: 30	30. worse: 20
31. really enjoyed: 26	31. awkward: 19
32. helping: 26	32. the worst: 19
33. creative: 26	33. scary: 18
34. a lot of fun: 26	34. miss: 18
35. perfect: 25	35. in the hospital: 18
36. enjoy: 24	36. stress: 18
37. really excited: 24	37. dark: 18
38. so thankful: 23	38. broke: 17
39. won: 22	39. problem: 17
40. positive: 22	40. cry: 17
41. happiness: 21	41. poor: 17
42. love to: 21	42. bullying: 17
43. proud: 21	43. did not understand: 17
44. wonderful: 20	44. so sad: 16
45. hopefully: 19	45. upset: 16
46. free: 19	46. really scared: 15
47. loves: 18	47. confused: 15
48. accepted: 18	48. could not afford: 15
49. fell in love with: 18	49. hate: 15
50. yay: 17	50. missed: 15

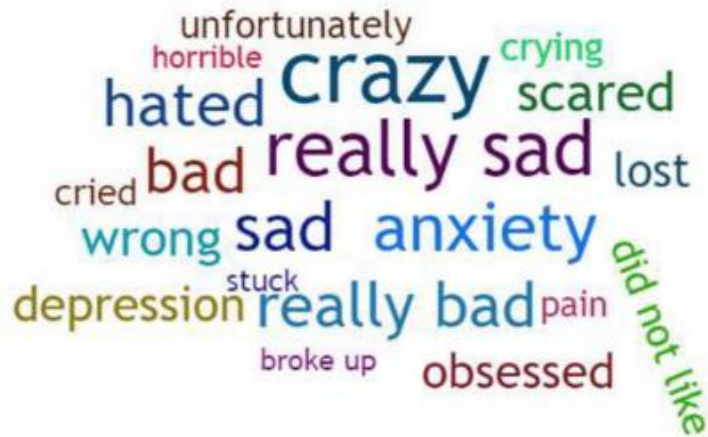
Along with top 50 lists, Lingmotif also provides word clouds representing the top 20 most repeated positive and negative terms in the text or corpus of texts. Shown in Figures 10 and 11 below are the female corpus word clouds:

### Positive Word Cloud



**Figure 10:** Word cloud representing the top 20 most repeated positive terms in the female corpus as detected by Lingmotif.

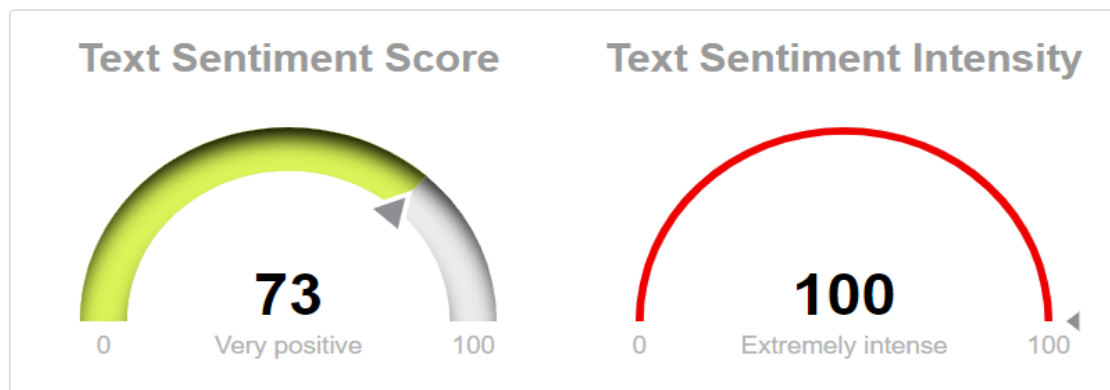
### Negative Word Cloud



**Figure 11:** Word cloud representing the top 20 most repeated negative terms in the female corpus as detected by Lingmotif.

#### 4.1.1.2 Lingmotif Results: Male YouTubers

In Figure 12 below are the TSS and TSI of the male YouTubers' *Draw My Life* transcripts:



**Figure 12:** TSS and TSI of the male YouTubers' *Draw My Life* transcripts.

Just as with the female corpus, the overall Text Sentiment Score indicates a very positive leaning and the Text Sentiment Intensity is at the highest possible level of 100. The Lingmotif text analysis breaks down the individual non-grammatical words and multiword expressions in the male corpus into 102,586 neutral items, 6,243 positive items, and 5,415 negative items. Below are the top 50 ranked positive and negative items in the male corpus (as before, with frequencies garnered following prior application of context rules):

**Table 6: Top 50 positive and negative items in the male corpus detected by Lingmotif, including rank and frequency.**

<b>Top Positive Items</b>	<b>Top Negative Items</b>
1. love: 215	1. crazy: 86
2. thank you: 182	2. bad: 63
3. loved: 180	3. lost: 46
4. good: 171	4. unfortunately: 40
5. happy: 112	5. sad: 40
6. the best: 87	6. hated: 39
7. awesome: 86	7. faze: 34
8. best: 85	8. shit: 33

9. cool: 77	9. stupid: 32
10. better: 66	10. stuck: 29
11. liked: 56	11. wrong: 29
12. help: 56	12. fat: 27
13. favourite: 51	13. insane: 27
14. really good: 45	14. horrible: 26
15. helped: 43	15. too much: 25
16. like: 42	16. bullied: 25
17. support: 41	17. died: 25
18. thanks to: 40	18. terrible: 24
19. best friend: 40	19. hate: 23
20. luckily: 35	20. cancer: 22
21. excited: 33	21. did not like: 22
22. so happy: 30	22. broke up: 21
23. wonderful: 30	23. really bad: 21
24. won: 29	24. sick: 20
25. welcome: 26	25. obsessed: 19
26. nice: 26	26. depression: 19
27. beautiful: 25	27. cried: 18
28. enjoyed: 24	28. pain: 17
29. perfect: 22	29. hurt: 17
30. really cool: 22	30. broke: 17
31. really happy: 21	31. crying: 17
32. pretty cool: 21	32. problems: 16
33. free: 21	33. worse: 16
34. confidence: 21	34. hell: 16
35. passion: 20	35. the worst: 15
36. smile: 20	36. in the hospital: 15
37. love to: 19	37. drama: 15
38. thanks: 19	38. problem: 15
39. accepted: 18	39. asthma: 15
40. loving: 18	40. fear: 15
41. success: 18	41. freaking: 14



### 4.1.2 Lingmotif Discussion

The Lingmotif data served as a highly insightful initial touchpoint with the corpora. First of all, testament to the high level of sentiment-related content in the two corpora, both the female and male transcripts were found to have the same overall sentiment intensity score of 100, which was the maximum possible. In addition, the average sentiment score was exactly the same (73) for both the female and male corpora. This means that the balance falls equally in favour of positive items in both cases.

Within the positive items ranked by the software, “love” was the top term in both the female and male corpus, with 304 examples in the female texts and 215 in the male ones. The term “loved” was also ranked second in the female data and third in the male data. The word “happy” scored relatively similarly in both corpora, ranking third in the female transcripts (150 uses) and fifth in the male ones (112 uses).

One term which differed largely in frequency of usage in the female and male YouTubers’ texts was “excited”. In the female corpus, “excited” was used 120 times (ranking 6<sup>th</sup> overall), and “really excited” a further 24 times. In the male corpus, on the other hand, the word “excited” was only detected 33 times and ranked 21<sup>st</sup>.

A further finding in the Lingmotif data which relates to the positive ranking ties in with Fitch et al.’s (2019, p. 510) autobiographical analysis research drawing on Bakan’s (1966) agency/communion distinction:

Agency designates an orientation toward the self, and communion designates an orientation toward other people. (...) Women tend to exhibit communion in autobiographical narratives describing vivid memories of major life events. Men, on the other hand, tend to exhibit more agency in these narratives.

Here, while the female creators referred to a “best friend” 115 times (ranking 8<sup>th</sup> overall in the list of positive terms), the male creators only made the same reference 40 times (ranking 19<sup>th</sup>), with one male YouTuber using “best mate” instead of “best friend” (“We’ve been best mates ever since” - MDML #37). None of the female YouTubers used “mate” with a friendly meaning in this way. The females also used “fell in love with” 18 times, while this multiword expression was not detected in the male top ranking. This could be seen as a sign that the females focused more on external bonds while describing their own autobiographical narratives. Having said that, the phrase “thank you”, most

frequently used to indicate direct gratitude to followers for their support, is said slightly more often by the male YouTubers (182 times, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup>) than the female YouTubers (143 times, ranking 4<sup>th</sup>).

A series of lexical items appeared in the female top 50 ranking which were not found at all in the male one. For instance, “beauty” (49 times), “cute” (30 times) and “yay” (17 times). In contrast, several terms and phrases were included in the male ranking which failed to appear in the female one. For example, “passion” (20 times - often used by the male YouTubers to refer to their passion for the YouTube platform), “pretty cool” (21 times) and “pretty good” (15 times). The word “pretty” often works as a mitigator in expressions including the last two cases, often used informally by the male YouTubers to weaken the meaning of certain adjectives (e.g. “I’ve had a generally pretty good life” - MDML #82).

However, the term “pretty” is also picked up on in the male ranking as a standalone positively ranked word, with 15 detected uses in the corpus. As will be discussed later on, the word “pretty” caused significant issues for both LIWC2015 and Wmatrix4, as many examples of the word were used in neutral (e.g. “YouTube was a pretty big community”) and negative (e.g. “school was pretty rough for me”) contexts.

Within the negative terms and collocations, the top item of both the female and male lists was “crazy”. However, many false negatives were noted in transcript revision (e.g. “the subscriber count went crazy”, “no dream is too crazy”). In fact, in the MDML #1 Detailed Text Representation generated by Lingmotif (please see section 3.4.3.1 for further details), the term “craziest” was erroneously marked as a negative term, when the context of the phrase was positive (“done in” should also have been read as neutral here):

It was one of the **craziest** things I have ever **done in** my life but it is also **one of the best** things I have **done in** my life.

An example of undetected sarcasm also appeared in the MDML Detailed Text Representation:

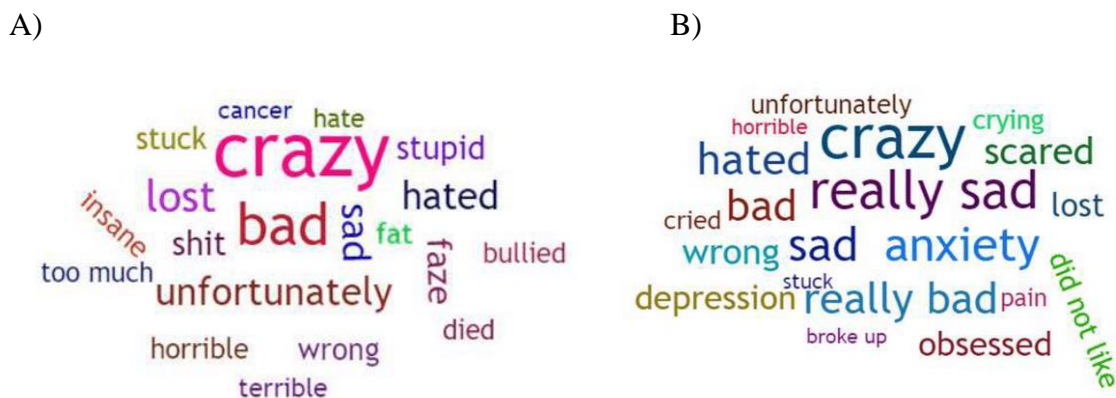
Every time I was **sick**, my mum would rent a Super Nintendo for me. **Unfortunately**, I was **sick** a lot as a child, quite a lot. **Very sad**.



False negatives in the ranking based on transcript revision were noted primarily in the cases of “obsessed” with the meaning of “liked a lot” (e.g. “That was my dream job - I wanted to own a pet store because I was obsessed with animals” – FDML #75) and “faze” (e.g. Call of Duty team called “Faze clan” – all references to the clan’s name were noted as false negatives).

A Lingmotif result of particular interest to the current research aims is the fact that the phrase “really sad” ranked second in the female corpus (with 58 detected uses) and went totally unranked in the male corpus, meaning that the male YouTubers did not use the term with this intensifier anywhere near as frequently. The standalone term “sad” also ranked fourth (with 52 detected uses) in the female corpus while it was fifth in the male corpus (with 40 detected uses). Lastly, “so sad” came 44<sup>th</sup> in the female corpus (with 16 detected uses) and was once again unranked in the male one.

Likewise, the words “depression” and “depressed” had fluctuating results in the corpora. “Depression” ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the female corpus (with 38 detected uses) and 26<sup>th</sup> in the male corpus (with 19 detected uses), while “depressed” ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in the female corpus (with 22 detected uses) and 50<sup>th</sup> in the male corpus (with 12 detected uses). Equally noteworthy is the fact that the word “anxiety” ranked third overall in the female ranking (with 52 detected uses), while there were no detected cases of the term in the male list. As can be seen in Figure 15 below, these results are especially notable when reviewing the negative word clouds generated by Lingmotif, with “anxiety” and “depression” appearing in the female cloud and not at all in the male one.



**Figure 15:** A side-by-side comparison of the word clouds representing the top 20 most repeated negative terms in the male (A) and female (B) corpora as detected by Lingmotif.

From this preliminary polarity assessment phase via Lingmotif, I was especially intrigued by the variance in types of negative terms within the female and male corpora. Although the Text Sentiment Score provided for each corpus was 73 (and therefore both corpora can be described as having a very positive leaning overall), within the negative terms, those relating to negative emotions and mental health references proved to be more frequent in the female listings.

An in-depth analysis of emotional references via LIWC2015 (sadness, anxiety, and anger), described in section 4.2, and Wmatrix4 (sadness, worry, violence/anger, and fear/shock), described in section 4.3, allowed for more exhaustive revision of each example detected by the programs, ultimately serving to further elucidate and expand on the initial and broader Lingmotif findings, and pinpoint the strengths and limitations of these software programs along the way.

## 4.2 Software Analysis 2: LIWC2015

### 4.2.1 LIWC2015 Results

Tausczik and Pennebaker (2010, p. 24) describe LIWC as “a transparent text analysis program that counts words in psychologically meaningful categories”, capable of detecting “meaning in a wide variety of experimental settings, including to show attentional focus, emotionality, social relationships, thinking styles, and individual differences”. The authors (2010, p. 32) highlight how the software tool is able to effectively identify positive and negative “emotion in language use” and how its ratings of emotion-related words have proven to “correspond with human ratings of writing excerpts” (p. 32).

Every default LIWC2015 category is composed of a list of dictionary words which define the scale. Pennebaker et al. (2015, p. 4) provide a “comprehensive list of the default LIWC2015 dictionary categories, scales, sample scale words, and relevant scale word counts”. As can be seen below, the “Psychological Processes” category (p.4) is divided up into words relating to “affective processes”, and then these processes are further classified into positive emotion and negative emotion. Within negative emotion, terms are sub-categorised into those relating to anxiety, anger, and sadness. Thus, in this framework, the word “cried” would be classified within the categories of affective processes, negative emotion, and sadness (as well as being marked as a past tense verb):

<b>Psychological Processes</b>	
Affective processes	Affect
Positive emotion	Posemo
Negative emotion	Negemo
Anxiety	Anx
Anger	Anger
Sadness	Sad

**Table 7:** *Categories in LIWC2015’s Psychological Processes*

The number of different dictionary words and stems that make up the categories of interest to the current study are the following: 620 words relating to positive emotion (such as “love”, “nice” and “sweet”), 230 words relating to anger (including “hate”, “kill” and “annoyed”), 136 words relating to sadness (including “crying”, “grief” and “sad”), and lastly, 116 words relating to anxiety (such as “worried” and “fearful”).

#### 4.2.1.1 LIWC2015 Results: Female YouTubers

In total, LIWC2015 detected 12,064 emotion words within the “positive emotion” category and sub-categories of negative emotion (“anxiety”, “anger” and “sadness”) in the female corpus.

During the revision process, I was only able to accept 63.5% of the overall emotion words, with 7,664 accepted and 4,400 set aside due to issues of unrelatedness to the emotion category (e.g. “I was a pretty tough cookie as a child” – unrelated to positive emotions), weak/diminished intensity in context (e.g. “I cried because I was so excited – the context indicates that crying is not due to sadness), personal reference displacement (e.g. “it really scared him” – no indication to the speaker’s own fear or anxiety), negative constructions (e.g. “it really didn’t bother me” – the negative construction indicates that the speaker was not angry/bothered), longing/questioning/tense issues (e.g. “I’d be very happy if it did, but...”, with the conditional counteracting the positive meaning of the adjective) and failure to detect sarcasm/irony (e.g. “my mum and him got divorced. Yeah, it was great” – the speaker implies the opposite meaning and later in the narration makes it clear that this was not a happy time). A description of each of these categories and my reasoning behind setting aside references within each of them can be found in section 3.4.3.

##### A) LIWC2015 Results: Female YouTubers - Positive Emotions

The total number of words relating to positive emotion detected by the LIWC2015 software was 9,251. Of these terms, 5,933 were accepted (64.13% acceptance rate) and 3,318 were set aside:

unrelated to emotion category	1,125 (33.9%)
weak/diminished intensity in context	1,105 (33.3%)
personal reference displacement	670 (20.1%)
negative construction	284 (8.5%)
longing/questioning/tense issue	92 (2.7%)
sarcasm/irony	42 (1.2%)

In particular, there were 1,125 words (33.9% of all set aside emotion-related terms) which I deemed unrelated to the category of positive emotions. For instance, “well” had to be set aside when used as a discourse marker (e.g. “Well, you’re distracting the boys”) and “pretty” when used as a quantifier (e.g. “I was a pretty tough cookie as a child”). These terms clearly have no directly positive connotations here. Likewise, the word “funny” was often used in the sense of “strange” (e.g. “It’s funny how the best things in life are the most simple”) rather than humorous. The term “save” was also regularly used in a neutral sense of keeping something back (e.g. “I’ll save that for another time”) rather than being saved from a negative situation, and “fine” was set aside, for instance, when describing art in a neutral sense (e.g. “I graduated college with a Bachelor in Fine Arts”).

A similar percentage of set aside words fell within the category of positive words with a weak or diminished intensity in context (1,105 words - 33.3% of the total set aside terms). Examples include the word “talent” in the sentence “I don’t know whether it’s a talent or a flaw”, in which the speaker weakens the positive connotations of the term she is using by doubting over her skills. In the context of the frequently used phrase “to make fun of”, the word “fun” also loses its positive meaning (e.g. “at school, this kid made fun of me”), as does “best” in “I bought several action figures for around \$1 from Best Buy”, as this is used neutrally to make reference to the name of the shop. Similarly, in “I decided to start my own blog about fashion and beauty”, the word beauty does not have a positive connotation. The word “creativity” in “it wasn’t really an option to incorporate creativity into my job” also loses its positive meaning in context. While this example and phrases like it could have been classified within the “negative construction” category, the inclusion of the adverb “really” was deemed a contextual modulation. Negative constructions (with no contextual modulations) made up 8.5% of the total set aside data (284 samples). Examples include “I didn’t take care of myself”, “I didn’t get better” and “it wasn’t easy to get here”.

A total of 670 words were set aside from the positive category due to personal reference displacement (20.1% of the total set aside words). Given the current research aims of focusing on the emotion-related expressions reflecting personal experiences of the narrators, it was necessary to discard references to those relating to the feelings of others. For instance, “he loves video games”, “if you enjoyed this video...”, “they fell in

love and got married”, and “it was the best decision she made” were all marked as examples of personal reference displacement to be set aside.

Less frequent issues (92 cases – 2.7% of the set aside data) came up in constructions referring to longing and questioning by including verb tenses such as conditionals which counteracted the core positive meaning of the words in question. For example, in “I just want to be loved”, the speaker is longing for something which she feels she does not have at that moment in time. In “I’d be very happy if it did, but...”, “I thought it was going to be so, so, so easy to make friends, but...”, and “I wish I could say this story has a happily ever after (but...)”, the speakers compare negative realities with ideal scenarios. There are also examples such as “I might never succeed in life”, which indicate doubt over the possibility of the positive event ever taking place. This phrase is similar to the previous “I don’t know whether it’s a talent or a flaw”, whereby the speaker weakens the positive connotations of the term she is using in context by also showing doubt. The doubt in “I might never succeed in life”, however, is indicated through the modal “might”.

The least frequent constructions to be set aside were those reflecting sarcasm, joking or irony (42 samples, making up 1.2% of the total set aside constructions in this category). Especially common were implicit references to a lack of artistic talent (e.g. “I am such a great drawer!”, “That’s a beautiful drawing”) and unfortunate past circumstances (e.g. “It was a farm town, bunch of hillbillies, all that jazz. Really great, really awesome”, “my mum and him got divorced. Yeah, it was great”, “We have the worst air quality in all of Canada, so it’s great to grow up here”).

Overall, the accepted group of positive emotional words represents 77.4% of the total accepted emotion-related words. The following are all the accepted positive words detected by LIWC2015 in the female corpus:

*Accept, Accepted, Accepting, Active, Actively, Admirable, Admiration, Admire, Admired, Adorable, Adore, Adored, Advantage, Adventure(s), Adventurous, Agreed, Alright, Amazed, Amazement, Amazing, Amazingly, Appreciate, Appreciated, Appreciates, Appreciative, Assure, Assured, Attracted, Award(s), Awesome, Beautiful, Beauty, Beloved, Benefit(s), Best, Bestest, Besties, Better, Bless, Blessed, Blessing(s), Bliss, Bold, Brave, Braver, Bright, Brilliant, Calm, Care, Cared, Carefree, Caring, Certainty, Challenge, Challenged, Champions, Championships, Charitable, Charming, Cheer(s), Cherished, Comedic, Comedy, Comfort, Comfortable, Comforting, Compassionate, Compliment, Complimented, Confidence, Confident, Contentment, Cool, Courage, Courageous, Create, Created, Creating, Creation, Creative, Creativity, Credit, Cute,*

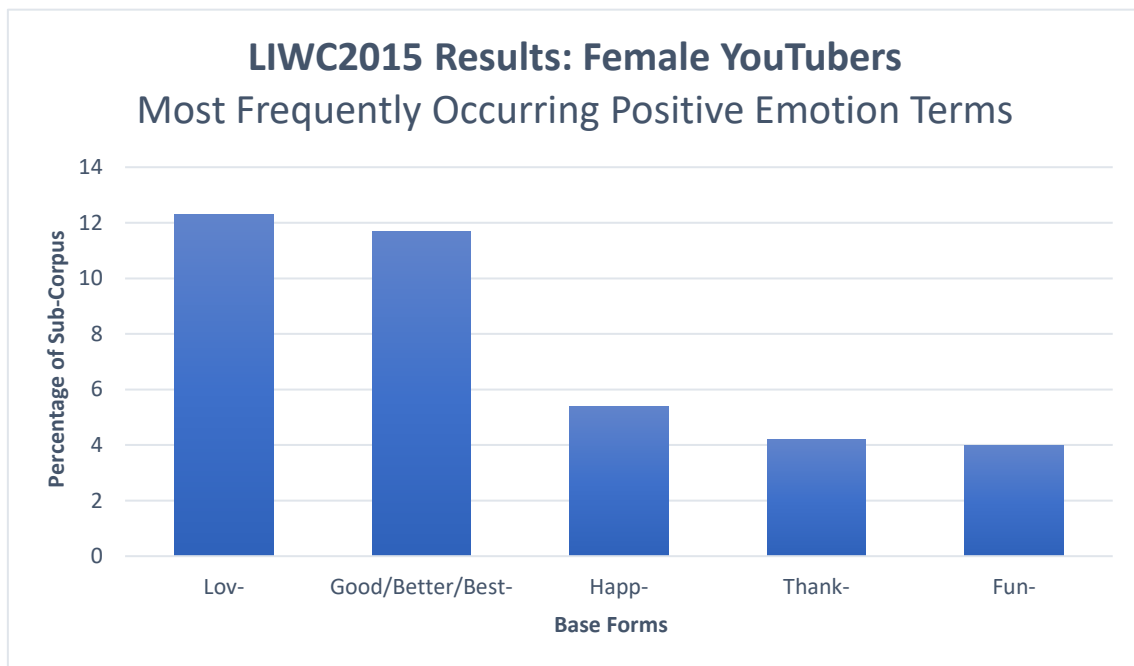
*Cutest, Dear, Dearly, Decent, Definitely, Delicious, Delightful, Desire, Desires, Determination, Determined, Devote, Diving, Ease, Easier, Easiest, Easily, Easy, Ecstatic, Encourage, Encouraged, Encouragement, Encourages, Encouraging, Energy, Engaged, Enjoy, Enjoyed, Enjoying, Entertain, Entertaining, Entertainment, Excel, Excelled, Excited, Excitement, Exciting, Fabulous, Fair, Faith, Fantastic, Fave, Favourite(s), Fearless, Fine, Flexible, Flirt, Flirting, Fond, Fondness, Forgive, Forgiveness, Fortunately, Free, Freedom, Freeing, Fun, Funnest, Funniest, Funny, Generous, Giving, Glad, Glamorous, Glorious, Glory, Good, Gorgeous, Grace, Grand, Grateful, Gratification, Gratitude, Great, Greater, Greatest, Haha, Handsome, Happier, Happiest, Happily, Happiness, Happy, Heal, Healed, Healing, Heals, Healthy, Heaven, Helper, Helpful, Helping, Helps, Hero, Hilarious, Honest, Honestly, Honour, Honoured, Honours, Hope, Hoped, Hopeful, Hopefully, Hopes, Hoping, Hug(s), Hugging, Humour, Hurray, Importance, Important, Importantly, Impressed, Impressive, Improved, Improving, Innocence, Inspiration(s), Inspire, Inspired, Inspires, Inspiring, Intelligence, Intelligent, Interest, Interested, Interesting, Interests, Joke(s), Joked, Joker, Joking, Joy, Keen, Kidding, Kind, Kindly, Kindness, Kiss, Kissed, Kisses, Kissing, Laugh, Laughed, Laughs, Laughter, Legit, Like, Liked, Likes, Liking, Lively, Lol, Love, Loved, Loveliest, Lovely, Lover, Lovers, Loves, Loving, Loyal, Luck, Luckiest, Luckily, Lucky, Neat, Nice, Nicely, Nicer, Nicest, Nurture, Ok/Okay, Opportunities, Opportunity, Optimistic, Original, Outgoing, Partied, Parties, Party, Partying, Passion, Passionate, Passionately, Passions, Peace, Peaceful, Perfect, Perfected, Perfectly, Play, Played, Playing, Please, Pleasure, Popular, Positive(s), Positively, Positivity, Praised, Precious, Prettier, Pretty, Pretty Good, Pretty Awesome, Pretty Happy, Pretty Hilarious, Pride, Privilege, Privileged, Prize, Profit, Promise, Promising, Proud, Proudly, Ready, Reassuring, Rejoice, Relaxation, Relaxed, Relaxing, Relief, Relieved, Resolve, Resolved, Respect, Respected, Respectful, Rewarded, Rewarding, Rewards, Rich, Romance, Romantic, Safe, Safely, Safety, Satisfaction, Save, Sentimental, Sexy, Share, Shared, Sharing, Smart, Smartest, Smile, Smiled, Smiles, Smiling, Special, Strength, Strengthened, Strong, Stronger, Strongly, Succeed, Succeeding, Success, Successful, Super, Support, Supported, Supporter(s), Supporting, Supportive, Supports, Sure, Surprise, Surprised, Surprising, Surprisingly, Sweet, Sweetest, Sweetheart, Talent, Talented, Talents, Thank, Thankful, Thankfully, Thanks, Thrilled, Thrilling, Treasure(s), True, Truly, Trust, Trusted, Trusting, Useful, Valuable, Value, Valued, Warm, Warmest, Welcome, Welcomed, Welcoming, Well, Win, Winner, Winning, Wisdom, Won, Wonderful, Worshiping, Wow, Yay, Yum, Yummy*

Of the 5,933 accepted words in the positive category, the most frequently used by the female YouTubers were those with the base “*Lov-*” (*Love, Loved, Loveliest, Lovely, Lover, Lovers, Loves, Loving*), with 732 accepted uses, making up 12.3% of the revised LIWC2015 female positive corpus. The second most regularly used words by the female YouTubers were *Good, Better* and *Best-*, with 695 accepted uses (11.7% of the corpus). Words with the base “*Happ-*” (*Happier, Happiest, Happily, Happiness, Happy*) made up 5.4% of the corpus (323 uses), the base “*Thank-*” (*Thank, Thankful, Thankfully, Thanks*) 4.2% (254 uses), the base “*Fun-*” (*Fun, Funnest, Funniest, Funny*) 4% (241 uses), the

base “*Excit-*” (*Excited, Excitement, Exciting*) 3.4% (206 uses), the base “*Amaz-*” (*Amazed, Amazement, Amazing, Amazingly*) 3.3% (201 uses), the base “*Play-*” (*Play, Played, Playing*) 2.9% (177 uses), and the base “*Great-*” (*Great, Greater, Greatest*) 2.5% (152 uses).

Other less frequently used positive words were *Cool* (2.3%/141 uses), those with the base “*Hop-*” (*Hope, Hoped, Hopeful, Hopefully, Hopes, Hoping* – 2%/121 uses), those with the base “*Nice-*” (*Nice, Nicely, Nicer, Nicest* – 1.9%/118 uses), *Beauty/Beautiful* (107/1.8%), *Awesome* (104/1.7%), those with the base “*Support-*” (*Support, Supported, Supporter(s), Supporting, Supportive, Supports* – 1.5%/94 uses) and those with the base “*Creat-*” (*Create, Created, Creating, Creation, Creative, Creativity* – 1.3%/79 uses).

Figure 16 below represents the five most repeated positive emotion-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by LIWC2015 following manual revision:



**Figure 16:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated positive emotion-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by LIWC2015 (following manual revision).



## B) LIWC2015 Results: Female YouTubers - Sadness

The total number of words relating to sadness detected by the LIWC2015 software in the female-created videos was 1,158. Of these terms, 731 were accepted (63.12% acceptance rate) and 427 were set aside for the following reasons:

weak/diminished intensity in context 228 (53.3%)

personal reference displacement 133 (31.1%)

negative construction 31 (7.2%)

unrelated to emotion category 22 (5.1%)

longing/questioning/tense issue 12 (2.8%)

sarcasm/irony 1 (0.2%)

Within the words detected by LIWC2015 as relating to sadness in the female texts, the most frequently set aside ones were those with meanings weakened or diminished in context (228 cases, representing 53.3% of the overall set side group). Examples include “We eventually **broke up** to go to school, but that was really nice”, whereby the speaker makes it clear that she is not sad over the relationship ending, and “I took a few moments to myself and sat by the beach **alone**”, in which the narrator sees alone time as enjoyable. The verb “to cry” was often used by the female speakers as an expression of happiness/excitement rather than sadness (e.g. “I **cried** because I was so excited), and “sorry” frequently had a weakened intensity in phrases such as “**Sorry** to expose your location, Haley!”, which, due to its jokey tone, is not an indication of any real sadness on the part of the speaker.

Also relatively frequent in the female corpus were references to the perceived sadness of others (133 examples, making up 31.1% of the corpus). For instance, “She’d always **cry**. She would not stop **crying**”, and “when my parents heard that, they were **devastated**”. Other instances of personal reference displacement described physical rather than emotional harm (“she **hurt** herself quite badly”), other people missing out on events (“my two older sisters **missed** trick-or-treating”) or objects rather than people “suffering” (“my grades (...) **suffering**”).

A total of 7.2% of the discarded constructions were negative (31 cases in total). Examples include “I was born not **alone** - with my twin sister Ashley”, “I’m not

abandoned on the internet”, “I didn’t cry at the hospital at all”, “we didn’t miss a single second”, “I don’t regret anything that’s ever happened in my life”. The negative constructions in all of these phrases counteract the possibly sad connotations of the highlighted terms. The word “regret” in particular appeared in numerous negative constructions in both corpora as an indication of confidence in the speakers’ decisions rather than sadness.

I deemed 22 words in this category as unrelated to sadness (5.1% of the total set aside), such as “gravel” (e.g. “gravel surrounded by secluded woods”), “Miss” (“Miss Valerie! Do you remember?”) and “low” in “down-low” (e.g. “I would do it on the down-low”). While “miss” and “low” have other accepted meanings which would make it difficult for the software to distinguish between one and the other, I assume that “gravel” was picked up on because of the etymological root “grave-” (i.e. serious).

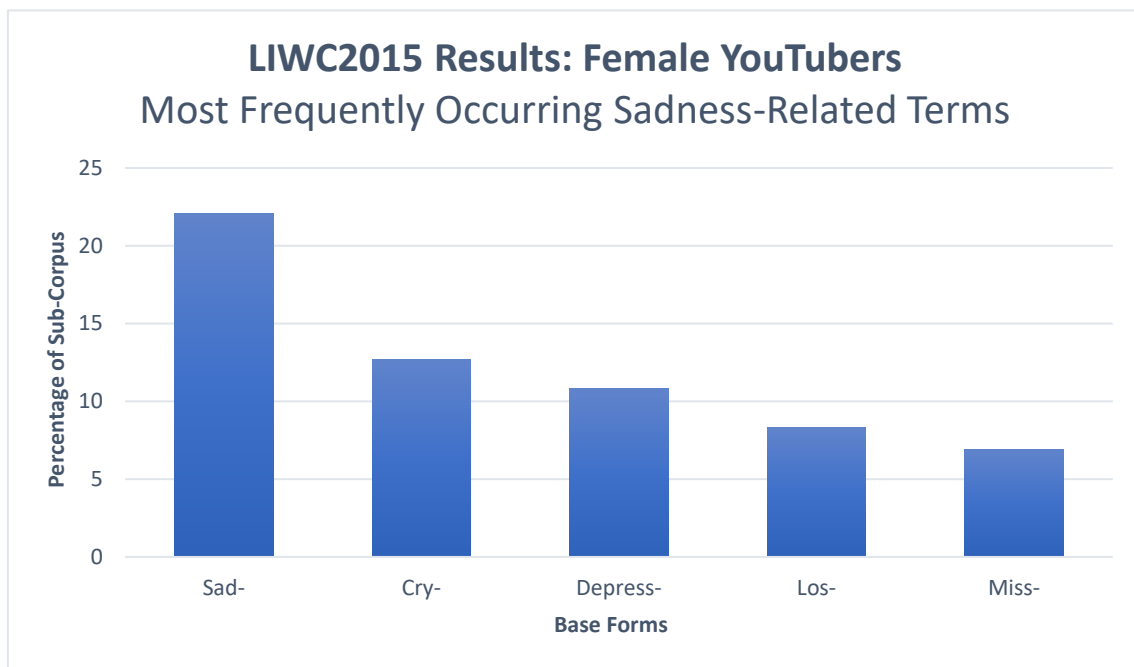
There were 12 constructions in the female corpus (2.8% of the set aside data) referring to longing/questioning including verb tenses such as conditionals which counteracted negative meanings relating to sadness. For example, in “without your love and support, I would be lost”, the speaker focuses on the fact that she does not in fact feel lost because of the support of her followers. Lastly, one case of sarcasm was noted in “To add to my already overwhelming sex appeal”. It should also be noted that the term “overwhelming” was more frequently used by the YouTubers in positive contexts rather than negative ones.

Overall, accepted terms relating to sadness represent 9.5% of the total accepted emotional words. The following are all the accepted sadness-related words detected by LIWC2015 in the female corpus:

*Abandon, Abandoned, Abandonment, Alone, Broke, Cried, Crushed, Cry, Crying, Depressed, Depressing, Depression, Despair, Devastated, Devastating, Disappointed, Disappointing, Disillusioned, Emptiness, Empty, Fail, Failed, Failure, Fatigued, Grief, Grievance, Grieved, Heartbreak, Heartbreaking, Heartbroken, Helpless, Homesick, Hopeless, Hurt, Hurtful, Hurting, Hurts, Isolated, Isolating, Isolation, Loneliness, Lonely, Loner, Lose, Loser(s), Losing, Loss, Lost, Low, Lowest, Miserable, Miserably, Misery, Miss, Missed, Missing, Neglected, Overwhelmed, Overwhelming, Regret, Regrets, Regretted, Rejected, Rejection, Ruined, Ruining, Sad, Saddest, Sadly, Sadness, Sobbing, Sorrow, Sorry, Suffer, Suffered, Tears, Tragically, Unhappy, Useless, Worthless*

Of the 731 accepted words in the sadness category, the most frequently used by the female YouTubers are those with the base “*Sad-*” (*Sad, Saddest, Sadly, Sadness*), with 162 detected uses, making up 22.1% of accepted LIWC2015 female sadness corpus. The second and third most regularly used words respectively were *Cry/Crying*, with 93 uses (12.7%), and those with the base “*Depress-*” (*Depressed, Depressing, Depression*), with 79 uses (10.8%). The terms *Lose/Loser(s)/Losing/Loss/Lost* were detected and accepted 61 times by the software (8.3% of the female sadness corpus), *Miss/Missed/Missing* 51 times (6.9%), *Alone* 45 times (6.1%), *Lonely* 30 times (4.1%), *Hurt* 24 times (3.2%), and *Isolated/Isolating/Isolation* 15 times (2%).

Figure 17 below represents the five most repeated positive emotion-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by LIWC2015 following manual revision:



**Figure 17:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated sadness-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by LIWC2015 (following manual revision).

### C) LIWC2015 Results: Female YouTubers - Anxiety

The total number of words relating to anxiety detected by the LIWC2015 software was 895. Of these terms, 652 were accepted (72.85% acceptance rate) and 243 were set aside:

personal reference displacement	119 (48.9%)
weak/diminished intensity in context	97 (39.9%)
negative construction	17 (6.9%)
unrelated to emotion category	7 (2.8%)
sarcasm/irony	2 (0.8%)
longing/questioning/tense issue	1 (0.4%)

Of the words detected by LIWC2015 as relating to anxiety, the most frequently set aside were those in constructions containing personal reference displacement (119 examples, making up 48.9% of the total set aside data). For example, the sentences “it really **scared** him”, “he would just get really **upset**”, “He just looked so **confused**”, and “he was really **struggling** finding work” all make reference to the fear, sadness, confusion and struggles of others. Other constructions discarded include those making reference to the feelings of unspecified people (e.g. “the reason someone **upset** smiles”).

97 anxiety-related terms were set aside due to weak or diminished intensity in context (39.9% of the total discarded data). For example, in the request “please give it a crazy, **scary**, weird thumbs up”, the YouTuber is simply describing her drawing of a thumb, not making reference to any feelings of anxiety. A term which frequently loses intensity in context is “obsessed”, which many speakers use to refer to strong likes and interests, such as in “Kim is the brilliant person that got me **obsessed** with One Direction”, which clearly has nothing to do with anxiety. Another commonly misread term was “scary” when used as a neutral descriptor of films or books (e.g. “We’d always have sleepovers in each other’s tents and watch **scary** movies”).

In the case of anxiety-related terms within negative constructions in the female corpus detected by LIWC2015 (17 examples – 6.9% of the discarded data), we find phrases such as “I’m not **ashamed** or **embarrassed**” and “I wasn’t **afraid** of fighting”. Commonly occurring misread negative constructions also include those containing the word “doubt” (e.g. “I had no **doubts**. Everything just felt right” and “Moving to New York

City is without a **doubt** the best decision I've made") and "worry" (e.g. "I don't have to **worry** about not having enough time").

There were seven words unrelated to the emotion category of anxiety, making up 2.8% of the set aside terms. For instance, in "I'm going to keep **stressing** that to you", the speaker's intended meaning is that of highlighting a matter. Likewise, in "a massive **shame**", the intended meaning is not related with anxiety, but rather a regrettable situation. Even more obvious examples of disconnection from the semantic domain are "dreadlocks" in "broke his feet and cut off his **dreadlocks**", and "shakes" in "I used to flip burgers and make chocolate **shakes**".

Sarcasm/joking was detected in two anxiety-related constructions: "To add to my already **overwhelming** sex appeal", in which the speaker is talking about an awkward phase during which she felt unattractive (also marked as a sadness indicator by the software), and "I'm **afraid** if I don't do what you want me to that you'll find out where I live", where the speaker jokes with her followers about audience expectations.

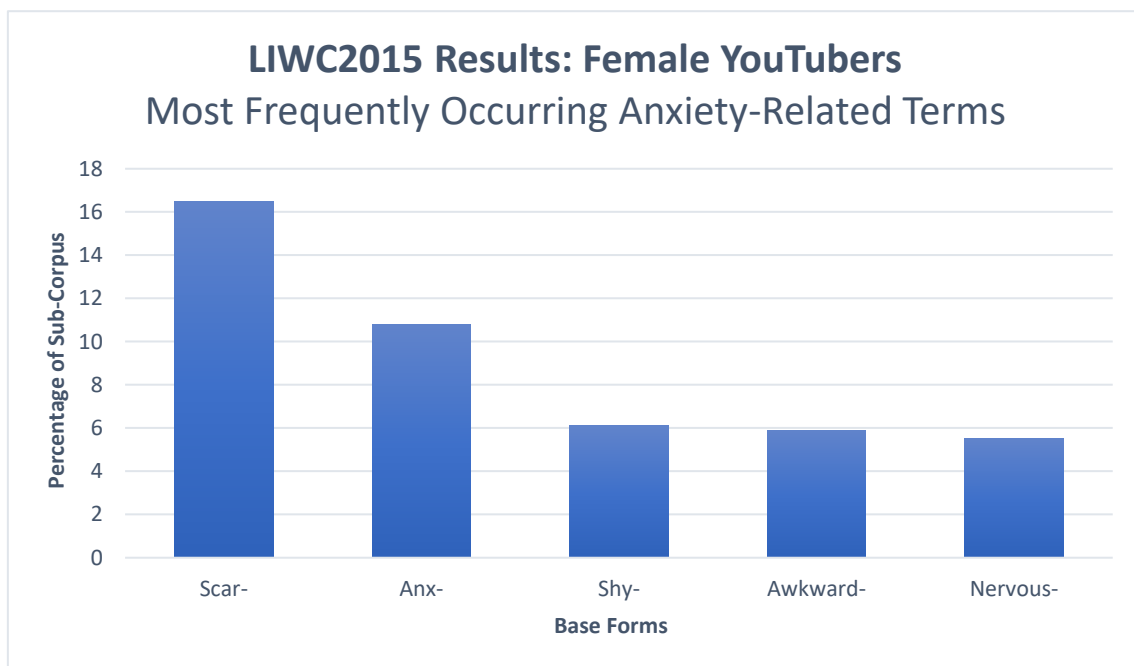
Lastly, one construction's future tense weakened the negative meaning of "horrible", because the speaker reflects back on how the situation actually ended up favourably. She explains how she thought she was "going to be a **horrible** teacher" but highlights how she was "still excited" and actually ended up succeeding in her new role. In context, we can see that while the word "horrible" has a negative meaning, the overall focus is positive.

Accepted words relating to anxiety represent 8.5% of the total accepted emotional words. The following are all the accepted anxiety-related words detected by LIWC2015 in the female corpus:

*Afraid, Alarmed, Anxiety, Anxious, Anxiously, Ashamed, Avoid, Avoided, Avoiding, Awkward, Confused, Confusing, Desperate, Desperately, Doubt, Doubting, Dread, Dreaded, Dreading, Dwelled, Embarrassed, Embarrassing, Embarrassment, Fear, Feared, Fears, Frantically, Guilt, Guilty, Hesitant, Horrible, Horror, Humiliate, Humiliated, Insecure, Insecurities, Insecurity, Irrational, Irritable, Irritated, Miserable, Misery, Nervous, Nervously, Obsessive, Obsessively, Overwhelmed, Overwhelming, Panic, Panicked, Panicking, Paranoia, Paranoid, Petrified, Pressure(s), Repression, Risk(s), Scare, Scared, Scares, Scariest, Scary, Shake, Shaken, Shamefully, Shook, Shy, Shyness, Strain, Stress, Stressed, Stressful, Struggle, Struggled, Struggles, Struggling, Tense, Terrified, Terrifying, Terror, Threaten, Threatened, Threats, Timid, Tremble, Uncertain, Uncomfortable, Unsure, Upset, Upsets, Upsetting, Vulnerable, Worried, Worries, Worry, Worrying*

Of the 652 accepted words in the anxiety category, the most frequently used by the female YouTubers were those with the base “*Scar-*” (*Scare, Scared, Scares, Scariest, Scary* – 108 times and 16.5% of the corpus) and the base “*Anx-*” (*Anxiety, Anxious, Anxiously* – 71 times and 10.8%). The words *Shy/Shyness* were detected and accepted 40 times (6.1%), *Awkward* 39 times (5.9%), *Nervous-* 36 times (5.5%), *Stress/Stressed/Stressful* also 36 times (5.5%), *Confused/Confusing* 34 times (5.2%), *Embarrassed/Embarrassing/Embarrassment* 25 times (3.8%), *Upset/Upsets/Upsetting* 21 times (3.2%), and *Worried/Worries/Worry/Worrying* 12 times (1.8%).

Figure 18 below represents the five most repeated anxiety-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by LIWC2015 following manual revision:



**Figure 18:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated anxiety-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by LIWC2015 (following manual revision).

#### D) LIWC2015 Results: Female YouTubers - Anger

The total number of words relating to anger detected by the LIWC2015 software in the female corpus was 760. Of these terms, 348 were accepted (45.79% acceptance rate) and 412 were set aside:

weak/diminished intensity in context 209 (50.7%)

personal reference displacement 145 (35.2%)

unrelated to emotion category 31 (7.5%)

negative construction 17 (4.1%)

longing/questioning/tense issue 10 (2.4%)

sarcasm/irony 0 (0%)

More than half (50.7%) of the set aside constructions relating to anger were due to weak or diminished intensity in context (209 cases in total). For example, when the word “attack” is used in conjunction with “panic”, the meaning relating to physical violence is completely diminished, with anxiety being a more accurate reflection than anger (e.g. “I had a lot more panic **attacks** than normal”). Some examples of swearwords such as “bitches” were weakened due to colloquial/friendly usage (e.g. “there’s me saying “row, **bitches!**”, in which the speaker is by no means angry with her fellow rowers). Likewise, the word “hell” in “I’m going to university, what the **hell** is going on?” is more of an indication of excitement and incredulity than anger or frustration. It is also noteworthy that the word “fighting” came up regularly in the context of describing the genre of videogames (e.g. “and my love for **fighting** games like King of **Fighters**”) and “ridiculous” was often used colloquially to indicate a high quantity (e.g. “around 12 hours or something **ridiculous**”) rather than feelings of anger.

Personal reference displacement was the second most frequent reason for setting aside constructions relating to anger detected by LIWC2015 in the female corpus (145 cases, making up 35.2% of the total set aside data). The verb “to hate” was often used in reference to the feelings of others (e.g. “she probably absolutely **hated** me” and “he absolutely **hated** us”). Other instances include “to yell” in “my dad would wake up and **yell** at me to be quiet”, “to argue” in “my parents were **arguing**”, and “to threaten” in “my mum even **threatened** to run away”.

Words unrelated to anger (31 in total, making up 7.5% of the total set aside data) include “trick” in “trick-or-treating” (e.g. “my two older sisters missed **trick**-or-treating”), “wicked” in the positive sense (e.g. “**wicked** awesomeness”), “suck” and “piss” in the literal rather than metaphorical senses (e.g. “take a spoonful of rice and **suck** on it for hours”, “I just **pissed** myself”), “suck” as a part of phrasal verbs (e.g. “I did **suck** it up and I finished”) and “lying” in the physical sense instead of not telling the truth (e.g. “that’s me **lying** on the floor”). Some words also included suffixes which made their meaning change (e.g. “I was scared **shitless**”) and others included etymological roots which led to their inaccurate interpretation by the software (e.g. “It was very scary for **foetus** Breeland” and “I was born on June 14th to Ken and Heather **Nagel**”), with the roots “foe” and “nag” respectively.

There were 17 negative anger-related constructions which had to be set aside (4.1% of the total discarded data). Examples include “we didn’t get **beaten**”, “I can’t **blame** them”, “our group has never ever **fought** before” and “no one at school would **tease** me” and “it really didn’t **bother** me”. The final verb (“to bother”) was frequently detected in negative constructions in both corpora.

Lastly, I came across 10 instances of anger-related vocabulary in phrases indicating longing/questioning or including tenses counteracting their meaning (2.4% of the set aside data), such as “Everybody asks me, do I **hate** it? I love it”, in which the speaker clarifies the difference between her feelings and people’s assumptions, and “my closeness to the steering wheel would have **killed** me” or “I was going to get **killed** by my mum if...”, whereby the speakers discuss hypothetical scenarios. Another hypothetical situation is found in “just in case he was a **murderer**, I figured there’d be people around”, where the speaker describes a first date which ended up going well.

Overall, the accepted words from the female corpus relating to anger represent 4.5% of the total accepted LIWC2015 emotional words. The following are all of the accepted anger-related words detected by LIWC2015 in the female corpus:

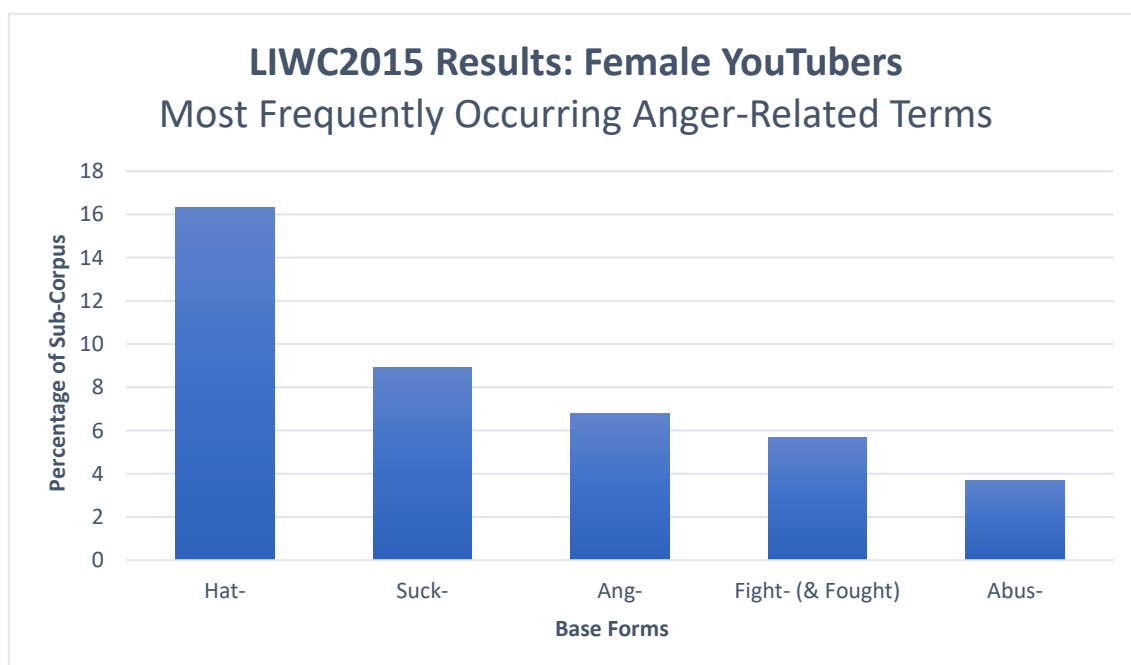
*Abuse, Abusive, Aggression, Anger, Angry, Annoyed, Annoying, Argue, Argued, Arguing, Arguments, Asshole(s), Attacking, Bitch, Bitches, Bitchy, Bitter, Blamed, Brutal, Cheated, Cheating, Confrontation, Crap, Crappy, Damn, Destroyed, Destroyer, Dumb, Envy, Envy, Fight(s), Fighting, Fought, Frustrated, Frustrating, Frustration(s), Fuck, Fucked, Fucking, Furious, Greedy, Harassment, Hate, Hated, Hating, Hell, Humiliate, Humiliated, Idiot, Insult, Insulted, Jealous, Kill, Killing, Lies, Lying, Mad, Mocking,*



*Nagged, Nasty, Obnoxious, Offense, Offensive, Pissed, Poison, Punishments, Pushy, Raged, Rebelled, Resented, Resentment, Revenge, Ridiculous, Ridiculously, Rude, Shit, Shitty, Stupid, Stupidly, Suck, Sucked, Sucks, Sucky, Teased, Teasing, Threaten, Torture, Ugly, Viciously, War, Weapon, Yell, Yells*

Of the 348 accepted words in the anger category, the most frequently used by the female YouTubers were those with the base “Hat-” (*Hate, Hated, Hating*), with 57 accepted cases (16.3% of the overall female anger-related corpus). The 31 words with the base “Suck-” (*Suck, Sucked, Sucks, Sucky*) make up 8.9% of the corpus, the 24 cases of *Anger/Angry* constitute 6.8%, and the 20 uses of *Fight(s)/Fighting/Fought* make up 5.7%. Less frequently occurring terms include *Abuse/Abusive* (13 cases – 3.7%), *Crap/Crappy* (11 cases – 3.1%), *Fuck/Fucked/Fucking* (also 11 cases – 3.1%), *Shit/Shitty* (9 cases – 2.5%), *Stupid/Stupidly* (8 cases – 2.2%), and *Ugly* (6 cases – 1.7%). It is worth noting that the accepted words in this category expressed both violent actions being or having been carried out by the speaker towards others as well as feelings of frustration due to violent actions being or having been inflicted on the speaker by others.

Figure 19 below represents the five most repeated anger-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by LIWC2015 following manual revision:



**Figure 19:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated anger-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by LIWC2015 (following manual revision).

#### 4.2.1.2 LIWC2015 Results: Male YouTubers

In total, LIWC2015 detected 10,180 emotion-related words within both the “positive emotion” category and the sub-categories of negative emotion (“anxiety”, “anger” and “sadness”) in the male corpus.

During the revision process, I was only able to accept 57.58% of the overall emotion words, with 5,862 accepted and 4,318 set aside due to issues of unrelatedness to the emotion category, weak/diminished intensity in context, personal reference displacement, negative constructions, longing/questioning/tense issues and failure to detect sarcasm/irony.

##### A) LIWC2015 Results: Male YouTubers - Positive Emotions

The total number of words relating to positive emotion detected by the LIWC2015 software was 7,958. Of these terms, 4,705 were accepted (59.1% acceptance rate) and 3,253 were set aside:

weak/diminished intensity in context 1,104 (33.9%)

unrelated to emotion category 1,051 (32.3%)

personal reference displacement 675 (20.7%)

negative construction 231 (7.1%)

longing/questioning/tense issue 132 (4.05%)

sarcasm/irony 60 (1.8%)

The majority of positive emotion-related words in the male corpus that were set aside were found in constructions with weak/diminished intensity in context (1,104 words in total, making up 33.9% of the discarded data). For instance, in “Felix is Latin and means **happy**”, the word “happy” is used as a neutral descriptor. As noted in the FDML discarded data, in context, the positive meaning of the term “fun” is completely diminished in the phrase “to make fun of” (e.g. “being made **fun** of for no reason”, in which the speaker expresses frustration over peers’ taunting rather than any kind of positive emotion). Other examples of diminished positivity include “I lost **interest** in, **well**, everything”, which also includes an unrelated “well”, and

“I stopped being **creative**”. In addition, weak intensity was detected in phrases such as “without too much **excitement**”.

The unrelated “well” seen above was frequently used as a discourse marker rather than an indicator of positive sentiment (e.g. “**Well**, when I finally had”). “Good” was also detected as a reference to quantity rather than positivity (e.g. “after a **good** month or so resting”), as was the quantifier “pretty” (e.g. “**Pretty** damn crazy”). The word “warm” was commonly used in the literal rather than positive metaphorical sense (e.g. “we had to wear multiple jumpers to keep **warm**”), and “save” was used with the meaning of accumulating money for future use (e.g. “our little supermarket jobs to **save** for a wedding”), instead of being rescued from a negative situation. Other completely unrelated words included those such as “Winnipeg” in “University of Manitoba in **Winnipeg**”, which was presumably detected by the software as positive due to its root, “win”. In total, 1,051 words were set aside due to being deemed unrelated to the positive emotion category (32.3%).

The third most frequently discarded constructions were those including personal reference displacement (675 examples, making up 20.7% of the total set aside data). For example, the phrases “He was always **better** than me” and “the reason Dick was bullying me was to make people **laugh**” indicate that the speakers are feeling negative rather than positive. There are also 231 negative constructions in the male corpus, making up 7.1% of the total discarded data. Instances include “something I had no **interest** in” (lack of interest) and “I’m still not **sure** what it really meant” (lack of certainty). The words “well”, “good” and “best” were also often used in negative constructions (e.g. “I just couldn’t perform **well** when it came to tests”, “Her English wasn’t the **best**” and “the younger Higa, not the **good** one”). In a description of difficulties faced in a romantic relationship, one speaker says that “the long-distance thing wasn’t **helping**”, another clearly negative rather than positive reference.

A total of 4.05% (132 examples) of the discarded references to positive emotions included constructions expressing longing/questioning or containing tenses counteracting their meaning. A typical example is “I thought this was a **good** thing because I thought older kids will think I’m **cool** because I skipped a grade, however, it was basically the opposite”, in which what was originally thought to be positive is later shown to be negative. Likewise, in “I was going to **win** but...”, the predicted positive outcome doesn’t come to fruition.

There were 60 constructions detected by LIWC2015 in the MDML data as references to positive emotions which included sarcasm, irony, or joking (1.8% of the total discarded data). One speaker, for example, jokes about a friendship with the rapper Eminem (“It’s all **good** though, me and Eminem are like **best** friends forever now”) while another is sarcastic about his drawing skills (“It’s a really **good** Charizard, isn’t it?”). Others are sarcastic about their looks (e.g. “teen years when I had that **super sexy**, fashionable fringe”) and social habits (e.g. “I even spent summers taking extra lessons on college campuses. Needless to say, I was quite **cool**, and was hanging out at all the **parties!**”).

Overall, the accepted positive emotional words represent 80.3% of the total accepted emotional words in the male corpus. The following are all of the accepted positive words detected by LIWC2015 in the male corpus:

*Accept, Acceptance, Accepted, Accepting, Active, Admire, Admired, Adored, Advantage(s), Adventure(s), Agree, Agreed, Alright, Amazed, Amazing, Amazingly, Amusement, Amusing, Appreciate, Appreciation, Attraction, Award(s), Awesome, Beautiful, Beauty, Beloved, Beneficial, Benefit(s), Best, Bestest, Bestie, Better, Bless, Blessed, Blessing(s), Bold, Bonus, Brave, Bright, Brilliant, Calm, Care, Cared, Carefree, Cares, Caring, Certain, Challenge(s), Challenged, Champion(s), Charity, Cheer, Cheers, Clever, Comfort, Comfortable, Compassionate, Compliment, Confidence, Confident, Cool, Courage, Create, Created, Creating, Creation, Creative, Creativity, Credit, Cute, Cutest, Cutie, Darling, Dear, Dearly, Decent, Definitely, Delicious, Desire, Desired, Determination, Determined, Eagerly, Easier, Easily, Easy, Ecstatic, Encourage, Encouraged, Encouragement, Encouraging, Energetic, Energy, Engage, Engaged, Engagement, Engaging, Enjoy, Enjoyable, Enjoyed, Enjoying, Entertain, Entertainer, Entertaining, Entertainment, Enthusiasm, Enthusiastic, Excellent, Excited, Excitement, Exciting, Fabulous, Faith, Fantastic, Favourite(s), Favours, Festivals, Fine, Flirt, Flirting, Fond, Fondness, Forgive, Forgiving, Fortunately, Free, Freedom, Freeing, Fun, Funniest, Funny, Generosity, Giggling, Giving, Glad, Good, Gorgeous, Grateful, Gratification, Gratitude, Great, Greater, Greatest, Greatness, Haha, Happier, Happiest, Happiness, Happy, Harmony, Heal, Healed, Healthy, Heaven, Helpful, Helping, Helps, Hero(es), Hilarious, Honestly, Honour, Honoured, Hope, Hoped, Hopefully, Hopes, Hoping, Hug(s), Humour, Ideal, Important, Importantly, Impressed, Impressing, Impressive, Improve, Improved, Improvement(s), Improving, Innocence, Innocent, Inspiration(s), Inspirational, Inspire, Inspired, Inspiring, Intellectually, Intelligent, Interest(s), Interested, Interesting, Joke(s), Joking, Joy, Joyful, Keen, Kidding, Kind, Kiss, Kissed, Kissing, Laugh, Laughed, Laughing, Laughs, Legit, Liked, Like-Minded, Liking, Lol, Love, Loved, Lovely, Lovers, Loves, Loving, Loyal, Luck, Luckiest, Luckily, Lucky, Magnificent, Neat, Nice, Nicely, Nicer, Nicest, OK/Okay, Opportunities, Opportunity, Optimism, Original, Outgoing, Partied, Parties, Party, Passion, Passionate, Passions, Peace, Peaceful, Perfect, Perfectly, Play, Played, Playing, Pleasant, Please, Pleased, Pleasure, Popular, Popularity, Positive, Positively, Positivity, Precious, Pretty, Pride,*

*Privilege, Profit(s), Promise, Promising, Proud, Proudest, Proudly, Ready, Reassured, Reassuring, Reinvigorated, Relax, Relaxation, Relaxing, Relief, Relieved, Respect, Respected, Respectful, Respecting, Rewarding, Rewards, Rich, Romantic, Safe, Satisfaction, Satisfying, Save, Secure, Share, Shared, Sharing, Smart, Smartest, Smile, Smiled, Smiling, Special, Strength, Strong, Stronger, Strongest, Succeed, Success(es), Successful, Sunshine, Super, Superior, Support, Supported, Supporter(s), Supporting, Supportive, Supports, Sure, Surely, Surprise, Surprised, Surprising, Surprisingly, Sweet, Sweetest, Sweetheart, Talent(s), Talented, Thank, Thankful, Thankfully, Thanking, Thanks, Treasured, True, Trust, Useful, Valuable, Value, Vigorous, Warmest, Warming, Wealthy, Welcome, Welcomed, Well, Win, Winner(s), Winning, Wisely, Wiser, Won, Wonderful, Wonderfully, Worshipping, Worthwhile, Wow, Yay*

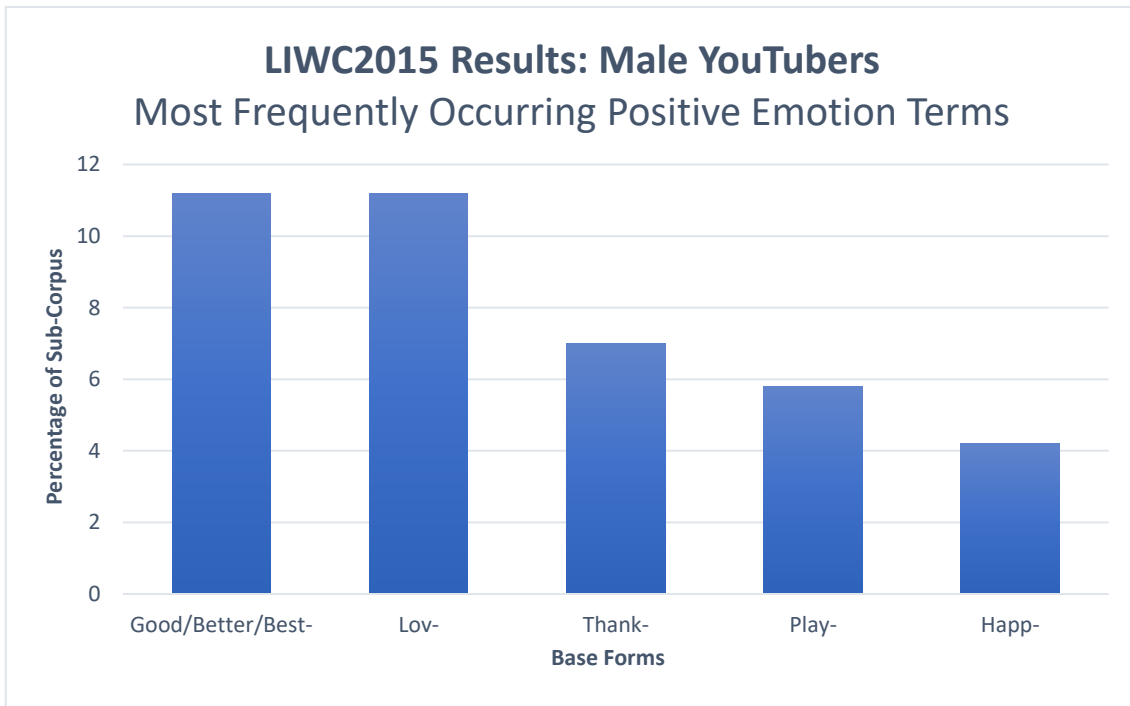
Of the 4,705 accepted words in the LIWC2015 male positive corpus, the most frequently used were *Good, Better* and *Best-*, with 531 cases (11.2% of the corpus). With only one fewer word (530 uses – also 11.2%) in the corpus were those with the base “*Lov-*” (*Love, Loved, Lovely, Lovers, Loves, Loving*). The third most regularly appearing terms were those with the base “*Thank-*” (*Thank, Thankful, Thankfully, Thanking, Thanks* – 330 uses, making up 7% of the corpus).

Words with the base “*Play-*” (*Play, Played, Playing*) make up 5.8% of the corpus (277 cases), those with the base “*Happ-*” (*Happier, Happiest, Happiness, Happy*) 4.2% (202 cases), those with the base “*Amaz-*” (*Amazed, Amazing, Amazingly*) 3.4% (161 cases), those with the base “*Fun-*” (*Fun, Funniest, Funny*) 3.3% (156 cases), and those with the base “*Great-*” (*Great, Greater, Greatest, Greatness*) 2.8% (132 cases).

Less frequently appearing terms in the corpus are *Cool* (116 cases – 2.4%), *Awesome* (109 cases – 2.3%), those with the base “*Hope-*” (*Hope, Hoped, Hopefully, Hopes, Hoping* – 96 cases/2%), those with the base “*Creat-*” (*Create, Created, Creating, Creation, Creative, Creativity* – 94 cases/1.9%), those with the base “*Excit-*” (*Excited, Excitement, Exciting* – 78 cases/1.6%), those with the base “*Support-*” (*Support, Supported, Supporter(s), Supporting, Supportive, Supports* – 77 cases/also 1.6%).

Even fewer instances include terms with the base “*Nice-*” (*Nice, Nicely, Nicer, Nicest* – 44 cases/0.9%), terms with the base “*Win-*” (*Win, Winner(s), Winning, Won* – 43 cases/also 0.9%), terms with the base “*Inspir-*” (*Inspiration(s), Inspirational, Inspire, Inspired, Inspiring* – 41 cases/0.8%), and those with the base “*Passion-*” (*Passion, Passionate, Passions* – 37 cases/0.7%)

Figure 20 below represents the five most repeated positive emotion-related base forms in the male corpus as detected by LIWC2015 following manual revision:



**Figure 20:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated positive emotion-related base forms in the male corpus as detected by LIWC2015 (following manual revision).

#### B) LIWC2015 Results: Male YouTubers - Sadness

The total number of words relating to sadness detected by the LIWC2015 software in the male corpus was 789. Of these terms, 459 were accepted (58.1% acceptance rate) and 330 were set aside because of the following reasons:

weak/diminished intensity in context 168 (50.9%)

personal reference displacement 98 (29.7%)

longing/questioning/tense issue 23 (6.9%)

negative construction 22 (6.6%)

unrelated to emotion category 18 (5.4%)

sarcasm/irony 1 (0.3%)

A total of 168 of the sadness-related words detected by LIWC2015 had to be set aside due to weak/diminished intensity in context (50.9% of the total set aside data). For

instance, the words “rarely” and “hardly” weaken the intensity of “cried” and “sad” in “I rarely **cried**” and “I can hardly think of any times I was **sad**”, respectively. The verb “to break” actually has a positive meaning in “they really **broke** me out of my shell”, as does “hopeless” in “they just kind of made me a **hopeless** romantic”.

Personal reference displacement was detected in 98 constructions, including 29.7% of the total discarded sadness-related terms. Examples include “they were very **sad** that I was moving out”, “it was a very hard job which made him very **sad**”, “my dad had **lost** his mum to cancer” and “They **broke** up when I was only two”. Worth noting in this section are frequent uses of the verb “to suffer” in conjunction with mental or physical illnesses (e.g. “She **suffers** from a form of anxiety”, “he was **suffering** with cancer”). I also noted sentences such as “made my sister **upset** and she ran out **crying**”, in which the word “upset” was not detected by the software as a reference to sadness (when it had indeed appeared in the anxiety-related data).

The third most frequently discarded category of sadness-related terms (23 in total, making up 6.9% of the set aside data) were those included in constructions expressing longing/questioning or with verb tenses which counteracted the original meaning. For instance, in “You’d think I would have been **devastated** but oddly, I wasn’t” and “a lot of people think ‘Hey, doesn’t it make you **sad** (...)?’ (...) but honestly, I was the happiest kid alive”, comparisons are drawn between suppositions and (positive) reality. In other cases, the focus is placed on working hard to avoid failure, which is later achieved by the speaker (e.g. “(doing) homework just so I wouldn’t **fail**”).

Negative constructions were detected and set aside 22 times (6.6%). Examples include “I didn’t feel like a **loser**”, “I never **failed** anything”, “I didn’t **fail** any of my exams”, and “I (...) wasn’t **discouraged**”. Several instances were found in conjunction with the word “regret(s)”, indicating confidence in the speakers’ decisions (e.g. “I love doing it and that’s what’s important. No **regrets**”, “I met all my best friends through rugby, so I never **regret** it”, and “I never **regretted** it for a second”).

Words with meanings unrelated to the emotion category of sadness (18 in total, making up 5.4% of the set aside data) included “grave” (e.g. “it wasn’t very romantic - it was behind a **grave** in a **graveyard**”), “Miss” (e.g. “my teacher, **Miss** Reeves”) and “Failbook”, a tongue-in-cheek take on “Facebook” (“those of you who follow on the

Twits, **Failbook** and G+). A joking tone was also detected in “every time I was sick, my mum would rent a Super Nintendo for me. Unfortunately, I was sick a lot as a child, quite a lot. Very **sad**”, in which it is implied that the speaker was actually pleased to spend time playing video games.

Overall, accepted words relating to sadness represent 7.8% of the total accepted emotional words. The following are all the accepted sadness-related words detected by LIWC2015 in the male corpus:

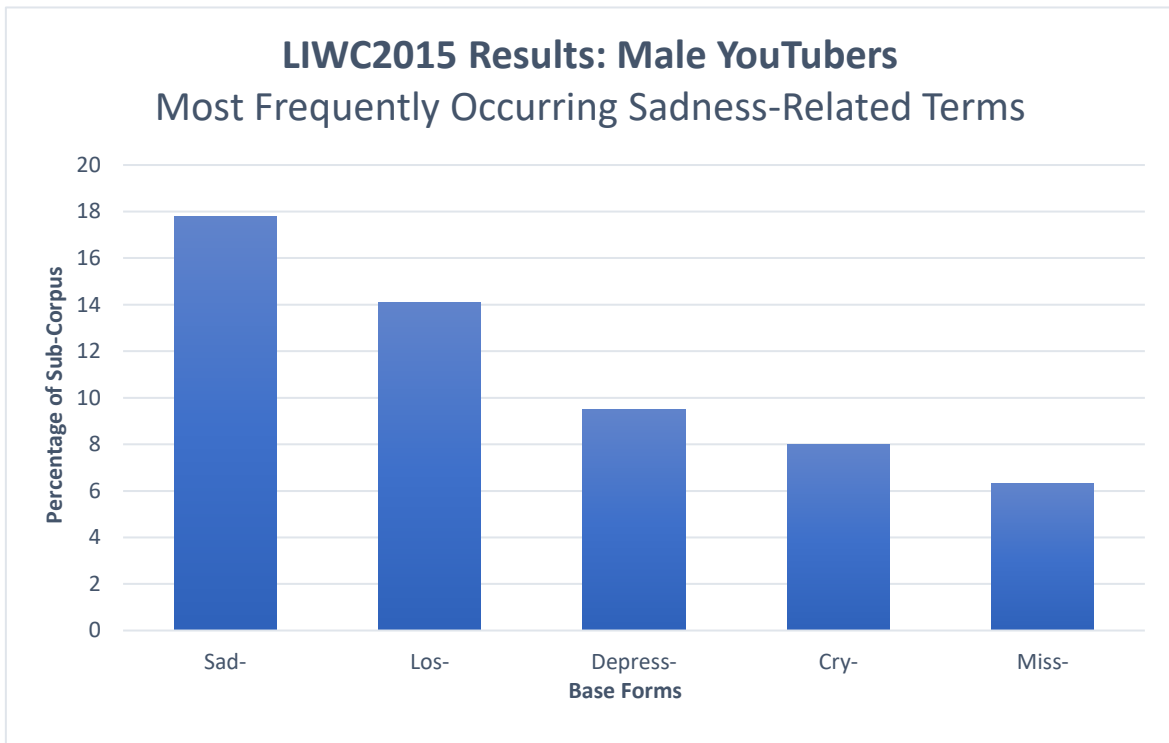
*Abandoned, Alone, Broke, Cried, Cries, Crushed, Cry, Crying, Depressed, Depressing, Depression, Devastated, Devastating, Disappoint, Disappointing, Disappointment, Discouraged, Discouraging, Doomed, Dooming, Empty, Fail, Failed, Failing, Failure, Flunked, Grieved, Heartbroken, Homesick, Hurt, Hurtful, Hurting, Hurts, Inadequate, Isolated, Loneliness, Lonely, Loner, Longingly, Lose, Loser, Losing, Loss, Lost, Low, Lower, Lowest, Miserable, Misery, Miss, Missed, Missing, Overwhelmed, Pathetic, Pessimistic, Pity, Regret(s), Regrettably, Regretted, Rejected, Rejection(s), Rejects, Ruined, Sad, Sadder, Saddest, Sadly, Sadness, Sorry, Suffer, Suffered, Suffering, Suffers, Tears, Tragedy, Unhappiness, Unhappy, Wept, Yearned*

Of the 459 accepted words in the sadness category, the most frequently used by the male YouTubers were those with the base “Sad-” (*Sad, Sadder, Saddest, Sadly, Sadness*), with 82 detected uses, making up 17.8% of accepted LIWC2015 male sadness-related corpus. The second most detected and accepted terms within the sadness-related male group were those with the base “Los-” (*Lose, Loser, Losing, Loss, Lost*), with 65 uses constituting 14.1% of the overall corpus. Words with the base “Depress-” (*Depressed, Depressing, Depression*) make up 9.5% of the accepted male corpus (44 cases), those related with crying (*Cried, Cries, Cry, Crying*) make up 8% (37 cases), and those with the base “Miss-” (*Miss, Missed, Missing*) make up 6.3% (29 cases).

Less frequently occurring sadness-related words in the male LIWC2015 corpus include the term *Alone* (20 uses – 4.3%) and those with the base “Fail-” (*Fail, Failed, Failing, Failure*, with 18 uses – 3.9%). Those with the base “Hurt-” (*Hurt, Hurtful, Hurting, Hurts*), the base “Lone-” (*Loneliness, Lonely, Loner*) and the base “Unhapp-” (*Unhappiness, Unhappy*) all have 15 uses, each making up 3.2% of the revised corpus.



Figure 21 below represents the five most repeated sadness-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by LIWC2015 following manual revision:



**Figure 21:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated sadness-related base forms in the male corpus as detected by LIWC2015 (following manual revision).

*C) LIWC2015 Results: Male YouTubers - Anxiety*

The total number of words relating to anxiety detected by the LIWC2015 software was 543. Of these terms, 344 were accepted (63.3% acceptance rate) and 199 were set aside:

- weak/diminished intensity in context 97 (48.7%)
- personal reference displacement 73 (36.6%)
- negative construction 17 (8.5%)
- longing/questioning/tense issue 6 (3%)
- unrelated to emotion category 4 (2%)
- sarcasm/irony 2 (1%)

Nearly half of the set aside terms relating to anxiety detected by LIWC2015 in the male corpus had weak or diminished intensity in context (97 cases, making up 48.7% of the discarded data). Examples include “being uncomfortable is the best way to grow”, which puts a positive spin on the highlighted term; “I also became obsessed with Michael Jackson. I thought he was the epitome of what a performer should be, so I started to make videos of myself lip-synching to Michael Jackson songs and boy band songs”, which indicates that the speaker is a fan, and “people in my life who provided me with overwhelming support”, which also reflects a positive stance. As with the female corpus, words such as “horror”, “terror” and “fright” were often used as neutral descriptors of the literary/film genre (e.g. “watching a horror movie” and “I was busy filming fright movies”).

Personal reference displacement was detected in several cases (73 uses, making up 36.6% of the set aside data), including “she was kind of confused”, “my elementary school friends were super upset”, “much to the horror of my Christian grandma”, “I went to my first proper date with a girl to the cinema who is scared by the movie”, “which made my sister upset” and “it was a lot of stress for my parents”. Sometimes, the speakers would also directly address the audience (e.g. “Don’t doubt me!”), displacing the meaning of the terms away from them and onto the target audience.

There were 17 negative constructions (8.5% of the discarded data), several including the terms “doubt” and “worry” (or “worries”), as in “without a doubt, three of the best months of my life” and “I had no worries at all”. Both of these phrases indicate overt confidence rather than anxiety. A prototypical example of longing/questioning/tense issues (6 cases, making up 3% of the set aside data) is “Had I been scared of their reactions, I think I really would have struggled”, in which the speaker indicates a lack of fear over the reactions of others. Another speaker proudly describes a car that he designed as a child (“While that would look horribly tacky and douche-y on a real car...”), comparing the creative design with what it would look like on a life-sized car.

Terms unrelated to the emotion category (4 cases, making up 2% of the set aside data) include “shameless” meaning “without embarrassment” (“my shameless confession is that I loved these”) and “dweller” meaning a person who spends a lot of time at a place (“I became a bit of a library dweller”). Lastly, there are two examples of sarcasm/irony

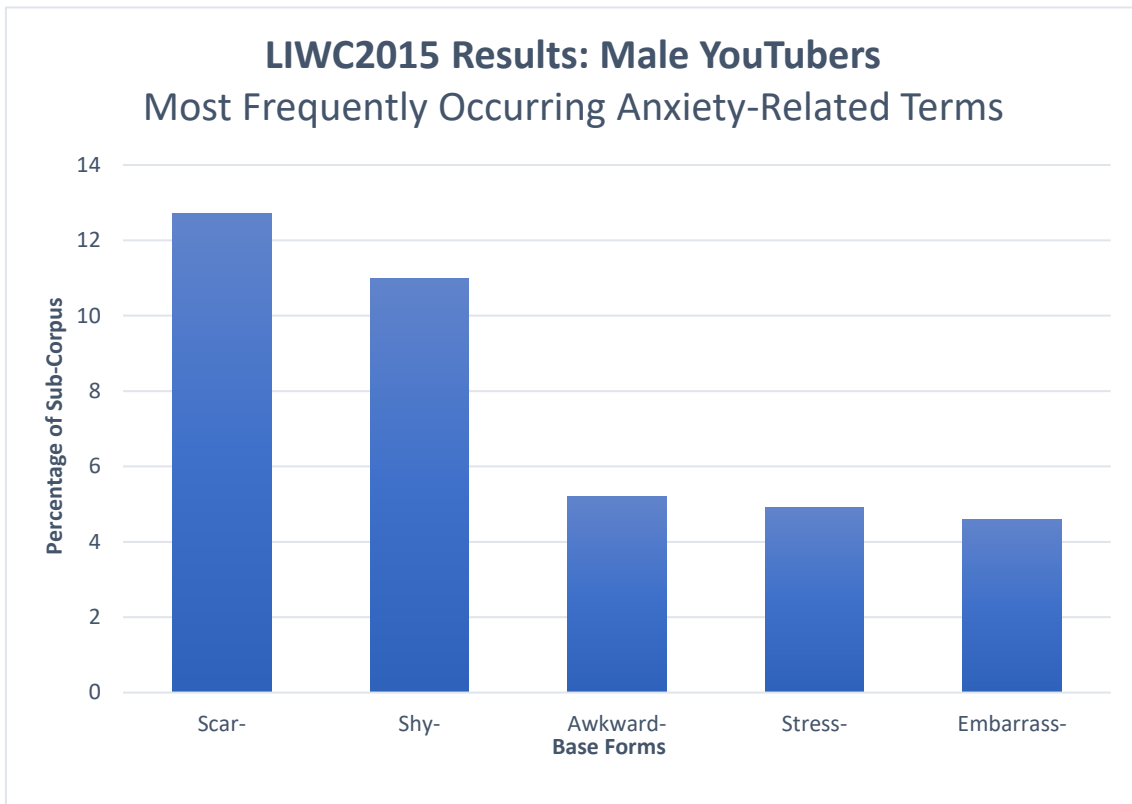
in the male corpus relating to anxiety: “next to her is this **horrid**, wretched beast of a man”, and “she told me that her and her boyfriend actually broke up, which as you can imagine, I was really, really physically **upset** by this”, in which the same speaker makes jokes about his current wife’s ex-boyfriend’s looks, and how he felt when they split up. It is worth highlighting here that the word “upset” is detected by LIWC2015 as relating to anxiety, but not sadness.

Overall, accepted words relating to anxiety represent 5.9% of the total accepted emotional words. The following are all the accepted anxiety-related words detected by LIWC2015 in the male corpus:

*Afraid, Anxiety, Anxious, Anxiously, Apprehension, Ashamed, Awkward, Confused, Confusing, Desperate, Desperation, Doubt, Doubted, Doubting, Dreaded, Dreadful, Embarrassed, Embarrassing, Fear, Frightening, Guilt, Guilty, Hesitant, Hesitating, Horrible, Horribly, Inadequate, Inhibited, Insecurities, Irrational, Miserable, Misery, Nervous, Overwhelmed, Panic, Panicking, Petrified, Phobia, Pressure, Reluctant, Risk(s), Risky, Scared, Scares, Scariest, Scary, Shaken, Shaking, Shook, Shy, Shyness, Stress, Stressed, Stresses, Stressful, Struggle, Struggled, Struggle(s), Struggling, Suspicious, Tension(s), Terrified, Terrifying, Terrors, Uncertainty, Unsure, Upset, Worried, Worry*

Of the 344 accepted words in the anxiety category, the most frequently used by the male YouTubers were those with the base “Scar-” (*Scared, Scares, Scariest, Scary*), with 44 cases (12.7%). *Shy/Shyness* appeared 38 times (11%), *Awkward* 18 times (5.2%), words with the base “Stress-” (*Stress, Stressed, Stresses, Stressful*) 17 times (4.9%), *Embarrassed/Embarrassing* 16 times (4.6%), terms relating to terror 14 times (*Terrified, Terrifying, Terrors* – 4%), *Risk(s)/Risky* 13 times (3.7%), words with the base “Anx-” (*Anxiety, Anxious, Anxiously*) 12 times (3.4%), *Panic/Panicking* 11 times (3.1%), *Upset* also 11 times (3.1%), *Nervous* 10 times (2.9%), *Afraid* 9 times (2.6%), and *Worried/Worry* 5 times (1.4%).

Figure 22 below represents the five most repeated anxiety-related base forms in the male corpus as detected by LIWC2015 following manual revision:



**Figure 22:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated anxiety-related base forms in the male corpus as detected by LIWC2015 (following manual revision).

*D) LIWC2015 Results: Male YouTubers - Anger*

The total number of words relating to anger detected by the LIWC2015 software in the male corpus was 890. Of these terms, 354 were accepted (39.7% acceptance rate) and 536 were set aside:

- weak/diminished intensity in context 358 (66.7%)
- personal reference displacement 115 (21.4%)
- unrelated to emotion category 28 (5.2%)
- negative construction 18 (3.3%)
- longing/questioning/tense issue 14 (2.6%)
- sarcasm/irony 3 (0.5%)

Most of the set aside terms detected by LIWC2015 relating to anger had weak or diminished intensity in context (358 cases, making up 66.7% of the discarded data). For example, swearwords were often used with a weak intended intensity (e.g. “the PlayStation 1 (...) blew my **goddamn** mind” and “pretty **damn** crazy”), not at all related with anger. Other anger-related terms were used with neutral meanings in film and video game titles (e.g. “some sort of Jedi from Star **Wars**”) or referring to non-physical fights (e.g. “kind of like that last rap **battle**”). The word “ridiculous” is also often frequently used with a weak intensity in context (e.g. “It’s pretty **ridiculous** that I’m doing a *Draw My Life* because I am only 24”), as is “dumb” in “I was a pretty **dumb** kid. Me and my brother had a contest where we would try to jump as high as we could...”, in which the speaker reminisces about childhood antics without any angry connotations as detected by the software.

Personal reference displacement was also relatively common, with 115 examples in constructions including the anger-related terms detected in the male corpus (21.4% of the set aside data). Some references, such as “Some might **argue** that”, have general references. Others, such as “My dad and my mum **fought** a lot”, “my mum got so **mad**”, and “the teacher got really **angry**” have more specific references. In “I’m so proud of him for going off and **fighting** for our country”, the word “fighting” takes on a notably positive meaning, with the speaker expressing pride rather than anger.

There were 28 terms within the anger-related category in the male corpus which were unrelated to anger (5.2% of the set aside data). As in the female corpus, the word “lies” was erroneously detected as relating to anger (e.g. “I want a career and my career **lies** in the hands of...”). The base of the word “foetus” (“foe”, meaning “enemy”) meant that it was inaccurately highlighted (e.g. “**foetus** me obviously didn’t like that idea”), and the term “trick(s)” was also used in ways completely unrelated to anger (e.g. “I was relatively new to video editing, so each week I tried to include a new **trick**” and “I fell in love with skateboarding. I would do it almost every day, just practicing and learning new **tricks**”).

In total, 18 of the anger-related terms detected by the software were included in negative constructions (3.3% of the set aside data), such as “I didn’t **yell** at my boss”, “No **offense** to Italy...”, “I didn’t **hate** school”, and “not **blaming** other people”. None of these examples reflect feelings of anger. A similar number of anger-related terms

appeared in constructions expressing longing/questioning or included verb tenses counteracting the original meaning. For instance, in the examples “Kids at school were telling me that I should **kill** my brother in his sleep because he was gay, so I just ignored these kids” and “my dad said I should beat the **shit** out of him”, the speakers ignore the violent suggestions of others. Likewise, in “Rather than get off the bus at the wrong school and potentially get **beaten** up for wearing the wrong school uniform, we decide...” and “I wasn’t going to get **murdered**”, the speakers avoid violent outcomes. Also, in “I didn’t want to deal with thousands of other people telling me I was being an **idiot** when I knew the only person well enough equipped to know what’s best for me is me”, the speaker proudly pushes against the preconceptions of others.

Lastly, there are three examples of sarcasm/irony in this category. One speaker jokes about his mother’s choice of school for him (“(...) she put me in an all-boys school. **Damn** her”), one creator jokes about the supposed rebellion of his teenage years (“teen angst years had me **rebellious** against society by staying out way past my bedtime”), and another makes a joke about cheating on his girlfriend with a new love for exercise (“I have a girlfriend. Yes, you trapped me. Love you. During this time, I did **cheat**, because I found another love and that was calisthenics”).

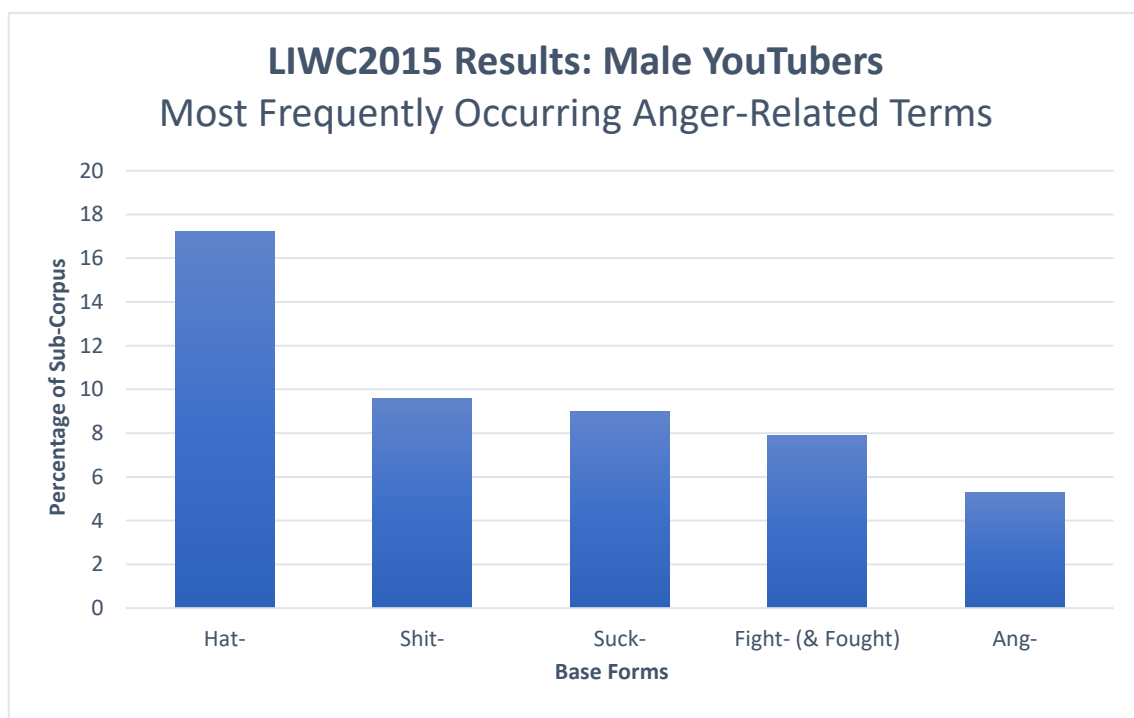
Overall, accepted words relating to anger represent 6% of the total accepted emotional words. The following are all the accepted anger-related words detected by LIWC2015 in the male corpus:

*Abuse, Abused, Abusive, Anger, Angrier, Angry, Annoy, Annoyed, Annoying, Annoys, Argh, Argue, Argued, Arguing, Argument(s), Asshole, Bastard(s), Bitch, Bitter, Blame, Bothered, Cheat, Cheating, Crap, Crappy, Cunt(s), Damn, Damnit, Destroy, Destroyed, Destroying, Dumb, Dumbass, Enemies, Envied, Fight, Fighter, Fighting, Fights, Fought, Frustrated, Frustrating, Frustration(s), Fuck, Fucked, Fucking, Goddammit, Harassing, Hate, Hated, Hateful, Hating, Hell, Idiot(s), Insulting, Jealous, Jerk, Kill, Killer, Killing, Liars, Lies, Lying, Mad, Mock, Murderers, Nagging, Nastiest, Offended, Pestering, Pissed, Prejudiced, Prick, Punished, Punishment, Rebel, Revenge, Ridicule, Ridiculed, Ridiculous, Rude, Sarcasm, Screw, Shit(s), Shitty, Stupid, Stupidity, Suck, Sucked, Sucks, Sucky, Teased, Teasing, Yell, Yelled, Yelling*

Of the 354 accepted words in the anger category, the most frequently used by the male YouTubers were those with the base “Hat-” (*Hate, Hated, Hateful, Hating*), with 61 accepted cases (17.2% of the overall anger-related corpus) and the base “Shit-” [*Shit(s)* and *Shitty*], with 34 cases (9.6%). Terms with the base “Suck-” (*Suck, Sucked, Sucks,*

*Sucky*) were detected and accepted 32 times (9%), those with the base “*Fight-*” (*Fight*, *Fighter*, *Fighting*, *Fights*, *Fought*) 28 times (7.9%), *Anger/Angrier/Angry* 19 times (5.3%), *Stupid/Stupidity* 17 times (4.8%), *Frustrated/Frustrating/Frustration(s)* 16 times (4.5%), *Fuck/Fucked/Fucking* 15 times (4.2%), *Hell* 11 times (3.1%), those with the base “*Argu-*” [*Argue*, *Argued*, *Arguing*, *Argument(s)*] 9 times (2.5%), *Crap/Crappy* also 9 times (2.5%), *Mad* 8 times (2.2%), *Yell/Yelled/Yelling* 7 times (1.9%), and *Abuse/Abused/Abusive* 5 times (1.4%). As before, it is worth noting that the accepted words in this category expressed both violent actions being or having been carried out by the speaker towards others as well as feelings of frustration due to violent actions being or having been inflicted on the speaker by others.

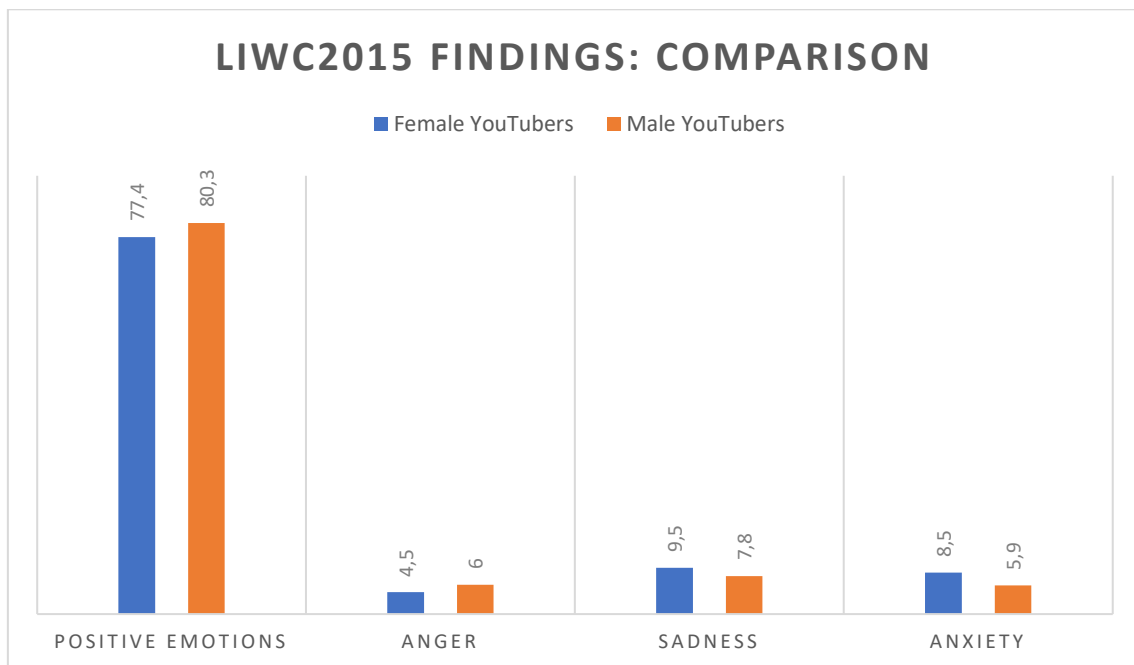
Figure 23 below represents the five most repeated anger-related base forms in the male corpus as detected by LIWC2015 following manual revision:



**Figure 23:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated anger-related base forms in the male corpus as detected by LIWC2015 (following manual revision).

## 4.2.2 LIWC2015 Discussion

The revised LIWC2015 data showed that the female YouTubers used a higher percentage of emotional words overall (3.07% vs. 2.56% of the total words in each corpus). Within these emotional words, the female corpus was found to include fewer positive emotion-related terms than the male corpus (77.4% vs. 80.3%) and fewer anger-related words than the male one as well (4.5% vs. 6%). In contrast, LIWC2015 detected a notably higher number of words relating to sadness (9.5% vs. 7.8%) and anxiety (8.5% vs. 5.9%) in the female *Draw My Life* corpus than in the male one. These findings are represented in Figure 24 below.



**Figure 24:** A bar chart representing the percentage of terms relating to positive emotions, anger, sadness and anxiety in the FDML and MDML emotion-related corpora generated by LIWC2015.

### A) LIWC2015 Discussion - Positive Emotions

Within the female and male corpora of positive emotion-related words detected by LIWC2015, similar percentages of terms were accepted with the base “*Lov-*” (*Love, Loved, Loveliest, Lovely, Lover, Lovers, Loves, Loving*), making up 12.3% (732 uses) of the female corpus and 11.2% (530 uses) of male corpus. Likewise, the words *Good, Better* and *Best* constituted 11.7% of the female corpus (695 uses) and 11.7% of the male one (531 uses). While words with the base “*Happ-*” (*Happier, Happiest, Happily, Happiness,*



*Happy*) made up 5.4% of the female corpus (323 uses), they added up to 4.2% of the male one (202 uses). Females also used words with the base “*Fun-*” (*Fun, Funnest, Funniest, Funny*) more frequently (4% - 241 uses vs. 3.3% - 156 uses).

A very close frequency of usage was detected in words with the base “*Amaz-*” (*Amazed, Amazement, Amazing, Amazingly*), making up 3.3% (201 uses) of the female corpus and 3.4% (161 uses) of the male one. The male YouTubers also used the term “*Cool*” to express positive emotion only slightly more often than the females (116 uses – 2.4% vs. 141 uses – 2.3%). Similarly, words with the base “*Support-*” (*Support, Supported, Supporter(s), Supporting, Supportive, Supports*) make up 1.6% of the male corpus (77 uses) and 1.5% of the female one (94 uses). Exactly the same frequency of usage was found for terms with the base “*Hop-*” (*Hope, Hoped, Hopeful, Hopefully, Hopes, Hoping*), with 121 uses in female corpus and 96 in the male one, both constituting 2% of the relative LIWC2015 positive emotion-related word groups.

In terms of more contrasting figures, first of all, words with the base “*Play-*” (*Play, Played, Playing*) made up only 2.9% of the female corpus (177 uses), while they constituted 5.8% of the male corpus (277 uses). Likewise, males used the term “*Awesome*” more frequently than females (109 uses – 2.3% vs. 104 uses – 1.7%) and also those with the base “*Thank-*” (*Thank, Thankful, Thankfully, Thanking, Thanks*), with 330 uses by male YouTubers (7% of the male corpus) and 254 by female YouTubers (4.2% of female corpus), as was also indicated by the Lingmotif data. On the other hand, females used words with the base “*Nice-*” (*Nice, Nicely, Nicer, Nicest*) more frequently than males (118 uses – 1.9% vs. 44 uses – 0.9%) and those with the base “*Excit-*” (*Excited, Excitement, Exciting*) more often than males as well (206 uses – 3.4% vs. 78 uses – 1.6%).

It is also worth noting that a series of accepted positive emotion words were used in one corpus and not the other, and vice versa. Specifically, seven female YouTubers used the term *Adorable* (e.g. “My brother and I were kind of like best friends, which is really adorable”), while none of the male YouTubers were found to do so. Two female YouTubers also used the term *Nurture* (e.g. “I’d pick up any abandoned little baby rats, mice, moles, even a baby squirrel once, and I’d try to nurture them”) and one described foods she loved as *Delightful*, another term undetected in the male corpus. In contrast, the term *Vigorous* was used to positively describe an elementary school system by a male YouTuber (“Our school system was extremely vigorous for being an elementary school”)

when discussing how much he learned there. Another male YouTuber used *Worthwhile* to explain how his channel on the platform had given him a place to feel confident (“Game Theory was my rest pit. The one place I could go to where I felt productive, worthwhile in a midst of so much rejection”).

#### B) LIWC2015 Discussion - Sadness

Focusing now on the LIWC2015 sadness-related female and male corpora, the female YouTubers were found to use words with the base “*Sad-*” (*Sad, Sadder Saddest, Sadly, Sadness*) more frequently, with 162 detected/accepted uses (22.1% of the female corpus) against 82 in the male corpus (17.8%). The female group also used *Cry/Crying* more often than the male one, with 93 uses (12.7%) against the males’ 37 uses (8%). Likewise, terms with the base “*Depress-*” (*Depressed, Depressing, Depression*) were used by the female YouTubers 79 times (10.8%) and 44 times (9.5%) by the male YouTubers. The word *Alone* was used 45 times (6.1%) by the females and only 20 times by the males (4.3%). Similarly, *Lonely* was used 30 times by the females (4.1%) and on 15 occasions (3.2%) by the males. The females also used words with the base “*Miss-*” (*Miss, Missed, Missing*) more often than the males (51 uses – 6.9% vs. 29 uses – 6.3%).

Interestingly, the word *Hurt* made up the same percentage of the female corpus as *Hurt, Hurtful, Hurting* and *Hurts* did of the male corpus (24 times vs. 15 times, both 3.2% of their respective corpora). In addition, one word group relating to sadness found to be used more frequently by males than females was *Lose, Loser, Losing, Loss* and *Lost*, which made up 14.1% of the male corpus (65 uses), and 8.3% of the female corpus (61 uses).

As with the happiness-related category, some terms were found to be used exclusively within expressions of sadness by each of the groups. For instance, the word *Despair* was used by two female YouTubers (e.g. “All the pain and sorrow and despair that I had felt through my life”), as was *Disillusioned* (e.g. “I became disillusioned with my programme and I was worried about the future”). *Fatigued* was used by one female YouTuber as well (“Health issues that made me constantly ill, fatigued and insecure”). Two male YouTubers, on the other hand, used *Pity* (e.g. “I became so wrapped up in my own self-pity”), one used *Doomed* (“I was doomed to live a pathetic life”), and one used *Yearned* (“By the end of the school year, I yearned to express myself”).

### C) LIWC2015 Discussion - Anxiety

Anxiety-related words with the base “*Scar-*” (*Scare, Scared, Scares, Scariest, Scary*) were used more frequently by the female YouTubers than the male ones (108 uses – 16.5% vs. 44 uses – 12.7%). In line with the Lingmotif results, a notable difference in frequency of usage occurs in the case of terms with the base “*Anx-*” (*Anxiety, Anxious, Anxiously*), which are used 71 times by the females (10.8%), and 12 times (3.4%) by the males. The females also used the following terms more frequently than the males: *Nervous* (36 uses – 5.5% vs. 10 times – 2.9%); *Awkward* (39 times – 5.9% vs. 18 times – 5.2%); *Stress, Stressed, Stresses and Stressful* (36 times – 5.5% vs. 17 times – 4.9%); *Worried, Worries, Worry and Worrying* (12 times – 1.8% vs. 5 times – 1.4%), and *Upset, Upsets and Upsetting* (21 times – 3.2% vs. 11 uses of *Upset* – 3.1%).

In contrast, the frequency of usage of *Shy* and *Shyness* was higher in the male corpus than in the female one (38 uses – 11% vs. 40 uses – 6.1%), as was that of *Embarrassed* and *Embarrassing* in the male corpus against *Embarrassed, Embarrassing* and *Embarrassment* in the female one (16 uses – 4.6% vs. 25 uses – 3.8%). There was also a relatively large group of anxiety-related words which appeared in the female corpus and not in the male one, and vice versa. Firstly, the females used *Humiliated* five times (e.g. “I constantly felt humiliated, alone and dreaded the moment we were told in class to pair up or form a group for work because I didn’t have anyone”) and *Humiliate* once as well, while the males did not use either of these terms. Two of the female YouTubers were found to use *Repression* with an anxiety-related sense (e.g. “a lot of emotional repression”) and *Vulnerable* was used by a further two females (e.g. “I was in a very vulnerable place”).

The following terms were used by one female YouTuber each: *Dwelled* (“I have dwelled on little struggles”), *Frantically* (“I frantically waved through the bedroom door”), *Irritable* (“I attempted to combat my depression with SSRIs or antidepressants, which in my case made me irritable, spontaneous and suicidal”), *Irritated* (“He stopped responding to me entirely and I was so irritated”), *Paranoia* (“That was always really scary, and I got a bit of paranoia about her leaving the house all the time. I always thought that she would hurt herself and not come back”), *Paranoid* (“I became so paranoid. Under my controlling boyfriend’s instruction...”), *Shamefully* (“I started going on dating apps, shamefully”), *Timid* (“The most terrified and timid child in the entire universe. It’s so

embarrassing”), and *Tremble* (“I decided to call a friend, get up, do something, anything other than lie there and tremble and cry. But my body would simply not respond”).

Terms that were each used once by the males and not at all by the females, in contrast, were the following: *Apprehension* (“My apprehension of change”), *Inadequate* (“I feel inadequate whenever doing anything because I’m afraid of letting people down”), *Phobia* (“I had this phobia when I was afraid to become fat”), and *Suspicious* (“I had this suspicious pain”).

#### D) LIWC2015 Discussion - Anger

Within the anger-related category, words with the base “*Hat-*” (*Hate, Hated, Hateful, Hating*) were used more frequently by the male YouTubers than the female ones (61 uses – 17.2% vs. 57 uses – 16.3%). A very similar frequency of usage was found in the case of terms with the base “*Suck-*” (*Suck, Sucked, Sucks, Sucky*), which made up 9% of the male corpus (32 uses) and 8.9% of the female one (31 uses).

The words *Anger* and *Angry* were detected and accepted 24 times in the female corpus (6.8%), while *Anger, Angrier* and *Angry* had 19 accepted uses in the male one (5.3%). Other anger-related words used more frequently by females than males are *Abuse/Abusive* (13 uses – 3.7%) against the males’ *Abuse/Abused/Abusive* (5 uses – 1.4%), and *Crap/Crappy*, used 11 times by the females (3.1%) and 9 times by the males (2.5%). Although the less offensive swearwords *Crap* and *Crappy* were used marginally more frequently by the female YouTubers, *Fuck, Fucked* and *Fucking* were all used more often in anger-related constructions in the male corpus than the female one (15 uses – 4.2% vs. 11 uses – 3.1%). The same goes for *Shit(s)* and *Shitty*, with a notable difference in frequency: 9 cases in the female corpus (2.5%) and 34 cases in the male one (9.6%). Other words in this category used more often by the male YouTubers than the female ones are *Fight, Fighter, Fighting, Fights* and *Fought* (28 uses – 7.9%), versus the females’ *Fight(s), Fighting* and *Fought* (20 uses – 5.7%), as well as *Stupid* and *Stupidly* (17 uses – 4.8% vs. 8 uses – 2.2%).

As with the previous categories, there were several anger-related terms which appeared in the female corpus and not in the male one, and vice versa. First of all, the software picked up on (and I manually accepted) five female uses of *Humiliated* and one

use of *Humiliate* in both the anxiety- and anger-related groups. As before in the anxiety category, the males were not found to use either of these terms in the anger one. Unlike in the male YouTubers' corpus, the term *Ugly* was used six times by the female YouTubers in the sense of self-hatred (e.g. "Every guy I had a crush on didn't like me back. I just thought I was weird or ugly"). The term *Blamed* was used by two females, one in the sense of feeling frustrated due to external blame being put on the speaker ("I wasn't paying attention, and they blamed it on me") and one in the sense of putting blame of the speaker's frustration on others ("Sometimes we blamed our parents"). The term *Pushy* was also used by two female YouTubers to express frustration at the pushiness of others [e.g. "My boss was really pushy (...) I'm not that kind of person"].

The following are anger-related terms used by one female and no males: *Bitchy* ["I just thought I was so cool but actually (...) kind of bitchy"], *Brutal* ("I stuck with Street Play for a while – it was brutal. The directors were so mean"), *Confrontation* ("After a confrontation with one of the popular girls, I broke down"), *Furious* ("Because I almost lost her, and I didn't even know. I don't know what I would do without my mum, and I was furious"), *Resented* ("I was so angry at him and I resented him so, so much"), *Resentment* ("Me, quietly building resentment from unresolved disagreements"), and *Torture* ("I hate factory farm torture"). One male used the set aside term *Threaten* in the sense of the speaker intimidating others through confidence (not physically), but not feeling anger himself ("They were threatened by me because I really wanted to work hard and I wanted to play"). However, there was an accepted case of a female speaker feeling frustration due to external threatening of physical violence ("She'd threaten us both with violence. Our house became a war zone").

Regarding anger-related words used by males and not females, the following terms were found twice in the male corpus: *Prick* ("That's how much of a bloody prick I was. I didn't mean to, I didn't have any bad intentions but yeah, people thought I was a prick and I basically was"), *Screw* ("I guess it was my way of saying 'screw you' to the universe"), *Bastard(s)* ("Kept swallowing my fucking gum, that bastard"), and *Cunt(s)* ("Teachers are fucking cunts. Just picking on me"). Likewise, the word *Dumbass* was used once to refer to another person ("This dumbass girl stuck her head out and called me out, saying, 'Yo, are you gay?'"), and once to refer to the speaker himself ("I got asked out by a girl and my dumbass said yes").

Lastly, these anger-related terms were used by one male and no females: *Bothered* (“I got completely rejected. No explanation. No excuse. Just a straight up, ‘No’. Nothing more. And I’m not going to lie, that bothered me for a long time”), *Goddammit* (“Goddammit Logan, what were we thinking?”), *Jerk* (“He was a total jerk. That kid would bully a lot of people”), and *Pestering* (“This same kid every single day would keep pestering me”).

#### *E) LIWC2015 Discussion - Further Observations*

Of the 3,318 terms set aside from the positive female corpus and 3,253 set aside from the positive male corpus, those rejected from the female LIWC2015 data were found to be contained in constructions with slightly more unrelatedness to the emotion category (33.9% vs. 32.3%), less weak/diminished intensity in context (33.3% vs. 33.9%), less personal reference displacement (20.1% vs. 20.7%), more negative constructions (8.5% vs. 7.1%), fewer longing-/questioning-/tense-related issues (2.7% vs. 4.05%), and less sarcasm/irony (1.2% vs. 1.8%).

Within the sadness category, of the 427 terms set aside from the female corpus and 330 set aside from the male corpus, the female group was found to have more weak/diminished intensity in context (53.3% vs. 50.9%), more personal reference displacement (31.1% vs. 29.7%), more negative constructions (7.2% vs. 6.6%), less unrelatedness to the emotion category (5.1% vs. 5.4%), fewer longing-/questioning-/and tense-related issues (2.8% vs. 6.9%), and less sarcasm/irony (0.2% vs. 0.3%).

Regarding the 243 terms set aside from the female anxiety-related corpus and 199 set aside from the male anxiety-related corpus, those detected in the female constructions had more personal reference displacement (48.9% vs. 36.6%), less weak/diminished intensity in context (39.9% vs. 48.7%), fewer negative constructions (6.9% vs. 8.5%), more unrelatedness to the emotion category (2.8% vs. 2%), less sarcasm/irony (0.8% vs. 1%), and fewer longing-/questioning-/and tense-related issues (0.4% vs. 3%).

Lastly, in the anger-related LIWC2015 category, with 412 terms set aside from the female corpus and 536 terms set aside from the male corpus, the female data included less weak/diminished intensity in context (50.7% vs. 66.7%), more personal reference displacement (35.2% vs. 21.4%), more unrelatedness to the emotion category (7.5% vs.

5.2%), more negative constructions (4.1% vs. 3.3%), fewer longing-/questioning-/and tense-related issues (2.4% vs. 2.6%), and less sarcasm/irony, with none detected at all in the female corpus (0% vs. 0.5%).

The females therefore included less sarcasm, irony and joking relating to emotions across the board. They also used more personal reference displacement when referring to all negative emotions, and feelings of anxiety and anger in particular. Thus, the females refer more frequently to the perceived anxiety and anger felt by others than the males.

## 4.3 Software Analysis 3: Wmatrix4

### 4.3.1 Wmatrix4 Results

Unlike LIWC2015, Wmatrix4 has the capacity to calculate 2-5-word n-grams and also produce collapsed-grams (or c-grams), or merged lists of recurrent word sequences. As discussed in section 3.4.2 (“Corpus Linguistics Tools”), in Paul Rayson’s PhD dissertation (2003, p. 157), he breaks down the following novel contributions to the field of the software:

1. A data-driven method for corpus comparison has been developed which uses macroscopic analysis (the study of the characteristics of whole texts or varieties of language) to inform the microscopic level (focussing on the use of a particular linguistic feature) by suggesting linguistic features to be further investigated.
2. The method integrates the comparison of corpora with word-class tagging and lexical semantic tagging, it extends the keywords procedure to key grammatical categories and key concepts.
3. The method can be used for comparison of differently sized corpora, not just equal-sized pairs.
4. The method can be applied to the full frequency profile without requiring a lower frequency boundary.
5. A comparison of the reliability of the log-likelihood and chi-squared statistics with various combinations of corpus size, word probability and ratio of corpora.
6. An annotation-aware software tool implementing the method has been developed.
7. The application of the software tool to political linguistics, vocabulary studies, learner corpora and information extraction has been shown.

The tool employs the UCREL Semantic Analysis System [*UCREL Semantic Analysis System (USAS)*], which carries out automatic semantic text analysis and is based on Tom McArthur’s Longman Lexicon of Contemporary English (McArthur, 1981). The system is classified into 21 major discourse fields (Archer et al., 2002, p. 2):

- A general and abstract terms
- B the body and the individual
- C arts and crafts
- E emotion
- F food and farming
- G government and public
- H architecture, housing and the home
- I money and commerce in industry
- K entertainment, sports and games
- L life and living things



M movement, location, travel and transport  
N numbers and measurement  
O substances, materials, objects and equipment  
P education  
Q language and communication  
S social actions, states and processes  
T time  
W world and environment  
X psychological actions, states and processes  
Y science and technology  
Z names and grammar

Each semantic tag is composed of the first two elements in the below list, with the final four elements being optional, depending on required specificity (Archer et al., 2002, p. 1):

1. an upper case letter indicating general discourse field.
2. a digit indicating a first subdivision of the field.
3. (optionally) a decimal point followed by a further digit to indicate a finer subdivision.
4. (optionally) one or more ‘pluses’ or ‘minuses’ to indicate a positive or negative position on a semantic scale.
5. (optionally) a slash followed by a second tag to indicate clear double membership of categories.
6. (optionally) a left square bracket followed by ‘i’ to indicate a semantic template (multi-word unit).

The semantic field of emotional actions, states and processes, of particular interest in the current work, is broken down in the following way (Archer et al., 2002, pp. 10-11):

E1: General terms depicting emotional actions, states and processes  
E2: Liking Terms depicting fondness/affection/partiality/attachment, or the lack of  
E3: Calm/Violent/Angry Terms depicting (level of) serenity/composure/anger/violence  
E4: Happy/sad  
E4.1: Happy/sad: Happy Terms depicting (level of) happiness  
E4.2: Happy/sad: Contentment Terms depicting (level of) contentment  
E5: Fear/bravery/shock Terms relating to (level of) trepidation/courage/surprise, etc  
E6: Worry, concern, confident Terms relating to (level of) apprehension/confidence, etc

The current research uses Wmatrix4 to analyse the female and male YouTubers’ emotional vocabulary relating to the semantic fields of “happiness”, “sadness”, “worry”, “violence/anger”, and “fear/shock”, with 2,499 overall detected terms and phrases in the female corpus and 1,885 in the male corpus. All detected data was reviewed and either

accepted or set aside based on the same revision framework applied to the LIWC2015 output and focusing on issues with weak/diminished intensity in context, personal reference displacement, negative constructions, longing/questioning/counteracting verb tenses, unrelatedness to the emotion category, and sarcasm/irony.

#### 4.3.1.1 Wmatrix4 Results: Female YouTubers

In total, Wmatrix4 detected 2,499 emotion words and phrases within the “happiness”, “sadness”, “worry”, “violence/anger”, and “fear/shock” emotion categories in the female corpus.

During the revision process, I was able to accept 68.3% of the overall emotion-related words and phrases, with 1,707 accepted and 792 set aside due to issues of unrelatedness to the emotion category, weak/diminished intensity in context, personal reference displacement, negative constructions, longing/questioning/tense issues and failure to detect sarcasm/irony.

##### A) Wmatrix4 Results: Female YouTubers - Happiness

The total number of words relating to happiness detected by the Wmatrix4 software was 920. Of these terms, 652 were accepted (71% acceptance rate) and 268 were set aside:

weak/diminished intensity in context 117 (43.6%)

personal reference displacement 114 (42.5%)

negative construction 27 (10%)

unrelated to emotion category 5 (1.8%)

longing/questioning/tense issue 5 (1.8%)

sarcasm/irony 0 (0%)

The majority of happiness-related words in the female corpus that were set aside were found in constructions with weak/diminished intensity in context (117 words in total, making up 43.6% of the discarded data). As with the LIWC2015 data, “funny” was misread by Wmatrix4 as a happiness marker in sentences such as “I learn about this funny thing called life”, which in context has a meaning closer to surprising/unexpected. The

verb “to make fun of” (someone or something) also often diminished the positive meaning of “fun” (e.g. “they made **fun** of me, calling me names”). Likewise, “to laugh” in the context of “laughing something off” refers to trying to ignore something potentially harmful (e.g. “I would always **laugh** it off”). In “I was just **messing** around on my computer”, the speaker does not use “to mess around” in a particularly positive sense, so cases like these were discarded. Words relating to happiness which appeared in titles of books, films or YouTube channels were all set aside as well (e.g. “I am **Smiling** Seoul and I make videos”).

114 words (42.5% of the total set aside data) appeared in constructions including personal reference displacement. Instances include “she is **happy** and healthy”, “the boys all **laughed** hysterically”, “they were super **happy** that I was born”, “my dad never lost his **humour**”. Several of these constructions reflected negative feelings rather than positive ones, such as in “Everyone **laughed** at me. I was teased”, where others are laughing at the speaker’s expense.

Some of the Wmatrix4 happiness-related data was also discarded due to their use in negative constructions (27 cases overall, making up 10% of the set aside terms). In “I wasn’t **happy** with my life”, for example, the speaker expresses dissatisfaction with her current circumstances rather than happiness. Similar instances are “money didn’t buy me **happiness** like I thought it would”, “I wasn’t **happy** with myself” and “it’s not a **happy** memory”. The word “fun” was also detected in negative constructions, such as “(I got) stitches, which was not **fun**”, and “it was just not **fun** and I became a little depressed”. To highlight the veracity of described experiences, some speakers used negative constructions with “joke”, such as “This is not a **joke**”.

There were five words which were set aside for being unrelated to the emotion category of happiness (1.8% of the discarded data). For example, “comics”, rather than meaning comedians, had the intended sense of a visually-centred magazine (e.g. “I discovered more **comics**”). Given its base, “cheer”, the word “cheerleaders” was also inaccurately detected as happiness-related (e.g. “they were **cheerleaders** and they were also in band”), as was “jolly” when used as a quantifier rather than a positive adjective (“I used to sit with this **jolly** annoying girl”).

Five instances of longing/questioning and constructions including tense markers which counteracted the positive meaning were detected in the data highlighted by

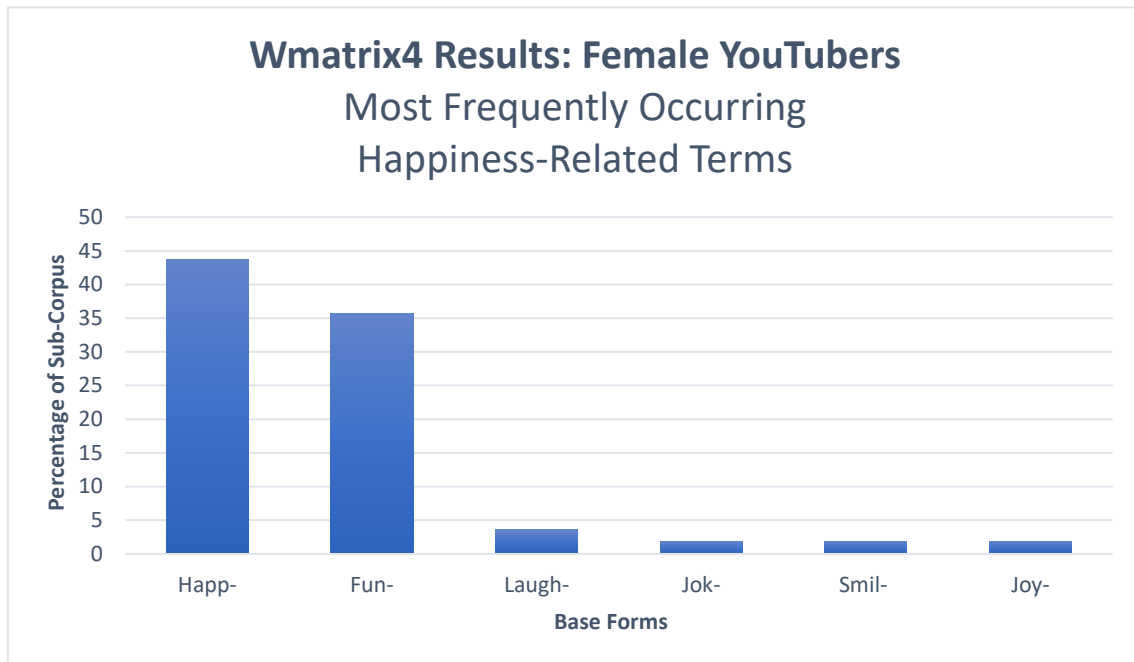
Wmatrix4 (1.8% of the set aside terms). Examples including the word “happy” are “I didn’t know if I’d ever be happy again”, “I’d be very happy if it did”, “I couldn’t be happy in any relationship unless...”, and “Was I really happy in Japan?”

Overall, accepted words relating to happiness represent 38.2% of the total accepted emotional words. The following are all of the accepted happiness-related words detected by Wmatrix4 in the female corpus:

*Antics, Bliss, Celebrate, Celebrating, Celebration, Cheer Me Up, Cheering Me Up, Cheerleaders, Comedy, Enjoy, Fun, Funnest, Funniest, Funny, Had A Good Time, Had A Laugh, Happily, Happiness, Happy, Having A Good Time, Highs, Hilarious, Hilariously, Humour, Joke, Joked, Joker, Jokes, Joking, Joy, Laugh(s), Laughed, Laughing, Laughter, Lol, On Cloud Nine, On Top Of The World, Over The Moon, Overjoyed, Rejoice, Relief, Relieved, Sense Of Humour, Smile, Smiled, Smiles, Smiling, The Time Of My Life, Uplifting*

Of the 652 accepted words in the happiness category, the most frequently used by the female YouTubers were those with the base “Happ-” (*Happily, Happiness, Happy*), with 285 cases (43.7% of the corpus), and those with the base “Fun-” (*Fun, Funnest, Funniest, Funny*), with 233 cases (35.7%). Words with the base “Laugh-” [*Laugh(s), Laughed, Laughing, Laughter*] were detected and accepted 24 times (3.6%), and those with the bases “Jok-” (*Joke, Joked, Joker, Jokes, Joking*) and “Smil-” (*Smile, Smiled, Smiles, Smiling*) as well as the term *Joy* all appeared 13 times (1.9% each) in the corpus. Other less frequently occurring words were *Hilarious/Hilariously*, detected/accepted 12 times (1.8%); *Celebrate/Celebrating/Celebration* 10 times (1.5%), and lastly, *Over the Moon, Overjoyed* and *Relief/Relieved*, appearing 5 times each (0.7%).

Figure 25 below represents the six most repeated happiness-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 following manual revision:



**Figure 25:** A bar chart representing the six most repeated happiness-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 (following manual revision), with the final three forms each making up 1.9% of the happiness sub-corpus based on the FDML transcripts.

#### B) Wmatrix4 Results: Female YouTubers - Sadness

The total number of words relating to sadness detected by the Wmatrix4 software in the female corpus was 588. Of these terms, 457 were accepted (77.7% acceptance rate) and 131 were set aside:

- personal reference displacement 71 (54.2%)
- weak/diminished intensity in context 35 (26.7%)
- negative construction 17 (13%)
- unrelated to emotion category 4 (3%)
- longing/questioning/tense issue 4 (3%)
- sarcasm/irony 0 (0%)

The most frequently discarded sadness-related items detected by Wmatrix4 were due to personal reference displacement (71 cases, making up 54.2% of the total set aside data). For instance, “My mother was so heartbroken”, “my sister came home crying” and

“She fell back into a **depression**”. While the word “upset” is shown as an anxiety-related marker rather than a sadness-related one in LIWC2015, Wmatrix4 interprets the word as a sadness marker and not a worry-related one. This is why “he would just get really **upset**” was set aside from Wmatrix4’s sadness category. The word “embarrassed”, on the other hand, is read as a sadness-only marker by Wmatrix4 (e.g. “She’d probably be too **embarrassed**”) and relating to anxiety alone by LIWC2015.

There are 35 items (26.7% of the total discarded data) which were set aside because of weak/diminished intensity in context. Examples include “I **cried** because I was so excited”, in which the speaker does not cry out of sadness but rather, excitement. Other sadness-related vocabulary was excluded due to being included in neutral musical genre references (e.g. **sad** songs) and book/film/TV titles (e.g. the **Grim** Adventures of Billy).

The next most frequently set aside category was that of negative constructions, with 17 in total (13% of the discarded data). For instance, “I’m not ashamed or **embarrassed**”, “I chose not to be **sad**”, and “it wasn’t **traumatic** for me”. The verb “to regret” was also detected in negative constructions such as “I don’t **regret** anything”, which highlight the speaker’s confidence in her decision.

Four terms were set aside because of unrelatedness to the emotion category of sadness. In particular, the word “graves” (e.g. “a thyroid disorder called **Graves**’ disease”) was discarded, as were phrases including “state” as a geographical rather than emotional reference (e.g. “**in a state** called Texas”, “I was starting high school **in a new state**”). The phrase “to take seriously” in “they started **taking me seriously**” was also excluded because it was deemed an expression of confidence rather than sadness. In total, 3% of sadness-related terms were also set aside because of their inclusion in expressions of longing/questioning and tense issues. For example, “(it) probably would just be really **sad** (if)...” and “I knew I’d **regret** it forever if...”, whereby the speakers compare negative hypothetical situations with their positive current reality.

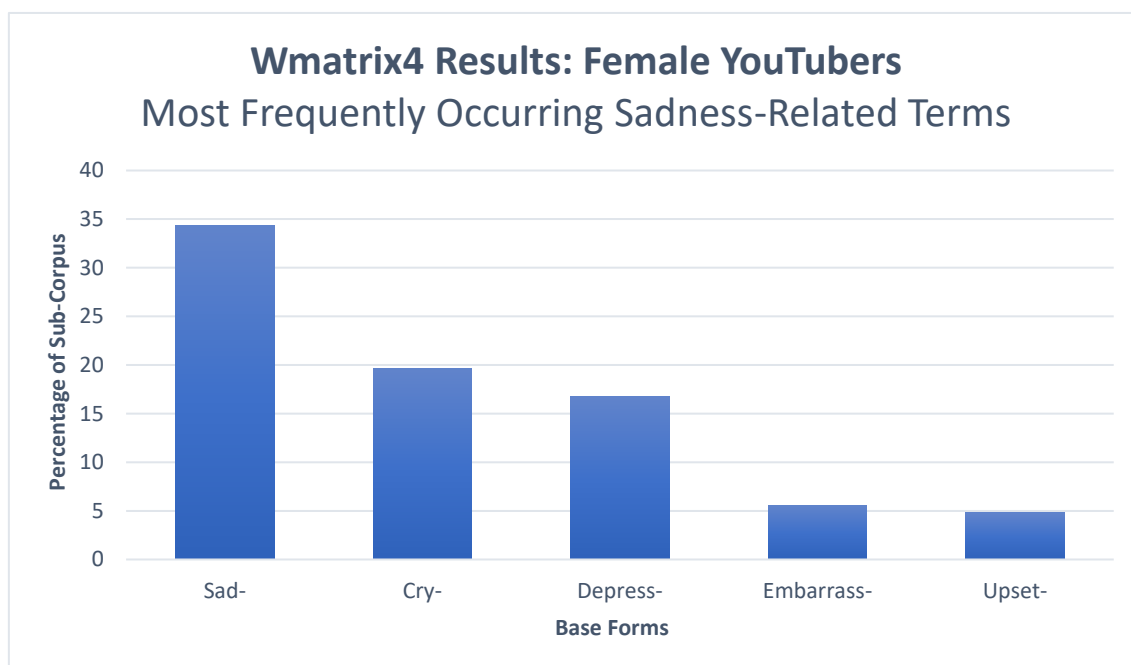
Overall, accepted words relating to sadness represent 26.7% of the total accepted emotional words. The following are all the accepted sadness-related words detected by Wmatrix4 in the female corpus:

*Breaks My Heart, Broke My Heart, Burst Into Tears, Bursting Into Tears, Cried, Cringe, Cry, Crying, Depressed, Depressing, Depression, Despair, Desperate, Devastated, Embarrass, Embarrassed, Embarrassing, Embarrassment, Emptiness, Grief, Grieved, Heartache, Heartbreak, Heartbreaking, Heartbroken, Homesick, Howl, Hurtful, Jealous,*

*Miserable, Miserably, Misery, Regret, Regretted, Sad, Sadly, Sadness, Shattered, Sobbing, Sorrow, Suffer, Suffered, Sulk, Tragically, Unhappy, Upset, Upsets, Upsetting*

Of the 457 accepted words in the sadness category, the most frequently used by the female YouTubers were those with the base “Sad-” (*Sad, Sadly, Sadness*), with 157 detected uses, making up 34.3% of accepted Wmatrix4 female sadness corpus. The second and third most regularly used words respectively were *Cry/Crying*, with 90 uses (19.6%), and those with the base “Depress-” (*Depressed, Depressing, Depression*), with 77 uses (16.8%). Terms with the base “Embarrass-” (*Embarrass, Embarrassed, Embarrassing, Embarrassment*) were detected/accepted 26 times (5.6%), *Upset/Upsets/Upsetting* 22 times (4.8%), heartache-related words (*Heartache, Heartbreak, Heartbreaking, Heartbroken, Breaks My Heart, Broke My Heart*) 18 times (3.9%), *Miserable/Miserably/Misery* 9 times (1.9%), *Suffer/Suffered* 8 times (1.7%), *Regret/Regretted* 7 times (1.5%), *Unhappy* 6 times (1.3%), *Jealous* 5 times (1%), and *Homesick* 3 times (0.6%).

Figure 26 below represents the five most repeated sadness-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 following manual revision:



**Figure 26:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated sadness-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 (following manual revision).

### C) Wmatrix4 Results: Female YouTubers - Worry

The total number of words relating to worry detected by the Wmatrix4 software was 315. Of these terms, 170 were accepted (53.9% acceptance rate) and 145 were set aside:

personal reference displacement	62 (42.7%)
weak/diminished intensity in context	45 (31%)
negative construction	28 (19.3%)
unrelated to emotion category	7 (4.8%)
longing/questioning/tense issue	3 (2%)
sarcasm/irony	0 (0%)

The most commonly set aside worry-related constructions included personal reference displacement (62 cases, making up 42.7% of the total discarded data). For instance, “My family was **worried** that I’d be malnourished”, “He had **trouble** breathing”, and “that really **concerned** the doctors”, in which the speakers discuss issues faced by others.

As with the categorisation of LIWC2015 inaccuracies, negative constructions including the adverb “really” were deemed contextual modulations and were therefore classified within the weak/diminished intensity in context group (e.g. “I didn’t really have much **trouble** making friends”). Other examples in this category (of the 45 in total) include “I had some **trouble** breathing through my nose”, which refers to relative physical but not emotional discomfort. It is also worth noting that the verb “to care”, which was not picked up on by the LIWC2015 software, was very often misread by Wmatrix4. For instance, “I started actually **caring** about how I looked”, in which the speaker is talking in positive terms about looking after her appearance.

Other issues with “care” frequently came up in the negative construction category (28 cases in total, making up 19.3% of the set aside data). For example, a speaker talks about studying a degree she “didn’t **care** about” and another says that she “stopped **caring** about” her grades. Here, the underlying emotion can be seen as one of apathy rather than worry. Feelings of happiness and liberation from societal restraints are also expressed in some of the set aside worry-related negative constructions, such as “I no longer **cared** what other people thought” and “We didn’t **care**. We were happy”. As well as “to care”,



the verb “to bother” also appeared in discarded negative constructions (e.g. “This never **bothered** me”).

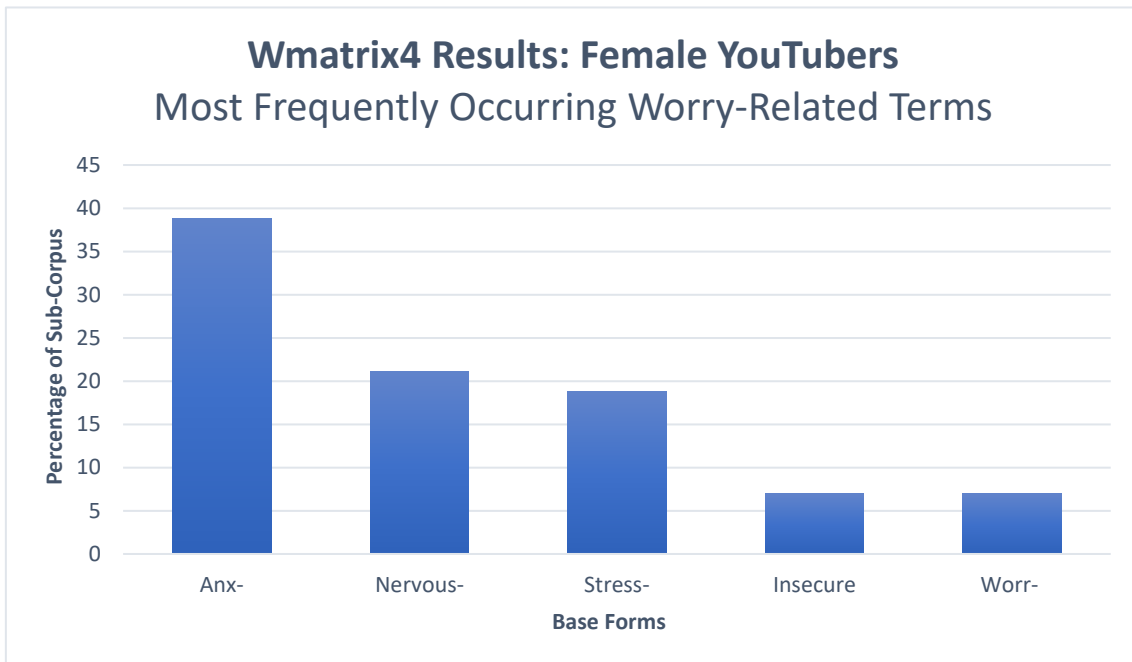
There were 7 terms and phrases set aside because of deemed unrelatedness to the emotion category of worry. Examples include “I **racked up** a lot of medals”, referring to building up or collecting rather than causing anguish; “a time where everything was **carefree**”, detected because of its root, “care”, and also “he loves me to draw **on his back**”, again completely unrelated to the semantic domain. Lastly, instances of longing/questioning and tense issues are “we would get in really big **trouble** (if)...” and “it can cause major **anxiety** (when)...”, in which hypothetical scenarios are discussed.

Overall, accepted words relating to worry represent 9.9% of the total accepted Wmatrix4 emotional words. The following are all the accepted worry-related words detected by Wmatrix4 in the female corpus:

*Anxieties, Anxiety, Anxious, Anxiously, Care, Insecure, Nervous, Nervously, Stress, Stressed, Stressful, Tense, Trouble, World On My Shoulders, Worried, Worries, Worry, Worrying*

Of the 170 accepted worry-related words, 66 had the base “Anx-” (*Anxieties, Anxiety, Anxious, Anxiously* – 38.8%). There were also 36 cases of *Nervous/Nervously* (21.1%), 32 of *Stress/Stressed/Stressful* (18.8%), 12 of *Insecure* and also 12 words with the base “Worr-” (*Worried, Worries, Worry, Worrying*), each 7%. The term *Trouble* was accepted/detected 8 times (4.7%).

Figure 27 below represents the five most repeated worry-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 following manual revision:



**Figure 27:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated worry-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 (following manual revision).

#### D) Wmatrix4 Results: Female YouTubers - Violence/Anger

The total number of words relating to violence/anger detected by the Wmatrix4 software in the female corpus was 345. Of these terms, 168 were accepted (48.6% acceptance rate) and 177 were set aside:

weak/diminished intensity in context 84 (47.4%)

personal reference displacement 65 (36.7%)

unrelated to emotion category 12 (6.7%)

negative construction 11 (6.2%)

longing/questioning/tense issue 5 (2.8%)

sarcasm/irony 0 (0%)

A total of 84 violence/anger-related terms (47.4% of the set aside data) were discarded due to weak/diminished intensity in context. For example, several verbs were used metaphorically rather than literally, therefore diminishing their negative

connotations (e.g. “I’m about to **hit** 700,000 subscribers” and “I’m going to **kick** New York’s ass”). The verb “to hit” relating to subscriber numbers and view counts was used especially frequently in both corpora. The verb “to slap” in “I **slapped** all this blue eyeshadow (on)” was also weakened in context. Nouns used metaphorically include “force” in “I was actually a **force** to be reckoned with” and “rage” in “listening to **Rage** Against the Machine”, the name of a music group.

The second most frequently set aside group within the terms detected by Wmatrix4 as relating to violence/anger were those in constructions including personal reference displacement (65 in total, 36.7% of the discarded data). For instance, “It **annoyed** my siblings so much” and “My mum was pretty **miffed**” refer to feelings of frustration faced by the speakers’ family members. Another metaphorical usage was detected in “my daddy **hit** the road”. The software also erroneously picked up on the adverb “hysterically” in the sentence “The boys all laughed **hysterically**”.

There were 12 terms and phrases set aside in the violence/anger-related category (6.7% of the disregarded data). Examples include “winged” in “I don’t have **winged** eyeliner on”, “bash” (with the meaning of party) in “grad **bash** at Universal”, “butt” in “skin a bit loose, **butt** a bit saggy” and “smitten” in “I was absolutely **smitten** with YouTube”, with the meaning of enamoured. The verb “to run over” was also set aside when used with the meaning of physically running in a certain direction (“I **run over**”).

Overall, 6.2% of the discarded violence/anger-related terms were found in negative constructions, such as “I was never **bullied**” and “spread influence and not **force**”. There were 11 of these negative constructions detected in total. Lastly, there were five constructions which included expressions of longing/questioning and tenses which counteracted the meaning of violent verbs such as “to attack” in “(a) giant monster that could **attack** unexpectedly” and “to kick” in “before my mum **kicks** my butt!”

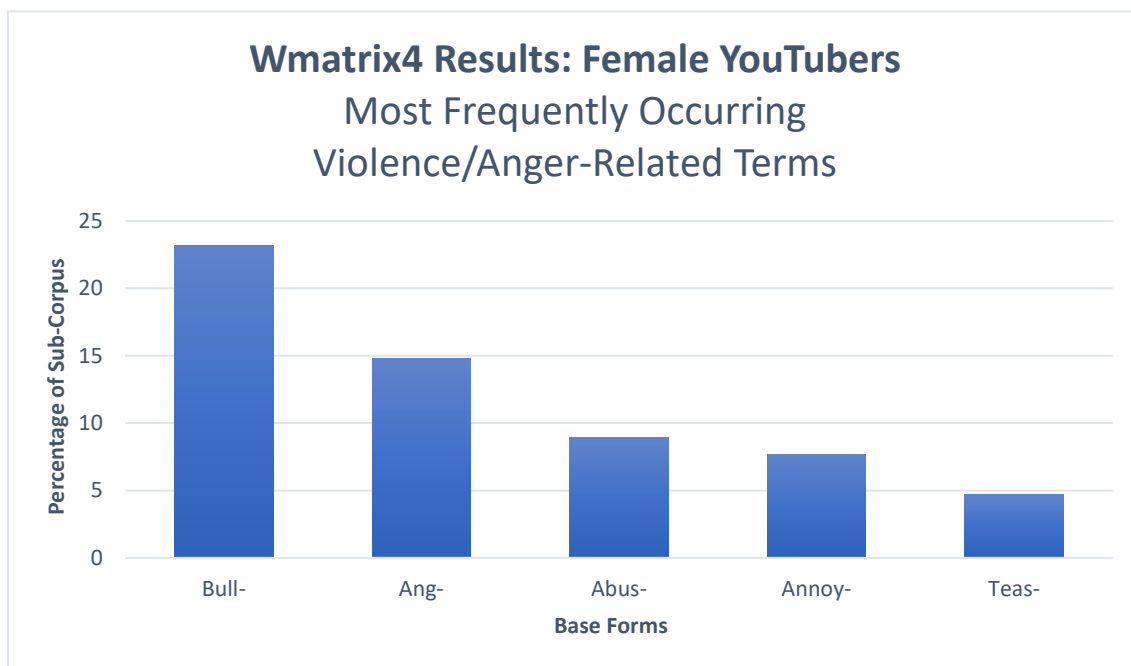
Overall, accepted words relating to violence/anger represent 9.8% of the total accepted emotional words. The following are all the accepted violence/anger-related words detected by Wmatrix4 in the female corpus:

*Abuse, Abusive, Aggression, Anger, Angry, Annoyed, Annoying, Attack, Beat Up, Beating Up, Brutal, Bugged, Bugging, Bullied, Bullies, Bully, Bullying, Bummed Out, Came At The Worst Time, Cruel, Furious, Grumpy, Hit, Irritable, Irritated, Kick, Kicked, Knocked Out, Pelted, Pick On, Poison, Punch, Raged, Revenge, Showdown, Slap, Smack, Smacked,*

*Smacks, Stabbed, Take It Out On, Teased, Teasing, Threaten, Threats, Torment, Torture, Toxic, Vicious, Viciously, Vindictive, Violence, Violent, Whack*

Of the 168 accepted words in the violence/anger category, the most frequently used by the female YouTubers were those with the base “Bull-” (*Bullied, Bullies, Bully, Bullying*), detected/accepted 39 times (23.2%); *Anger/Angry*, 25 times (14.8%); *Abuse/Abusive*, 15 times (8.9%); *Annoyed/Annoying*, 13 times (7.7%); *Teased/Teasing*, 8 times (4.7%); *Hit*, also 8 times (4.7%); *Beat Up/Beating Up*, 5 times (2.9%); and *Kick/Kicked, Pick On* and *Smack/Smacked/Smacks*, 4 times each (2.3%). As before, it is worth noting that the accepted words in this category expressed both violent actions being or having been carried out by the speaker towards others as well as feelings of frustration due to violent actions being or having been inflicted on the speaker by others.

Figure 28 below represents the five most repeated violence/anger-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 following manual revision:



**Figure 28:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated violence/anger-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 (following manual revision).

#### *E) Wmatrix4 Results: Female YouTubers - Fear/Shock*

The total number of words relating to fear/shock detected by the Wmatrix4 software was 332. Of these terms, 260 were accepted (78.3% acceptance rate) and 72 were set aside:

weak/diminished intensity in context 35 (48.6%)

personal reference displacement 31 (43%)

negative construction 5 (6.9%)

longing/questioning/tense issue 1 (1.3%)

unrelated to emotion category 0 (0%)

sarcasm/irony 0 (0%)

In particular, terms such as “freaking” were used colloquially in positive/exclamative expressions such as “I’m **freaking** adorable”, “I **freaking** love her”, and “Stevie convinced me to buy a **freaking** snowman”. Other positive constructions include “We were in such **shock** and over the moon” and “I was honestly **gobsmacked** by how amazing it was”. Further descriptors with weakened intensity in context were detected in “**Horror** movies are so much fun to film” and “this is the **creepy** tree he drew for me”. There were 35 cases of weak/diminished intensity of this kind in the category (48.6% of set aside data).

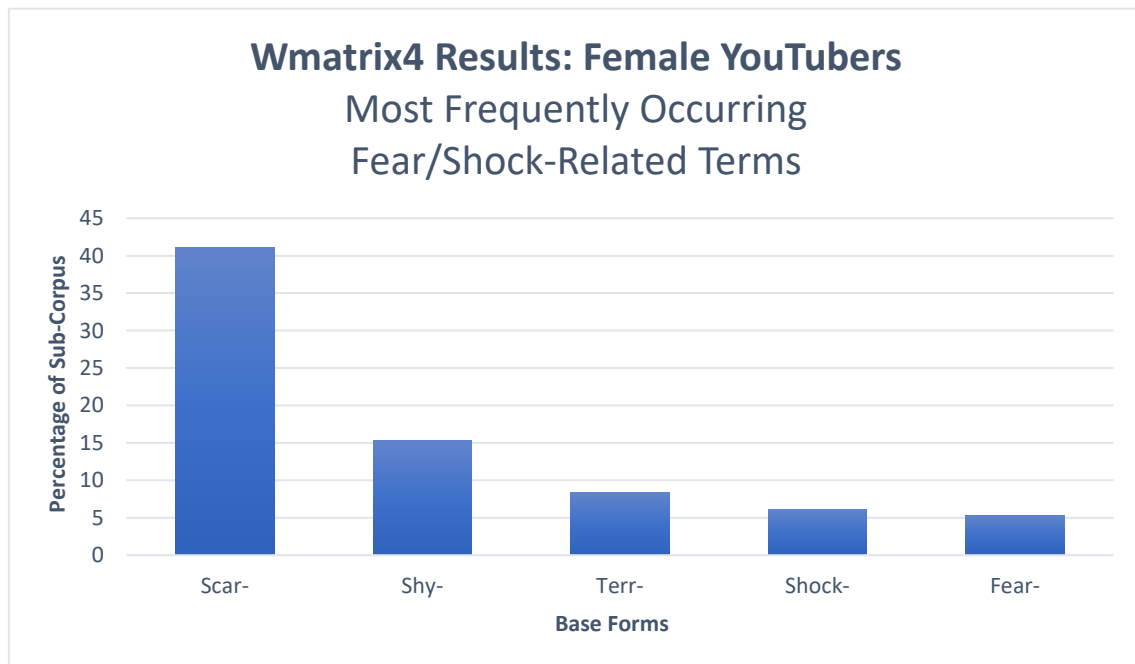
Personal reference displacement was found in 31 constructions (43% of the discarded fear/shock-related terms). Examples include “I guess they were **scared**”, “my dad tells me that he’s **shocked** that the windows didn’t break”, “she was super **shy**”, “my dad was disappointed and **scared** but proud” and “to everyone’s **shock**, I took Commerce”, in which the speaker’s actions are said to shock others. In addition, 5 of the fear/shock-related terms detected by Wmatrix4 (6.9% of the discarded data) were set aside due to their inclusion in negative constructions. For instance, “I wasn’t **afraid** of fighting any of the boys”, “he looks kind of cute, not **scary**”, “I’m not **afraid**” and “that sounds really **creepy**, but it wasn’t”. A similar example was marked as a tense issue: “as **scary** as it sounds (...)”, as the focus here is not on the fear or shock felt by the speaker.

The words relating to fear/shock represent 15.2% of the total accepted emotional words. The following are all the accepted fear/shock-related words detected by Wmatrix4 in the female corpus:

*Afraid, Alarmed, Angst, Bombshell, Creepy, Daunted, Dread, Dreaded, Dreading, Dumbfounded, Fear, Feared, Fears, Freak Out, Freaking, Frightening, Horrifying, Horror(s), Intimidate, Intimidated, Intimidating, Mortified, Mortifying, Nerve-Wracking, Panic, Panicked, Panicking, Petrified, Scare, Scared, Scares, Scariest, Scary, Shaken Up, Shock, Shocked, Shy, Shyness, Spooky, Terrified, Terrifying, Terror, Timid*

Of the 260 accepted fear/shock-related words, those with the base “Scar-” (*Scare, Scared, Scares, Scariest, Scary*) appeared the most frequently (107 times – 41.1% of the corpus). The terms *Shy/Shyness* were detected/accepted 40 times (15.3%), those relating with “Terror” (*Terrified, Terrifying, Terror*) 22 times (8.4%), *Shock/Shocked* 16 times (6.1%), those with the base “Fear-” (*Fear, Feared, Fears*) 14 times (5.3%), *Freak Out/Freaking* 12 times (4.6%), those with the base “Panic-” (*Panic, Panicked, Panicking*) 7 times (2.6%), and *Afraid/Creepy* 6 times each (2.3%).

Figure 29 below represents the five most repeated fear/shock-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 following manual revision:



**Figure 29:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated fear/shock-related base forms in the female corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 (following manual revision).

### 4.3.1.2 Wmatrix4 Results: Male YouTubers

In total, Wmatrix4 detected 1,885 emotion words within the “happiness”, “sadness”, “worry”, “violence/anger”, and “fear/shock” emotion categories in the male corpus.

During the revision process, I was only able to accept 55.6% of the overall emotion words, with 1,049 accepted and 836 set aside due to issues of unrelatedness to the emotion category, weak/diminished intensity in context, personal reference displacement, negative constructions, longing/questioning/tense issues and failure to detect sarcasm/irony.

#### A) Wmatrix4 Results: Male YouTubers - Happiness

The total number of words relating to happiness detected by the Wmatrix4 software was 795. Of these terms, 429 were accepted (54% acceptance rate) and 366 were set aside:

weak/diminished intensity in context 152 (41.5%)

personal reference displacement 133 (36.3%)

unrelated to emotion category 34 (9.2%)

negative construction 27 (7.4%)

longing/questioning/tense issue 12 (3.3%)

sarcasm/irony 8 (2.2%)

There were 152 examples of weak/diminished intensity in context (41.5% of the set aside data). As with LIWC2015, Wmatrix4 picked up on the neutral descriptor “happy” in “Felix is Latin and means **happy**”. The phrase “**fun** fact” was used several times by speakers with the intended meaning of “interesting”, but not indicating happiness. Happiness-related terms in titles of books, films or associations (such as in “charity song for Sport **Relief**”) were also discarded, as was “clown” in the sentence “I was the class **clown**, always causing trouble”, with more of a connotation of cheekiness or rebelliousness than reference to happiness felt by the speaker.

Personal reference displacement was detected in 133 cases (36.3% of the discarded terms). For example, in “she made my dad **happy**”, “her **smile**”, “she was

always **happy** and genuinely loved music”, and “my parents have been **happily** married for over thirty years”, the focus is on the happiness felt by others and not the speakers.

Terms unrelated to the emotion category of happiness (34 cases in total, making up 9.2% of the total discarded data) included “comics” with the meaning of image-centred magazines (e.g. “I was really into web **comics**”), and “funny” with the sense of strange or odd (e.g. “one of those **funny** shaped blue ones”). Both of these words were erroneously detected in the female corpora as well. Other words unrelated to happiness are “kid” with the meaning of child (e.g. “**kid** that makes vids”) and “high” referring to a level of education higher up than primary school (e.g. “Junior **high** was relatively uneventful”).

Negative constructions constitute 7.4% of the total discarded happiness-related data detected by Wmatrix in the male corpus (27 cases). Examples include “No, it doesn’t sound **funny**, man”, “I’m not **joking** when I say...”, and “This was not a **fun** experience”. There are also 12 instances of longing/questioning and constructions including tenses which counteract the detected terms’ positive meaning (3.3% of the set aside data), such as “I wanted to be **funny**”, referring to an aim rather than a reality; “I thought it’d be **funny**”, “I thought I would have more **fun**”, and “it was going to be a really **funny** **joke**”, all of which refer to an initial opinion which proved to be wrong, and “I was never going to be **happy** working for somebody else” and “(I thought I would) live **happily** ever after”, both discussing future plans rather than present states.

Lastly, eight cases of sarcasm/irony were found, making up 2.2% of the set aside happiness-related terms detected in the male corpus. Instances include “the **joys** of being a teenager”, in which the speaker refers to feeling awkward and uncomfortable during his adolescent years; “(...) a lot of hate. Yeah, pretty **enjoyable**”, where the speaker is sarcastic about enjoying receiving hateful comments, and “Microsoft PowerPoint – **fun**”, another sarcastic reference to enjoying something which he does not actually find interesting.

Overall, the accepted words relating to happiness represent 40.8% of the total accepted emotional words. The following are all the accepted happiness-related words detected by Wmatrix4 in the male corpus:

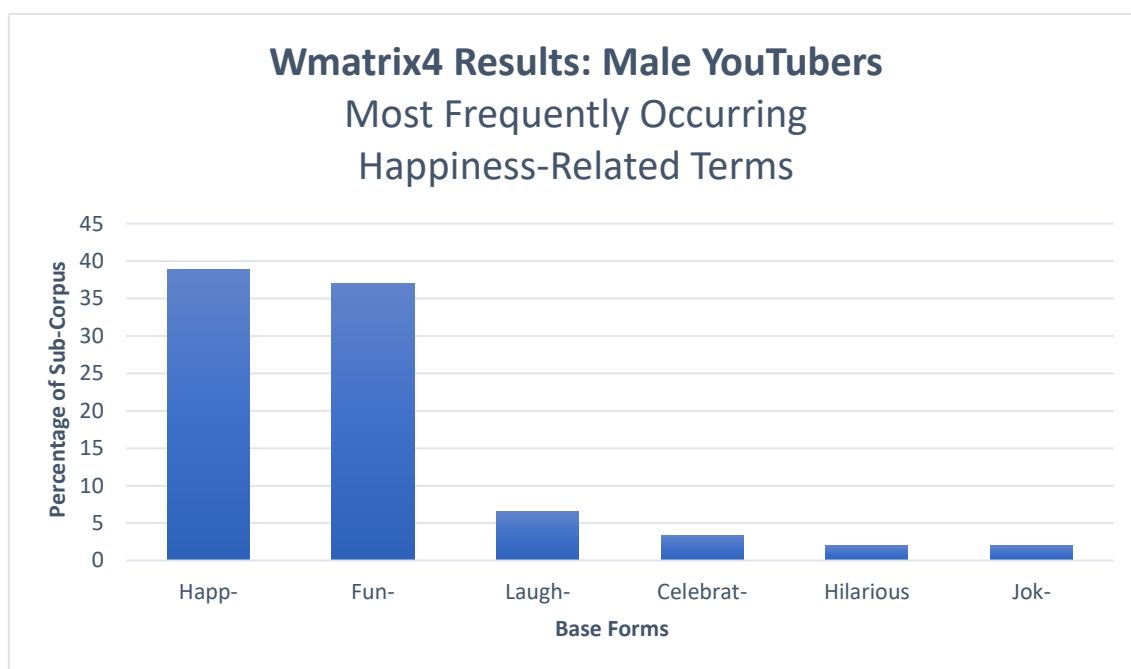
*Amusing, Antics, Celebrate, Celebrated, Celebrating, Celebration, Cheer Me/Myself Up, Enjoyable, Fun, Funniest, Funny, Giggling, Had A Good Time, Had A Really Good Time,*



*Happiness, Happy, Have A Good Time, Have A Laugh, Having A Good Time, Heart-Warming, Highs, Hilarious, Joke(s), Joking, Joy, Joyful, Laugh, Laughed, Laughing, Laughs, Lol, Make Fun, On Top Of The World, Over The Moon, Relief, Relieved, Sense Of Humour, Smile, Smiling, The Time Of My Life*

Of the 429 accepted happiness-related terms, 167 included the base “Happ-” (*Happiness/Happy* – 38.9%) and 159 had the base “Fun-” (*Fun, Funniest, Funny* – 37%). Words with the base “Laugh-” (*Laugh, Laughed, Laughing, Laughs*) were detected/accepted 28 times (6.5%), the base “Celebrat-” (*Celebrate, Celebrated, Celebrating, Celebration*) 15 times (3.4%), *Hilarious* and *Joke(s)/Joking* 9 times each (2%), and *Smile/Smiling* 6 times (1.3%).

Figure 30 below represents the five most repeated happiness-related base forms in the male corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 following manual revision:



**Figure 30:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated happiness-related base forms in the male corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 (following manual revision).

## B) Wmatrix4 Results: Male YouTubers - Sadness

The total number of words relating to sadness detected by the Wmatrix4 software in the male corpus was 354. Of these terms, 255 were accepted (72% acceptance rate) and 99 were set aside:

personal reference displacement	61 (61.6%)
weak/diminished intensity in context	21 (21.2%)
negative construction	11 (11.1%)
longing/questioning/tense issue	4 (4%)
unrelated to emotion category	1 (1%)
sarcasm/irony	1 (1%)

The most frequently set aside sadness-related constructions included personal reference displacement (61 cases in total). Examples include “they were very **sad** that I was moving out”, “which made my sister **upset** and she ran out **crying**”, “she **suffers** from a form of anxiety”, “she **burst into tears**”, “he had been terribly **depressed** and nobody knew about it”, and “he was **jealous** of me”. Just as in the previous categorical discrepancies in the cases of “upset” and “embarrass”, here, the term “jealous” is marked by Wmatrix4 as sadness-related but by LIWC2015 as anger-related.

There were 21 constructions including words with weak/diminished intensity in context, such as “I rarely **cried**” and “nothing horribly **tragic**”, both with notably weakened intensity. Also, “He was one of those **embarrassingly** proud dads” was not deemed to reflect any sadness at all. Of the 11 negative constructions set aside, several included the verb “to regret”, such as in “I never **regretted** it for a second” and “I don’t **regret** playing so many video games”, both indicating confidence in the speakers’ decisions. Similarly, in “Not that I was **embarrassed** to make Minecraft videos”, the speaker overtly demonstrates confidence rather than sadness of any kind. The phrase “no **hard** feelings”, demonstrating the speakers’ lack of resentment, also appeared in the corpus several times.

Likewise, four constructions were rejected because of their expressions of longing/questioning or inclusion of tenses counteracting the detected meaning, such as in “I love him and even though I know one day he’ll die and I’ll be **sad**, ultimately I’ll have

loved the time that we shared”, a description of the speaker’s cat which focuses on the positive rather than the negative. Another example is “I don’t have a whiteboard, so I’m going to use paper. Hopefully I don’t regret that too much”, in which the speaker expresses a hope for the future rather than a current regret.

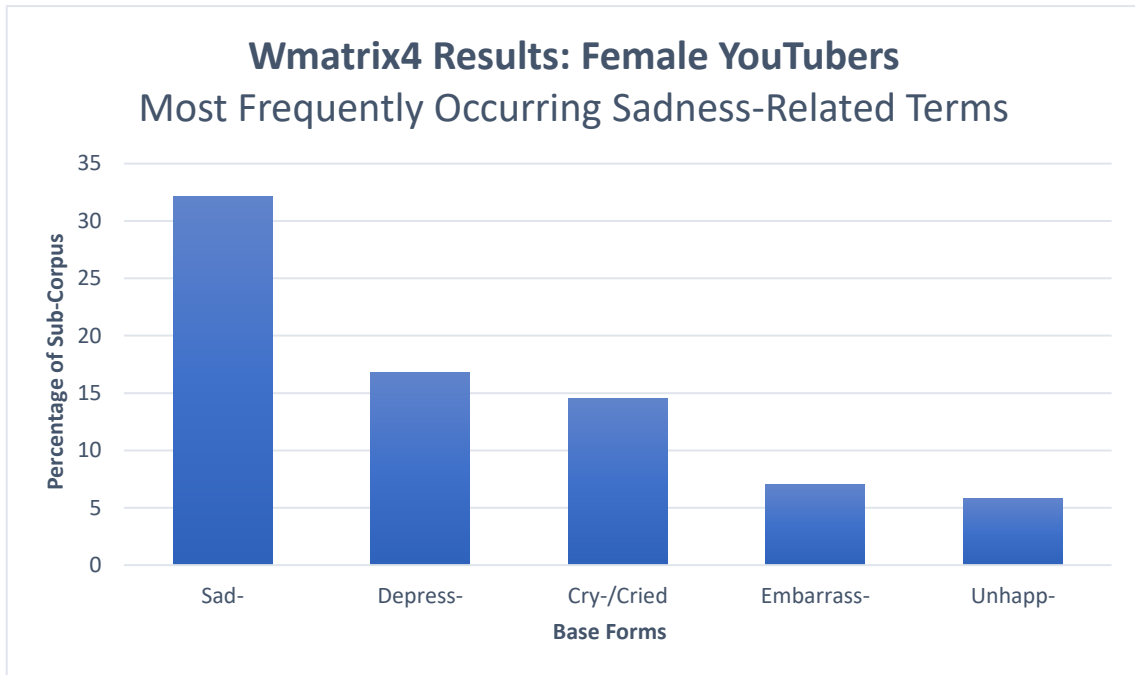
One phrase entirely unrelated to the emotion category of sadness was “in a little state called Texas”, in which the YouTuber describes his birthplace. As mentioned in the female data, I assume that the software is programmed to find the phrase “in a state”, referring to an upset or nervous condition/feeling. As with LIWC2015, the joking tone of “every time I was sick, my mum would rent a Super Nintendo for me. Unfortunately, I was sick a lot as a child, quite a lot. Very sad”, in which it is implied that the speaker was actually pleased to spend time playing video games, goes undetected by Wmatrix4.

Overall, accepted words relating to sadness represent 24.3% of the total accepted emotional words. The following are all the accepted sadness-related words detected by Wmatrix4 in the male corpus:

*Alas, Broke My Heart, Burst(ed) Into Tears, Cried, Cringe, Cry, Crying, Depressed, Depressing, Depression, Despair, Desperate, Devastated, Embarrassed, Embarrassing, Embarrassment, Grieved, Heartbroken, Homesick, Hurtful, In Tears, Jealous, Miserable, Misery, Pity, Regret(s), Regrettably, Regretted, Sad, Sadder, Sadly, Sadness, Shattered Heart, Suffer, Suffered, Suffering, Suffers, Tragedy, Tragic, Trauma, Unhappiness, Unhappy, Upset, Wept*

Of the 255 sadness-related terms, 82 of them include the base “Sad-” (*Sad, Sadder, Sadly, Sadness*), making up 32.1% of the total corpus. 43 terms (16.8%) include the base “Depress-” (*Depressed, Depressing, Depression*) and 37 terms (14.5%) include the base “Cr-” (*Cried, Cry, Crying*). Less frequently detected/accepted words in the male sadness-related corpus are those with the base “Embarrass-” (*Embarrassed, Embarrassing, Embarrassment*), with 18 cases (7%); *Unhappiness/Unhappy*, with 15 cases (5.8%); *Upset*, with 13 cases (5%); *Miserable/Misery*, with 7 cases (2.7%); *Regret(s)/Regrettably/Regretted*, with 6 cases (2.3%), and those with the base “Suffer-” (*Suffer, Suffered, Suffering, Suffers*), with 5 cases (1.9%).

Figure 31 below represents the five most repeated sadness-related base forms in the male corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 following manual revision:



**Figure 31:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated sadness-related base forms in the male corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 (following manual revision).

*C) Wmatrix4 Results: Male YouTubers - Worry*

The total number of words relating to worry in the male corpus detected by the Wmatrix4 software was 173. Of these terms, 63 were accepted (only a 36.4% acceptance rate) and 110 were set aside:

- personal reference displacement 57 (51.8%)
- weak/diminished intensity in context 26 (23.6%)
- negative construction 22 (20%)
- longing/questioning/tense issue 3 (2.7%)
- unrelated to emotion category 2 (1.8%)
- sarcasm/irony 0 (0%)

In total, 51.8% of the set aside worry-related terms were rejected because of personal reference displacement (57 cases in total). For example, phrases including the verb “to worry” (e.g. “they were **worried** about my well-being” and “My parents were

really **worried** about me travelling”), “to seem/be uneasy” (e.g. “he had always been **uneasy** about the idea”, and “Caroline seemed **uneasy** but on board”), and “to become concerned” (e.g. “my mum became **concerned**”).

There were 26 terms set aside due to weak/diminished intensity in context (23.6% of the overall discarded data), including positive-leaning constructions with the verb “to care” such as “the people I **care** about” and “we still **cared** about each other deeply”, both of which express positive feelings of affection towards others. The noun “trouble” also has diminished intensity in the sentence “To keep us out of **trouble**, my mumma put us in any free extracurricular program she could find”, in which the speaker describes how his mother helped him to avoid a problematic or worrisome path.

Negative constructions made up 20% of the rejected Wmatrix4 worry-related data, with 22 detected cases. Examples are “I had no **worries** at all”, “I had no **qualms** at all” and “My age didn’t **concern** me”, all of which indicate overt confidence rather than worry. Several other instances included the verb “to care”, such as in “we don’t **care** because he’s an asshole” and “learning things I didn’t **care** about”, both of which could be interpreted as having meanings of frustration/irritation and certainly not worry. When describing societal pressure to reject his brother due to his homosexuality, another speaker confidently says, “I didn’t **care** that my brother was gay”, indicating his rejection of prejudice.

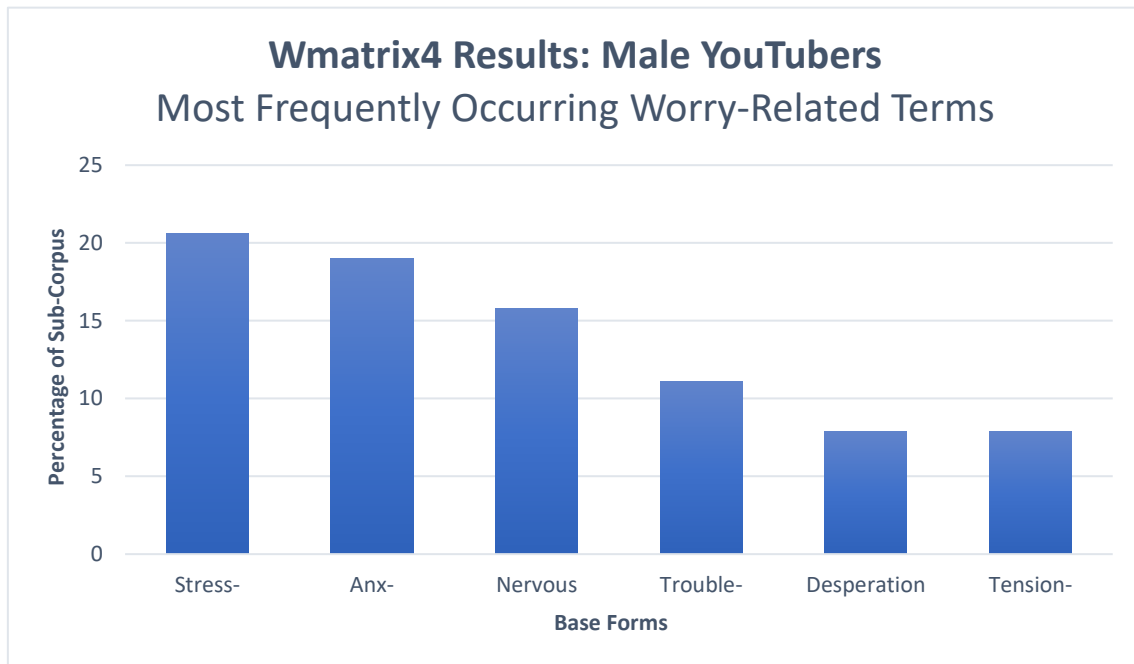
Three of the worry-related terms were set aside due to their inclusion in constructions expressing longing/questioning or with tenses counteracting their meaning (2.7% of the rejected data). First of all, the conditional “If I was going to be working in social media, it had to be something that I **cared** about and something that was fun” describes a hypothetical situation (and the verb itself has a positive leaning in any case). Also, “Why would that **bother** me?” is an example of questioning which indicates that the speaker is not in fact bothered by the issue. There were also two cases of constructions which were unrelated to the emotion category of worry, and both used the term “carefree” (detected due to the root, “care”): “My dad is a little more **carefree**” and “It was just such a **carefree** time of my life”, the first of which also exemplifying personal reference displacement.

Overall, accepted terms relating to worry represent 6% of the total accepted emotional terms. The following are all the accepted worry-related terms detected by Wmatrix4 in the male corpus:

*Anxiety, Anxious, Anxiously, Apprehension, Bothered, Desperation, Nervous, Ordeal, Stress, Stressed Out, Stresses, Stressful, Tension(s), Trouble(s), Unconfident, Worried*

Of the 63 accepted worry-related terms, 13 (20.6%) contained the base “Stress-” (*Stress, Stressed Out, Stresses, Stressful*) and 12 (19%) included the base “Anx-” (*Anxiety, Anxious, Anxiously*). The word *Nervous* was used 10 times (15.8%), *Trouble(s)* 7 times (11.1%), *Desperation* 5 times (7.9%), and *Tension(s)* another 5 times (7.9%).

Figure 32 below represents the six most repeated worry-related base forms and terms in the male corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 following manual revision:



**Figure 32:** A bar chart representing the six most repeated worry-related base forms and terms in the male corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 (following manual revision), with the final two forms each making up 7.9% of the worry sub-corpus based on the MDML transcripts.

#### D) Wmatrix4 Results: Male YouTubers - Violence/Anger

The total number of words relating to violence/anger detected by the Wmatrix4 software in the male corpus was 340. Of these terms, 153 were accepted (45% acceptance rate) and 187 were set aside:

weak/diminished intensity in context 115 (61.5%)

personal reference displacement 52 (27.8%)

unrelated to emotion category 9 (4.8%)

negative construction 8 (4.3%)

longing/questioning/tense issue 3 (1.6%)

sarcasm/irony 0 (0%)

Of the 115 constructions set aside (61.5% of the overall discarded data) due to weak or diminished intensity in context, a large quantity included metaphorical uses of verbs, such as “once puberty **hit**, I became quieter”, “**nip** it in the bud immediately”, and “the Fire Nation **attacked!**”, a reference to the animated television series, “Avatar: The Last Airbender”. The word “attack” was used in the context of having an “asthma **attack**” or “panic **attack**”, neither of which indicating violence or anger.

The second most common reason for setting aside violence/anger-related terms (52 cases, representing 27.8% of the rejected data) was personal reference displacement, as can be seen in “she was quite **angry** about her life”, “someone **kicked** the ball into her face”, “my dad’s **angry** driving”, and “North Korea was **threatening** South Korea”. While some researchers may be interested in the overall quantity and typology of anger-related content in a text, regardless of the personal references involved, my focus in the current project was solely on first-person expressions of anger/frustration, so this is why I discarded examples of this kind.

There were nine terms deemed to be completely unrelated to the emotion category of violence/anger (4.8% of set aside data). Examples include “come at”, such as in “it didn’t really **come at** a great time”; “winged” in “I just kind of **winged** it” and “my little Mario **winged** plush doll”; “punch” in “fruit **punch** and vodka”, “butt” in “we chased these dudes **butt** naked”, and “run over” in phrases such as “**run over** and ask for selfies”, which have nothing to do with actions of violence or angry behaviour/feelings.

In total, 4.3% of the violence/anger-related terms were rejected due to their inclusion in negative constructions (eight cases in total). For instance, “I wasn’t getting **bullied**”, “I never **retaliated** to anything”, “I was never **teased**” and “my dad wasn’t **abusive** at all”.

Lastly, 1.6% of the set aside data from Wmatrix4’s Violence/Anger category was due to expressions of longing/questioning and inclusion of tenses which counteract the meanings of verbs such as “to beat up” in “(could) potentially get **beaten up**” and “nervous I was going to get **beaten up**”, and “run over” in “(What) if I fell over or got **run over** by a bus?”. These three examples all make reference to hypothetical situations rather than past or current reality. It is also worth noting that even if the situations were real, the speakers would not be inflicting violence upon anyone or anything in any of these cases.

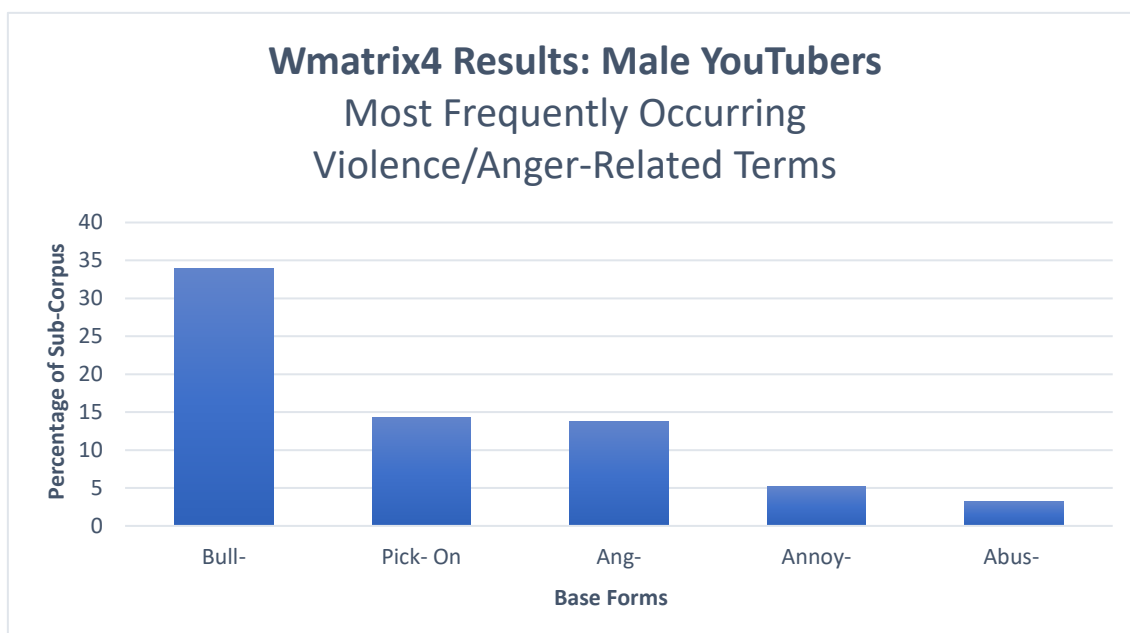
Overall, the accepted words relating to violence/anger represent 14.5% of the total accepted emotional words. The following are all the accepted violence/anger-related words detected by Wmatrix4 in the male corpus:

*Abuse, Abused, Abusive, Aggressive, Anger, Angry, Annoy, Annoyed, Annoying, Annoys, Beat Up, Beaten Up, Beating Up, Bullied, Bullies, Bully, Bullying, Drive Crazy, Fight, Hit, Irks, Kicked, Kicking, Livid, Mug, Pick On, Picked On, Picking On, Picks On, Pissed Off, Poke Fun, Punched, Revenge, Slap, Slapped, Smack, Teased, Threatened, Toxic, Violent, Whip*

Of the 153 accepted violence/anger-related words, those with the base “*Bull-*” are the most frequently occurring, with 52 cases (33.9%). Other regularly appearing terms are variations on “*Pick On*” (*Pick On, Picked On, Picking On, Picks On*), with 22 cases (14.3%); *Anger/Angry*, with 21 cases (13.7%); words with the base “*Annoy-*” (*Annoy, Annoyed, Annoying, Annoys*), with 8 cases (5.2%), and *Abuse/Abused/Abusive*, with 5 cases (3.2%). As before, it is worth noting that the accepted words in this category expressed both violent actions being or having been carried out by the speaker towards others as well as feelings of frustration due to violent actions being or having been inflicted on the speaker by others.



Figure 33 below represents the five most repeated violence/anger-related base forms in the male corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 following manual revision:



**Figure 33:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated violence/anger-related base forms in the male corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 (following manual revision).

*E) Wmatrix4 Results: Male YouTubers - Fear/Shock*

The total number of words relating to fear/shock detected by the Wmatrix4 software in the male corpus was 224. Of these terms, 149 were accepted (66.5% acceptance rate) and 75 were set aside:

- weak/diminished intensity in context 53 (70.6%)
- personal reference displacement 15 (20%)
- negative construction 4 (5.3%)
- longing/questioning/tense issue 2 (2.6%)
- unrelated to emotion category 1 (1.3%)
- sarcasm/irony 0 (0%)

In particular, there were 53 terms set aside because of their weak or diminished intensity in context (70.6% of the total discarded items). One example is “staggering” in “one million people is a **staggering** amount”, in which the speaker expresses feeling

overwhelmed in a positive way. Likewise, “in awe” in “I became totally **in awe** of school buses” expresses the excitement over seeing school buses felt by the speaker as a child. As with the female corpus, several instances of colloquial/positive “freaking” were detected (e.g. “I **freaking** love Minecraft”), and also fear/shock-related terms appearing in titles of games, TV shows, books and films (e.g. “I convinced my sisters to play **Fear Factor**” and “Dr. Frank from Rocky **Horror**”).

Personal reference displacement was detected 15 times (making up 20% of the overall set aside data), with instances frequently including the verb “to freak out” (e.g. “the doctors are **freaking out**” and “a friend of a friend **freaked out**”). Other examples of personal reference displacement contain direct addresses to the listener (e.g. “If you’re **shy** in high school...”). In addition, there were four cases of negative constructions in the fear/shock-related terms: “I wasn’t **afraid** to tell them about it”, “I’d never been a **shy** kid”, and “I could be myself with no **fear** of embarrassment or **shyness**”, all of which indicate confidence rather than fear.

Similarly, there were two examples of tenses which counteracted the meanings of “scared” and “creepy”. Firstly, the following sentence expresses a strong sense of appreciation for the love shown towards the speaker and uses the conditional to describe a hypothetical situation whereby he did not feel this support: “Had I been **scared** of their reactions, I think I really would have struggled to come out at all, so I’d like to say make sure you spread the love because with that, you can really help people to be comfortable with who they are”. Also, in “This may sound a little bit **creepy** till you hear the full story”, the modal verb “may” is used in conjunction with the time adverb “till” to indicate that the listener should hear the entire story before reaching any conclusions.

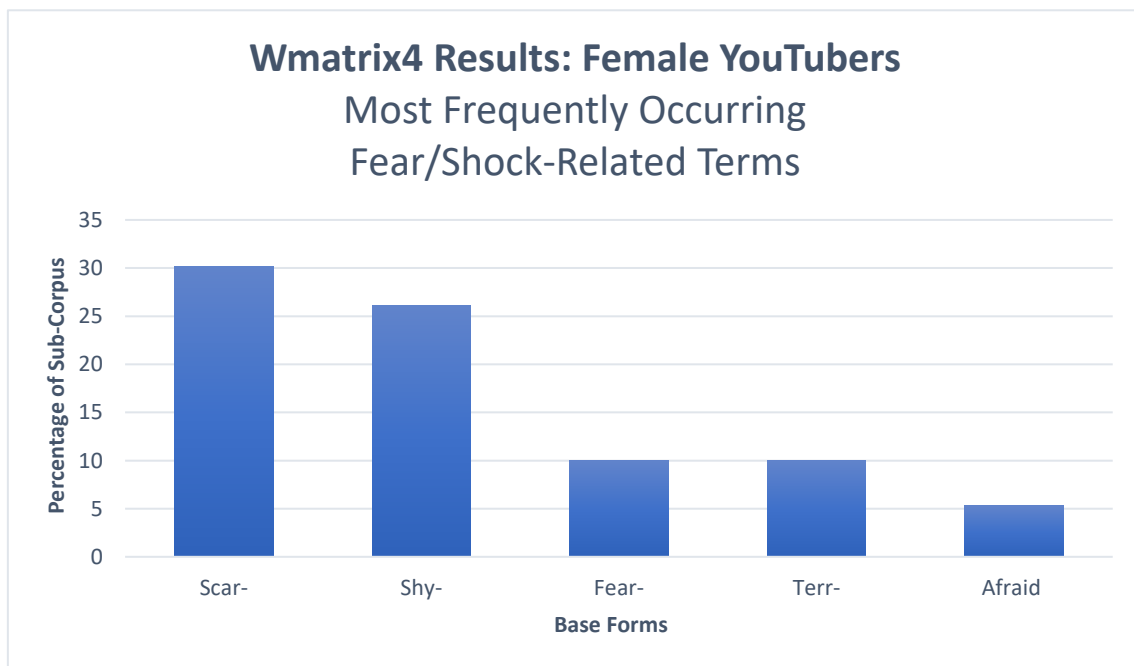
Lastly, deemed completely unrelated to the emotion category of fear/shock was the word “funk” in “It’s like a New Orleans-style **funk** band”, which is a reference to a musical genre. No examples of “being in a funk” with the meaning of being in a state of nervousness/anxiety/depression were identified in the corpora. One other YouTuber uses “funky” in a positive sense, when showing appreciation towards his followers: “thanks for staying funky”.

Accepted words relating to fear/shock in the Wmatrix4 data represent 14.2% of the total accepted emotional words. The following are all the accepted fear/shock-related words detected by Wmatrix4 in the male corpus:

*Afraid, Angst, Creepy, Dreaded, Fear, Freak Out, Freaked Out, Freaking Out, Frightening, Horrified, Intimidated, Intimidating, Intimidation, Panic, Panicking, Petrified, Phobia, Scared, Scares, Scariest, Scary, Shock, Shy, Shying, Shyness, Terrified, Terrifying, Terrors*

Of the 149 accepted fear/shock-related terms, 45 include the base “Scar-” (*Scared, Scares, Scariest, Scary*), making up 30.2% of the total corpus. There were 39 words containing the base “Shy-” (*Shy, Shying, Shyness* – 26.1%), 15 cases of “Fear” and a further 15 of *Terrified/Terrifying/Terrors* (making up 10% of the corpus each), 8 cases of *Afraid* (5.3%), and 6 variations of “Freak Out” (*Freak Out, Freaked Out, Freaking Out* – 4%).

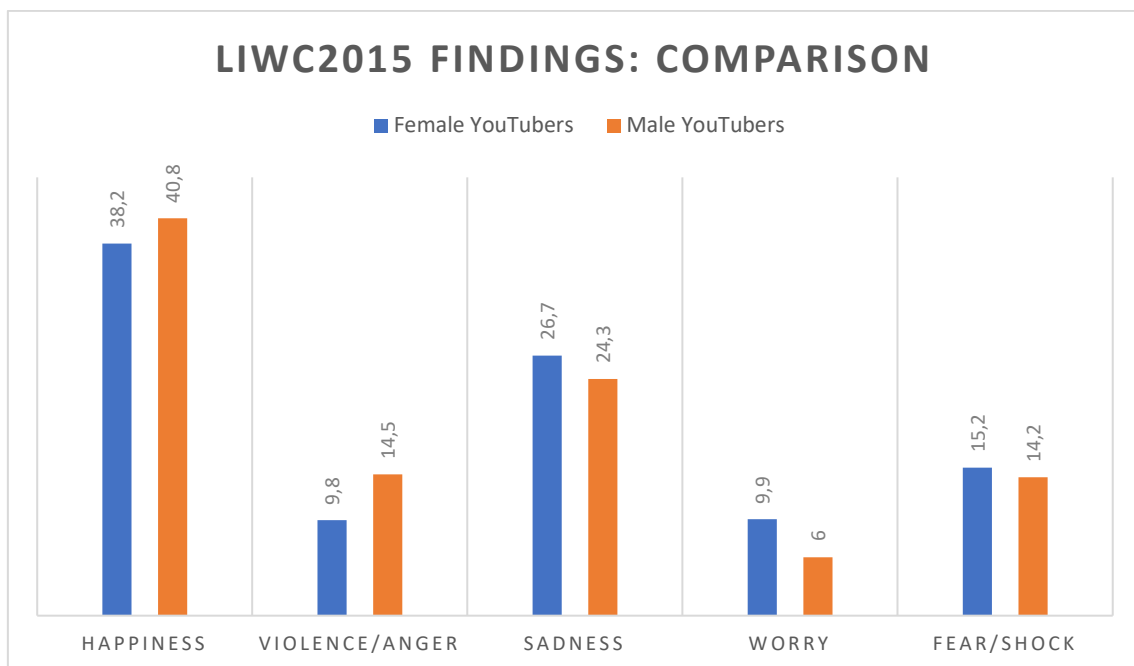
Figure 34 below represents the five most repeated fear/shock-related base forms and terms in the male corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 following manual revision:



**Figure 34:** A bar chart representing the five most repeated fear/shock-related base forms and terms in the male corpus as detected by Wmatrix4 (following manual revision).

### 4.3.2 Wmatrix4 Discussion

The revised Wmatrix4 data showed that the female YouTubers used a higher percentage of emotional words overall (1% vs. 0.8%). In particular, in their *Draw My Life* narratives, the females used fewer happiness-related words (38.2% vs. 40.8%) and fewer words relating to violence/anger as well (9.8% vs. 14.5%). In contrast, the females were found to use more words relating to sadness (26.7% vs. 24.3%), more words relating to worry (9.9% vs. 6%), and more words relating to fear/shock (15.2% vs. 14.2%). These findings are represented in Figure 35 below:



**Figure 35:** A bar chart representing the percentage of terms relating to happiness, violence/anger, sadness, worry and fear/shock in the FDML and MDML emotion-related sub-corpora generated by Wmatrix4.

#### A) Wmatrix4 Discussion - Happiness

The Wmatrix4 data indicated that the female YouTubers used words with the base “*Happ-*” (*Happily, Happiness, Happy*), more frequently than the males (285 uses – 43.7% vs. 167 uses – 38.9%).

In contrast, those with the base “*Fun-*” (*Fun, Funnest, Funniest, Funny*) were detected/accepted 233 times (35.7%) in the female texts and 159 times (37%) in the male one. The male YouTubers were also found to use a higher frequency of words with the

base “*Laugh-*” (*Laugh, Laughed, Laughing, Laughs, Laughter*) than the females (28 uses – 6.5% vs. 24 uses – 3.6%), and with the base “*Celebrat-*” (*Celebrate, Celebrated, Celebrating, Celebration*), with 15 uses (3.4%) against the females’ 10 uses (1.5%). A very similar percentage of words with the base “*Jok-*” (*Joke, Joked, Joker, Jokes, Joking* in the female corpus and *Joke(s)/Joking* in the male one) was found as well (13 female uses – 1.9% vs. 9 male uses – 2%).

There were several happiness-related words and phrases in the Wmatrix4 data which were used by the female YouTubers and not by the male ones and vice versa. In particular, the females used the word *Overjoyed* five times (e.g. “Overjoyed to see my family again, and hopeful about the future”) and *Uplifting* twice (e.g. “The business students and faculty were incredibly uplifting and supportive. I felt so empowered”).

Each of the following words and phrases were used once by the females and did not appear in the male Wmatrix4 data: *Antics* (“I started using a video camera in order to film our crazy antics”), *Bliss* (“I’m just at total bliss at the moment with myself”), *On Cloud Nine* (“I was on cloud nine that night”), and *Rejoice* (“We rejoice in finally being loved and accepted”). The word *Heart-Warming*, on the other hand, was used by two male YouTubers and no females (e.g. “I couldn’t have asked for a more heart-warming childhood. My mum grew up only wanting to be a mum”). *Amusing* was also used by one male (“Chatting to my dad about this now sheds an amusing light on the situation”).

#### B) Wmatrix4 Discussion - Sadness

Words with the base “*Sad-*” (*Sad, Sadder, Sadly, Sadness*) were detected more frequently by Wmatrix4 in the female texts than in the male ones (157 uses – 34.3% vs. 82 uses – 32.1%), as were those with the base “*Cr-*” (*Cried, Cry, Crying*), with 90 female uses (19.6%) and 37 male uses (14.5%).

The group of words starting with the base “*Depress-*” (*Depressed, Depressing, Depression*) made up the same percentage of the female corpus as that of the male corpus, with 77 female uses and 43 male uses, both constituting 16.8%. A very similar percentage was also found in the case of the group *Upset/Upsets/Upsetting*, which was detected and accepted 22 times in the female corpus (4.8%) and *Upset* with 13 male uses (5%). Likewise, terms with the base “*Suffer-*” (*Suffer, Suffered, Suffering, Suffers*) made up

1.9% of the male texts (5 uses) and *Suffer/Suffered* were detected and accepted 8 times in the female ones (1.7%). Another similar amount was detected in those with the base “*Embarrass-*” (*Embarrass, Embarrassed, Embarrassing, Embarrassment*), which had 26 female uses (5.6%) and 18 male uses (7%).

The male YouTubers were found to use *Miserable/Miserably/Misery* more frequently than the females (7 uses – 2.7% vs. 9 uses – 1.9%) and *Regret(s)/Regrettably/Regretted* with a higher relative frequency than the females as well (6 uses – 2.3% vs. 7 uses – 1.5%). Lastly, the words *Unhappiness* and *Unhappy* were detected 15 times in the male corpus (5.8%) and *Unhappy* 6 times (1.3%) in the female one.

As with the happiness-related category, several words were found to be used by the females and not the males, such as *Sorrow* (e.g. “I felt the deepest sorrow”), which was used 3 times; *Emptiness* twice (e.g. “I couldn’t shake the emptiness in my heart. I didn’t know who I was and, worst of all, what the purpose of my life was”); *Heartache* twice (e.g. “I was really unhappy during this time. I couldn’t get over my heartache and low self-worth”); *Sobbing* twice (e.g. “In earlier years as a child, mum found me sobbing and upon checking my face, discovered the red fingerprints of a hard slap that another distant family member had given me”) and lastly, *Sulk* once (“Whenever I used to sulk and cry...”).

Sadness-related words used by males and not females were *Alas*, with 4 uses (e.g. “Alas, we broke up because all of the things that had happened to me in the past just kept coming and haunting me”); *Pity* twice, as detected by LIWC2015 as well (e.g. “I became so wrapped up in my own self-pity”), and *Wept* once (“I wept and sat in the front row of that cold church”).

### C) *Wmatrix4 Discussion - Worry*

In line with the Lingmotif and LIWC2015 data about anxiety, the results of this *Wmatrix4* category showed the most differences between the female and male corpora. For instance, while the females were detected to use words with the base “*Anx-*” (*Anxieties, Anxiety, Anxious, Anxiously*) 66 times (38.8% of the female worry-related *Wmatrix4* data), the males used *Anxiety, Anxious* and *Anxiously* only 12 times (19% of

the male worry-related Wmatrix4 data). The female YouTubers were also found to use *Nervous/Nervously* more often than the males (36 uses – 21.1% vs. 10 uses of *Nervous*, making up 15.8% of the male corpus). A similar frequency percentage was detected in the females’ use of *Stress, Stressed* and *Stressful* (32 times – 18.8%), and the males’ use of *Stress, Stressed Out, Stresses, Stressful* (13 times – 20.6%). Lastly, the males were found to use *Trouble(s)* relatively more frequently than the females (7 uses – 11.1% vs. 8 uses – 4.7%) and most commonly in reference to worry over punishment for misbehaving.

In terms of worry-related words and phrases detected by Wmatrix4 used by females and not males, there were 12 cases of *Insecure* (e.g. “I used to be very, very insecure because all of the boys in my class used to call me names and say I was really unattractive” and “I thought I sucked at everything. I was incredibly insecure to an insane extent”), one case of *Care* indicating worries over the opinions of others (“Why do we care what these people think?”) and one occurrence of the phrase *World On My Shoulders* (“I was depressed thinking about the weight of the world on my shoulders and I spent about a year crying and in a deep, deep depression”).

Worry-related terms used by males and not females are *Desperation*, with 5 cases, frequently referred to as the kind of worry that motivates positive change (e.g. “With my finances dwindling, desperation finally kicked in and I just started” and “No motivation like desperation”) and *Unconfident*, used twice (e.g. “I finally had the courage to ask her out, I got completely rejected. No explanation. No excuse. Just a straight up, ‘No’. Nothing more. And I’m not going to lie, that bothered me for a long time. It didn’t just make me sad, it made me very unconfident. It was devastating to me at the time”). *Ordeal* was detected once (“When the whole ordeal started, I assumed the worst”), as were *Apprehension* (“my apprehension of change”) and *Bothered* (as in the previous example containing *Unconfident*).

#### D) Wmatrix4 Discussion - Violence/Anger

Words with the base “*Bull-*” (*Bullied, Bullies, Bully, Bullying*) are more frequently occurring in the male corpus, with 52 uses (33.9%) against the females’ 39 uses (23.2%). The females, on the other hand, used *Anger* and *Angry* 25 times (14.8%), a higher relative frequency than that of the males, with 21 uses (13.7%). Likewise, *Abuse* and *Abusive* made up 8.9% of the female violence/anger-related corpus (15 uses), while *Abuse, Abused*

and *Abusive* made up 3.2% of the male violence/anger-related corpus (5 uses). The females also used *Annoyed* and *Annoying* more often than the males used *Annoy*, *Annoyed*, *Annoying* and *Annoys* (13 uses – 7.7% vs. 8 uses – 5.2%).

In reference to words in this category used by female YouTubers and not males, there were two cases of *Bummed Out* (e.g. “But I was also pretty bummed out that I couldn’t attend the school that I was originally going to go to”) and two of *Cruel* (e.g. “Some of the girls were really cruel with their remarks. There was even a rumour for a while that I was a werewolf”).

In contrast, the following terms and phrases were all used once by a female YouTuber and not at all in the male corpus: *Came At The Worst Time* (“I had a feeling that I was pregnant. This was a huge shock to everyone, and it came at the worst time”), *Furious* (“I don’t know what I would do without my mum and I was furious”), *Grumpy* (“The bullying and the taunting got to me and my self-esteem plummeted to make up for how much I was hurting. I became tough and mean. I was always grumpy, and I wore a scowl on my face”), *Raged* (“I hated the nuke tubes and I raged even at that point. I was like, nope, I’m never playing this again”), *Bugged* (“They also used to ask me, ‘Do you bleach your teeth?’ because my teeth were super white, and I didn’t, I just ate a load of candy, so my dad used brush my teeth a load. So, it really bugged me”), *Take It Out On* (“She would be angry and take it out on my older sister and I”), *Torment* (“I was still haunted by the torment and the bullying”), *Vicious* (“The kids at school were quite vicious, and they would bully me”), *Viciously* (“He had a habit of attacking and biting me viciously”), *Vindictive* (“My mentally unstable, vindictive theatre teacher”), *Torture* (“I hate factory farm torture”), *Irritated* (“He stopped responding to me entirely and I was so irritated”), *Irritable* (“I attempted to combat my depression with SSRIs or antidepressants, which in my case made me irritable, spontaneous and suicidal”), and *Brutal* (“I stuck with Street Play for a while - it was brutal. The directors were so mean”).

Violence/anger-related terms and phrases used by the male YouTubers and not the female YouTubers, on the other hand, are *Poke Fun*, with two uses by the same speaker (“Some of the kids there started making fun of me or would poke fun at my channel. At first, I didn’t let it get to me, but every day, kids would poke fun at my channel and made jokes about it, so I got embarrassed”). The following were used once each by the males: *Drive Crazy* (“It was my never-ending determination to keep getting better that



started to drive me a bit crazy. I wasn't just physically alone but emotionally alone. There wasn't a single person I felt like I could talk to who could actually relate to the stresses I was feeling. To put it another way, YouTube is a privileged job to have, but can also breed an attitude that creates relentless unhappiness"), *Irks* ("Nothing irks me more than hearing someone say that so-and-so just needs to get over it, because trust me, I wish it were that easy"), *Livid* ("The day I got my check, my dad started to charge me rent. I was livid"), *Mug* ("Teacher would always pick on me and say something like this – 'Joseph get the fuck out, you mug'"), *Pissed Off* ("I got really pissed off and made a video about their dead battery policy"), and *Whip* ("If you touch my mama one more time, I'm going to whip your punk ass").

#### E) Wmatrix4 Discussion - Fear/Shock

Within the Fear/Shock category, words with the base "Scar-" (*Scare, Scared, Scares, Scariest, Scary*) appeared more frequently in the female corpus than in the male one (107 uses – 41.1% vs. 45 uses – 30.2%). On the other hand, in the female DMLs, Wmatrix4 detected the words *Shy* and *Shyness* 40 times (15.3%) and *Shy, Shying, Shyness* 39 times (26.1%) in the male texts. Terms relating to terror [*Terrified/Terrifying/Terror(s)*] also made up a lower frequency in the female texts than in the male ones (22 uses – 8.4% vs. 15 uses – 10%), as did those relating to fear (*Fear, Feared, Fears*), with 14 female uses (5.3%) and 15 male uses (10%). Moreover, while a similar percentage of usage frequency was detected in the cases of *Freak Out, Freaked Out* and *Freaking Out* (12 female uses – 4.6% vs. 6 male uses – 4%), the word *Afraid* appeared with more relative frequency in the male corpus (8 male uses – 5.3% vs. 6 female uses – 2.3%).

Regarding fear/shock-related words used by the female YouTubers and not the male ones, there were two cases of *Mortified* ("She'd come and trickle warm water on my crotch. I would wake up mortified and cry because I would think crap, I just pissed myself" and "Everything was so blurry, but I refused to tell anyone because I thought that my parents would make me get glasses and I was mortified of the fact that I was going to get called four-eyes and other nicknames"), and two of *Nerve-Wracking* as well (e.g. "The first day of freshman year was the most nerve-wracking experience ever. The school was so big compared to what I was used to, and it was so scary").

The following were all used once each by a female and not at all by the males: *Alarmed* (“My sister came home crying. She wasn’t a crier, so I was super alarmed about it”), *Bombshell* (“My parents dropped a bombshell and my sister and I – we were moving”), *Daunted* (“I’ve always been really daunted by this task”), *Dumbfounded* (“The boys all laughed hysterically, and I just stood there, dumbfounded. The racist generalizing and stigma made me grow to really hate the way I looked”), *Mortifying* (“I literally sound like the most terrified and timid child in the entire universe. It’s so embarrassing still. It’s literally mortifying”), *Shaken Up* (“The back of the girl’s car was smashed. We were so shaken up”), *Spooky* (“Creepy things would happen on this land (...). It was so spooky”) and *Timid* [(“I was the) most terrified and timid child in the entire universe. It’s so embarrassing”]. As detected by LIWC2015, one male YouTuber used *Phobia* (“I had this phobia when I was afraid to become fat”), while this term did not appear in the female data.

#### *F) Wmatrix4 Discussion - Further Observations*

Of the 268 terms and phrases set aside from the happiness-related female corpus and 366 set aside from the happiness-related male corpus, those rejected from the female Wmatrix4 data were found to be contained in constructions with more weak/diminished intensity in context (43.6% vs. 41.5%), more personal reference displacement (42.5% vs. 36.3%), less unrelatedness to the emotion category (1.8% vs. 9.2%), more negative constructions (10% vs. 7.4%), fewer longing-/questioning-/tense-related issues (1.8% vs. 3.3%), and less sarcasm/irony (0% vs. 2.2%).

Within the sadness category, of the 131 terms and phrases set aside from the female corpus and 99 set aside from the male corpus, the female group was found to have more weak/diminished intensity in context (26.7% vs. 21.2%), more personal reference displacement (54.2% vs. 61.6%), more negative constructions (13% vs. 11.1%), fewer longing-/questioning-/and tense-related issues (3% vs. 4%), more unrelatedness to the emotion category (3% vs. 1%), and less sarcasm/irony (0% vs. 1%).

Regarding the 145 terms and phrases set aside from the female worry-related corpus and 110 set aside from the male worry-related corpus, those detected in the female constructions had less personal reference displacement (42.7% vs. 51.8%), more weak/diminished intensity in context (31% vs. 23.6%), fewer negative constructions

(19.3% vs. 20%), more unrelatedness to the emotion category (4.8% vs. 1.8%), and fewer longing-/questioning-/and tense-related issues (2% vs. 2.7%). No sarcasm/irony was detected in either corpus.

In the violence/anger-related Wmatrix4 category, with 177 terms and phrases set aside from the female corpus and 187 set aside from the male corpus, the female data included less weak/diminished intensity in context (47.4% vs. 61.5%), more personal reference displacement (36.7% vs. 27.8%), more unrelatedness to the emotion category (6.7% vs. 4.8%), more negative constructions (6.2% vs. 4.3%), more longing-/questioning-/and tense-related issues (2.8% vs. 1.6%), and, as before, no sarcasm/irony detected in either of the corpora.

Lastly, in the fear/shock-related category, with 72 terms set aside from the female corpus and 75 terms set aside from the male corpus, the female data had less weak/diminished intensity in context (48.6% vs. 70.6%), more personal reference displacement (43% vs. 20%), more negative constructions (6.9% vs. 5.3%), more longing-/questioning-/and tense-related issues (1.3% vs. 2.6%), less unrelatedness to the emotion category (0% vs. 1.3%). Once again, no sarcasm/irony was found in either group.

Therefore, in the set aside Wmatrix4 data, the only sarcasm/irony references relating to emotions (in the happiness and sadness categories) were made by the male YouTubers. The female YouTubers, on the other hand, were found to include more personal reference displacement when discussing happiness, violence/anger and fear/shock, meaning that they refer more frequently to the perceived feelings of happiness, violence/anger and fear/shock felt by others than the males do.

## 4.4 Manual Analysis 1: Thematic Analysis

In 2007, social theorist Gavin Kendall had an interview about Critical Discourse Analysis with discourse studies scholar Ruth Wodak. During their conversation (*What Is Critical Discourse Analysis?*, para. 17), Wodak described her understanding of the term “critical” in a research context:

“Critical” means not taking things for granted, opening up complexity, challenging reductionism, dogmatism and dichotomies, being self-reflective in my research, and through these processes, making opaque structures of power relations and ideologies manifest. “Critical”, thus, does not imply the common sense meaning of “being negative”—rather “skeptical”. Proposing alternatives is also part of being “critical”.

With the software results described in 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 in hand and motivated by Wodak’s argument against “taking things for granted”, I embarked on critical reflection over the quantitative finding from the software output that the female YouTubers refer more frequently to anxiety and depression in their *Draw My Life* videos. In particular, a multi-layered qualitative thematic analysis was carried out, guided by Chen’s (2016, p. 233) assertion that media users are able “to conceal aspects of their selves that they find undesirable”.

Social actors – and this case, YouTubers – both consciously and subconsciously control their behaviour and language to showcase themselves in the best possible light and match audience expectations and preferences (Baumeister and Hutton, 1987, p. 71). Keeping this notion in mind, I first set out to obtain qualitative data regarding how open the *Draw My Life* narrators are about deliberately focusing on or hiding certain parts of their life stories in the videos. This process led to the identification of numerous references in both the female and male corpora to awareness of the *Draw My Life* genre conventions, conscious shaping of their personal narratives due to conceived audience expectations, and an overt awareness of mediatized identity construction.

#### 4.4.1 Mediatized Self-Representation

While searching for data regarding the YouTubers' conscious shaping of their personal narratives, I was especially surprised to come across the case of GlitterForever17 (FDML #56), real name Breland Emory Avdeev, who as of 2021 has over 3 million subscribers. The retired DIY/beauty YouTuber turned lifestyle vlogger and now Only Fans adult content creator has had many drastic image/persona changes throughout the course of her online career.

Born in 1987, Avdeev was featured in the April 2014 issue of Seventeen magazine. At the time she was in her late twenties, while her videos definitely seemed to be aimed at teenage girls, with tips on “How To Shave Your Legs” or make homemade slime. After years of formulated, animated video openings (“Hey there, Glitter Critters!”) and an in-your-face love of all things pink and shiny, the repetitive, pre-teen-friendly content began to feel stale and over-rehearsed. In fact, in a video posted in 2019 to her main channel called *What Happened To GlitterForever17?*, Avdeev described concerns over others seeing her as fake:

I'm done being (...) robotic. That's one of the reasons why people hate me so much, because they say that I'm so fake. Which, I agree! I'm not trying to be fake, it just, it happens. That's just how I've been doing YouTube for the last seven, eight years. It's a long time to be, you know, constantly doing the same thing over and over, and it starts to sound faker and faker the more than you do it.

##### Extract 1: *What Happened To GlitterForever17?*

The YouTuber created two different *Draw My Life* videos – one in 2013, at the height of her glittery-sweet popularity with female teens, and one in 2018, when she was looking to reformulate an online persona more in line with her own age group and interests. At the start of her reversioned DML, Avdeev explains why she has decided to tell what she calls her “true story”:

This is me. I'm going to be redrawing my life, mostly because I wanted to fill in the blanks. I never lied in the first place. I didn't lie in my first *Draw My Life* video - **I only skipped a few parts**. I suggest you watch the first *Draw My Life* video which I'll be sure to link below so that way it'll shed some light on why so many **people were confused and thinking that I lied about my life**. It's one of my most favourite videos I've ever created, and I really think you'll enjoy it. It's a good watch. I never thought in a million years I would be redrawing my life and revealing **the true story about what I've actually been through**.

##### Extract 2: FDML #56 (part 2)

The YouTuber repeats twice that she did not “lie” in her first DML video, and yet admits to skipping a few parts and now wanting to reveal what she has “actually” gone through. This wording is very much reminiscent of Chen’s (2016, p. 233) description of media users concealing “aspects of their selves that they find undesirable”.

Avdeev assures viewers that “everything was true in the beginning” of her original *Draw My Life* video. Up until the age of six, she says, “I basically had every single thing I ever wanted. I had all the newest toys – I was a queen”. However, later on, she goes into previously undisclosed detail about difficulties faced by her family which led up to her parents’ divorce (“In my last *Draw My Life* video, do you all remember when I said my parents got a divorce? Well, that is the reason why...”). Next comes an especially telling section, in which she gives two reasons why she did not feel comfortable including these details in the first video: “My mum’s a very private person and that’s why she didn’t allow me to spill all the juicy tea back in the day when I did my first *Draw My Life* video. She requested I didn’t include all of that personal information and I respected her wishes. I also had a glitter-full persona to uphold, but now I don’t”.

Firstly, it is explained to followers that Avdeev’s mother asked her to omit certain family events from the original *Draw My Life* video. Secondly, a more introspective reason for having avoided certain topics is provided: the YouTuber felt pressured to convey a happy-go-lucky, “glitter-full” persona in her first video, and so focused on the positive parts of her life that would fall in line with this character. In 2018, when she produced the second DML, her aim was very different. The once young teenage girls who had followed her religiously in the past were now in their twenties and uninterested in videos about how to shave their legs or make slime. She needed to re-connect with her viewers on what would feel like a more “authentic”, age-appropriate level, and she felt that the best way to start a new chapter on her channel would be to open up about darker episodes in her past:

I kind of feel like my YouTube career has faded. I put so much time into my personal life and travels that I allowed YouTube to plummet. (...) I feel like I could make a comeback and make this channel great again. I’m willing to do whatever it takes to do so, and it starts with the truth. This is the truth and all the honest events that took place in my life that I left out of the first *Draw My Life* video. (...) This journey is not over, and I’m so proud to have you live it with me. Let’s go forward in a positive direction and keep drawing. I have so many exciting future plans that I hope to incorporate into my channel. I want to move to a big new city, start a new life, maybe go back to school and become something. I just want your love and support along the way. I have only love in my heart

for all of you. I promise I won't let you down. I'll see you in the next video. Thank you so much for watching and have a glitter-full day. I love you, bye!

**Extract 3: FDML #56 (part 2)**

It is interesting to note that while Avdeev says that she no longer has a “glitter-full persona to uphold”, she still chooses to close her second DML video telling her viewers to “have a glitter-full day”. What remains of the previous persona in her new online identity? Do either of these personas match up entirely with the real-life person? She says that her intended comeback needs to start with “the truth”, but is it not possible that this new version of the truth is just as constructed to cater to audience expectations as the previous one?

Avdeev's original and updated videos serve as a crucial reminder that all the *Draw My Life* narratives should be taken as mediated, mediatized versions of “the truth”. It is entirely possible that every single one of the YouTubers in the corpora had external pressures to avoid discussing certain embarrassing or harmful episodes and/or pressures to maintain a predictable and non-jarring mediatized persona for established viewers. Avdeev moves purposefully from a “glitter-full”, generally positive narrative to a darker, more introspective one, and at the time of watching both videos, her viewers had no other option but to take the stories at face value. As Goffman (1959, pp. 1-2) postulates, “the ‘true’ or ‘real’ attitudes, beliefs, and emotions of the individual can be ascertained only indirectly, through his avowals or through what appears to be involuntary expressive behavior”. As observers, then, we can only “rely on what the individual says about himself or on documentary evidence he provides as to who and what he is”. Likewise, as researchers, it is our obligation to constantly keep in mind that we are interpreting the “what appears to be” rather than the “what is”.

Another YouTuber who overtly discusses mediatized identity construction in her DML video is Jessie Paege (FDML #65), who as of 2021 has over 1.5 million subscribers on her “jessiepaege” channel, previously called “glamwithjessie”. Like Avdeev, her videos cover a range of topics, including fashion, music, food, and DIY. From 2017 to 2018, she starred in an interactive drama series called *Guilty Party*, and in 2020, in another career shift, she set up a separate channel to upload original music.

In her *Draw My Life* video, Paegge discusses issues with anxiety and depression, and a particularly difficult time in 2018, when she faced family problems, a breakup, and the passing of her pet puppy:

I was so confident going into 2018 and then eventually I had a lot of issues happening. So, I had a family issue that was incredibly harmful and then I also went through a breakup, and I also had my puppy pass away within three weeks. Having that much heartbreak in three weeks. It was insane. I didn't know my body could cry so much.

#### **Extract 4: FDML #65**

At this point in the video, she openly admits to worries over how to behave online during the difficult period. Her followers were used to a confident, rather headstrong online persona, and she implies that she was concerned about showing a more vulnerable side of herself. She says, “I took a little break from social media and I didn't know how I was going to **portray myself** online afterwards, because my whole entire theme on my channel, it's all about **being authentic and real** and promoting positive mental health”. Eventually, Paegge says that she chose to be open with her followers about her recovery process, hoping to provide comfort to others feeling similar: “I decided that I would show myself recovering, and I thought that could help a lot of people that were going through similar things. So, I decided to make videos all about recovery”. It is especially noteworthy that creator uses the words “portray myself” in the same sentence as “being authentic and real”. Once again, we find a thought-provoking mix of conscious construction and striving for “authenticity”.

A male YouTuber (MDML #62) who also describes a conscious shaping of his online identity due to conceived audience expectations is Christopher Foltz, the YouTuber behind the popular gaming channel Chrisandthemike (“mike” referring to “microphone”), with over 1.3 million subscribers as of 2021. Back in 2010, Foltz began making vlogs about his daily life. One year later, though, he started to upload content about the videogame Minecraft. A particularly popular series on his channel was Minecraft Family, in which he would play the game along with his father, stepmother, and stepsister.

In his *Draw My Life* video, Foltz discusses his parents' divorce and what with hindsight he perceives as manipulation by his father to turn against his mother:



They decided to get a divorce. Throughout the whole process my father would manipulate me into thinking my mother was the most horrible person in the world when in fact she was the smartest and the sweetest person. I was told that I had to choose who I wanted to live with. I was angry and I felt abandoned by my mother and chose to live with my father.

**Extract 5: MDML #62**

The creator then goes into detail about his father’s verbal and physical abuse towards him following the divorce, and describes a tense relationship with his new stepmother and stepsisters:

My father exited mentally. He broke down, he quit his job and we started to lose lots of money. At one point we only ate canned food from the 99-cent store, and he was still verbally and physically abusive. Then he met my stepmother and she brought along her two daughters - my new stepsisters. Eventually, my father and stepmother’s relationship fell apart. They stopped sharing a bedroom together and things got really weird in the household. My dad started to do things he wasn’t supposed to, and the household tension grew and grew and grew.

**Extract 6: MDML #62**

Despite these tensions and difficulties, Foltz says that he found an outlet in videogames:

At 16, I got a job at a bowling alley and the day I got my check, my dad started to charge me rent. I was livid. I grew very depressed and to get away from the weirdness of that family, I immersed myself into the world of videogames. I continued paying rent and then I went to college. I decided to major in Microbiology. Despite all the continued abuse, I graduated with an AS in Microbiology, but I grew more sad and more depressed and played more games with continued abuse.

**Extract 7: MDML #62**

After his graduation, he had more time to focus on the channel. He found that his followers also enjoyed videogaming as an escape from reality, and he was motivated to produce more and more content for them. This is when he started the Minecraft Family series, in which, while recording, his family members would put on an act and behave “like a normal functional family”:

Then I started uploading videos to YouTube of my gameplay. People started to enjoy my outlook on game environments and wanted to get away from their reality just as much as I did. I started my biggest series ever: Minecraft Family. My father, stepmother, younger stepsister and I played Minecraft together and acted like a normal functional family. It was very fun for those brief moments of recording but as soon as the recording was done, **that fake reality was gone**. People loved that series so much because they also loved seeing a family come together to play, but **little did they know about the truth**. If you watch the later episodes of the old Minecraft Family, you can almost feel the tension between us. It’s such a weird vibe.

**Extract 8: MDML #62**

As soon as recording was finished, the “fake reality” of a happy and healthy family unit disappeared. Just as the videogames themselves provide a form of escapism for so many, the Minecraft Family videos also allowed viewers to escape into completely constructed and idealised family dynamics. Foltz knew what his viewers wanted, and he served it to them knowing full well that the reality was entirely different.

Another male YouTube gamer who stands out in the group of those who make overt references to the conscious shaping of their online personas and, in this case, of his personal narrative, is Mike Norris (MDML #89). The creator, known as a “Let’s Player”, is behind the MrKravin channel (with over 140,000 subscribers) which focuses mainly on horror and adventure video games. In his DML, Norris discusses his decision to work full-time on YouTube, due to feeling frustrated in the IT sector:

About a year after I made the new channel, I decided to quit my job. I felt unappreciated. Scott had moved away, and the company had just changed. I wasn’t happy there anymore. I wasn’t happy doing IT work for people that didn’t appreciate me. I was happier making YouTube videos. So that brings us to present-day. I think that I’ve grown a lot over the last four years, not just as a YouTuber but also just as a person.

**Extract 9: MDML #62**

After completing his autobiographical narrative and describing his current feelings of fulfillment over committing to his channel, Norris says something striking: “So, I’ve been reading from a script this entire time, but now this is me talking to you. This is me saying thank you”. His whole DML narration, although seemingly flowing and natural, was in fact thought out in advance and written up in the form of a script. The majority of the YouTubers clearly draw their life stories on paper, white boards or digital media prior to recording the narration portion, and therefore put thought into the events to be highlighted and their order. However, Norris’ mention of a script leads to questions over how many of the other YouTubers also write up word-for-word texts to be read along with their drawings.

Mikayla Greenwood (FDML #92), who started her beauty, lifestyle, and DIY channel MissMikaylaG while she was in secondary school, now has over 500,000 subscribers. At the start of her DML video, she tells viewers to expect a relatively surface-level narrative:

So, today's video is going to be the ever-so-popular *Draw My Life* video and I was really excited to film this for you. I didn't go too in-depth into my life. Just kind of the surface, but hopefully you guys can take away something from this video and learn something that you didn't already know about me.

**Extract 10: FDML #92**

In the story, Greenwood focuses heavily on her “amazing” upbringing (“I honestly had the best childhood growing up because my parents are fantastic. And it was absolutely amazing”) and equally “amazing” friendships (“I have a very large group of friends which I'm very lucky for and they're absolutely amazing, because they're always there”). The tone of the overall narrative is very positive, but at the end of the video, a noteworthy explanation is given:

And I didn't want this video to be negative in any way, even though I have gone through quite a bit in my life. These are all the names of the people that I've lost, which stands out a lot to me because I've dealt with a lot of deaths in my life compared to someone else my age, and I deal with them all differently, but I didn't want to focus on that for this video because that's not fun to watch.

**Extract 11: MDML #62**

Greenwood makes it clear that, while she has indeed faced hardship and grief in her life, she has preferred to focus on the positive in her *Draw My Life* narrative. In particular, she explains that her aim was to create a video that was “fun to watch” and not “negative in any way”.

Similarly, on her lighthearted “Maqaroon & Cute Life Hacks” channel's “About” page, Joanna Zhou (FDML #60) explains her aim to create a platform “where girls can get creative inspiration, DIY ideas and good life advice without the glorification of money, beauty or body image”. In Zhou's DML, she makes reference to the audience's possible boredom — a strong indication that their expectations are at the forefront of her mind when narrating her video:

I also spent a few years as a web designer and creating artwork for online games. At this point, many of you might be thinking, ‘Wow, this is a pretty uneventful *Draw My Life*, since you obviously went from designing to YouTube and everyone knows the rest’. However, there was actually a turning point coming up in my life which changed a lot of things for me...

**Extract 12: FDML #60**

Zhou also indicates a strong awareness of themes and episodes discussed in the life stories of other YouTubers. For example, she says, “I know it’s almost **a cliché for YouTubers to pretend** that they were geeky or uncool in high school, but without joking, I was literally the biggest nerd in my grade”. Likewise, Meghan Rienks (FDML #95), whose channel is called MeghanRosette, starts off her DML video making reference to how *Draw My Life* videos often have a sad tone: “Ah, alas — another somewhat depressing and not too uplifting *Draw My Life* video done by a YouTuber. Are we surprised?”

At the start of his *Draw My Life* story, Sam Tucker (MDML #83), who has a comedy and infotainment channel under the name “SamTime”, admits that he was unsure about creating a video in the genre. After watching those of other YouTubers, he had come to the conclusion that they all seem to end positively, with the narrators having achieved their dreams: “I’ve been a bit reluctant to do one of these *Draw My Life* videos, because all of those seemed to have a really happy ending where the person telling the story has achieved all their dreams and everything’s looking up Milhouse, and I don’t feel I’m quite there yet”. Despite his doubts (“still got a long way to go, both on YouTube and also personally, just trying to be comfortable being myself”), he decides to go ahead and create his version of the genre. Much like Jessie Paege, who chooses to be open with her followers about her recovery process hoping for relatability and connection with her followers, Tucker decides to be open about not having his life all together at the time of publication of his DML: “Then again, I thought, hey, that’s probably kind of relatable so, so here we go”.

Paege also admits to awareness of the *Draw My Life* genre conventions when she discusses the life-changing moment that she discovered the YouTube platform and the creative outlet that it provided: “I know they say this in every single *Draw My Life* video, but I’m going to say it, I discovered YouTube and genuinely, it really did change my life”.

## 4.4.2 Gender Roles

In their *Draw My Life* narratives, the self-identified female YouTubers often indicate a perceived stunted freedom due to gender norms. For instance, the narrator of FDML #58 includes an episode in which she loses her passion for tattooing due to misogynistic aggression and animosity from male artists at the shop she works at:

I quit my job at the tattoo shop. I don't really want to get into the details of this, but I left because the shop I worked at had a negative atmosphere and the animosity from the other artists became very aggressive and I kind of feared for my safety. Generally, the tattoo industry is misogynistic, so it wasn't a society that I really wanted to be part of any longer, and I completely lost my passion for tattooing.

**Extract 13: FDML #58**

Gender norm-related frustration is also expressed in FDML #36, in which the YouTuber describes being “forced” to wear traditionally feminine clothing and being sent to an all-girls school so that she would not get pregnant at a mixed one:

I was such a tomboy. I hated dresses and skirts, but every Sunday morning, my mum would force me into that Sunday dress to wear to church. In the 6th and 7th grade, I went to an all-girls private school and this school was in a castle. I guess my parents were scared that I would get pregnant if I went to public school.

**Extract 14: FDML #36**

Another female YouTuber (FDML #61) expresses similar frustrations, but this time over having her perceived femininity stunted by “boyish” haircuts forced onto her as a child:

I always wanted to be a girly girl, but I was given short hair all of my life. Short back and sides every time. I was so embarrassed, and I couldn't speak to people without going bright red, especially to boys, so I finally took control and refused another haircut.

**Extract 15: FDML #61**

Awkwardness with male friends is also described in FDML #51, in which the narrator says that she was excluded from the ‘female category’ by them because of her fashion choices as a girl: “I wasn't really in the ‘female’ category, according to my male friends, with the baggy t-shirts and baggy jean shorts. Thanks, guys”.

Many of the female YouTubers expressed a perceived link between their understanding of femininity and physical beauty. For example, Nicola DeMartino (FDML #16), known on YouTube as part of Niki and Gabi (a beauty and lifestyle channel run

with her twin Gabriella), describes feeling rejected at school due to her and her sister's "girliness". She explains how this "girliness" was able to be released via the twins' beauty channel:

We felt very excluded, and we think it was that way because we were just so girly and so out there, and we just loved to have fun and go shopping and, and enjoy everything and, and we were just typical girls, and everybody was really athletic and really academic and had different humour and just different, and so Gabi and I released our inner girliness on the beauty channel that year.

**Extract 16: FDML #16**

As we can see, being athletic and academic is contrasted directly with having fun, going shopping, and being "typical" beauty-loving girls. In a similar narrative, beauty and lifestyle YouTuber Dulce Candy (FDML #27) discusses her life as a mechanic in the military, and compares it with the possibility to interact with her followers via YouTube on a "more feminine level":

In 2008 is when I joined YouTube and I started to do videos and it was just such a fun way for me to step outside of my military uniform, you know? I was in a mechanic shop all day working on Humvees and generators, so interacting with you guys on a more feminine level really, (...) I became so obsessed with it.

**Extract 17: FDML #27**

Farah Dhukai (FDML #100) has 151,072,294 channel views as of 2021. The "About" page of her YouTube channel describes her interests as follows: "I love makeup. I'm low key a make up hoarder. Someone needs to call TLC on me. I also love to do cute things to my hair sometimes, and I mostly love taking things from my kitchen and using them as a DIY face, hair or body mask". Although her recent content has focused on her fertility and pregnancy journey, the vast majority of her videos are beauty-centric. In her DML narrative, Dhukai uses a caterpillar-to-butterfly analogy to depict her journey of "blossoming into a girl":

I'm eight years old and I was blossoming into a hairy little caterpillar like most little brown kids. I got glasses that are too small for my face, I had like a unibrow, my moustache was coming in nicely and I hated showering; I was so scared to shower so I actually really smelled. I was a real Disney princess. (...)

And then the summer afterwards is when I really started blossoming into a girl. I became close with my sister and I started borrowing her clothes and I grew out my hair and I started wearing her makeup, and I don't think she was embarrassed to hang out with me this time because my moustache was gone. I wasn't a hairy little caterpillar anymore - I was actually a girl.

**Extract 18: FDML #100**

To be “actually a girl”, she felt that she had to rid herself of facial hair and start wearing makeup. Transgender YouTuber Gigi Gorgeous (FDML #17) also links femininity with “heels and lipstick”, which she contrasts with her brothers’ love of “manly” football and karate:

I went through a really confusing stage in my life, I would call it. My older brother was playing football and being really manly and out there, and just playing all these sports and had all these guy friends, and my younger brother was also playing karate and being really manly also, and I just didn’t, I felt like I didn’t fit in anywhere, you know, all of them were having so much fun and then I was just kind of left in the corner, you know? And I had to keep all of this in because I didn’t want to make it seem like I felt left out because, you know, I was thinking about things like heels and lipstick and I just didn’t have anywhere to fit in at the time, and I was really, really insecure about a lot of things.

**Extract 19: FDML #17**

The perceived link between femininity and a lack of sports skills/interest was conveyed by several other female YouTubers. For instance, the narrator of FDML #81 says about her father, “I think he wished he had a son who could play sports”. Similarly, in FDML #39, the YouTuber describes becoming a teenager, when she “started wearing makeup and dressing nicer” but “never gave up” her “love of so-called ‘boy’ activities like playing video games, snowboarding and imitating the show Jackass”.

Some of the female YouTubers also linked femininity with a lack of skills/interest in video games. The creator of FDML #39, for example, describes her childhood and teenage friendship with another girl who she considers to be classically “girly” due her love of beauty, while she calls herself a tomboy because she did not care so much about her appearance and loved playing video games instead:

I was even lucky enough to be in a house across the street from another little girl who was the same age as me. Her name was Sarah and we became BFFs (*best friends forever*). As we grew up, we did everything together, but we were total opposites. I was more of a tomboy and not really caring so much about my appearance and loved playing video games. While Sarah was your classic girly girl and she was actually the one that started trying to get me into make-up and doing my hair.

**Extract 20: FDML #39**

In FDML #83, a YouTuber describes her friendship with another girl who enjoyed playing video games. Taking for granted the inferior skills of females at playing violent games like Halo, the girls would criticise male players for losing to them, highlighting the fact that “a girl” had managed to kill them:

And during this time was the first time I ever tried Xbox. At first, the whole Xbox thing started as a joke. My friend and I would go into my brother's room and we would get on the headset and we'd play Halo and we just talked loads of shit to the people on the microphone because we thought it was funny to hear them rage and get mad because I would just say, "Haha, a girl killed you!" and some cringy stuff, but it was hilarious to hear their reactions.

**Extract 21: FDML #83**

Like the previously mentioned Gigi Gorgeous, MtF (male to female) transgender YouTuber Kat Blaque (FDML #80) describes difficulties fitting in with traditional societal expectations for males. In particular, she links femininity with creativity: "In preschool, my favourite activity was art. I loved to draw, I loved to paint, and I just loved to create. Unfortunately, this was kind of more of a girl thing". Blaque shows how her creative freedom was stunted due to her early socialisation as a male.

Likewise, we find the case of Vanessa Christine (FDML #20), who started her YouTube channel ("2011teenagemom") to discuss the trials and tribulations of life as a teenage mother. As with Blaque, she talks in her DML video about creative pursuits such as singing and drawing, and links them with "just being a girl": "I was really into boys and I was a social butterfly - you'd say that five times in a row. So yeah, I was just living life and I sang and drew and texted, and I was just being a girl".

As well as beauty, fashion, creativity and a lack of sports/video gaming skills, femininity is linked in the female DML narratives with cleanliness (e.g. "he needed a woman in his life, so I moved in and cleaned the place up" - FDML #61), negative drama (e.g. "twelve boys and five girls in our class which meant almost no drama, which I think is really, really great because I don't like girls anyways" - FDML #87), and a lack of intelligence to appeal to males (e.g. "I thought that it was the cool thing to appear kind of dumb and that maybe this would make the boys like me" - FDML #64).

The links drawn with masculinity in the female *Draw My Life* videos are also notable and varied. First of all, Jessie Paege (FDML #65) often refers to herself using male terminology when expressing positive feelings of confidence and pride (e.g. "We love a king with comedic timing" and "I'm a proud father, a daddy"). Another extremely successful social media influencer, Kylie Jenner (of *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* fame), has also frequently referred to herself as a king on her different online platforms (even posing confidently wearing clothing with the label "King Kylie").



Similarly, in FDML #2, the narrator describes her father as “the man” for bravely killing a snake: “a snake came out, my dad killed it with a knife, and we were like, ‘Whoa dad, you’re such the man!’” Just as this YouTuber proudly describes her father as “the man”, the narrator of FDML #27 notes, “my dad is the man of the house, of course”, providing no further details to support this description and therefore taking for granted that viewers will understand the connotations of being “the man” of a household. In the same introductory sequence, on the other hand, she describes her mother as one of her “fashion icons”.

A perceived link between masculinity and rudeness is made in FDML #8, in which the narrator feels out of place with girls and rejected by boys due to her traditionally masculine love of video games (“the girls didn’t like the same things as me and the boys were just assholes”). The creator of FDML #100 also links masculinity/tomboyish behaviour with being antisocial (“I actually found myself becoming more of a tomboy and just kind of more antisocial”).

While some YouTubers describe perceived stunted freedom due to gender norms, others convey a direct link between masculinity and potential oppression. For example, the narrator of FDML #80 discusses her admiration for the character Sailor Moon, given that she doesn’t let a man control her: “Someone that I look up to looks like this: strong, independent, doesn’t let a man hold her down, fights crime, and does it all with a smile on her face. This is my girl Sailor Moon, and I loved that show”. In a more extreme case, the creator of FDML #69 says that as a feminist, her mother did not want a husband and preferred to bring up her daughter alone: “my mum was a feminist and she didn’t want a husband, so she decided to raise me by herself”.

Along these lines, both the female and male YouTubers expressed a perceived parental influence on the social construction of gender norms. In FDML #61, the narrator says that her father was “either at work or stressed about work”, leaving what she describes as the “emotional stuff” to her mother. The male YouTuber in MDML #64 makes a similar distinction between his hard-working father and open-hearted mother:

Papa fruit is a strong man with a chiselled butt chin. Seriously, he used to be a bodybuilder and he was massive. He’s incredibly hard-working and I’d like to think I picked up my work ethic from him. My mother was a southern girl born and raised in the heart of Georgia whose accent used to be thicker than molasses. I imagine that’s how it would have sounded coming from her. She’s got a big open heart for anyone in her life (...).

**Extract 22: MDML #64**

In MDML #25, a father is described as encouraging an aggressive reaction from his son, while his mother supports turning the other cheek: “I remember coming home crying after a boy called Joshua was mean to me. My mum told me that Josh was a dick and I shouldn’t listen to him while my dad said I should beat the shit out of him”.

Other male YouTubers describe pressure from their fathers to conform to masculine norms of male bonding (e.g. “My dad was definitely very hard on me growing up; he didn’t like that my only friends were girls and he wanted me to be more of a masculine son” - MDML #12) and enjoying sports (e.g. “I was the first boy in my family, so my dad was probably all excited to have someone to, I don’t know, throw footballs around with or something. Unfortunately for him, growing up, I was all about dancing, singing and of course, acting” - MDML #26).

However, it is not just the fathers who are described in the *Draw My Life* videos as enforcing traditional masculinity on their sons. In MDML #60, the YouTuber’s mother and siblings put pressure on him to be strong, protective, and heterosexual:

My mum was from Guyana which made it a little harder to be gay because in Guyana the men are supposed to be strong to protect their house, you know? They believe that you can beat the gay out of somebody, else you’ll probably be taken advantage of or killed, and my brother and sister made things worse by constantly calling me fag and gay as if it was the new thing to do. I was completely shut off. I didn’t have anyone to talk to. I didn’t want to disappoint my family, so it was around that time that I took this oath to never come out to anyone. Family or otherwise.

**Extract 23: MDML #60**

In many of the DML narratives, the male YouTubers also receive peer pressure to conform to masculine gender norms (e.g. “Some of the kids at my school thought it was girly and dumb that I was in dance classes” - MDML #26), with peers often linking homosexuality, or perceived homosexuality in some cases, with weakness. For instance, in MDML #34, comedian Jack Douglass, known as “jacksfilms” on YouTube, admits to being “awkward”, “an A+ student”, and “never playing sports”. He adds, “I also wasn’t the most masculine guy growing up. I got called ‘faggot’ a few times but then kind of shook it off because, truth be told, I just like boobs, girls, too much”. He explains how his peers automatically linked deviating from social norms for masculinity (e.g. confidence, love of physical sports) with homosexuality.

Similarly, in MDML #41, the narrator describes how the pitch of his voice, expressive hand gestures, high energy levels, lack of ball-sports skills and not “walking

around slapping girls' asses" led his peers to call him a "faggot". As a black teen, he was also accused of "acting white" because of his academic strengths. Given all of this pressure, he felt increasingly isolated and gave up on one of his biggest passions — singing (just as the narrator in FDML #58 gives up on her passion for tattooing):

Everything I never noticed about myself was exposed: I didn't have the deepest voice, sometimes I talked with my hands, I wasn't good at any sports that involved a ball, I wasn't walking around slapping girls' asses, I had a tad bit more energy than every guy around me. I've never been called a "faggot" more of my life in the period between September 2004 and May 2005. The worst part was that I could never escape it. I was stuck with these people in every single class. When I got to gym, it was even worse. Not only was I a faggot to some, but I was acting "white" because I took harder classes to others. Nothing made sense to me. School had always been a great place. I looked forward to waking up and being surrounded by my peers and learning and having a good time. Over a span of 3 months, it became hell. I hated school. I never wanted to go. I made a few good friends and I still had a positive attitude on the outside, but I'd never felt more alone. I didn't try out for choir. I stopped singing.

**Extract 24: FDML #58**

In MDML #31, the YouTuber contrasts his acceptance of his homosexual brother with the shocking rejection of his peers at school, who encourage him to kill his sibling in his sleep due to his sexual orientation:

My mum had sat down my sister and I and told us that our brother Tristan was gay. This came as no surprise to me because I watched him play with Barbies growing up and he only hung out with girls, so I already knew it. Although I didn't care that my brother was gay, everyone else around me seemed to. Kids at school were telling me that I should kill my brother in his sleep because he was gay, so I just ignored these kids. I still do stand up for my brother and support him in whatever he does because even though he annoys me sometimes, I still love him the same.

**Extract 25: MDML #31**

Another unfortunately common theme in the male DML narratives is objectification of girls and women. An example is MDML #69, in which the narrator "jokingly" refers to his own mother as a "skank" and "floozy" due to his being brought up by his stepfather:

I grew up with a dad when I was young, but he just wasn't my biological father - he was my younger sister's dad. He was a great person and treated me like his own son. To the point that I didn't even know that I wasn't for a portion of my life, because I was a kid that couldn't comprehend my mum was a skank! Joke, joke, I meant to say floozy. Don't worry, she has a sense of humour.

**Extract 26: MDML #69**

Likewise, one male YouTuber (MDML #30) is despective in his depiction of girls with whom he went to school, proudly describing how he would get into trouble for “trying to kiss” them and focusing on how he “always had a thing for black girls”:

In kindergarten, I received 17 citations from the teacher for trying to kiss girls and one of them actually landed, who from then on became my girlfriend. I was 5 at the time and I don't really want to brag, but she was six years old and on top of it, she was black. I always had a thing for black girls - I don't know why, just, what can I say? They do things right.

**Extract 27: MDML #30**

An additional story including female objectification is found in MDML #44, in which the narrator talks about “making” women show him and his friends their “tits” by stopping them from entering a party until they obliged. After describing these disgusting actions as “legendary moves”, he discusses making “mistakes” by spending a night of “drunken stupidity fun” with one woman, “a stage 5 stupidity clinger”, who mistakenly believes that he is interested in a relationship with her:

This is also where I met my best friend today, Caleb, and he came up with the idea of when we throw a party, in order for you to get in, if you were a woman we would make you show your tits and so we would stand outside the door and tell them that they would not be allowed in to drink the keg beer, and that's when we saw tits. Legendary moves on a daily basis. On one of these crazy party nights I was drunk just minding my own business and this girl came up to me whose name I still cannot remember and she just started randomly making out with me and one thing led to another and yeah, mistakes were made. This woman was a stage 5 stupidity clinger. After one night of drunken stupidity fun, she apparently thought that I was her boyfriend and I had to let her down with a strong “no”.

**Extract 28: MDML #44**

Similarly, the YouTuber who created MDML #67 focuses heavily on the physical appearance of a girl in his class, making sure to mention her “big boobs”: “I was lucky enough to meet a really cool girl in one of my classes. She was just so pretty, and she had a lip ring and she had tattoos, and she wore chains on her pants, and she was really funny and smart in class and she had big boobs”.

### 4.4.3 Emotions and Mental Health

The female YouTubers often indicate feeling overwhelmed by intense emotions, with references to emotional battles, emotional rollercoasters, emotional eating, and feeling emotionally drained:

- A whole bunch of emotional stuff I carried with me from my childhood continued to haunt me (FDML #4)
- I went from a happy, spontaneous shamelessly creative kid to a shy, socially awkward, overly emotional weirdo/I went into my sophomore year already an emotional wreck (FDML #19)
- I was emotionally turbulent/It has caused me great emotional and existential stress (FDML #22)
- I went through a long emotional battle with depression (FDML #56)
- 2009 to 2010 were an emotional rollercoaster for me (FDML #72)
- I realized how labour-intensive and emotionally draining it could be (FDML #74)
- When it comes to (my) relationship, the emotions took over the battle (FDML #76)
- This is the start of me being an emotional eater (FDML #88)

In the female narratives, there are also instances of attempts to quantify emotions (e.g. “I’m 49% scared and 51% excited” - FDML #6), finding comfort in sharing emotional experiences (e.g. “Everybody else was feeling the exact same thing, and that - that pulling of the emotional pressure release valve in my head — was what saved me” — FDML #19), and linking control over emotions to maturity (e.g. “I was very quiet and well behaved, emotionally older than my years” - FDML #61).

In contrast, the male YouTubers frequently indicate emotional detachment and difficulties in expressing and describing emotions, with constant references to social pressure to be tough:

- I’m sorry if my story was quite shit and boring, but that was me and this is probably the last time you’ll see me make a serious video though because I just can’t do it. Man, it’s fucked. I can’t do it. I can’t take seriousness because I’m a glass/I started to not give a fuck about things and yeah, I kind of stopped caring about a lot of stuff. So, this is why I am who I am now and to be honest, I’ve learned that caring about stuff is the most pointless thing ever because everyone’s going to die anyway (MDML #43)
- To their face I was tough, but, you know, between you and me, behind closed doors I don’t think I’ve ever felt more hurt (MDML #60)

- I felt sad for a long time after that and I couldn't explain a lot of the emotions that I felt (MDML #65)
- I thought acting tough and cocky was what made people cool. I think deep inside I just wanted to prove myself or others that I could be loved/I thought the person I was before was the reason I was rejected in the first place. What I thought defined me, well, my bullies ridiculed. I didn't know how to express myself anymore (MDML #75)
- I read a bunch of my old school reports recently which said that I was a happy child, but maybe that was just a performance I'd already started, or maybe my memory's being selective (MDML #78)

The male narratives also include references to difficulties controlling anger/aggression, such as in MDML #98, in which the narrator tries to deal with his anger in a physical manner, until being sent to anger management therapy, which he says was ineffective. He states that subsequent sessions with a psychologist/behaviour expert did, however, help him to become angry “less often and less quickly”:

And sometimes I just broke. I just lost it. I got really angry, trying to handle it on a physical level, trying to beat the shit out of people and just breaking stuff, you know, stuff like that (...) Oh, and by the way, this anger management bullshit, no. It didn't work at all. This was during school and we had no clue what we were doing there or why. I was also sent to a totally different place with what I think was a psychologist or a behaviour expert, I don't know. Something with my behaviour, something with my anger, and this did actually work, I think. I got mad less often and less quickly. To be completely honest, I don't know the exact order of all this.

**Extract 29: MDML #98**

Another commonly referenced emotion-related issue by the male YouTubers is shame over external expression of feelings. For instance, in discussing his father's divorce from his mother, the narrator of MDML #56 says that he may have been borderline depressed but would never have told anyone about it: “We knew he was getting lonely where he was — maybe even borderline depressed, although he would never admit it”.

Similarly, in MDML #78, the YouTuber describes how he did not want to admit to what he saw as being weak, preferring to ignore his feelings and put on a brave face: “I'm very good at putting a brave face on things and not being honest with my emotions, but I also wasn't honest with myself about my situation. I suppose I didn't want to admit that I was struggling because to do so would have been to admit a weakness”. Along these lines, another creator (MDML #99) admits to having cried over being bullied, but jokingly describes his crying as “manly”, as if to shrug off his pain: “I actually cried a few times. I mean, like, manly cries, but I did cry”.

Lastly, reluctance to share emotional issues with others is also frequent in the male DML corpus, with references to feeling “emotionally alone”, too proud to reach out for help, wanting to feel “in control”, and wearing an “emotional mask”:

- I’m not happy, I’m genuinely not happy and it’s so hard to tell people (MDML #57)
- To this day, I’ve only told a handful of people that I deal with depression because, much like seventh grade, I’ve made myself someone who’s not prone to opening themselves up to weaknesses. I didn’t want people to know I have depression and to look at me differently or pity me. I just wanted to try and pretend it wasn’t there (MDML #64)
- I wasn’t just physically alone but emotionally alone. There wasn’t a single person I felt like I could talk to who could actually relate to the stresses I was feeling. To put it another way, YouTube is a privileged job to have but can also breed an attitude that creates relentless unhappiness (MDML #77)
- The logical thing to do here of course would have been to tell someone and ask to defer my exams maybe. It was obvious that I was in no fit state to do them, but I didn’t. I hinted to a few friends that I was struggling, and I just carried on. I was just too proud to ask for help (MDML #78)
- There might be a reason why I like performing so much, because, because on stage, I’m in control. It’s like a one-way thing where I show people my good side and what I’m good at, and rather than people asking any personal questions, they, they just clap (MDML #83)
- I basically made an emotional mask for myself (MDML #89)

Negative mental health issues were also discussed by 56 female YouTubers and 38 male YouTubers. In FDML #1, for example, the narrator discusses her anxiety and panic attacks, pinpointing her parents’ divorce as a causal factor:

I felt quite lost and my anxiety also meant that I couldn’t join in with things like clubs and pubs, so I became quite alienated. I started working in various different jobs, one involving interior design and another involving a retail store, and although I learnt many things, I knew that none of the jobs I did was fulfilling or what I really wanted to do, and they also didn’t really make me that happy. And by this point my anxiety made things like working a lot more difficult for me. My parents decided to divorce which made things in life slightly more difficult and it also meant that I had a lot more panic attacks than normal.

**Extract 30: FDML #1**

In FDML #4, depression, suicidal thoughts and paranoia are described as having stemmed from childhood emotional issues and problems with friends:

My life took a plunge in the third year of my undergrad. I ran into issues with a few of my friends that really affected me. A whole bunch of emotional stuff I carried with me from my childhood continued to haunt me, and I honestly felt as if my entire life

collapsed. Over the next few months, I fell into a severe depression. I lost my appetite and my desire to wake up in the morning. I wouldn't answer my phone and I lost a lot of friends. I had no goals, no aspirations and no motivation. I was no longer that colourful girl who had big dreams, and as scary as it sounds, I can honestly say that I lost my desire to live. And that translated into some very scary thoughts on some very scary nights. I also developed irrational thoughts of people staring at me. Whenever I was in public, I felt like I was wearing a huge sign that said "depressed". (...)

I specifically remember one night, when I was an absolute mess. Now up until this night, I thought that the mind and body were two separate things that functioned completely separate from each other. I learned the hard way that this in fact is not true. That night, my mind was racing with thoughts, fears, scary images, recalling every terrible thing to ever happen to me and just flooding with negativity. So, I decided to call a friend, get up, do something, anything other than lie there and tremble and cry. But my body would simply not respond. I remember feeling a huge wave of panic because couldn't get my arms, my legs or my hands to move. I was finding it difficult to breathe and I was completely paralyzed for those few minutes because my mind was controlling me and not vice-versa.

#### **Extract 31: FDML #4**

FDML #5 includes a reference to "unhealed emotional scars" ("Senior year of high school, I couldn't take the hurt anymore. My stepdad left a lot of scars that I'm still trying to heal from. The heart can only take so much") and the narrator of FDML #6 mentions feeling depressed over university studies and being diagnosed with a general anxiety disorder. After finding what she calls "the right medication", she says that she got back in control of her mind:

These past years were also the years that I conquered my anxiety. I wasn't sure if I wanted to include this in the video because everything has been pretty sunshines and rainbows so far, but when I first moved to Toronto, I was diagnosed with a general anxiety disorder and it literally paralyzed my life to the point where I couldn't leave my room. I found the right help and the right medication to get myself back in control of my mind within the following years and have been building my confidence around anxiety every single day. The phrase "take one day at a time" is truly something I live by when coping with anxiety, and to be honest, I couldn't have done any of this or be where I am without you guys and the support of my friends and family.

#### **Extract 32: FDML #5**

The narrator of FDML #7 talks about overworking online, becoming antisocial and ending up as a hoarder:

I was making videos and still posting twice a week on my blog. It was really tough on me. I would come home from work and then film or edit videos till I slept. I used every single lunch break to edit or work on my blog, and my workmates were just so used to me telling them that I couldn't even join them for lunch that they stopped asking. I had no social life to speak of and my home didn't even resemble a home anymore. It literally just looked like a studio. The situation got so bad, I ended up on national television as a



hoarder and had my whole apartment de-cluttered and renovated while everyone watched what a mess I got myself into.

**Extract 33: FDML #7**

In FDML #8, anger issues are referenced (“this kid made fun of me, called me ugly and poor, and I told him I’d beat him up. I kind of had anger issues when I was a kid, like I get mad at everyone, everything”), and the narrator of FDML #9 mentions paranoia over her mother leaving the house because of her vulnerable state:

I wanted to stay home and look after my mum because she wasn’t really able to look after herself anymore. She didn’t cook and clean up after herself, so I had to do that for her. And she would have a lot of accidents because of her drinking. She would often fall over a lot at home, and sometimes she would go out in public and she would hurt herself there, and quite a few times she had to have an ambulance called for her because she hurt herself quite badly, so that was always really scary and I got a bit of paranoia about her leaving the house all the time.

**Extract 34: FDML #8**

The YouTuber in FDML #13 describes the “most depressing point” in her life, during which her family faced financial problems:

This family restaurant became the most depressing point in my life, because each night, when my family came home around 11:00p.m. at night, there would be arguments, tears and anger. The biggest problem was debt. We were in a lot of debt because the restaurant was losing a lot of money and business was slow.

**Extract 35: FDML #13**

FDML #19 discusses feelings of anxiety, self-esteem issues and darkness “welling up inside” as a teenager:

Middle school is a tough gig for anybody at that age and like many, it’s when I developed major self-esteem and anxiety problems.

I believed that my worth as a person was directly connected to how I looked and what other people thought of my body, well, it was going to be a demon that I had to fight for a long time. (...)

My anxiety was really getting the better of me and I felt this darkness beginning to well up inside, like at any moment something would tip me over the edge and I would just snap. I would lose my mind.

**Extract 36: FDML #19**

In FDML #22, the YouTuber also talks about her anxiety and self-esteem issues. Given that she was embarrassed about her acne, she lashed out against her school peers

and bullied those who had been bullying her. Later on, she also discusses failed attempts to combat depression with medication, leading to suicidal thoughts:

I was always covering my face with my coat sleeve. My self-esteem went down and my fear of people went up. I started combating bullying with bullying, and my aggression got me out of a lot of potentially humiliating situations. So being very angry, jealous and bitter was a tool I kept all the way until the end of high school. My aggression was based on fear. The people who bully you are doing so because they have deep-seated issues - something deep and dark is blocking their empathy, so please don't take it seriously or at least try not to. It's not you, it's them.

My sister was also recklessly teased, but we stuck together. She and her amazing group of friends were so hilarious and uplifting. Middle school was difficult. I had one true friend, Ashley, who is still my best friend. We'd hide together in boot rooms and bathroom stalls during lunch period every single day. I remember school dance when no one asked us to dance, so we just hung out in the back of the gym all night and made each other laugh. Near the end of middle school, Ashley switched schools due to bullying and my family encountered problems that caused even more anxiety for me. (...)

I attempted to combat my depression with SSRIs or antidepressants, which in my case made me irritable, spontaneous and suicidal. I had severe emotional difficulty and withdrew from university under extenuating circumstances. I attempted a myriad of quick fixes and diets, only to worsen my problems. I was emotionally turbulent, my acne was bad, I was constantly exhausted, I had chronic migraines and I was 30 pounds heavier than I am now. The conventional fixes failed me miserably, and more importantly, I couldn't let my depression grow any more intense.

**Extract 37: FDML #22**

The narrator of FDML #23 also describes overthinking and “bad anxiety”, depicting YouTube as an “escape” from university and life-related stresses:

I was always nervous about people finding out that I did YouTube. I honestly don't even know why. I tend to overthink a lot and I do have bad anxiety, so maybe that plays a factor in it. (...) Honestly, YouTube was a place of escape for me from stress because uni and life basically just stressed me out. I would think about the future a lot and that honestly would just scare the heck out of me because I overthink way too much.

**Extract 38: FDML #23**

In FDML #26, the YouTuber talks about abandonment issues because of the lack of her father's presence and also depression following the suicide of a close friend:

I was, like, three when we were here and my dad decided to stay in California, which is where my abandonment issues I guess began. (...) At the time I was losing all my money, my friend Brian actually passed away. Well, he killed himself actually, and it was quite a shock. And it really made me sad because Brian was kind of there for me, I know I'm kind of speeding this up, Brian was there for me a lot and it was really sad and I got really depressed when he killed himself, and I was running out of money and my mum and I were kind of fighting still, and my sister and I weren't really getting along, so, I ended up going back to the strip club.

**Extract 39: FDML #26**

FDML #27's narrator describes feeling extremely depressed and suicidal after a break-up:

I used to really like him and he was such a cool, cute guy and he was actually my legit first boyfriend. Actually, he's not legit first boyfriend, because the first day that we actually saw each other in person, he's like, "Yeah, I have too much going on. I think it's better if we break up and get back together when basketball season is over". Fast forward, this guy, ugh, no bueno. Anyways, I went home, I started crying and crying, and I started attempting suicide by taking pills and trying to hang myself in the closet, and I was just a really depressed girl, and I was basically depressed for my entire high school four complete years. And yeah I'm just I remember just asking God, like please, just let me die. I'm tired of living, and just very, very depressing, very suicidal state of mind, but you know what? I am so glad and I am so thankful that God did not allow that, because if not, I wouldn't be where I am today.

**Extract 40: FDML #27**

In FDML #28, the YouTuber describes constant thoughts about death, suicide attempts and depression stemming from bullying, family issues and abuse:

My mum would always yell at me and my older sister for our grades, because we weren't the best people when it came to school, and it just got to the point where I felt like it was too much and I constantly thought about death. I've even tried to commit suicide many times and yeah, something I'm not proud of at all in my life.

Growing up, I was a pretty depressed kid. I think it was due to all the bullying and all the fighting in the family and all the beatings. And one day I wrote a letter that I titled to be read after my death. In the letter I talked about how much I hated my mum, and one day my mum actually found the letter when she went through my closet and, which I'm actually pretty thankful for, because since then, our relationship has definitely improved and we became best friends.

**Extract 41: FDML #28**

The narrator of FDML #29 also talks about feeling depressed and suicidal because of a strained relationship with her mother who was on medication, causing anger issues. Her feelings of depression led to apathy, drinking and self-hatred, before she turned to religion for comfort:

I still managed to maintain a 3.5 GPA in school while this was happening because I had hopes for my future and that things were going to get better. Unfortunately, they didn't - they got worse. She'd always argue with me over the littlest things. It didn't matter what I was doing to help my family, it seemed like she was always upset at me and it was never good enough for her. I realize now it's just the medication talking and not my mum, but at the time, I started getting so sad and depressed that things weren't going to get better. I started believing I might be the reason my mum was so sick, so I just gave up. I stopped caring about my grades and started partying and drinking with my friends a lot more. When I drank, I felt like I could escape my problems if only for a night. I became the funny girl again. When I drank, everyone would always want to be around me. I made people laugh and for a moment, all my troubles and worries would go away. When I would sober up, I'd feel even worse than I had before, causing my depression to spiral deeper and deeper out of control. (...)

I barely managed to graduate high school and during the first year of college, I met a boy. We dated for about a year and a half and my relationship with him was as healthy as my relationship with my mum. We'd argue all the time and break up with each other then get back together and I hated it. Around this time in my life, I really hated everything. My drinking problem had gotten worse and so did all my relationships. My mum was constantly threatening to kick me out of the house and my brothers resented me because any time I was home, we were always arguing. One day after getting in a huge fight with my mum and breaking up with my boyfriend for the billionth time, things hit me. I hated myself and my life and everything in it. I didn't see the point in living anymore. I'd wake up every morning and wish I didn't have to, and I finally wanted to put an end to all the pain. I had planned on stealing my mum's medication and going into my room and taking all of it and then going to bed and never having to wake up again. Before I did this, I had a moment of wondering if my life could be different. A few months before this day, my grandma had been taking me to church and although I never believed in God or church, I just went to make her happy. A lot of things the pastor had said was starting to make sense.

**Extract 42: FDML #29**

In FDML #32, the YouTuber describes how, without her mother, she felt like a “rain cloud” was constantly over her head. Later on, she is shunned by her foster family and develops anxiety in her isolated state. Due to her panic attacks, she is taken to a psychiatrist who puts her on medication with very negative side effects:

This left me really sad and really confused without my mum there. Everything really started to take a toll on me. I got really, really depressed. I knew that I didn't really, you know, fit in with everyone. Oh, everyone had perfect families and everyone was so happy and here was my family, falling apart. And I was so alone and everyone seemed to just be having fun and I started to lose a lot of friends and, I just, I really isolated myself because I didn't know how to deal with it, and I really didn't have anyone to talk to. I always felt like I just had this rain cloud over my head, and nothing could make it go away. (...)

I got bullied every day because I was white. And it was, it was difficult. The family had a real “us and them” mentality, so it was always the foster kids versus them. They would spend family time in the living room, and we would sit in our bedrooms alone all day. It was just, it was really, really lonely and I had no one there. I didn't have my family. I didn't have anything, and I wanted to end my life. (...)

And this is when I started to get anxiety. I started to get panic attacks to the point that I couldn't go to school. I was just, I was always having panic attacks. I felt like I was having heart attacks. I couldn't eat anymore. I was just a wreck, and I had no one there for me, so eventually, my foster parents made an appointment for me to go to a psychiatrist. I'm going to use the term “psychiatrist” very loosely because he put me on medication that was way too high of a dosage for my age, and wasn't even supposed to be prescribed for someone my age, and it had really, really bad effects on my brain. I was to the point that I didn't know if I was actually in class. I couldn't remember what I ate for dinner. I forgot everything all the time and it was really, really scary, because I had no idea what was going on half the time, and it's actually still affected me today. To this day, I still have memory issues and it's all because of that. (...) I had severe anxiety issues.

**Extract 43: FDML #32**

The narrator of FDML #36 says that starting a new school was depressing due to a lack of social bonds: “The first few months at that school was depressing. No one tried to make friends with me, everyone just stared at me, I would sit by myself at lunch. I would go to the library and sit there until it was time to go back to class. I hated that place. I was a loser”. In the following narrative (FDML #37), we find a description of the YouTuber being in a “dark place” when as a teenager she finds out she is pregnant. Later on, she enters a deep, debilitating depression when her dog dies and relies on the support of her friends, family and viewers to “continue as normal”:

I had a feeling that I was pregnant. This was a huge shock to everyone, and it came at the worst time. How was I meant to do my exams? How was I meant to go to college? This discovery sent me into a very dark place, and I felt like running away from it all. (...)

Fast-forward a while, and Shadow started getting very ill. At first we thought she had kennel cough and the vet sent us away with tablets, but it became apparent that it wasn't kennel cough - we discovered that she had cancer. This was the worst thing I've ever been through. Within three weeks she became a shell of who she was - she was thin, refusing to eat and getting weaker by the minute. It was heart-breaking for us all, but we decided in the end that she had to be put down. I have never loved an animal as much as I loved Shadow. After she passed, I ended up getting into a deep depression. Life wasn't the same without my best friend and I couldn't find the strength to look after myself or even get out of bed. I've never felt so much pain in my life but my friends, my family and my viewers slowly made me feel a bit better, and I was able to continue as normal.

**Extract 44: FDML #37**

Just as the previous narrator describes being in a “dark place”, in FDML #39, the YouTuber goes through a “really dark period” and goes into a “really, really bad depression” following the passing of her father and an anxiety-inducing relationship:

I was pulled out of class by my mum who told me that my dad had passed away. It was only one year after his initial diagnosis. Obviously, I went through a really dark period after that day. I rebelled against my mum a lot, which was awful. I started dating a guy who wasn't the best influence on me, and I started going to parties a lot. I fell into a really, really bad depression and I really didn't feel like myself anymore. (...)

One semester into school at New York City, my boyfriend from back home and I broke up. Although I really cared about him, I learned that there's a fine line between someone who loves you and someone who tries to hold you back. I constantly felt stressed and anxious that one of my guy friends would post to my Facebook wall, because it would usually upset my boyfriend, that my new profile picture would cause him to ask, “Who are you trying to impress?” If I didn't text him back right away, we'd get into arguments, and I guarantee he would have never let me start a YouTube channel.

**Extract 45: FDML #39**

In FDML #40, feelings of dissatisfaction with the narrator's life and profession lead to depression. Later on, she decides to try working full-time on YouTube, but is anxious about the outcome. She also mentions having an addictive personality and playing many hours of a video game in order to distract herself from fears over not succeeding at YouTube:

So, living in San Francisco, working at Dailybooth, things were not exactly as I expected. Things were really slow, and I didn't really have a lot to do and I started to become really dissatisfied with my life and my job. And it led me to becoming pretty depressed. I never really experienced depression before until now and it was this new thing for me, and I didn't know what to do. I, this led me to leaving my job at Dailybooth and moving to Los Angeles. So, in Los Angeles, I decided to try YouTube for the first time as a job. I was extremely anxious if I would be able to come up with enough views and money to be able to survive. (...)

I have an addictive personality and I was really scared about not succeeding at YouTube so I started to distract myself with things like video games instead of facing my fears and my problems.

**Extract 46: FDML #40**

The narrator of FDML #41 says that her problems with anxiety may have originated when she would hear stories about an earthquake that took place in her hometown when she was very young. Later, she discusses being put into therapy at the age of six to help her deal with her parents' divorce, even though she says that she does not remember the situation bothering her "too much". After this, she talks about being abused by her sister, which leads to self-esteem problems, and also being diagnosed with ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) and OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder):

Obviously, it wasn't traumatic for me at the time, but as I grew up, the adults around me would tell stories about "the quake". It was like hearing about some horrible giant monster that could attack unexpectedly again in any moment. I'd say this is probably where my anxiety problems began. (...) A couple years later I started school there and joined the girl scouts. My parents got divorced when I was six. I don't remember it bothering me too much, but my parents put me and my sister in therapy to help us deal with it.

Most of my friends at that point moved away and I felt pretty lonely. I still loved Pokémon but everyone else was suddenly saying it was for babies, especially my older sister. For as long as I can remember, she would regularly physically and verbally abuse me, not just about Pokémon. And it was around this time that it got pretty bad. She completely destroyed my self-esteem by telling me constantly that I was a loser and ugly and that no one liked me. Everyone around me said it was normal, that that's just what siblings do, so I felt powerless to do anything about it. Slowly I began believing her, that I really was all those horrible things, and I had absolutely no confidence in myself at all. It didn't help that around that time I got braces and was diagnosed with ADD. I felt like everyone was trying to fix things about me and that everything about me was wrong. My brain needed fixing because I had ADD and OCD and got chronic migraines and had a ton of anxiety problems, even at that age. My teeth needed fixing because I was so ugly and even my

interests needed fixing because it made me a loser to like Pokémon. I never had any friends in my classes and I just felt really alone.

**Extract 47: FDML #41**

In FDML #42, the narrator says that she became “a little depressed” because of not being able to see her boyfriend during a long-distance relationship. This causes her to stay in bed all day and lose weight:

From September to April, that was how long I’d be at school, so I was in Montreal and Josh was in Vancouver, but we never thought about breaking up, like, once. Like, we always knew it would work but it was, just, sucked and Skype was on a lot and it was just not fun, and I became a little depressed. I wouldn’t really get out of bed. I basically stayed in bed all day. I didn’t eat very well, and I lost 15 pounds.

**Extract 48: FDML #42**

The YouTuber in FDML #44 also describes feeling “pretty depressed” due to insecurity over studying engineering (when all of her female friends have switched courses) and also pressure to simultaneously keep up with academics and online work:

Every girl I became friends with in my first year of engineering all ended up switching programs. And I found myself pretty depressed and unsure whether I was doing the right thing, because I didn’t want to let my parents down and I also didn’t want to let my stream die, but there just weren’t enough hours in the day to do everything that I wanted to do.

**Extract 49: FDML #44**

In FDML #46, the speaker discusses being a victim of severe abuse and using her imagination as an escape mechanism as a child. Later, she is diagnosed with ADHD and put on medication to try to “calm her down”. She also mentions suffering from behavioural issues and depression while in school:

During my childhood, I was a victim of severe abuse. My happiness faded and I lived in constant fear of him. He made my life a nightmare and my childhood was stolen. I’d use my imagination to escape the fear, lose myself in stories.

Although not all of my childhood is bad. My mother tried her best to give my brothers and I a happy life. The older I got, the worse my behaviour got. I started to misbehave in school and getting into a lot of trouble, constantly having detentions. I was basically a wild child. When I reached high school, I was bullied by all of my classmates. I was always the odd kid out, listening to heavy metal music, skateboarding. I wasn’t the same as the other kids in the school and I found solace in music and writing stories. After years of terrible abuse, I managed to stand up to the evil man. Something I’ll never forget. After that, I knew I’d never let anyone hurt me that way ever again, and he finally left my family. I suffered of behavioural problems and depression in school and I was diagnosed with ADHD and put on medication to try to calm me down.

**Extract 50: FDML #46**

The YouTuber in FDML #47 faces anxiety attacks and depression after realising that her Photography and Design course is not the right path for her after all:

Me and Kelly (...) both took Photography and Design and just heaps of stuff that we're really good at. We finally thought that we had found out calling in life and we finally thought we'd found our career path, but halfway through the second year I just knew it wasn't for me. I was having anxiety attacks, depression, and I was just really upset all the time.

**Extract 51: FDML #47**

Isolation leads the YouTuber in FDML #48 to "dark stages" in her life, during which she would cut herself in order to "feel something". Her father's subsequent abandonment adds to feelings of depression (what she describes as a "really ugly feeling"):

Since I didn't have any friends at school and my sisters were already out of the house, I felt so alone. I just felt like I didn't matter, felt like, since I'm the last, like, last child, no one really cared about me, and they kind of just like "Oh she's already older, like who cares about Elizabeth?" And this kind of led me up to like my, my dark stages in my life. I used to cut myself just to, I don't know why I did, I just did it just to feel something and I regret doing that, because I can never think of my son or daughter doing that to themselves. I never want that to happen to them. (...) That depression lasted for a while.

I was going through a lot at home. My dad just went up and left. He took everything in the house except my room and he left me there. And that was really hard. I remember just, like, crying, feeling so alone, like what do you do? I am 15, my dad left me in this house all alone, everything was gone except for my room, just really ugly feeling.

**Extract 52: FDML #48**

The narrator in FDML #50 also talks about depression, self-harm and suicidal thoughts brought on by rejection, isolation and humiliation:

They posted videos on social media of themselves mocking my LPS videos and they laughed, insulted me and everyone in the comments would laugh and insult me too. Soon, I began to lose my friends, one by one, until I had no one.

When everyone found out about my channel, I cried for two days straight until my eyes were burned and swollen. At this point, I became depressed. I stayed in my room, I was too afraid to go to school and I was too scared to even face my computer and look at my YouTube channel. I was ashamed of it. By the ninth grade, I met two new people who I called my best friends. They already knew about my channel and told me that they supported me. I still received hate from people, except they would tell my two best friends instead of me. They would make fun of me in front of them, insult me in front of them, and my friends would run back to tell me. I shrugged it off in front of them, but behind closed doors, I poured my eyes out. I was still depressed and humiliated. By the end of ninth grade, my two best friends all of a sudden began to avoid me. They would walk the other way when I walked towards them. They didn't respond to my texts either. At this point, I knew that they no longer wanted to be associated with me. To this day, I still don't know why they did that. Maybe it was because they truly didn't support me like they said,



or maybe it's because it was too embarrassing to be my friend at the time. This made my depression worse because at this point, I truly had no one. No one to sit with at lunch, no one to talk to, no one to hang out with on the weekends, no one.

Since my depression got worse, I began to do bad things to myself. I would hurt myself, insult myself and keep myself secluded from everyone including my family. I became anti-social. It got so bad that sometimes I would wake up in the middle of the night crying so hard that I couldn't breathe. I felt worthless. I didn't want to live anymore but for some reason, I kept pushing on.

**Extract 53: FDML #50**

In FDML #52, the YouTuber admits to feeling depressed and stressed at times, and like "life is hopeless":

I get depressed sometimes. You know, I'll lie on the floor or in bed or just stare off into space, in the dark, like a creep. Sometimes I cry in the car for no reason. I'll read an article about the conditions of livestock or the suicide rates of teens and feel like life is hopeless. Sometimes I drink too much, eat too little, stress out over things that I know better than to stress out about.

**Extract 54: FDML #52**

FDML #53 also includes references to depression and anxiety stemming from childhood abuse. She describes building a "bubble" around herself as a child and deciding to "live in her head". Later, she develops anxiety and depression, desperate to "shake the emptiness" in her heart and find purpose in her life (which she later says she finds upon meeting her husband):

There's a lot I can't talk about, but I do remember some upsetting things like the time an adult distant family member cursed at me and spat in my face. In earlier years as a child, mum found me sobbing and upon checking my face discovered the red fingerprints of a hard slap that another distant family member had given me. Rewind even sooner, and I, as an inquisitive toddler, managed to pull a pan of boiling milk onto myself. Mum, shocked in that moment, watching her child's skin start to peel, hurried me to the hospital and entered the room where they did x-rays on me. The hospital didn't know that mum was actually in her early days of pregnancy at that time and her exposure to the harmful x-rays would later result in a miscarriage.

Growing up, I had difficulty coping with these kinds of experiences and what would over time become painful memories, so I naturally built a bubble around myself and decided to live in my head somewhere over the rainbow. (...)

I felt too guilty spending money on bus fare because we were struggling even more by now, so I would discreetly leave school and spend the hour slowly walking up side streets and around the blocks near the school. I hid. I didn't want to be seen as a loner. Man, that hour felt so incredibly long. (...) As a result of the secondary school experience, I developed anxiety and depression. I remember spending nights crying myself to sleep supplicating and asking God to send me just one person - one human being who found me worthy enough to hang out with me. (...)

I moved to London far away from my family and worked a crazy hectic teaching schedule. Here, that feeling of loneliness came back full force. Though I slowly came to love my

job and my independence there, I couldn't shake the emptiness in my heart. I didn't know who I was and, worst of all, what the purpose of my life was. The nights were the worst.

**Extract 55: FDML #53**

The YouTuber in FDML #55 describes finding herself in a “dark place” following the death of her mother, despite a “huge sense of relief” that she would no longer be in pain:

There is nothing more painful than watching the person you love the most in the whole world deteriorate so quickly, and knowing that you have to say goodbye. It was all so surreal at the time and I felt like it wasn't happening to me. I felt like I was living down on someone else's life and it couldn't possibly be mine.

After mum died, I felt this huge sense of relief - the suffering and waiting was over. Although my mum's death has caused me a great deal of sadness and pain, I believe that it has changed me in so many ways and built me into a much stronger, better person and, ironically, a happier person. As I grow older and experience more, I appreciate the things she did for me and all the sacrifices she made. I really wish I could tell her that now, as an adult - not as a child or a student. And more than anything, I wish she was around to meet her first grandchild.

I had no choice but to grow up super quickly. I didn't have a family to go back to, an inheritance or any relatives. It was just me and my sister. I was in a really dark place and felt extremely alone and lost for a long time.

**Extract 56: FDML #55**

Likewise, in the updated version of FDML #56, the YouTuber talks of her anxiety, panic attacks and depression due to a negative relationship with her step-mother and stress over symptoms of her Graves' disease:

I want to introduce all of you to my step-monster. When you think of a monster, you don't necessarily think of a person - normally just one of these big scary hairy things. Well that was kind of like my stepmother, but she was worse, and here's why: she was so jealous of me. When I would go to my dad's house, she would trash-talk my mum and she was always so paranoid that I was going behind her back and telling all of her business to my mum. This was simply a delusion she had created in her mind. I never said anything. They had no business. I would walk on eggshells and I would be filled with anxiety while I was at their house. (...) Several years and panic attacks later, I turned 13.

When I turned 22, I started having severe heart palpitations. At first, I thought this was due to dehydration from working so hard and not taking a break to drink water. I went to the hospital and they ran all kinds of tests on me. I later found out I had a thyroid disorder called Graves' disease. I was put on some hardcore medication to bring my hyperthyroidism levels down to a normal level along with beta blockers to control my heart rate. I'm actually still on the beta blocker and I have heart palpitations that I still struggle with to this day. My anxiety came back full force. I would have panic attacks all day, every day for months. (...) And then that triggered my depression. I went through a long, emotional battle with depression until I found this little website called YouTube.

**Extract 57: FDML #56**

In FDML #58, the narrator describes sadness and anxiety caused by her father's own anger and misery. She goes on to discuss her symptoms of existential depression and anxiety, and how she would draw and daydream as coping mechanisms:

My dad was always really angry and miserable, and I never understood why. It created a lot of anxiety and sadness for the rest of the family. (...)

And at the same time, from a very, very young age, I began experiencing symptoms of existential depression and anxiety. My first memory was in preschool. I was standing by a window looking out at the rain and I felt really sad for no reason. It was really confusing for me since I could see that all of the other children were happy and content. I guess it was the first time I felt different.

The symptoms of my depression got worse through elementary school. I had a really hard time making friends and was even neglected by my teachers. The problem was I would be constantly drawing or daydreaming to cope with my depression. I would never pay attention in class because I was off in my little dream world, so most of my teachers got frustrated and put me in the back of the class. My mum was so pissed. I felt isolated and I had a desperate need to belong.

**Extract 58: FDML #58**

The speaker in FDML #60 mentions health anxiety. During her time at university, she suffered from debilitating headaches and health problems which caused her to lose weight and hair, leading to self-esteem issues and anxiety:

Starting from my second year of university, I began getting headaches. At first, these would happen randomly, but they gradually increased to the point where it was really affecting my life. I was constantly taking painkillers and I was always anxious about making plans because I didn't know whether a headache would end up ruining the day. (...)

I had to deal with a lot of changes to my appearance. My hair was growing back unevenly, and my health anxiety caused me to lose a lot of weight, to the point where I looked really unhealthy. This took a big chunk out of my self-esteem, since we live in a society that places so much emphasis on appearance.

**Extract 59: FDML #60**

In FDML #61, the YouTuber has a car accident. During the period of rehabilitation, she finds it impossible to sleep and has constant panic attacks as a part of her Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). She says that she was depressed, distracted, and eventually sought help from a cognitive behavioural therapist (CBT), as did her husband for his own issues:

After two further operations to my leg, physiotherapy, exercise and determination, I was able to walk again and pick up my babies from school and nursery. The rest of the healing started to begin and as my physical health improved, my mental health needed a lot of attention. I couldn't sleep. I had a regular panic attacks and was depressed and completely

distracted at times. I could make the dinner from start to finish and afterwards couldn't remember a moment of it.

Then, the most amazing thing happened to me. I found you all! My anxiety was sky-high, and I would wake up at 3 a.m. wide awake quite often. I remembered years ago that me and my ex-boyfriend used to fall asleep each night to tapes of The Goon Show, an old BBC show from the 1950s. The Foley sounds and the voices used to send me off easily, so I searched for background sounds and relaxation videos. Eventually, ASMR videos came up. Discovering the name for my tingles was incredible in so many ways. It felt as though my whole life had made sense up to that point. I found my people, and I didn't feel so different anymore. I started sleeping through the night after a while, I found the clarity of mind and the courage to get help for my anxiety and was diagnosed with severe PTSD. I didn't feel sad about it at all at that time. Once I knew what it was and that it wasn't my fault, after a course of CBT with the most amazing therapist, my symptoms near enough went away. (...)

My life had changed incredibly. I went through a lot of personal growth, I had had therapy, I learned a lot and my eyes were just wide open. (...)

Nam eventually took control and he pulled through. He never missed childcare payments we'd agreed to, he always kept his word with the childcare arrangements and got himself into therapy, which was so important. In fact, the same lady who treated my PTSD, he went to see her. Her name is Lorraine and she's our saviour - she's an amazing woman.

#### **Extract 60: FDML #61**

The narrator of FDML #64 discusses body image issues due to the harsh words of a teacher and feelings of isolation and paranoia because of an unhealthy relationship with a controlling boyfriend:

During one particularly lonely recess, I told the playground supervisor that I had no friends to play with. She gave me a skipping rope and told me to play alone. This teacher also used to take away my lunch on a number of occasions and also told me not to eat anymore - cue a lifetime of body image issues. (...)

This guy we will call L. L made me feel special and slowly he would convince me that my old friends from school, my squids, were just laughing at me and they didn't miss me, and they hated me. I became so paranoid. Under my controlling boyfriend's instruction, I deleted my squids from my life. I was convinced that they didn't want me anymore and I'd regretted that decision instantly. I truly felt alone at this point and so miserable.

#### **Extract 61: FDML #64**

FDML #65's speaker describes being diagnosed with selective mutism and facing issues with concentration and communication. She also talks about her progression from social anxiety, partly because of her brother's harsh treatment at school, to generalised anxiety later on in life. As an adult, a therapist then tells her that a lot of her anxiety is due to social isolation:

I personally, when I was growing up, didn't experience bullying, but that's because I didn't even put myself out there in the first place. I think seeing what my brother went

through, I feel like that ended up making my social anxiety even worse. I definitely had social anxiety a lot. (...)

Another thing when I was young, I was diagnosed with selective mutism which essentially means that I was very, very uncomfortable speaking in certain situations and in certain situations, I would be mute. And when I was young, I literally only talked to about three people. It's essentially shyness to a new level, to the point where you legitimately cannot speak in certain situations. And it was really hard growing up with that. I went to a special ed. preschool, was super isolated and I was constantly tested - they were trying to figure out what was wrong with me and so on. It was really isolating. (...)

A big misconception people get from my videos is that I've always had anxiety. I've always had social anxiety, but I never had generalized anxiety. It was only from social situations that I got forms of anxiety. (...)

I didn't realize it and then at that point in my life, I formed generalized anxiety and I didn't realize the anxiety at the time. And then I got cast for a show called Guilty Party and it was incredible for me. I got to play a character that I really identified with because she was super shy and so focused on improving herself versus giving herself time to just breathe and exist. She was just insanely hard on herself and that's something I've always identified with. I made such great friends on my set like Tiffany and Myles and Teela, my favourite humans. At that point I realized, wow, I can still do my job, yet I can be social and have great friends and connections, and I owe that to myself. I can't live this isolated life and I started going to a therapist and she told me a lot of my anxiety was formed from social isolation, which is insane. I've never shared this on the internet, but I was insanely isolated. I was so focused on my career that I wasn't giving myself time to just have experiences and great friends and so on. I think a lot of it came from just feeling like I needed to constantly prove myself to my parents that I could, that this new job could be sustainable. Anyway, then I listened to what my therapist said and I started to actually hang out with YouTubers after I collabed with them and I started to try to take acting classes to get out of my comfort zone to meet new people and I dyed my hair blue around this time.

#### **Extract 62: FDML #65**

In FDML #66, the narrator discusses social anxiety and panic attacks from her teen years onwards (partly due to acne issues), and seeing a cognitive behavioural therapist for her pure OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder). Given that she does not see “much of a change” after sessions with the therapist, she embarks on a journey of alternative healing based on dietary changes and relaxation:

But as high school went on, my fellow peers started partying and drinking, and I kind of felt uncomfortable about it. I went to a few parties, but I never really truly felt like I was being myself and I eventually started to feel really weird. I felt like I couldn't talk to people who were once my friends, and I started to avoid people. I started to feel very socially anxious, and that's when things started to change and my health journey began.

So one day, I woke up and I looked in the mirror to find my face was covered in spots - and not just one or two, but a full breakout on my skin, and I had perfect, porcelain skin that never broke out before, so this was really strange to me. And within a week, every square inch of my face was covered in acne. In red, deep, cystic acne. And soon, my back and shoulders started to break out too. I was really, really anxious. The social anxiety had

skyrocketed. If someone would ring the doorbell at my house, I would run and hide in the closet and just have a panic attack in there. (...)

I became really self-critical. I would just sit in front of the mirror for hours and tell myself I was a monster. Tell myself that nobody's going to like me with my skin looking like this. It was just really, really bad of me to do. I was just so ashamed of myself - the way my skin looked; how socially awkward I had become. It was just really devastating for me. (...)

I eventually moved away by myself to a new city and the anxiety was so bad at the time that I would just go to school and rush home. The social anxiety had gotten so bad, everything felt like a chore for me - even going to the grocery store terrified me because I knew that I was going to have to make the small talk with the cashier. (...)

I know when I was going through it, I felt really, really alone and when I found out other people had this problem as well, I felt like I had hope again, and it really helped me get through. I'm not going to get into too much detail, but basically, I have dealt with something in my life called pure OCD which is a form of obsessive-compulsive disorder, which is just another form of anxiety. And basically, I woke up one day to these OCD thoughts and my life was completely changed from that point on. These OCD thoughts were stuck in my head 24/7. Even when I slept, they would be in my dreams. I just couldn't shut my mind off and it caused me to be in a very high state of anxiety. This was by far the most difficult thing I have ever dealt with. I can't even explain to you what I went through. I couldn't think anymore. I would just stay in my bed and cry. I couldn't really go to school anymore. I couldn't work anymore. My brain felt like it was just completely fried from these thoughts, and I was seeing a cognitive behavioural therapist who specialized in pure OCD twice a week, but I really didn't see that much of a change and I felt extremely hopeless. I just didn't know how I was going to live my life like this anymore. I just wanted my old life back, but then once again, I had another epiphany, and I knew that, just like with my acne, I needed to find an alternative way of healing.

**Extract 63: FDML #66**

The narrator in FDML #67 also mentions seeing a therapist as an adult. As a child, she faced a very difficult time when her parents divorced, and then in her later teens she began to starve herself, throw up meals and do cocaine. Following the death of her father, she says that she wanted to die, but faced the pain and eventually connected with herself and "some kind of" unexplained divinity:

In grade 9, things got more dicey, and if I'm being honest, my therapist brings up this time period a lot. My parents got divorced, then an adult we were living with was inappropriate with me and someone I was living with became mentally ill and had to go to the hospital for a while. Because of this, I lived with my friends for a while. It was kind of cosy living with my friends. I saw Garden State with one of their families during that period and it greatly affected me - don't judge me, it was cool in 2004! (...)

After this period, I couldn't listen to sad songs anymore. High school progressed on. My friends and I hung out in the art hallway. No one but the druggie kids dared to venture past the halfway point of that hallway. We would do Ritalin in between the doors and show each other our overly long body hairs. In grade 11, Wilson and I met Jenny and we became a trio. We called ourselves the trouble trio, and shut up, it's adorable! I also started throwing up my meals and after some time I started starving myself along with throwing up. Then I got skinny and slutty and started doing coke - great! (...)

In 2014 my dad died. My dad had been sick for most of my life. And it was something that struck a lot of fear at me. Since I was 13, a part of me had been constantly living in anticipation of my dad dying, but that anticipation didn't prepare me for the reality. For whatever reason, dad dying made the hurt that I had buried from the past come to the surface and I couldn't subside it anymore. I wanted to die, but instead I tried. I tried to help myself and after a lot of trying, I started feeling connected with myself. I moved into an apartment by myself. I got in touch with some kind of divinity I can't explain. I could listen to sad songs again and I remembered what I dreamt about when I was a kid.

**Extract 64: FDML #67**

In FDML #69, the narrator begins to “recognise” the pain of others and takes in a boy who had been living in the streets. She explains that the new living situation does not “work out”, and the boy ends up being rehomed with a friend. The YouTuber ends up in what she describes as a “deep, deep depression”, during which time her dog's companionship comforted her:

Why don't people care about others, and how come nobody sees my pain? And that made me recognize other people's pain. And so, I kind of took him in, but it didn't work out, and it didn't work out for me. He's off the street by the way. My friend took him in.

But I was depressed thinking about the weight of the world on my shoulders and I spent about a year crying and in a deep, deep depression, and I wasn't doing anything during that time. I was pretty useless. The only friend I had, you know, that kind of understood me was my dog Marley. I'm really glad that I had him, because, yeah, he was my only friend at that time. And I had a really sad time.

**Extract 65: FDML #69**

FDML #70's speaker also faces what she describes as a “crippling depression”, stemming from isolation and disillusionment at university and worries about her future. She says that at the time, she was “too ashamed” to seek out counselling or professional help:

It was my fourth year of university when things took a turn for the worse. I felt really lonely. A lot of my closest friends that I'd gained over the past years that graduated moved away and I just felt adrift. I felt torn between two places - one life here in Montreal, the other part of my life was in Switzerland. I became disillusioned with my programme and I was worried about the future. Where would I live? Where would I work? I had no one to talk to. My support net was far away. I fell into a deep, crippling depression. I was too ashamed to seek out counselling or professional help. I withdrew completely into myself. I couldn't concentrate on anything and my once excellent GPA took a nosedive. I began to take sleeping pills and dropped out from all my extracurricular activities, and distanced myself from everyone. It was probably the worst period of my entire life and it went on for a really long time.

**Extract 66: FDML #70**

Like FDML #60, the narrator of FDML #71 describes health anxiety and also panic attacks, admitting to fears over being ill or dying:

I was at quite a low point when there was one particular lesson in school which I probably won't go into too much detail about, because it kind of sounds odd, but the teacher was talking about food allergies and this kind of started everything off in the worst way, and I had a massive panic attack which turned into lots and lots more panic attacks and nobody really knew what the hell was going on, basically. And I started to feel like I couldn't breathe. I was scared, alone, I felt like a weirdo and that I wasn't normal anymore, and I didn't understand what was happening to me. After that, every school day was a real struggle and I literally just felt like there was storm clouds hovering over my head all the time, and I had massive arguments with my mum because I just didn't want to go to school and I used to beg her to not let me go, but she was doing the right thing at the time and making me go to school like every other normal kid.

But when I was at school, I wouldn't eat or drink a thing, which obviously is pretty dangerous and really bad for you, which obviously set everybody else off whispering and wondering whether I had anorexia, which obviously wasn't the case but you can understand why people would assume that. All of my family started to get really, really, really concerned about me and they didn't know what was wrong with me and I couldn't really explain to them that I was so petrified to eat because I was scared that something was going to be wrong with me, and to cut a very, very long story short, I was diagnosed with health anxiety, which basically meant I was scared of things in particular but mainly I was worried about being ill or dying, and having panic attacks really didn't help those feelings at all. So, during this time, I was actually home-schooled, which wasn't really a pleasant experience because I didn't really like not being with my friends and being isolated.

**Extract 67: FDML #71**

In FDML #72, the narrator discusses an addiction to diet pills and “battling exhaustion” and stress because of work and school pressure:

While I was lucky enough to be able to sing and perform, I was also traveling back and forth and back and forth every few weeks from Tokyo to LA while I was in the middle of high school dealing with high school stuff and battling exhaustion, stress and this little addiction to diet pills that I somehow developed. Don't worry, I'm fine now.

**Extract 68: FDML #72**

FDML #73 has a narrator who describes abuse from her father and being sent by the courts to see a “shrink” to help deal with her issues. Later, when she becomes a mother herself, she says that she feels very anxious and has panic attacks at the prospect of being separated from her child:

Those memories will always haunt me, and I still struggle to sleep when the images come back of him sitting there in his filthy living room, naked mostly, stinking of tobacco, and always drunk. I still have a scar on left arm from where he burnt me with a cigarette once. I couldn't say if it was an accident or not - I was too young to remember. But whenever anyone has asked me up until this point, I have said it's a mark from an injection. Out of everything, the worst thing wasn't the abuse, it was being kidnapped. (...)



I remember being so scared that I'd often throw up in the car on the way there. Thankfully, most of the time he would forget to turn up because he was so drunk. I used to feel relieved but then also in weird ways somehow sad that he didn't want to see us or that he had forgotten about us. It was all so confusing that the courts sent us to see a shrink. My way of dealing with everything that was going on was complete shut down; I wouldn't say a word. They'd try to get me to draw pictures instead, but I also refused to do that. The irony of me now drawing my life for you! (...)

I actually became a very protective mother. Too protective, really. I think it had a lot to do with my childhood. I began experiencing anxiety and panic attacks, especially if I couldn't see Fraser, or if other people were holding him. I also found it hard to trust Matt with our new baby. After all, my dad harmed me. And I knew I was being ridiculous, but at the same time it was true, and I guess it's hard to let go of memories like that. It wasn't until Fraser was about five months old that I was finally able to leave him for an hour to get my hair done. Matt and Fraser sat in the Starbucks next door to the salon, but the anxiety was immense, and I cried the entire time.

**Extract 69: FDML #73**

The YouTuber in FDML #74 describes feeling confused and isolated following the death of her mother, and going down a path of partying and pushing friends and family away, and eventually “doing something stupid”:

After I graduated high school, I went to college, I bought a car. I just, I just did, I didn't know what I was doing. I was just alone, I was confused. I didn't know how to ask for help. When I got to college, nobody cared about what we were really going through. Everybody just wanted to party, and that was my escape. I never really grieved, I never really dealt with losing my mum, I never really dealt with, you know, having to go through so much at a young age, and I kind of just turned to partying, and that kind of became my priority. And the more I hung out with people who just didn't care about me, you know, the more sad I felt. I remember checking my phone messages and seeing that nobody called me and I know that a lot of people don't know this part, how deep in depression I got. I would, was in a bad relationship with somebody who was just treating me terribly and I had pushed my family and I pushed my friends away to the point where I really was alone. And I just, I was just so sad. I was so sad, and I didn't know how to ask for help. I was done. I was just ready to leave. I did something stupid and I wound up in the hospital.

**Extract 70: FDML #74**

Likewise, the narrator of FDML #75 discusses how depressed she felt after the death of her mother. She then gained weight, became apathetic about schoolwork and was bullied:

I was 14 years old, my mum passed away. We had a beautiful funeral for her, and I know that a lot of people showed up. I don't remember how many, but I was basically crying the entire, like, that whole period was just a blur for me because I was so upset. And I just felt so alone, and I didn't know what to do, and it was a really, really hard time. (...)

In August of 2000, my dad decided to move us back to America. He, I think he wanted to kind of escape the whole reality of just the memories of having my mum there, so he wanted to kind of start fresh. I was really depressed at the time. I ended up gaining about 40 pounds, I got really, really bad acne, and I basically just sat in my room all the time

and cried myself to sleep and listened to Eminem. Like, that's really all I did. I was so, so depressed. At school, my grades started dropping. I'd always been an A student and I was kind of just, I didn't really care anymore, and my dad was really disappointed in me. I remember him being so upset when I got my report card. At lunchtime, I used to sit in my teachers' classrooms and eat lunch with them because I didn't really have that many friends, and I just wanted to be kind of quiet. And I remember one time at school, I was standing up at the top of the classroom and I fell all the way down the stairs in front of the whole class. It was so embarrassing. Everyone laughed at me. I was teased. I got called saddlebags and pizza face. It was a really, really tough time.

**Extract 71: FDML #75**

In FDML #76, the YouTuber talks about being hooked on beauty treatments, and calls her fascination with them a “sheer Obsessive Compulsive Disorder”:

This was my life-changing moment. I step on a road to search for long lasting beauty. Writing beauty columns became one of my favourite ways to share my beauty thoughts. I've tried tons of beauty treatments - laser treatment, radio frequency, carbolic therapy, mesotherapy, whitener injection, Botox injection, placenta injection, Ishay injection, braces, acupuncture, PRP, CoolSculpting, skin peel, IPL, CTU, fat graft, laser hair removal, therapy thermage, micro needle, rhinoplasty - you name it, I try them. Yes, I have to admit I was hooked, but is it a sickness? Yes, I think so. I have sheer Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

**Extract 72: FDML #76**

FDML #77's narrator mentions an unhealthy relationship with an ex-boyfriend who convinces her to stay with him rather than go to university, leading her to panic about the future. She also says that most days, her anxiety still gets the better of her:

My previous boyfriend had convinced me not to go to university, so I declined my application for that year. When it came to the summer, I was panicking about what I wanted to do with my life. (...) Things aren't always straightforward, and my anxiety does get the better of me most days.

**Extract 73: FDML #77**

The speaker in FDML #78 describes an unsupportive teacher who leads her to quit ballet and face what she calls an “identity crisis”. Later on, she began to “illogically” skip meals because of insecurity about her weight:

I was in a different ballet class and the new teacher hated me. If we were doing a routine in the centre, she would call me out and be like, “Liz you should go to the back row because you're not good at dancing”. I cried so much when I decided to quit ballet because it had been my identity since I was six. I was a dancer, but now I wasn't. (...) So, I went through this weird identity crisis thing where I was like, “Who am I?” And then I finally decided that it's not who I am, it's who I'm of, and I'm of God. (...)

Towards the end of junior year, I had this phase where I tried to lose weight which was not a good idea because I was a size zero, but I have my illogical moments. I was viewing myself as overweight and I started skipping meals to reduce my calories. I think a lot of

it was me being really stressed out because of the end of the semester and studying for AP exams and also, I was still getting in random arguments with my parents which made me really upset. The night before my AP English exam, I passed out in my bedroom because I hadn't eaten all day and then I woke up on the floor and I started sobbing because I realized I wanted to get help, but I thought through people in my life and didn't feel like I could tell anyone what was going on. This is of course nothing compared to what most girls who deal with this sort of thing go through, but I'm glad this month of insecurity helps me understand it a tiny bit, because some of you have messaged me about how you're struggling with something like this and I love that I'm able to help.

**Extract 74: FDML #78**

In FDML #80, the male to female transgender speaker talks about her depression and isolation during middle school, and confusion over developing breast tissue as a teen male:

When I went to middle school, I became a really dark kid. I wore hoodies that covered my entire body because I really did not like way I looked. I was really depressed, and I would spend all my time in the library and I absolutely had no friends. (...)

One of the things that I probably should've mentioned earlier in this video is that when I hit puberty, I started to develop breasts. And this was basically why I had so many issues with my body when I was in middle school. So I wasn't really, you know, whether or not I was queer, whether or not I was gay, or maybe I was trans? Either way, my body was definitely telling me something.

**Extract 75: FDML #80**

FDML #84's narrator describes feeling out of place at school and getting nervous "for everything", leading her to believe that she had "some kind of social anxiety disorder":

I just felt like I didn't really fit in because the kids were really different from the kids I went to school with when I was younger, so I went to this school from fifth through eighth grade, and I don't know, some days I felt out of place even though kids would still talk to me and stuff. I don't know, I went through a weird phase where I felt like I had some kind of social anxiety disorder, because, I don't know, I would get nervous for everything - even speaking in front of the teacher. It was just a really hard time.

**Extract 76: FDML #84**

The YouTuber in FDML #88 becomes depressed when her grandmother gets diagnosed with breast cancer, and ends up as an "emotional eater":

In second grade my grandma got diagnosed with breast cancer and I was sad. I couldn't really comprehend it, but the thing that made me the saddest was that my grandma and grandpa ended up getting a divorce and she moved to Florida, and Florida from Montana is very, very long ways obviously, so it was sad but this became really good bonding for my grandpa and I. We got to spend a lot of time with each other and it was good, but this was the time when I was still depressed and eating my feelings and so I always ate fast

food and I just, this is the start of me being an emotional eater for sure and kind of what spurred me to overeat.

**Extract 77: FDML #88**

In FDML #93, the narrator says that she feels depressed about her stepfather having killed her mother and having to testify against him in court:

On July 12th, 2008, is when my whole life changed. I remember my stepdad had this sword in our house and he used to always say it was only for protection, but one night, my mum and him got into a really bad argument and he killed her right in front of my brothers and me. I remember before walking out of the apartment seeing the time 2:12 a.m., and that's just something that's always stuck with me. Even though losing my mum was one of the hardest things I'd have to go through, I'm glad that it happened when I was only nine and not now that I'm 19, because I feel like if I would have gotten closer to her and gotten to know her better, it would have been way harder for me. Because my stepdad fled the scene after everything, he was on the run for another five years and really my story became known as a Sword Slayer or the dad who killed mum, and I even got interviewed by America's Most Wanted. (...)

In 2014 is when my stepdad was finally caught in Mexico, and I remember my whole high school dynamic changing again and I was literally balancing going to class and sitting in chemistry and then bouncing to court and having to testify for hours and hours on end. I started doing really bad in school and I just felt really bombarded by camera crews again and the whole trial and just everything going on in my life. This was probably one of the hardest years I'd ever have to deal with after my mum passing away. I just remember feeling really, really sad all the time and really upset and just depressed about everything and I just really didn't feel like I was in the right place.

**Extract 78: FDML #93**

The speaker in FDML #95 discusses being bullied, leading to extreme anxiety, depression, and OCD tendencies, not eating and wanting to “sleep forever”:

Within a few weeks, it turned into these girls I considered my best friends bullying me. I'd never experienced bullying before or mean girls, so I had no idea what to do. I tried so hard to fit in, to get them to like me again, to get to where it was before, but nothing worked and suddenly, the Barbie Dream House was absolute hell. I became really depressed and I developed extreme anxiety problems and OCD tendencies and stopped talking. I didn't get in bed for days – I'd just lock myself in my closet and finally I'd cry and cry and cry. I stopped eating, I stopped talking – I just wanted to sleep forever but I wanted these girls to like me, so I didn't tell anyone. I just kind of silently suffered with absolutely no friends in this hellhole. After a while, girls in my sorority started noticing that I was really different – that I was alone all the time and super skinny.

**Extract 79: FDML #95**

FDML #98 includes a reference to the social anxiety faced by the YouTuber while at college: “My first year at college was incredibly awkward to say the least. Socially, it felt worse than grade school. I could count my friends on one hand, and I had so much social anxiety that some days, I couldn't even go to the cafeteria”. FDML #99, on the

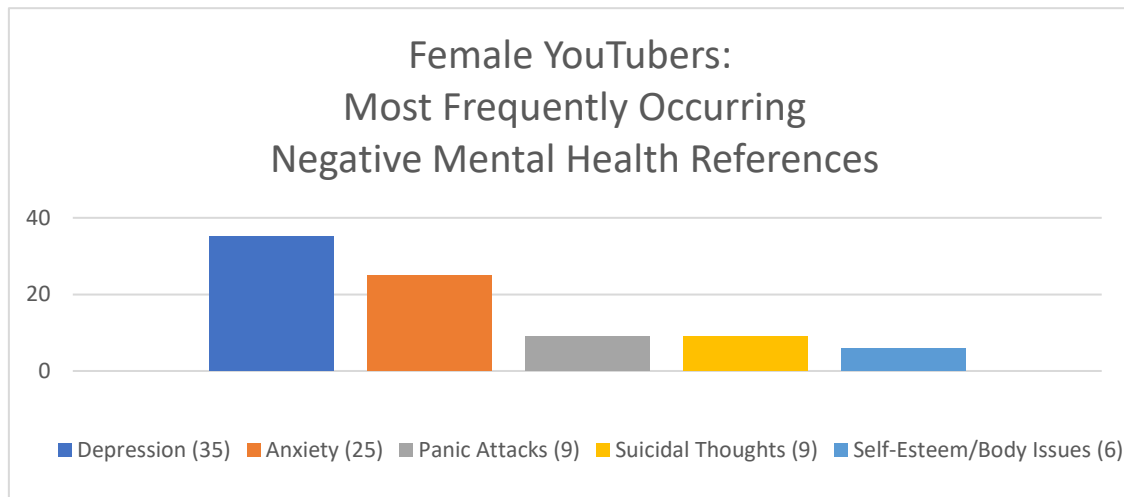
other hand, mentions being a “workaholic”, which she refers to as a “disease” (“In addition to internships, I was teaching tennis all throughout North Jersey and working at a server at an Applebee’s. I’m what you call a workaholic. It’s a disease.”).

Lastly, in FDML #100, the narrator becomes depressed and sees “no point in life” following the death of her grandmother:

My brother walked into my at eight o’clock in the morning and told me that my grandma had actually passed away in her sleep, and I felt my heart break and rip out of my chest, like it felt like I was stabbed with a knife in my heart. You know, I felt really, really lost for the longest time. She was like my purpose in life and I felt like my purpose was gone and, like, she had taken my heart with her and I just felt really, really empty and sad and depressed and just felt like I lost my whole life. I was really angry at myself for moving to New York and only having one month to spend with her before she passed away, and I felt like it was my fault and I just really hated myself. I felt empty and I felt like I could have prevented it, like, if I was here in Toronto, so I actually had two personalities again – like, one part of me, like I would smile and laugh and show everyone that I was okay, because I didn’t want my family and, like, that boy you know I was talking to and everyone to worry, but really on the inside I was really depressed and really, really sad and broken hearted and I felt like a piece of my heart just went missing. Like it was just empty. (...) I was shy, I had no ambition, no future – nothing. I didn’t really care.

**Extract 80: FDML #100**

Figure 36 below shows the most frequently occurring negative health references in the female corpus based on number of individual occurrences, as detected manually:



**Figure 36:** A bar chart representing the most frequently occurring negative mental health references in the FDML corpus, as detected manually. The following references did not reach a minimum of 5 occurrences in FDML corpus: OCD (4), Paranoia (3), Self-Harm (3), Addiction - Gaming/Diet Pills/Work (3), ADHD (2), Disassociation (2), Emotional Trauma (1), Hoarding Disorder (1), Anger Issues (1), Abandonment Issues (1), Addiction (1), PTSD (1), Exhaustion (1).

The first male YouTuber to discuss “darker thoughts” is the narrator of MDML #2. However, he plays it down and says that he believes that most, “if not all”, teenagers go through the same:

I was hating life at the time and wondering why someone so mean could be so popular by picking on me. Even got to the point when I had some darker thoughts at the time that I think most, if not all, teenagers go through at some point in their lives or perhaps it was just puberty messing with my head. I don't know.

**Extract 81: MDML #2**

In MDML #9, the creator's stress over not living up to social and personal expectations leads to feelings of depression and getting into “bad stuff” with “bad people”:

I was also very depressed. I didn't know what I wanted to do in life, I got into a lot of bad things. I thought I wanted to go to school to be a doctor and I had all these high expectations for myself and I really let myself down and the people around me down. It was a very unfortunate situation and I honestly didn't really know what to do when I got into a lot of bad stuff with a lot of bad people.

**Extract 82: MDML #9**

MDML #11's narrator talks about putting on weight and feeling increasingly depressed. His father's death pushes his mother “over the edge”, and she later dies as well. The deaths of his parents add to his own deep depression and he makes plans to commit suicide. However, thanks to support from a friend and his YouTuber followers, he decides “to stick it out” and he says that his life eventually “works out”:

We would go out to eat all the time but eating out all the time made me fatter and being fatter made me sadder and I get more depressed and more fat till eventually I was fatter than I'd ever been, but that was just the beginning of health problems for my family because my dad passed and he died of cancer and that made my mum really, really sad and really angry and then we got some more bad news - she fell and broke her leg and that leg would never heal so she was unable to work and if you thought she was crazy before, that pushed her over the edge.

And all this bad luck in all this poor health and all this misfortune made me sadder and angrier than I had ever been and I decided not to leave my house and I didn't for almost seven years, and during that period of time I was so sad and so depressed. (...)

But the saddest thing that ever happened to me was about to happen. I got a phone call from the hospital and they told me that my mother was very, very sick. I came to visit her and while I was there, she died, and this made me sadder than I had ever, ever been and I really didn't know what to do with myself, so that Christmas, I made plans to kill myself. But I didn't. I didn't because of my friend Adam, I didn't because of YouTube, I didn't because of you and I decided to stick it out even though I really didn't know why, but life has a way of working out.

**Extract 83: MDML #11**

Depression is also mentioned in MDML #12, in which the speaker is rejected from a dream college and feels isolated studying at his backup choice. As with the previous speaker, however, the YouTube platform provides him with comfort:

I really wanted to major in film, so I applied to my dream school, Emerson, and was denied. I was so heartbroken, but I ended up going to the stupid crusty state school and I was so miserable. (...)

I became very lonely and the most depressed I think I've ever been in life. But I found my comfort in YouTube.

**Extract 84: MDML #12**

In MDML #13, the narrator becomes depressed and suicidal after bullying and a long stretch at the hospital with a feeding tube inserted in his nose:

I was the quiet kid, I didn't really talk that much and I kind of got bullied a lot but that changed when I got into high school because, you know, everyone got kind of mature but still I really wasn't the kid that everyone knew and I only had my little set of friends and I stayed away from the big crowds and the feeding tube didn't really help with making friends. It made me look like I was some weird kid and this feeding tube sucked really bad. It made me so sick I had to miss a month of school. I was actually thinking about killing myself because I was so sick. (...)

I didn't think there was a reason to live anymore because all I felt was pain and suffering even though I had a girlfriend and family and thousands of fans that loved and cared about me. I just didn't see a reason to move on in life. My mum noticed how much I hated life, so she said that I needed to see a more professional doctor. (...)

I was in living hell. I hated my life. I couldn't do anything but lay in the hospital bed and I was in so much pain from the tube down my nose and from recovering from the big surgery that I just had, I just wanted to die. My mum and grandma stayed by my side every day and so did my girlfriend. I really did not want to live anymore because at the time I didn't know when I was going home. They said it could take weeks, it could take months and I did not want to be in the hospital that long. I told my mum that I'd rather be dead than laying in this hospital bed all day with a tube down my nose.

**Extract 85: MDML #13**

The YouTuber in MDML #14 describes an "existential crisis" that came on while studying for an exam and realising that he did not want to study law or work in the sector:

Then out of nowhere came the existential crisis. I don't know where it came from, but one day I was just studying for an exam and just freaked out. I thought, "I hate law, this is so boring and awful and I don't want it to be my life! So, what do I want to be my life? It's too late to go back and make other choices! Oh God!"

**Extract 86: MDML #14**

Similarly, in MDML #16, the YouTuber describes feeling “burnt out” after his university studies, and decides to take time away from the professional sector following his graduation:

Fast forward to 2012. I entered the second half of my 4-year program and graduated with a Bachelor’s in Architecture. It was time I entered the field. It was time I became a real adult with a real job blah blah blah blah, but and I didn’t exactly do that right away. The four years really burnt me out.

**Extract 87: MDML #16**

In MDML #17, the narrator develops an addictive personality as a child and later on in life, an eating disorder and addiction to exercise:

I began to develop a bit of an addictive personality: No matter what it was that I was obsessed with, I had to have everything involved with it. When it was Pogs, I had my own Pog maker. When it was Beanie Babies, I had tag protectors and value handbooks. When it was Pokemon, I competed at local video game stores in tournaments. I guess that’s why nowadays I can’t get off Tumblr. When I was going into the sixth grade, I moved to a new city and I knew nobody, so I turned to choir and drama for a new group of friends. I met Dolan and we instantly became best friends. (...)

I had an addiction to food, and I had always been unhealthily overweight and very unhappy about it and so I took matters into my own hands. Unfortunately, I wasn’t smart about it and my addictive personality took a 180 until I developed an eating disorder. I refused to eat, and I became addicted to exercise. I went from one unhealthy way of living to another. And even after losing 30 pounds, I was still unhappy.

**Extract 88: MDML #17**

During his early school years, the speaker in MDML #19 faced feelings of constant anxiety that his parents and teachers would find out about the trouble he was “getting up to”. He says that he eventually started mixing with some “really bad kids”, smoking cannabis and drinking alcohol:

I didn’t hate school, but it wasn’t great. I was always in trouble breaking something, school trouble, teacher trouble. I remember vividly this constant anxiety I felt for most of my early school years. There was a constant tension that my parents, our teachers were going to find out about whatever trouble I was up to. Getting in trouble really escalated when I got to high school. I was always in the vice principal’s office, then detention, then suspension. Freshman year was quite uneventful, but by my second year I was trying to find my place in school and started hanging out with some of the really bad kids. I got into a lot of fights and it was around this time that I discovered smoking weed and drinking alcohol.

**Extract 89: MDML #19**

Just as with MDML #16, the narrator of MDML #20 describes feeling “burnt out” because of university coursework-related stress, leading to apathy: “I started skipping lectures, I would rarely do the assigned textbook readings, I’d skip over optional



homework and while I didn't want to admit to myself back then, I can openly say now that I was just burnt out and my heart wasn't really in it any longer".

In MDML #28, the YouTuber describes having night terrors as a child and panic attacks as an adult. He says that he is terrified that his mother's agoraphobia is genetic, but is later able to prevent panic attacks from happening by rationalising the situation:

I was a painfully shy kid - I'd cry whenever I got any kind of attention. Yeah, that's me crying again. I also suffered from night terrors, which is basically being aware you're sleep walking but not being able to control yourself while you're sleep walking. And as the name indicates - they were absolutely fucking terrifying. (...)

When I was 21, I was sitting around with a couple friends when out of nowhere I became overcome with fear - my entire body went numb. I could only hear the deafening sound of my thoughts and the beating of my heart, like the world around me was no longer real. I remember going to sleep fully clothed that night because my hands felt too numb to take them off. It was my first of many panic attacks. It unlocked a door in my brain that I couldn't shut. I was terrified my mum's agoraphobia was genetic and I'd never be able to leave the house again. I even had a few panic attacks while shooting videos, which caused me to have even more anxiety, because what if my anxiety ruined this career that I had just started? For five years, it more or less controlled me. But one day when I was completely overcome with the fear of having a panic attack, I decided I was going to try to give myself one, just to see if I could control it. And I wasn't able to give myself one, which just proved that, for me, the only thing that caused me to have panic attacks was the fear of having a panic attack. After that point, I've been more or less able to prevent them from happening in the first place.

**Extract 90: MDML #28**

MDML #29 includes a reference to suicidal tendencies following the death of the YouTuber's mother: "She was my mother, my best friend, my inspiration. Talked to her every day. Now when you lose an inspiration, you've got to find a new inspiration. I didn't want to put my faith into a person anymore because when I lost my mother, I damn near killed myself". In MDML #31, on the other hand, the narrator has anxiety attacks and faces stress over fitting in and maintaining his grades. He used to let off steam flipping on his trampoline, but following an injury, he is unable to relax in this way:

Then came school again and the beginning of sophomore year and during the beginning of this school year, I had experienced my first anxiety attacks and was super stressed out about everything. I worried all the time about fitting in, my grades and whatever else. This led to my chest hurting all the time which made it even worse. My escape all of this was flips but that was now basically gone due to me being too scared of hurting myself.

**Extract 91: MDML #31**

The YouTuber in MDML #32 describes “dark thoughts” following a difficult break-up, during which time he loses weight and seeks help from a therapist, eventually coming to the conclusion that happiness has to come from himself and not others:

If you knew that you had found the love of your life, wouldn't you fight for it too? Things just got worse and worse and worse and I started to lose weight. I wasn't hungry anymore. I had dark thoughts. I didn't hang out with friends. I felt like a failure. My whole life I'd been chasing the idea of this perfect love, the kind of love that I saw between my parents as a kid, and I figured I just lost my one shot at true love. (...)

One day I realized that I had to wake up and let go. I had done everything that I could do. I found a therapist, I started to get healthy again. Started to eat again, started hanging out with friends. I had to realize that my happiness had to come from myself, not from other people.

**Extract 92: MDML #32**

MDML #33's narrator faces depression in his younger years when his friend moves away and also later on in life when he loses his job:

Then, one day, they moved away. They moved over 900 miles away! My brother and I didn't know what hit us. Our "brother" had moved away, and depression hit me. I haven't played basketball since; I haven't really played any sports. (...)

A couple months before I graduated, I was laid off of my job at the drugstore; it was scary and depressing. I was in a bad mindset. But then, that's when I decided to start making YouTube videos.

**Extract 93: MDML #33**

In MDML #38, the YouTuber develops an eating disorder and has self-esteem issues after gaining weight because of not being physically active following knee surgery. Negative feelings also arise when he later questions his religion and his best friend dies in a car crash:

I had to finish my missionary work early. I was sent home to endure three knee surgeries and was stuck walking around on a cane for a year or so, and this resulted in me gaining more weight and losing more self-esteem. I'd always been chubby and pretty sensitive about it to be honest, but I began to be really unhappy and I was mostly house bound with a terrible limp. What I saw in the mirror was not very good. I was struggling with an eating disorder and some pretty rough self-esteem issues. (...)

But one thing lingered that I hadn't addressed. I had conflicting feelings and questions about the religion I was raised in, and even though I had an ideal childhood and values, I felt unfulfilled and kind of hollow to be honest. So, I chose to leave the Mormon Church in favour of a secular worldview. This was a pretty hard change to make. My parents had recently divorced, partly because my dad left the church, and the rest of my siblings were mostly married with kids, all of which I had to inform that I was no longer part of their religion, and it was a pretty rocky time in my life. But to make matters unimaginably worse, one day I got a phone call and I was informed that Alex, my very best friend from

high school and the only person I kept in touch with after graduating, died in a car crash at the age of 23. That was the hardest moment in my life to this day.

**Extract 94: MDML #38**

The narrator of MDML #50 describes being brought up by parents who are constantly fighting. At school, he is called names by his peers and uses his imagination to escape reality, referring to himself as “an empty shell of a person” at the time. He is sent to a specialist school in an attempt to deal with his emotional issues, but as an adult, he still feels as if he does not fit in (until he later meets his wife and discovers YouTube):

Another aspect of my childhood growing up in a sort of poverty-stricken country during the 80s was that, you know, it was a lot of stress for my parents and they didn't get along very well so they would constantly fight and it was very difficult for me and my brothers and sisters, you know? We would sit upstairs in our rooms and we just listened to this constant fighting and crashing and smashing and I think, I think that had an effect on me you know, because I closed up a lot, you know. I didn't, I didn't socialize much and I found it very difficult for interpersonal communication so when I would be in school, you know, people wonder why I wouldn't, you know, do the popular social things and you know, people got frustrated with me and they would laugh at me and they'd call me names. They'd think I was just a weirdo just because I wouldn't conform to what everybody else was doing and that was very hard on me, you know. For years, for years I would just sort of put up with it and I would just sort of like, you know, sit in my room and I would just like write short stories and poetry and just, you know, think about a different life, a different existence. And I would still hear, you know, my mum, my dad, you know, the fighting just escalated, and it got worse and you know, it didn't matter how much you shut yourself away. You could never really escape it. I just figured that I had to do something, so one day I figured out a way to escape at all and that was to essentially escape this life that I had, and I figured out that I had this incredible imagination where I could essentially create a world that suited me - an imagination that allowed me to create a world for myself inside my own head, and that's exactly what I did.

For years I shut myself away. I lived inside this world. Not only did I have imaginary friends but I had an imaginary life. It was filled with people that I wanted to look after me. Funnily enough, it was filled with women and not in kind of like, you know, “Oh you're so like thinking of girls and stuff”, I just, girls that was just mums, you know? It's just filled with mums that would just bring me out in the park, just play with me, would hold my hand, would tell me they love me. And it was just, it was one of the happiest times for my childhood, which is funny because it didn't actually exist. It all existed in my head.

One of the, one of the hard parts is that, you know, while I was enjoying this existence outside in the real world, I was just an empty shell of a person walking around, and you know I was still going to school every day and being picked on and people were calling me, and the more I subtracted myself from reality, the more people got more frustrated with me and more angry with me and my parents, that way, they would look on and they would wonder like “Why, why is why is Jonathan like this? Why would he act like this?” Until one day, my mum decided that there was definitely something wrong here. It was not just me just being like a weird kid, you know? And she got in touch with this specialist school which is run by the Jesuit society and decided to bring me in for an interview. (...)

I was just searching for somewhere where I would fit in and it was just, I was just constantly upset and unhappy and depressed and along with that was a trail of girlfriends

and, you know, I'd like to apologize for everybody that I've hurt along the way but I was just, I was just, I was misunderstood. I didn't know who I was and without knowing who I was, there was no way I could, you know, be in a relationship with anybody or a job for that matter.

**Extract 95: MDML #50**

The YouTuber in MDML #56 describes “spiralling lower and lower”, unsure of his future. However, he encourages his followers to stay positive, because he would not have lived through “the highs” if he had “offed himself” (committed suicide) at his lowest point:

Eventually I learned that I was simply not ready for uni, that if I couldn't hold down an interest for more than three months, how was I going to do it for three years, spending thousands of pounds a year? (...) This threw me through a few loops as I spiralled lower and lower, ultimately wandering among the lost generation of my age group. (...)

Sometimes people tell me they're depressed, they feel like a waste, how they won't amount to anything - even suicidal - but I always say if I offed myself in the lowest point, I wouldn't have ever lived through the highs.

**Extract 96: MDML #56**

In MDML #57, the narrator says that his YouTube success coincides with feeling sick and subsequent stress and panic attacks:

I started to feel sick. It's still till this day haunting me and it's still till this day something I'm dealing with every single day and that cost me in a lot of stress, panic attacks and I just couldn't handle it. I couldn't do it and after only living in the Faze house for about a month, I decided to fly back home to Sweden because I simply couldn't deal with it anymore. I was hands down, and I'm not ashamed to say it, I was in the absolute worst state I've ever been in my entire life.

**Extract 97: MDML #57**

The creator of MDML #59 says that he was “traumatised” by an unstable family life as a child and was taken to a program which supports children like him, “living crazy lives”. He later discusses bullying but learning to be confident thanks in part to the support of his friends, without whom he believes he would not be alive:

My mum began to bring my sister and I, slightly traumatised by the unstable life we were living, to a program called Confident Kids. It was an organization that let kids who were living crazy lives understand that they weren't alone. (...)

I was bullied a ton but by eighth grade I learned to stick up for myself and I just had so many incredible friends that defended for me and they were just so loving. You all know who you are, you beautiful humans, thank you so much. Without them I truly don't believe that I would be alive.

**Extract 98: MDML #59**

In MDML #60, the narrator describes getting “a tad depressed” during the transition to a new secondary school, because he was not comfortable with change: “I got a tad depressed after sixth grade because I had a very big difficulty with change and I still do. I was excited for school but at the same time I knew things would be different. I didn’t want change”.

MDML #62 includes references to verbal and physical abuse by the YouTuber’s father, leading to the father’s incarceration and the YouTuber’s depression and “months of expensive therapy”:

I was verbally and physically abused daily my whole life by him. My mother would always try her best to protect me and she would divert his anger towards her instead. If I did something wrong, I would get hit. I remember when I was six or seven, my parents were arguing about something and I just wanted to get away. I rode my bike to the library without permission to go play games on their computers. My parents somehow found me, and I got a black eye that day. My father didn’t let me go to school until my eye healed to avoid questioning from authorities. Another time I was stuffed in the closet for hours at a time. (...)

At 16, I got a job at a bowling alley and the day I got my check, my dad started to charge me rent. I was livid. I grew very depressed and to get away from the weirdness of that family, I immersed myself into the world of video games. I continued paying rent and then I went to college. I decided to major in Microbiology. Despite all the continued abuse, I graduated with an AS in Microbiology, but I grew more sad and more depressed and played more games with continued abuse. (...)

They started to throw out all kinds of theories for why it wasn’t his fault. All kinds of excuses for why my father is innocent, but I lived through it and I went through six months of very expensive therapy for it. To this day, they still make excuses for him. They keep telling me I need to help him and appreciate him because he’s my father. Well yesterday, my father pled guilty to his charges and he’s going to do 20 years in prison. I think in all the time he was in jail, I visited him about three times and in all the three times I saw the same lying, manipulative man. He was no longer my father - only a broken, deranged man. (...)

It was about a year later that my dad was arrested and truths about the crap household that I lived in started coming out. That’s when I flunked out of college and grew more depressed. I didn’t know how to feel.

#### **Extract 99: MDML #62**

The narrator of MDML #64 also mentions going to therapy following years of depression and thoughts of self-harm/suicide despite living a “blessed life”. He admits to getting “really good at internalising and saving face to ensure no one really saw behind my fake smile”:

However, around the same time there were some of, if not the worst, years of my life. Seventh grade is a very dark period in my timeline, so much so that I think my mind has blocked out and forgotten most of that time in my life. It was another transition since I

was now in middle school and throughout the entire seventh grade year, I retained my one friend, Jim Bob. It wouldn't be for another few years until I realized what was wrong with me because for so long, I woke up every day and kept asking myself, why do I feel like this? Why do I not want to do anything? Why am I so pathetic and why is everyone else able to be so happy and I can't? I was reclusive and shy; I would just hold my head low and go through the motions. I remember pretending to cut my wrists in class just to try and get attention from someone, anyone. These were the only times thoughts of self-harm and suicide had come to my mind and I'm forever thankful to my younger self for never carrying anything out because the thought of doing something like that to my family and friends still makes my stomach turn today. The thing I kept wrestling with and was so upset with myself about was why I felt like this. I have a loving family, my father works tirelessly to give us everything we need and more. My mother is one of the warmest souls if not the warmest you could meet on this earth. My brothers, while they could get on my nerves, were always there and we always did things together. I didn't have some huge gaping hole in my life that would explain why I felt like this, because comparatively, I was living a blessed life. The worst part too was that no one ever knew what was going on. I just got really good at internalising and saving face to ensure no one really saw behind my fake smile. Days blended together and everything seemed to lose its meaning. It's like I was living my entire life on mute. (...)

It's because of my circumstances that I am who I am today and I'm no longer ashamed of who that person is. I found ways to combat the sadness the best I can and look out for signs that I'm getting overwhelmed before it becomes a major boiling point again. For me, I found that talking to someone helps. I go to therapy and I don't feel like any less of a human being for doing so. I've tried medicine, but so far, I haven't found one that works for me, but that doesn't mean it doesn't work for everyone. Everyone is different in how they deal with problems like this and that's why I wanted to take this time to tell you or someone you know to look for help. If you think you know someone going through something like depression, just letting them know that you're there for them can mean a lot.

**Extract 100: MDML #64**

MDML #65's narrator becomes depressed and isolated because of his sudden YouTube fame, unaware of who he is "supposed to be":

I didn't handle my sudden fame very well. I lost the sense of who I was, and I didn't even know who I was supposed to be. From July to December 2014, I became very depressed and isolated. In fact, there were some weeks when I was so depressed, I couldn't even bring myself to make a video and unfortunately, the next two years were equally as confusing and difficult for me.

**Extract 101: MDML #65**

When the grandmother of MDML #66's narrator dies, he also goes into a "very deep depression" which still resonates within him "a little bit" today:

This was my dad's mum, my grandma that took me down to Cumberland and between her and my mum, those were the two that raised me I feel like the most and when she died, I went into a very deep depression, one that still resonates within me a little bit today. Her death shook up my life like none other and I still miss her so much every single day.

**Extract 102: MDML #66**

In MDML #67, the YouTuber has difficulties being sociable after spending a lot of time alone during his university studies. He describes feeling anxious and “pretty freaking depressed” as a result:

So, after two years of university and being a damn near hermit, I realized that I wanted to try something different: I wanted to try making friends again. But it wasn't easy at all. I wasn't as sociable as I was when I was 15. Now, I was anxious and awkward, and I was really low-confident and pretty freaking depressed as a result.

**Extract 103: MDML #67**

The narrator of MDML #70 also grows depressed because of a lack of direction in his life. He feels that he has never properly understood his religion, and so embarks on a personal journey of faith:

So, as you could probably tell, at this point I haven't really expressed any interest of anything of value and I never really had a goal. I mean sure, I was with a smoking-hot girl and I had a job, but I grew depressed because I had no direction for my life. My family was all Christian and, you know, we all came from a Christian background, but I never really knew what it meant to be a Christian. All that I really knew is that church was boring and if I ever did bad things, I was going straight to hell. So that's what I thought Christianity was. So, I started seeking answers for myself. I started reading my Bible and the words would literally speak to me and my life, you know, exactly what was going on in my life, and it was crazy, or at least it felt that way. So, my advice to all of you who don't really understand or don't agree with your religion, you should really seek answers for yourself and trust me, God will show you.

**Extract 104: MDML #70**

The YouTuber in MDML #72 is verbally and physically bullied as a child. Later on, he becomes suicidal when he finds out that his fiancé has been cheating on him, just as his other girlfriends had in the past (when he finds YouTube, his mental state improves greatly):

I was bullied. I was called stupid, I was called retarded, I was called fat, even though I wasn't fat I was still called fat, and of course it was happening by a group of boys that were constantly making my life a living hell. And I didn't have any friends, so that made things just that much more lonely and that much more difficult. This same group of kids every single day never let up. They used to sit there and block my entrance into the cafeteria and tell me that I wasn't welcome and that I was ugly and that I had no friends and that I shouldn't be in there and I didn't belong and that I should just go out into the schoolyard and sit in the grass by myself and eat lunch because nobody want to be around me because I smelled, and I spent basically every day of school by myself, outside. This didn't only happen at school. This same group of boys would hide behind trees and hide behind bushes, and they knew where I lived and they would stop somewhere along the path of the school in my house and they would wait for me behind trees and when I would come riding by on my bike, they would be waiting for me and, next thing I know, they're throwing rocks at me and one of them one time hit me in the face, and I remember falling

off my bike and all of the other school kids were there and saw it, and nobody did anything. Nobody tried to help, nobody tried to make them stop. (...)

I just walked away, and she chased me down and I asked her for the truth and the truth was a little more than I think that I could handle, because I found out that there were a lot more people. In fact, she had cheated on me 13 times since we'd become engaged. I was entirely crushed. I didn't know how to handle it. I had never at that point been with anyone who hadn't cheated on me, and every single relationship I had just ended with the same result of being cheated on and I thought about ending my life on that trip home from San Diego and just driving off of a cliff.

**Extract 105: MDML #72**

In MDML #76, the narrator develops depression and a fear of putting on weight. He describes feeling hopeless and having dug himself into a "hole": "I dug myself into a hole and I wouldn't eat, and I didn't feel like there was any hope. I slipped into this depression and I had this phobia when I was afraid to become fat".

The narrator of MDML #77 (part 1) describes himself as a "shell of a human" who felt trapped because of constant bullying. Later on, he talks about how YouTube was beginning to consume his life and the pressure was starting to make him feel unwell:

It's just, I was a shell of a human. I used to walk around with my head down. I used to barely make eye contact with people and never said much, and I could be in a room without really being there. And then came one of the worst days of my life. In what must have been my greatest moment of stupidity, I told a classmate that I used to put lemon in my hair. Seems pretty normal? In fact, it's actually quite beneficial for the scalp. The rest of my school didn't seem to agree. For about one whole month afterwards, I couldn't get away from it. Wherever I went, I could hear people shouting the names of citrus fruits after me. I could hear them bellowing with laughter, and yeah, it sounds ridiculous looking back, even kind of funny, but 14-year old me felt trapped. I literally felt like the entire universe was against me and it was at this point that I hit an all-time low. (...)

YouTube began to consume my life, whether I was at the dinner table on holiday or at work, my mind was churning with the next video idea. I was sitting my final school exams at this point. I'm starting to feel very stretched. I wanted to get the best grades I could. I wanted to spend time with the people I loved, and I wanted to get 100,000 subscribers. The constant pressure I was putting on myself to come up with ideas, to film, edit, voiceover, make thumbnails and research tags on a daily basis alongside everything else made me start to feel unwell.

**Extract 106: MDML #77 (part 1)**

In MDML #77 part 2 (an updated version of the previous video), the same YouTuber describes being driven "a bit crazy" by relentless unhappiness and loneliness on a physical and emotional level:

It was my never-ending determination to keep getting better that started to drive me a bit crazy. I wasn't just physically alone but emotionally alone. There wasn't a single person I felt like I could talk to who could actually relate to the stresses I was feeling. To put it



another way, YouTube is a privileged job to have, but can also breed an attitude that creates relentless unhappiness. So, I found as the channel was getting larger, I was somehow and ironically becoming more busy, more lonely and less happy. I'd lost touch with all my friends from school, most of my friends from University and by the time I'd usually finished working in the night, my family was often asleep.

**Extract 107: MDML #77 (part 2)**

MDML #78 includes references to depression, panic attacks and self-harm. The narrator says that he was “too proud to ask for help” while struggling through exams and facing feelings of self-hatred:

However, my depression was starting to get out of control. In the run-up to my exams, I found myself locking myself in cupboards in the library and just crying, sometimes for over an hour. I just didn't know what to do. I couldn't understand what was happening to me. It all culminated when a few days before my exams, I had a full-blown panic attack. At first, I thought it was a heart attack but upon googling symptoms of panic attack, I realized what was going on. It seriously shook me up. I genuinely felt like knowledge had tumbled out of my head and it made me feel like crap. The logical thing to do here of course would have been to tell someone and ask to defer my exams maybe. It was obvious that I was in no fit state to do them, but I didn't. I hinted to a few friends that I was struggling, and I just carried on. I was just too proud to ask for help. The days before I finished my exams were the darkest of my life. I barely slept. I worked all day on things I didn't understand and I started to hate myself so much that I would cut myself. It was horrible, but I did it. And I'm not sure why.

**Extract 108: MDML #78**

The YouTuber in MDML #84 describes being bullied at school and feeling depressed and isolated following a difficult break up:

I was leaving them, and it wasn't a very happy time for me. My mum wanted to move. She had met a guy and she went down there and things didn't go so well. I didn't have a lot of good friends. I actually didn't have any friends and I had to get picked on. I had to get bullied on. A girl, I remember a girl was roller-skating in, rollerblading, in the suburbs and this girl didn't like me. She picked on me all the time on the bus, and, you know what she did? She threw a bottle of French dressing all over me. It wasn't very fun. I cried all the way home. I just rushed all the way home. And I don't know why she did that to this day, but I remember that memory was just forever in my heart. I can't believe anybody would do that to anybody. I don't know about you, but that sucked for me. (...)

I got a cross-country scholarship to a junior Community College called ICC Illinois Central College. I went there, had a blast and the only thing is, it wasn't really fun and wasn't my really cup of tea. I met a girl there and she was the love of my life. We dated for two years at ICC and she decided to break up with me and I became, you know, really depressed and, you know, lonely.

**Extract 109: MDML #84**

In MDML #85, the speaker has difficulties coming to terms with his sexuality and faces self-esteem issues because of his eczema. These problems lead to suicidal thoughts:

The name-calling continued even in high school, and this time they even called me more words because I guess high school, they developed their vocabulary or something. But yeah, it wasn't cool. I was hurt and I was really affected by it. I was really alone during this time, and I still suffered from a little bit of eczema, so I still had these red rashes all over my body and I would get called so many different names because of the way I look. Let's just say I wasn't looking my best during 9th grade. Throughout all this, I had a lot of things on my mind. I couldn't really accept the fact that I was gay and this whole eczema problem was really getting on my nerves. This caused me to be really, really shy and I became really independent but unconfident in myself. During high school there were many, many moments when I would cry myself to sleep because I didn't know what I was doing with my life. I even went to the extreme and even prayed to God to make me straight, and I know obviously that's impossible, but I used to pray so hard. I hated the world and I even had thoughts of committing suicide from time to time because I just thought the world would be better without me and I just didn't know what to do - didn't know who to turn to.

**Extract 110: MDML #85**

MDML #94's narrator discusses feeling anxiety in social situations during his secondary school years: "Now we enter my high school years. I spent a lot of my freshman year alone. Social situations gave me anxiety, so I spent a lot of time by my lonesome". MDML #95's narrator, a makeup artist, also describes feeling anxious when asked to do makeup for photoshoots with a lot of people around him:

So going back to when I was still in my degree, I think it's, what, about 2009 to 2010, something like that, and what I was learning from it and from finishing my diploma, and it's just, at the end of day, I'm just really shy, that's just what come up. I was getting such bad anxiety whenever I got asked to a photoshoot or anything.

**Extract 111: MDML #95 (part 1)**

In the second section of his narrative, he talks about stepping out of his comfort zone and forcing himself to face his fears head on by doing demonstrations at large-scale events:

Other things that have happened to me in the last five years is that I've really stepped out of my comfort zone and forced myself to do things like makeup demonstrations at large events, which is a massive deal for me, especially considering like I have a big trouble with anxiety, so I thought I would like jump into the deep end and force myself to do these things in the hopes that it makes it a little bit easier for me to do it in the future, and it really, really has.

**Extract 112: MDML #95 (part 2)**

The YouTuber in MDML #96 describes feeling depressed and trapped because of bullying at school and abuse at home:

This made me extremely sad. My life became this weird routine of going to school, getting picked on, beat up, spit on, going home on the bus, having the same things happen, and because of my bad grades, when I got home, my dad would yell at me, spank me, and take away my TV or my videogames and everything that I had. Literally everywhere I went was bad: school was bad, my home was bad. Honestly at this point in my life, I felt super depressed and trapped. It was horrible.

**Extract 113: MDML #96**

In MDML #97, the narrator's father leaves the family home. This event leads to his feelings of depression and pushing away friends:

I missed my dad. For the most part, it was just me, my brother and my mum all living together. I didn't really see my dad after he left that day, and for the first time ever, I spent my birthday without him. This was probably one of the hardest years of my life. I never thought this day would even happen. I thought my family would always be together. I even remember that a kid at school once told me he was jealous of me having a mum and a dad, and I never knew what he meant until then.

So, for a while, I kind of changed. I got really depressed and I didn't really want to talk to any of my friends anymore. I had made some new friends at school, but I stopped talking to them, and even after they tried inviting me to their parties and to just hang out somewhere, I always turned them down or pushed everyone away.

**Extract 114: MDML #97**

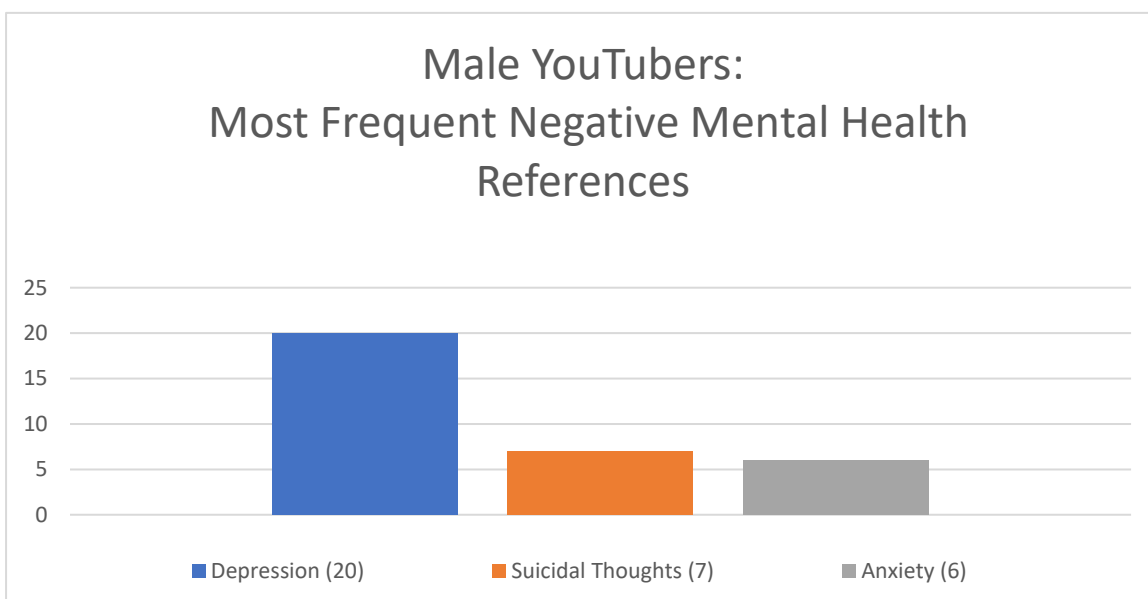
The speaker in MDML #98 is bullied because of his weight ("I was the fat guy") and tendency to get angry easily. His teachers put him into anger management, which he says did not work, and later he has sessions with a psychologist or behaviour expert (he is unsure which), which he says helped him to get "mad less often and less quickly":

I was bullied a lot. It's because I was the fat guy or the guy you could pick on easily and get offended easily or get mad easily and explodes. Yep, that was me. The bullying and me exploding, it was there a lot. And sometimes I just broke. I just lost it. I got really angry, trying to handle it on a physical level, trying to beat the shit out of people and just breaking stuff, you know, stuff like that. One day I was bullied, and no one was listening. No support, no teacher helped me, and I just ran to my classroom, shuffled all the tables, pushed him over and, you know, it was a mess. This equals teachers talking to parents, parents talking to parents with teachers observing. People having no clue what to do with, bling! Let's put the main guys that are fighting in different classes. Everyone happy – yay! So, my main bully got placed in a different class, but you know, I don't know. You still see each other when playing outside. But you know, doesn't matter. But hey, they thought, we've still got that weird guy that gets mad all the time - that's me - but bling! That equals anger-management. Yeah, I was put in this sort of class with a couple of other guys that they thought were "special". We were just basically the weird guys that they couldn't handle. (...)

Oh, and by the way, this anger management bullshit, no. It didn't work at all. This was during school and we had no clue what we were doing there or why. I was also sent to a totally different place with what I think was a psychologist or a behaviour expert, I don't know. Something with my behaviour, something with my anger, and this did actually work, I think. I got mad less often and less quickly. To be completely honest, I don't know the exact order of all this, what just happened.

**Extract 115: MDML #98**

Figure 37 below shows the most frequently occurring negative health references in in the male corpus based on number of individual occurrences, as detected manually:



**Figure 37:** A bar chart representing the most frequently occurring negative mental health references in the MDML corpus, as detected manually. The following references did not reach a minimum of 5 occurrences in the MDML corpus: Eating Disorders (4), Exhaustion (3), Panic Attacks (3), Addiction – Exercise/Drink (2), Existential Crisis (1), Self-Esteem Issues (1), Disassociation (1), Self-Harm (1), Anger Issues (1).

In the above data, it can be observed that more self-identified female YouTubers make explicit reference to facing mental health issues (55% of the females vs. 36% of the males). Overall, 107 explicit negative mental health references were made by 55 females and 50 explicit negative mental health references were made by 36 males.

A wider range of negative mental health conditions were also referenced by the female narrators. In particular, depression is the most discussed mental health issue by both the females and males, with 35 and 20 references respectively. As already indicated by the software output, while anxiety is frequently referenced by the female YouTubers (with 25 mentions in total), it is only mentioned six times by the males. The females also

reference more panic attacks than the males, with nine versus three cases respectively. The males, in contrast, make more references to exhaustion, or feeling “burnt out” (three cases vs. one case). It is also noteworthy that six of the female YouTubers refer to being formally diagnosed with a mental health disorder (FDML #6 – General Anxiety Disorder, FDML #41 – Attention Deficit Disorder, FDML #46 – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, FDML #61 – Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, FDML #65 – Selective Mutism, FDML #71 – Health Anxiety).

Furthermore, ten females discuss receiving professional help, whether sought out personally or by others, such as family members (FDMLs #6, #22, #32, #41, #46, #61, #65, #66, #67, #73). The narrator of FDML #32 is particularly negative about the professional help received, as the medication prescribed by the psychiatrist has what the YouTuber describes as “bad” side effects. The speaker in FDML #61, however, talks in very positive terms about her course of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) with an “amazing therapist”, who helps her to deal with her anxiety and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Lastly, the narrator of FDML #70 says that she is too “ashamed to seek out counselling or professional help” for her depression, showing how mental health care can be a taboo topic among women as well as men.

While six of the female YouTubers discuss receiving a formal mental health diagnosis, none of the male creators do. However, six of the males do mention reaching out for professional help of some kind (or others doing so on their behalf). Although the narrators of MDMLs #32, #62 and #64 reference “therapists”, the creator of MDML #98 goes to sessions with what he calls “a psychologist or a behaviour expert” (he is unsure of the name), who helps him to “get mad less often and less quickly”.

In MDML #50, the YouTuber’s parents take him to a Jesuit school to help him with his tendency to disassociate, and in MDML #59, the narrator goes to an association called Confident Kids which supports children with stressful home environments. Lastly, just as the YouTuber in FDML #70 says she is too ashamed to seek help for her depression, in MDML #78, the narrator admits to being “too proud to ask for help” when struggling with panic attacks.

#### 4.4.4 Further Observations

Overall, from the initial qualitative thematic analyses prior to the manual colour-coding process, several running themes were detected in the corpora. Firstly, both the female and male YouTubers indicate a strong awareness of the *Draw My Life* genre conventions and conscious shaping of their personal narratives and online identities due to conceived audience expectations.

The YouTubers' narratives also highlight the fact that there are still many socially constructed and ingrained ideas regarding the differences between women's and men's inborn potential and dominant expectations upheld for them both. As Murdock (2020, XVII) suggests, "many women still internalize the patriarchal voice that tells them they are less than", which results in girls often feeling "discouraged from developing their full potential".

Along these lines, in the females' stories, reference is made to perceived stunted freedom due to gender norms, such as in FDML #58, when the narrator loses her passion for tattooing due to misogynistic aggression and animosity from male artists. Likewise, the female YouTubers often link masculinity with pride/confidence, rudeness/antisocial behaviour and potential oppression, while links are drawn in the female corpus between femininity and physical beauty, cleanliness and creativity. Femininity is also linked with negative drama and a lack of intelligence (e.g. "I thought that it was the cool thing to appear kind of dumb and that maybe this would make the boys like me"), along with a lack of sports and gaming skills/interest. According to the data, then, females are frequently socially expected to be beautiful/interested in beauty, organised/clean, creative, dramatic, lacking in sports/gaming skills, and even "kind of dumb" if they wish to appeal to males.

The male YouTubers, on the other hand, indicate parental and peer pressure to conform to masculine gender norms, such as strength (e.g. "Men are supposed to be strong to protect their house, you know?" - MDML #60), sports/gaming skills, lack of physical expressiveness, and willingness to partake in the objectification of women, as can be seen in MDML #41, in which the narrator describes how the pitch of his voice, expressive hand gestures, high energy levels, lack of ball-sports skills and not "walking around slapping girls' asses" led his peers to mock him and call him a "faggot".

Just as the males describe the societal expectation to be physically inexpressive and strong, they refer to pressure to be emotionally inexpressive to avoid coming across as emotionally weak as well. For instance, in MDML #41, the YouTuber says, “I’ve made myself someone who’s not prone to opening themselves up to weaknesses. I didn’t want people to know I have depression and to look at me differently or pity me”. Likewise, while the female YouTubers often refer to feeling overwhelmed by intensity of emotions and finding comfort in sharing emotional experiences, the male YouTubers frequently indicate emotional detachment, reluctance to share their emotional issues with others and shame over the external expression of emotions (e.g. “I actually cried a few times. I mean, like, *manly* cries, but I did cry”).

Van Dijk (2009, p. 110) refers to “social structures, including gender and other social identities” which have been constructed, (re)produced or changed “by repeated and generalized social practices”. The researcher suggests that “once these structures ‘exist’ as shared knowledge, they are used and applied as ‘given’ by members in the conduct of talk-in-interaction” (p. 110). Therefore, what are now taken for granted as socially accepted expressions of emotion for self-identified men and women can be understood as stemming from historically repeated behavioural and communicative practices.

As mentioned in Chapter II, Parkins (2012, p. 47) argues that pressure on males to be emotionally inexpressive is socially ingrained from a young age: “Early shaping of our views on emotional expressivity results in women being more emotionally expressive than men”. Likewise, Locke (as cited in Habermas, 2019, pp. 191-2), explains that the notion that women are more emotional than men is “so ingrained in western cultural beliefs”, that this makes it difficult to “dismantle this myth as a social construction”. De Boise and Hearn (2017, p. 779) also point to “the role of socialization in shaping gendered-emotion narratives”, and often leading to “men’s underreporting of mental health issues”. Along these lines, the thematic analysis indicated that more female than male YouTubers made explicit reference to facing mental health issues, and also to receiving formal diagnoses and professional help for their mental health conditions.

Just as in MDML #60, when the narrator focuses on social and cultural pressures to show physical and emotional strength (“in Guyana the men are supposed to be strong”), Chaplin (2015, p. 19) discusses how both biology- and socialisation-influenced tendencies in emotional expression depend on the “particular social environment and

larger cultural context in which [the speakers] are found". As described in Chaplin's research, the societal pressure on males to suppress verbal and gestural indicators of sadness/anxiety and on women to be empathetic while suppressing anger can have long-lasting, extremely negative effects on the mental health and general wellbeing of both genders. Thus, while Lazar (2005, p. 5) describes the importance of critiquing discourses which "systematically privilege men as a social group and disadvantage, exclude and disempower women as a social group", in the case of social norms regarding emotional expression, both females and males can be seen as systematically disadvantaged.

Neither men nor women should ever be ridiculed for sharing their emotions, whether positive or negative. It is paramount for the mental health of future generations that we question societal shared knowledge regarding men's innate emotional restrictiveness and instead encourage emotional communication as a "key to fostering greater gender equality" (De Boise and Hearn, 2017, p. 780). Unfounded ideas learned through cultural socialisation about women's lack of anger and their emotional expressiveness making them "unfocused, fickle, and too emotional to get the job done" (Murdock, 2020, p. 6) should also be rejected. Girls should be free to express anger — and any other emotions they are feeling — without being seen as irrational, dramatic or out of control. Likewise, boys should be encouraged by parents, carers and educators to openly express feelings of sadness and anxiety, without fear of appearing "weak".

In Wodak and Meyer (2009, p. 20), Wodak tells us that "all discourses are historical and can therefore only be understood with reference to their context". Along these lines, the *Draw My Life* narratives can be understood as a reflection of centuries' old socially and culturally imparted knowledge about what is acceptable in terms of females' and males' expressions of emotion. As Fivush and Buckner (2000, p. 234) argue, "one of the strongest stereotypes related to gender continues to centre on emotionality". It is crucial that awareness is brought to exactly that — so much of what we believe to be innate is actually socially constructed.



## 4.5 Manual Analysis 2: Emotion Expression Analysis

The final set of qualitative data from the thematic analysis process resulted from the manual thematic annotation of “emotionally laden discourses” in the narratives (Katriel, 2015, p. 57) using colour-coded tags based on both explicit and underlying emotion-related references. This part of the study was intended to complete the software output by manually detecting *emotional implicatures* (Mackenzie and Alba-Juez, 2019, p. 15), or *figurative displays of emotion* (Foolen, 2012, p. 364). In addition, provided that the software output relating to positive emotions was limited in specificity as compared to the negative emotion-related data (Wmatrix4’s “happy” category vs. LIWC2015’s “positive” grouping), the manual annotation was designed to examine more definite positive categories (as described in Chapter III and summarised subsequently).

In Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), “appraisal” (Martin and White, 2005) refers to writers’ or speakers’ approval or disapproval of something. The linguistic system of appraisal/evaluation is seen in Mackenzie and Alba-Juez’s emotion framework (2019, p. 17) as interconnected with, and yet different from, that of emotion: “In congruence with both linguistic and psychological appraisal theories, we believe that emotions always have an evaluative component, but evaluations do not necessarily have to have a ‘purely’ emotional component”. As discussed in Chapter II, when Mackenzie and Alba-Juez talk of “appraisal”, they focus on “those utterances or that discourse whose main function is an evaluative one”. In contrast, when they talk of emotion, the focus is on “discourse whose main function is an expressive one” (p. 17).

The evaluative and expressive functions may be fulfilled at the same time and in the same utterance, although “there will be utterances whose main function is clearly evaluative, while there will be others whose main function will undoubtedly be expressive”. They provide the example of a girlfriend who has been cheated on by her boyfriend and says, “He is a despicable man!”, whereby the utterance would be said to express both evaluation and emotion, or “affect” in Martin & White’s (2005) Appraisal model. The evaluation (“despicable”) is seen at the lexical level (“overt”), whereas the emotive function would “most effectively realized by phonological means (through intonation and a high pitch) and through pragmatics” (specifically, the *emotional implicature*). These emotive elements serve to indicate to the hearer(s) that the girlfriend

is feeling angry. Therefore, the evaluation is overt (“despicable”), while the emotion (anger) is inferred by the hearer from the speaker’s evaluation.

In my manual emotion expression analysis, as well as taking into consideration Mackenzie and Alba-Juez’s description of emotional implicatures, I also followed Aman and Szpakowicz’s (2007, p. 199) suggestion to “mark in a sentence any number of emotion indicators of any length”, both overt and covert, based on their supposition that “emotion is often conveyed by longer units of text or by phrases”. By manually annotating spans of text – including both individual words and strings of consecutive words – I was thus able to “identify a broad range of affect-bearing” text (p. 199).

My annotation framework consists of seven colour-coded categories – three relating to positive emotions and four relating to negative ones. The positive emotion-related expressions were classified into the following colour-coded positive categories (PCs) of explicit and implicit references to:

- PC1: Feeling happy, excited, liking/loving something or someone
- PC2: Feeling proud, confident, brave, determined
- PC3: Feeling calm, comforted, supported, accepted, relieved

Below are examples of each sub-category:

PC1:

- Feeling happy: *I just feel so happy in life...*
- Feeling excited: *I was so excited to move into university halls.*
- Liking something or someone: *I liked living in Canada...*
- Loving something or someone: *I loved that show.*

PC2

- Feeling proud: *I became even more proud of my videos...*
- Feeling confident: *I felt so confident in my cute outfits...*
- Feeling brave: *I came out of Europe so much braver.*
- Feeling determined: *I was really determined.*

### PC3

- Feeling calm: *I just felt so calm and collected...*
- Feeling comforted: *These people comforted me...*
- Feeling supported: *My teachers encouraged me to keep writing...*
- Feeling accepted: *I finally felt like I really belonged.*
- Feeling relieved: *I'm relieved I didn't leave university.*

The negative emotion-related expressions were classified into the following colour-coded negative categories (NCs) of explicit and implicit references to:

- NC1: Feeling scared, nervous, anxious, stressed, guilty, pressured, panicked
- NC2: Feeling shy, embarrassed, awkward
- NC3: Feeling sad, depressed, apathetic, lost
- NC4: Feeling angry, frustrated, jealous and disliking/hating something or someone

Below are examples of each sub-category:

#### NC1

- Feeling scared: *I was going to be the new kid and I was really scared.*
- Feeling nervous: *I was nervous I was going to get beaten up...*
- Feeling anxious: *I found myself getting into my old just socially anxious tendencies.*
- Feeling stressed: *Uni and life basically just stressed me out.*
- Feeling guilty: *I felt so guilty that I couldn't save her.*
- Feeling pressured: *When my school years came to an end, I felt pressure to go to uni...*
- Feeling panicked: *I was panicking about what I wanted to do with my life.*

#### NC2

- Feeling shy: *Throughout my years in school, I was always really shy...*
- Feeling embarrassed: *I was always embarrassed by my condition...*
- Feeling awkward: *My first year at college was incredibly awkward to say the least.*

### NC3

- Feeling sad: *I was sadder than I've ever been...*
- Feeling depressed: *At this point in my life, I felt super depressed...*
- Feeling apathetic: *I had no ambition. I didn't care about the future.*
- Feeling lost: *I was just a bit lost and I just wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my life*

### NC4

- Feeling angry: *I got really angry, trying to handling it on a physical level...*
- Feeling frustrated: *I was kind of at a crossroads and just frustrated.*
- Feeling jealous: *She had long straight hair that I was super jealous of.*
- Disliking something or someone: *I didn't really like school much...*
- Hating something or someone: *I hated my program.*

When preparing the above emotion classification framework, I grouped together semantically independent and yet interrelated expressions describing the “feelings, moods and affective experiences” of the speakers in their narratives, drawing on Mackenzie and Alba-Juez (2019, p. 18). An instance of interrelatedness can be observed in how loving someone can make a person feel happy or feeling relieved can lead to a sensation of calmness, where these interlinking feelings would fall under the same respective umbrellas.

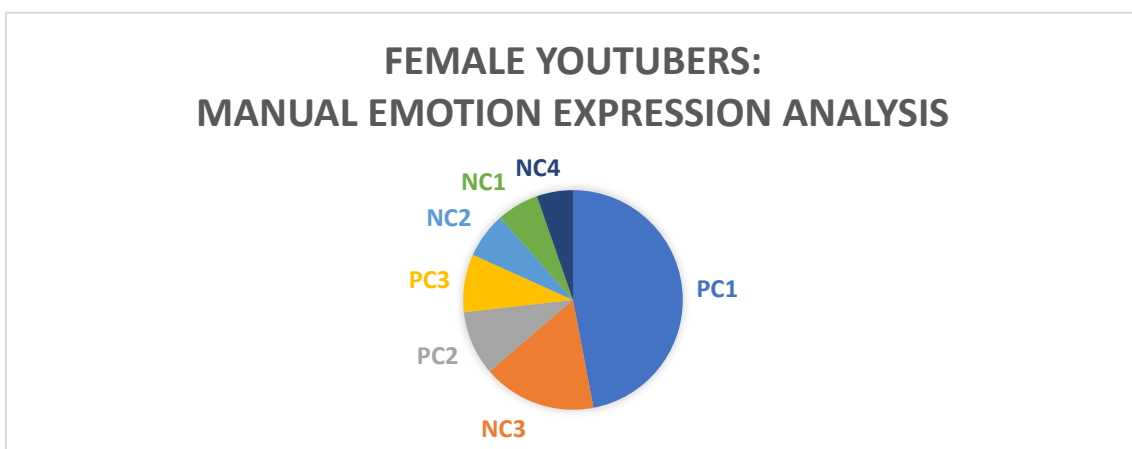
Given that the software output relating to positive emotions was limited in specificity when compared to the negative emotion-related data (Wmatrix4's “happy” category vs. LIWC2015's “positive” grouping), in the manual annotation framework the types of positive emotions expressed in the narratives were further broken down into definite categories. The process was driven by the texts, as references to pride and individual determination (PC2) frequently appeared in the male-created stories, and references to external support and acceptance by others (PC3) were often annotated in the female-created stories. This leaning is in line with Fitch et al.'s (2019, p. 510) autobiographical analysis work drawing on Bakan's (1966) agency/communion distinction:

Agency designates an orientation toward the self, and communion designates an orientation toward other people. (...) Women tend to exhibit communion in autobiographical narratives describing vivid memories of major life events. Men, on the other hand, tend to exhibit more agency in these narratives.

After counting up the overall number of emotion-related references belonging to each category included in the 100 female-created and 100 male-created texts, the proportional percentages based on the overall number of emotion-related references were calculated. The rule-of-three calculations provided proportional percentages per category, and allowed for direct comparison without the results being impacted by the female YouTubers' more extensive corpus (female YouTubers' 248,613 words vs. male YouTubers' 227,979 words).

#### 4.5.1 Female YouTubers

In the total 248,613 words of the female corpus, there were 6,862 emotion-related references. Of these, 3,226 (47.01% - PC1) referred to feeling happy, excited, or liking/loving something/someone; 1,148 (16.72% - NC3) referred to feeling sad, depressed, apathetic, or lost; 650 (9.47% - PC2) referred to feeling proud, confident, brave, or determined; 587 (8.55% - PC3) referred to feeling calm, comforted, supported, accepted, or relieved; 463 (6.74% - NC2) referred to feeling shy, embarrassed, or awkward; 422 (6.18% - NC1) referred to feeling scared, nervous, anxious, stressed, guilty, pressured, or panicked, and lastly, 366 (5.33% - NC4) referred to feeling angry, frustrated, jealous, or disliking/hating something/someone. These results are depicted in Figure 38 below:



**Figure 38:** A pie chart representing the percentages of emotion-related expression categories in the FDML corpus resulting from manual annotation.

### **A) PC1: Feeling happy, excited, liking/loving something or someone**

Examples of the references in the female corpus to feeling happy and excited are “I found that very thing that takes me to a happy place. It was art” (FDML #5), “I was excited to be a big sister” (FDML #5), and “I got so excited, I almost peed my pants. My dreams were finally about to come true” (FDML #11), following a move to America from Nepal. Many sources of happiness and excitement described in the female narratives are family, friends, and personal and professional fulfilment, often found through YouTube.

Instances of references to liking and loving something/someone are found in “I actually really enjoyed primary school” (FDML #1), “I had love for the animals” (FDML #2), “I liked stuff like Pokémon” (FDML #8) and “he was really cool, and he seemed like someone that I wanted to be friends with” (FDML #9). The word “obsessed”, often erroneously picked up on by the software programs as relating to anxiety, was frequently manually annotated as relating to liking or loving something/someone (e.g. “I was already obsessed with gaming” - FDML #8).

### **B) NC3: Feeling sad, depressed, apathetic, lost**

Instances of feeling sad, depressed, apathetic, or lost are the second most commonly occurring in the female corpus. Just as the term “obsessed” was erroneously marked by the software as an anxiety reference, so was the word “upset”, which I often manually annotated as a sadness marker instead (e.g. “I was really upset. It felt like my dreams were all shattered” - FDML #11). Sadness was also detected in descriptions of loneliness (e.g. “People made fun of me all the time and I ate lunch all by myself” - FDML #28) and physical manifestations of sadness, such as crying (e.g. “He also used to call me flat-chested which used to make me cry” - FDML #2). Within this category, feelings of depression were annotated most often in expressions including words with the root “depress-” (e.g. “I got really depressed when he killed himself - FDML #26) and descriptions of suicidal tendencies such as the following:

- I went home, I started crying and crying, and I started attempting suicide by taking pills and trying to hang myself in the closet, and I was just a really depressed girl (FDML #27)
- I didn't see the point in living anymore. I'd wake up every morning and wish I didn't have to, and I finally wanted to put it into all the pain. (FDML #29)

- It was just, it was really, really lonely and I had no one there. I didn't have my family. I didn't have anything, and I wanted to end my life (FDML #32)

Other references in this sadness-related annotation category were to feeling apathetic, such as when the narrator in FDML #58 loses her passion for tattooing because of misogyny in the industry (“I completely lost my passion for tattooing”), and feeling lost, exemplified in the following sentence in which loneliness is also reflected: “I was in a really dark place and felt extremely alone and lost for a long time” (FDML #55).

### **C) PC2: Feeling proud, confident, brave, determined**

Descriptions expressing pride, confidence, bravery and determination in the FDML corpus include references to self-learning (e.g. “I learned Photoshop and Moviemaker all by myself - FDML #59). Some of the narrators discuss growing in confidence thanks to clothing/beauty (“I felt so confident in my cute outfits. Girls used to compliment me, and boys used to turn their heads and notice me, and I discovered the power of clothes” - FDML #57/“I was kind of confident to have short hair and not care” - FDML #80), musical expression (“I was now speaking through my instruments. I had a way to express myself and it gave me confidence to be tough”/“I felt like I could conquer the world - FDML #61) and making progress on YouTube (“I feel the most confident I have ever felt with my videos” - FDML #65/“My channel was growing a bit and I was just really proud of it” - FDML #61).

When it comes to bravery, many of the female YouTubers refer to gaining courage over time, using verbs such as “to pluck up” (e.g. “I plucked up the courage and gave him a beautifully carved soap” - FDML #64), “to pick up” (e.g. “I finally picked up the courage to film and upload my first video on YouTube - FDML #10), “to build up” (e.g. “For some odd reason, I had built up the courage to talk to a random boy” - FDML #50) and “to find” (e.g. “I found the clarity of mind and the courage to get help - FDML #61). The narrator in FDML #68 says that she felt braver following a trip to Europe (“It just changed me completely. I came out of Europe so much braver”), and in FDML #70, the YouTuber talks about putting on “a brave face” during her first day at a new school (“I somehow put on a brave face and managed to get through the first day”). While she may have felt nervous and scared deep down, the fact that she was able to put on a confident

front (and decided to highlight this in her narrative) was considered worthy of annotation in this category.

References to determination in the female corpus include “Those people just make me more determined to keep going and my mission is to make it so that no one ever feels embarrassed to talk about their love for tingles or for ASMR videos to family and friends” (FDML #61), in which the narrator expresses her willingness to push back against criticism she had been receiving towards her videos in the ASMR (Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response) genre. Similarly, one YouTuber (FDML #64) discusses how determined she was to make her business thrive (“Through determination and hard work, I had built a thriving doggy day-care”) and another (FDML #93) focuses on her determination to avoid toxic cycles and achieve her dreams:

Statistics say I should have stayed in and I should have continued the cycle of domestic violence and drugs and alcohol in my life, but I’m so determined to get out of that and make something of myself. And I know that if I keep chasing my dreams, I’ll get there.

**Extract 116: FDML #93**

#### **D) PC3: Feeling calm, comforted, supported, accepted, relieved**

The next most frequently occurring category in the female corpus is that of references to feeling calm, comforted, supported, accepted, and relieved, often thanks to external forces. For instance, the narrator of FDML #61 discusses how a split from her husband brings a sense of tranquillity (“I couldn’t remember ever feeling so much peace and calm”), and in FDML #56, the speaker describes feeling comforted by her mother’s support (“My mum would always comfort me”) and by watching the videos of her favourite YouTubers (“These people comforted me when I was in a dark place”).

Many female content creators also describe feeling supported by their subscribers, family members and friends. In FDML #2, for example, the narrator says that without the love and support of her followers, she would be lost. Likewise, in FDML #11, the speaker says that her roommate’s support kept her alive during a dark period. Others refer to feeling accepted by others, such as the narrator of FDML #20, who feels welcomed by her new community following a move (“North Carolina was really accepting. People accepted me and they were nice to me”); the narrator of FDML #61, who feels accepted by her boyfriend’s family (“I was well accepted by his family and him by mine”), and the narrator of FDML #80, who describes feeling accepted, respected and loved by her



boyfriend (“My life honestly really changed when I met my boyfriend, Nicholas. He accepted that I was transgender and he respected and loved me”).

Another commonly expressed feeling in the female corpus within the present positive annotation category is one of relief. In FDML #55, for example, the narrator describes the relief she felt following her mother’s death, knowing that she was no longer in pain (“After mum died, I felt this huge sense of relief - the suffering and waiting was over”). Likewise, the narrator in FDML #73 also expresses relief over the death of her abusive stepfather (“I felt a huge surge of relief. Relief that he couldn’t come after me; he was gone”), and in FDML #68, the YouTuber talks about her parents’ stressful divorce, and how studying away from home in another city was a big relief (“To escape to Boston was a huge relief”).

#### **E) NC2: Feeling shy, embarrassed, awkward**

The female YouTubers also described feelings of shyness, embarrassment, and awkwardness during many different stages of life. For instance, the narrator of FDML #10 says that she was “so shy and insecure” as a young girl at school that she would try to escape reality through her storybooks. Likewise, the narrator of FDML #3 expresses shyness at the start of her YouTube career, as she was not used to speaking into a microphone or to a camera (“I was super shy, and it felt so weird to talk into a mic”).

Feelings of embarrassment are described in FDML #61, in which the narrator feels self-conscious talking to people (“I was so embarrassed, and I couldn’t speak to people without going bright red, especially to boys”) and in FDML #66, where the narrator feels embarrassed about her acne and so avoids making videos (“I had all these video ideas, but I just didn’t have the courage to make them. I still felt so self-conscious about my skin”). Just as the narrator of FDML #3 describes feeling shy at the beginning of her YouTube career, the YouTuber in FDML #63 expresses embarrassment the first time she was asked for an autograph due to her new-found fame (“The first time someone ever asked me for my autograph is during lunch. I was so embarrassed and so caught off guard that I spelled my own name wrong!”).

Within the same negative annotation category, feelings of awkwardness were also often noted in phrases such as “a shy, socially awkward, overly emotional weirdo” (FDML #19), in which the YouTuber describes her troubled teenage years, and also “I

didn't have that much in common with them, I ended up feeling like the odd man out" (FDML #68), where the narrator feels out of place with her new roommates.

#### **F) NC1: Feeling scared, nervous, anxious, stressed, guilty, pressured, panicked**

The next most commonly occurring annotation category in the female corpus is that of references to feeling scared, nervous, anxious, stressed, guilty, pressured, and panicked. For instance, in FDML #66, the narrator describes how she felt scared "to be without makeup" in front of her boyfriend after they moved in, as she was worried that he would notice her facial acne and scarring. In FDML #73, the police rescues the narrator from her abusive father – an experience she describes as "terrifying" ("The police came to take us home, which was pretty terrifying"). In the build up to this rescue, she describes feeling "so scared" to see her father that she would often be physically sick in the car on the way to his home.

Feelings of nervousness are described in FDML #1, in which the narrator "nervously played" with a quill in her hand before turning down a young suitor. In FDML #11, the YouTuber describes herself as "so nervous" during her first day of school, and the narrator of FDML #13 says at the start of her video that she has been "very nervous to share my story with you all", worried about whether her followers would judge her life decisions. Likewise, in FDML #23, the YouTuber describes nerves over telling others about her YouTube channel ("I was always nervous about people finding out that I did YouTube").

As seen in the software analysis and preliminary thematic breakdown linked to mental health issues in the corpora, feelings of anxiety, both openly diagnosed and undiagnosed, are often described by the female YouTubers in their DML narratives. Examples include FDML #66, in which the narrator discusses a diagnosis of OCD and social anxiety ("I have dealt with something in my life called pure OCD which is a form of obsessive-compulsive disorder, which is just another form of anxiety"/"I was really, really anxious. The social anxiety had skyrocketed") and FDML #77, in which the narrator says that she feels regularly overwhelmed by anxious feelings ("My anxiety does get the better of me most days"). In addition, the narrator of FDML #71 describes health anxiety, leading to fear/worry about illness and death leading to panic attacks ("I was diagnosed with health anxiety, which basically meant I was scared of things in particular

but mainly I was worried about being ill or dying, and having panic attacks really didn't help those feelings at all").

Female YouTubers also habitually discuss feelings of stress (e.g. "I got my date for a state board to take my test, and I was so stressed" - FDML #75), guilt (e.g. "I felt too guilty spending money on bus fare because we were struggling" - FDML #53) and pressure (e.g. "I felt pressure to go to uni despite not knowing what I really wanted to do" - FDML #55), as well as panic (e.g. "I remember feeling a huge wave of panic because couldn't get my arms, my legs or my hands to move. I was finding it difficult to breathe and I was completely paralysed for those few minutes because my mind was controlling me and not vice-versa" - FDML #4, and "Danny and I were surprised to find out that we were expecting. I definitely didn't feel ready and I panicked" - FDML #64).

#### **G) NC4: Feeling angry, frustrated, jealous and disliking/hating something or someone**

The least frequent manually annotated category in the female corpus was that of references to feeling angry, frustrated, jealous, and disliking/hating something or someone. In FDML #8, for instance, the narrator describes facing issues with anger as a child ("I kind of had anger issues when I was a kid, like I get mad at everyone, everything"). In FDML #51, the narrator describes her anger at having to go to physiotherapy following a car accident in her youth:

I was really angry that this happened to me. I was angry I had to spend time after school going to the physio clinic. I was angry I had a permanent pinched nerve in my back which caused my back and neck to be on fire. I was angry I had a permanent pinched nerve in my back, which caused my back and neck to be on fire. I just felt really angry and felt like it was so unfair.

**Extract 117: FDML #51**

The narrator of FDML #36 uses the term "pissed" to describe her annoyance over learning that she will be moving home and "angry" to describe how she feels when she arrives at the new location:

The summer before the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, my mum told us she wanted to go back to school, but not in Canada - she wanted to go to Oklahoma. I was pissed. So, we packed up the van and we were on our way to Oklahoma. Like, really? Our road trip to Oklahoma was actually fun though. It took us 30 hours to get there. It was just mummy and her kids. When we got to Oklahoma, it looked like farmland. I was so angry.

**Extract 118: FDML #36**

In FDML #55, the narrator says that she feels “really angry” at the fact that her friends do not seem to appreciate their family units after she has lost her mother: “My friends had moved back to their family homes, and I felt really angry at everybody for not consciously realising how lucky they were to have families and homes to go back to and parents to support them”. The narrator of FDML #83 expresses feelings of stress as well as anger and resentment towards her father for his neglect:

He was drunk which left me taking care of my younger sister, and this left me very angry at him. I was stressed out at such a young age and it just left me not wanting to be there and not want to be around him. And honestly, I was so angry at him and I resented him so, so much.

**Extract 119: FDML #83**

Feelings of frustration are also described by the narrator of FDML #7, when she attempts to open some windows and is unable to (“I tried to open the windows and was really frustrated when they wouldn’t open”). In FDML #55, the speaker uses the expression “so fed up” to describe her frustration at her dire financial situation (“It didn’t help that I was so fed up scrimping and saving and that I never had any money to do anything or treat myself”). Jealousy is also sometimes described by the female YouTubers, such as in FDML #27, when the narrator says that she is jealous of her sister’s hair (“She had long straight hair that I was super jealous of”) and in FDML #28, in which the narrator expresses jealousy over her crush having a girlfriend (“I found out that Wah actually has a girlfriend and I was super jealous at this point because I was like, ‘Why can’t it be me?’”).

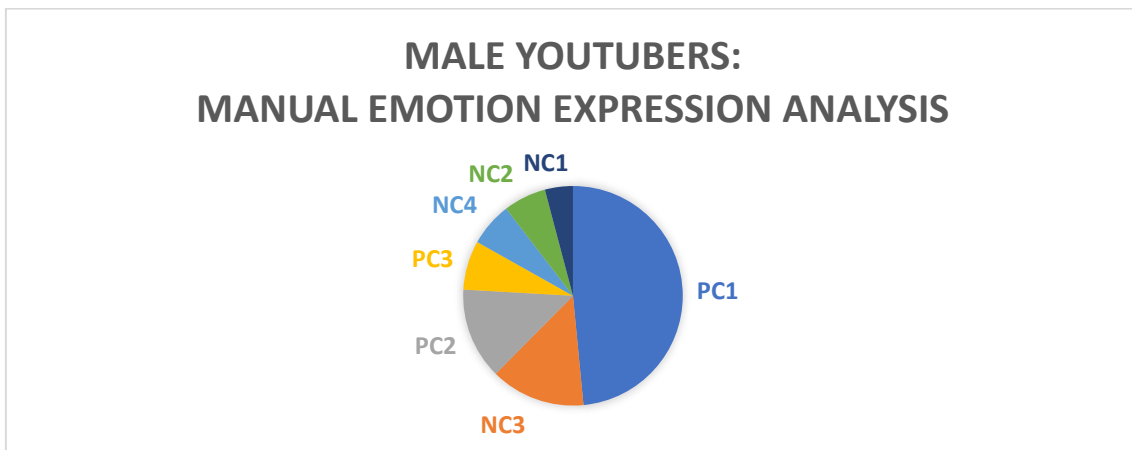
In this final negative annotation category, the female YouTubers also described their dislike/hate towards things/people, such as in FDML #6, when the narrator talks about not being able to stand her university dorm room (“This is a picture of my residence room that I totally decked out, because I couldn’t stand how prison-like it was”) and expresses her aversion to the university itself, using the word “sucks” (“This sucks; the university sucks”). The narrator of FDML #9 also describes her dislike of the university experience (“I actually really disliked university”). Lastly, in FDML #22, we find an interesting example of aggression overtly grounded in fear:

I started combating bullying with bullying, and my aggression got me out of a lot of potentially humiliating situations. So being very angry, jealous and bitter was a tool I kept all the way until the end of high school. My aggression was based on fear.

**Extract 120: FDML #22**

## 4.5.2 Male YouTubers

In the total 227,979 words of the male corpus, there were 5,547 emotion-related references. Of these, 2,689 (48.47% - PC1) referred to feeling happy, excited, or liking/loving something/someone; 774 (13.95% - NC3) referred to feeling sad, depressed, apathetic, or lost; 747 (13.46% - PC2) referred to feeling proud, confident, brave, or determined; 402 (7.24% - PC3) referred to feeling calm, comforted, supported, accepted, or relieved; 357 (6.43% - NC4) referred to feeling angry, frustrated, jealous, or disliking/hating something/someone; 349 (6.29% - NC2) referred to feeling shy, embarrassed, or awkward, and lastly, 229 (4.12% - NC1) referred to feeling scared, nervous, anxious, stressed, guilty, pressured, or panicked. These percentages are reflected in Figure 39 below:



**Figure 39:** A pie chart representing the percentages of emotion-related expression categories in the MDML corpus resulting from manual annotation.

### A) PC1: Feeling happy, excited, liking/loving something or someone

An example of the references in the male corpus to feeling happy is “We were very happy, content and looking forward to the future” (MDML #3), in which the narrator describes the happiness and contentment he feels with his new fiancé. In MDML #8, the speaker discusses his happiness over being able to work on YouTube full-time (“I could not be happier. This is the best job I’ve ever had”). Similarly, the creator of MDML #9 says he feels happy making YouTube videos (“It was a great outlet for me: I felt happy doing it”).

References to feelings of excitement are made by the narrator of MDML #9, who says that he is very excited to see his friends in Texas (“I was super, super excited to get back to Texas and to get back to seeing my friends”), and of MDML #72, who is looking forward to the next stage in his romantic relationship (“I couldn’t wait to see what was next”). There are also many references to liking or loving something/someone in the male corpus, such as in MDML #1, in which the narrator describes enjoying reading viewers’ comments and loving receiving their feedback (“I fell in love with the feedback from my viewers”). In MDML #3, the YouTuber talks about enjoying his studies (“I chose to study music production, a subject I really enjoyed”) and similarly, in MDML #7, the narrator expresses a love for learning (“I loved school! I loved to learn!”). Like many of the male YouTubers, the narrators of MDML #6 and MDML #9 describe their love of computer games (“I started developing a passion for video games”/“I got really into computer gaming”).

### **B) NC3: Feeling sad, depressed, apathetic, lost**

The male corpus includes numerous references to feeling sad, depressed, apathetic, and lost. For instance, the narrator of MDML #6 describes “struggling” during one of his “lower points in life” and in MDML #16, the speaker expresses feelings of loneliness (“I really didn’t see myself becoming too close with many people. I felt quite alone”). In MDML #85, the YouTuber describes his sadness and confusion over others questioning his sexuality (“I was so sad. I just kept on wondering why people thought I was gay”). Likewise, in MDML #86, the narrator describes his sadness over his alcoholic father’s violent behaviour (“There was so much yelling and sadness in our lives. It got so far low that my mum kicked him out”), and the creator of MDML #96 describes his sadness due to professional unfulfillment (“I was not living my dream. I became super unhappy”).

Just as in MDML #16, the narrator of MDML #12 also describes feelings of loneliness and links them to his depression: “I became very lonely and the most depressed I think I’ve ever been in life”. Another explicit reference to feeling depressed is found in MDML #9, in which the speaker describes feeling depressed and lost in life: “I was also very depressed. I didn’t know what I wanted to do in life, I got into a lot of bad things”.

Narratives also referencing feeling lost in life include MDML #7 (“I was lost but the world was in no mood to help me out”), MDML #8 (“It was during this transition period of confusion that me and my girlfriend broke up after 4 years which just made me feel even more lost”) and MDML #92, in which the speaker describes feelings of loneliness (“I sometimes wonder, where do I belong? Does anyone remember me? Will I fit in? I feel lost from time to time”). Apathy and disconnection are also frequently found in the corpus and tend to be expressed more implicitly than other feelings, such as in narratives MDML #1 (“I lost interest in, well, everything. I lost friends, connection with family, I stopped being creative. It caused a lot of trouble for me”) and MDML #6 (“I was starting to lose a lot of interest in what I was studying”).

### **C) PC2: Feeling proud, confident, brave, determined**

The third most frequently occurring references detected through manual annotation of the MDML corpus are those in the category of feelings of pride, confidence, bravery, and determination. For instance, the narrator of MDML #87 describes his satisfaction and pride at creating cakes (“The happiness came from me being able to spend time on the cakes and really create stuff that I was proud of”), the narrator of MDML #95 expresses his pride at completing his studies (“I was really committed, so I’m proud, of, I finished that course”). Likewise, the YouTuber in MDML #97 discusses how proud he was of his YouTube videos, even at the start of his journey, when he did not have many views: “We started recording videos of us playing video games, but no one saw it, but it didn’t matter to us – we were really proud of our videos”. It is worth noting here that references to feeling proud of others (e.g. “I’m proud to say that my dad was sober for the last 15 months of his life” - MDML #86) were annotated as signs of admiration (and therefore in the category of liking or loving something/someone).

Overt expressions of confidence are frequently found in the male corpus. For example, the narrator of MDML #34 talks about how confident he felt during his time at college (“I was confident, I talked to people, I got involved and I created so much. Constantly filming, editing, writing, always – that was my life in college”). In MDML #45, the speaker describes growing in confidence as he gets older (“As I got older, I started to become more and more confident and talkative to people”) and similarly, in MDML #81, the narrator talks about his growing confidence and its effect on his romantic relationships (“I had personally become more confident and seen success in my

relationships with women”). In a similar description, the creator of MDML #15 talks about “growing up” and “growing a pair of balls” during a worldwide trip with friends (“This whole experience was a real eye-opener and I feel like it helped me grow up a lot. I must have grown a pair of balls along the way”).

Within this category, expressions of determination were also annotated. For instance, in MDML #8, the narrator wins a competition set by a high-profile YouTuber. This win motivates him and makes him even more determined to work hard on his own channel (“It also gave me such drive and motivation to try and do YouTube so much more. I had been trying really, really hard up until that point, but this was the real nail in that coffin. I went full force at YouTube since then”). Similarly, the narrator of MDML #10 describes his (and his brother’s) work ethic and determination to constantly be the best, including on YouTube (“Whatever we did, we wanted to be the best at, and we had the work ethic to match that”), and the speaker in MDML #16 expresses his determination to persevere with his studies (“I wanted to drop out after just one semester, but I held on”).

#### **D) PC3: Feeling calm, comforted, supported, accepted, relieved**

References in the male corpus to feeling calm, comforted, supported, accepted, and relieved appeared notably less frequently than in the female corpus (please see section 4.5.3 below for a percentage breakdown and comparison). Examples include MDML #9, in which the YouTuber describes feeling calm and collected after meeting up with his long-distance girlfriend (“I just felt so calm and collected after that”), and MDML #70, in which the narrator feels calm at home thanks to his sister’s influence (“Things at home was much better and calm thanks to my sister”). The YouTuber in MDML #12 finds comfort when making videos on the platform (“I found my comfort in YouTube”), and in MDML #38, the speaker describes feeling comforted by his pet cat.

In MDML #17, the narrator feels supported by a choir teacher who helps him to overcome an eating disorder (“She was always there to talk and was always supportive of me”). Feelings of acceptance and support are also expressed by the narrator of MDML #41, who describes an online community of like-minded and understanding people (“People I didn’t even know, complete strangers, people who for some reason accepted me more than people I saw every day”).



Similarly, the YouTuber in MDML #12 talks about feeling accepted for who he is by his friends (“They all accept me for who I am, and I don’t feel like I have to be anyone but me”), with whom he feels like he “belongs” (“I immediately felt like I belonged”). A final example of annotations in this category is found in MDML #54, in which the narrator looks back on his time at university and expresses relief that he didn’t leave when he was feeling homesick at the start of the experience (“I’m relieved I didn’t leave university. Don’t mistake disliking your new living situation for just being a bit homesick”).

#### **E) NC4: Feeling angry, frustrated, jealous and disliking/hating something or someone**

Feelings of anger, frustration, jealousy and disliking/hating something or someone are more frequently described in the male corpus than the female one. For instance, the narrator of MDML #15 describes his annoyance at a red pen staining his whiteboard (“Notice how the red pen stains my board. It really annoyed me, really annoyed me”).

In MDML #45, the YouTuber uses the term “mad” to express his annoyance at being sent to a school away from his friends (“My mum had taken me out of the private school that I was in when I was going into eighth grade. I was mad at the time because all my friends were at a different school”). Likewise, in MDML #60, the narrator describes his anger over a perceived lack of support from his stepfather, mother, and friends:

Who the fuck were they to tell me what I can and can’t do? What is and isn’t possible? I couldn’t stand it. I couldn’t stand the lack of support. I needed to get out. I had so much pent-up anger from, from the betrayal of my friends to the stupid divorce and sexuality which made no sense at all. I just had it and I was sick of it. I had to just leave. My stepfather and I got into a huge fight and that very same night I packed my bags and left.

**Extract 121: MDML #60**

In MDML #9, the narrator describes how he was “stuck in a rut” as a teenager, which I interpreted as a reference to frustration. The speaker in MDML #28 also expresses sadness mixed with frustration in his youth due to jealousy towards his peers who lived with two parents (“Growing up I was always really jealous of all the kids who got to live with both their parents”). References to disliking/hating something or someone are exemplified in MDML #14 (“I literally hated life from the ages of 5 to 20”) and MDML

#43 (“Education was just bullshit, so I didn’t like it. I went through about five different courses and colleges just to try and find the right one, but I couldn’t”).

#### **F) NC2: Feeling shy, embarrassed, awkward**

Feelings of shyness, embarrassment, and awkwardness can be seen in MDML #96, in which the narrator starts attending a new school (“They put me in a big high school, and I knew nobody. I was completely alone, and I was really, really shy”), and MDML #97, where the speaker describes feeling shy when first meeting someone new (“I met my friend Amber first. I was really shy when I first met her”). In MDML #10, the narrator mentions his lack of drawing skills, implicitly expressing embarrassment (“I suck at drawing; I can’t even draw stick figures”), as does the speaker in MDML #18 (“I can’t really draw, and I didn’t think I really had an interesting or inspirational story”). The same speaker also makes a direct reference to embarrassment over his health problems (“I was always embarrassed by my condition, and any time I was wheezing, I’d make an excuse to go to the bathroom”).

In MDML #23, the narrator is let go from a football team because he is overweight, and he says that his self-esteem was negatively impacted [“They kicked me off because I was too fat. (...) Not good for the self-esteem”], and the YouTuber in MDML #28 describes being in a “toxic relationship”, in which he felt degraded and lost his sense of self (“I was so thoroughly walked on, I would seek approval from her for every aspect of my life, causing me to lose who I really was. My confidence was at an all-time low”).

The creator of MDML #30 indicates embarrassment towards his job through sarcasm when he says that his girlfriend at the time left him because his career was “so fancy”: “I was a shoe salesman for Finish Line, a pizza delivery boy, a pretzel chef for Wetzel’s pretzels, an umpire, a babysitter and even a carpet cleaner for Motel 6, just to name a few. Now, because my career was so fancy, my girlfriend ended up leaving me at the time”. He goes on to express sadness at the situation, saying “my heart was absolutely shattered”. The same narrator implies embarrassment over his appearance, when comparing his darker skin tone to that of his family members (“Everyone looked white except for me. I’m the brown, blackish piece of doo-doo over there”).

The speaker in MDML #37 describes embarrassment over making YouTube videos when it was not a common hobby or potential career path at the time (“I kept it a secret for as long as I could because I was quite embarrassed because it was pretty unusual to be making videos”). In MDML #43, on the other hand, the narrator says that he does not plan on making any future storytelling videos, putting down his capacity to tell stories (“I’m really shit at being serious and telling stories”). Likewise, the speaker in MDML #44 quashes his intellectual capability (“I then went to a community college because I was too stupid to apply anywhere else”).

Feelings of awkwardness are described by male YouTubers such as the narrator of MDML #20, who calls himself socially awkward (“My commentary was absolutely awful because I was a socially awkward dude with absolutely no public speaking experience whatsoever”), and the narrator of MDML #32, who discusses awkward feelings during adolescence and highlights his lacking sports skills which made him stand out from other male classmates (“We all feel awkward during that time. To make things worse, I sucked at sports”).

#### **G) NC1: Feeling scared, nervous, anxious, stressed, guilty, pressured, panicked**

The least frequently appearing category in the male corpus was that of references to feeling scared, nervous, anxious, stressed, guilty, pressured, and panicked. In MDML #9, for instance, the narrator expresses fear over meeting his girlfriend’s parents through a metaphor (butterflies in his stomach) and the adjectives “nervous”, “scared” and “terrified”:

I had so much butterflies in my stomach, I thought I was going to just start throwing up butterflies or something like that! It was a very long flight. I’ve never been to Canada in my entire life. I was going to stay up there with her parents for a week and I was just so nervous. I was so scared, I was terrified.

**Extract 122: MDML #9**

The speaker in MDML #15 also uses the word “terrified” to describe how he felt on his first day of primary school (“The first day of primary school arrived. I remember being absolutely terrified”) and later on as an adult, when he is asked to interview a celebrity (“I was terrified. I was actually genuinely pooing myself. I had never met any celebrities before and obviously he’s one of the scariest there is, so I was terrified”). The same YouTuber uses the word “petrified” to refer to his fear of swimming (“I was

petrified to swim near anyone else”) and nerves over showing his ID to bouncers at clubs because of how young he looked (“I was always petrified to hand my ID to bouncers. I was always worried they would think I look about twelve”). Similarly, in MDML #20, the narrator describes an “irrational self-imposed fear” of not achieving the grades necessary to enter a “decent university”:

Throughout high school I had this sort of irrational self-imposed fear that if I took anything less than the most advanced GATES and AP courses available and if I ever scored anything less than an A- in a course, I’d be locked away in a purgatory of students unable to get into a decent university.

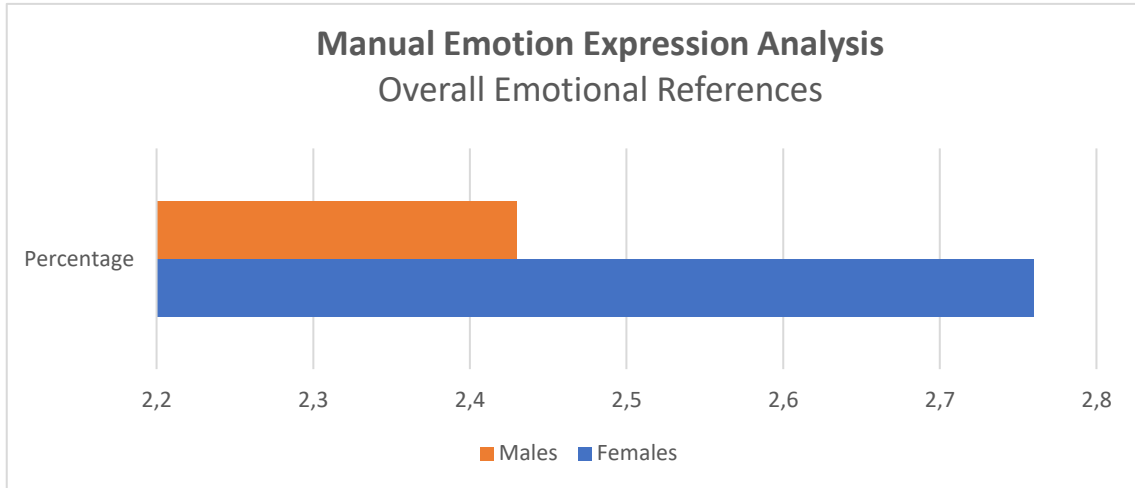
**Extract 123: MDML #20**

Also in an academic context, the speaker in MDML #86 expresses nerves over getting bullied (“I was bullied a lot. I didn’t have any friends. I was nervous I was going to get beaten up every day”) and in MDML #92, the speaker describes nervousness about joining a school band (“I was nervous joining the band in my new middle school”). Likewise, in MDML #16, the narrator talks about his stress over his academic workload (“My workload was insane, and I didn’t even know how to handle it at first. Stress built up, and yes, to all you adults, high school kids can get stressed”), which leaves him feeling “burnt out”, and the speaker in MDML #18 discusses feeling stressed over academic pressure (“I was so stressed out by the SATs”).

Feelings of anxiousness are also expressed by the YouTuber in MDML #57, who is unsure whether he’ll be able to move in with his friends (“I was just so anxious whether I would be able to move back to the Faze house”), and feelings of pressure are described by the narrator of MDML #29, who does not want to admit to his family that he has lost his job (“I couldn’t tell I was fired — I was the one who made it out!”). Comparably, in MDML #14, the narrator describes panicking about his future, saying that he faced an “existential crisis” over his choice to study law (“It’s too late to go back and make other choices! Oh God!”). While less frequently than in the female corpus, feelings of guilt were also detected in the male corpus, with examples such as “I accidentally pulled the string off a girl’s bikini on the beach and felt so bad about it I cried” (MDML #14) and “I felt so guilty that I couldn’t save her. I felt like I should have loved her more and that feeling of always needing to do more for the people around me really stuck with me and kind of led to trouble later in my life” (MDML #81), in which the narrator expresses his guilt over the death of his cat when he was nine years old — a feeling which he says stayed with him as he got older.

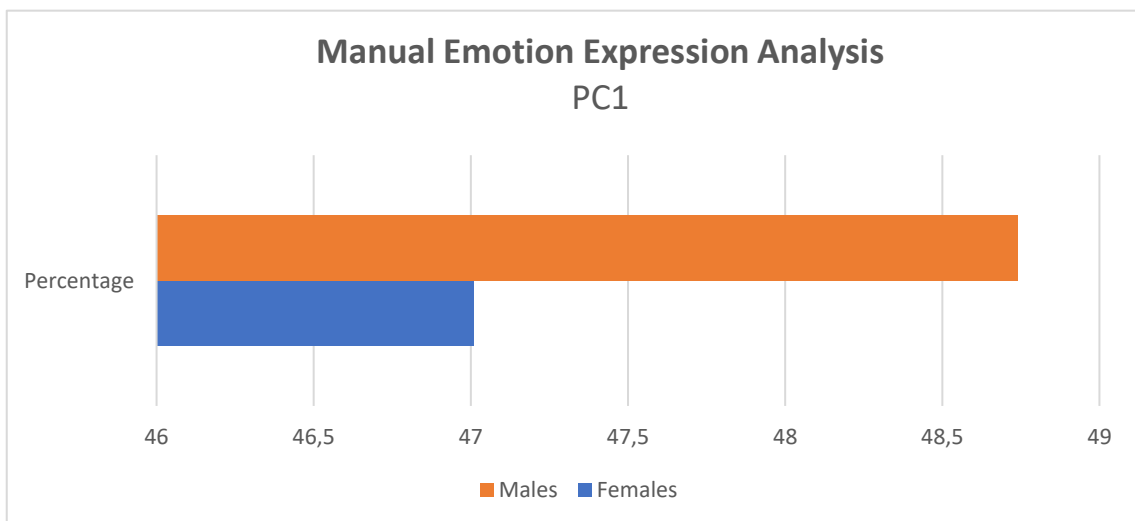
### 4.5.3 Further Observations

From the manual annotation process, a higher percentage of overall implicit and explicit emotional references was found in the female corpus (2.76% vs. 2.43%), as shown in Figure 40 below:



**Figure 40:** A bar chart representing overall implicit and explicit emotional references found in the female and male corpora resulting from manual annotation.

In particular, the female corpus included a marginally lower percentage of references to feeling happy, excited, and liking/loving something/someone (47.01% vs. 48.74%), as shown in Figure 41 below. Within this broad category, the most frequently occurring in both corpora, there were references linked to feeling appreciative, hopeful, inspired, intrigued, bonded, liberated, motivated and fulfilled.

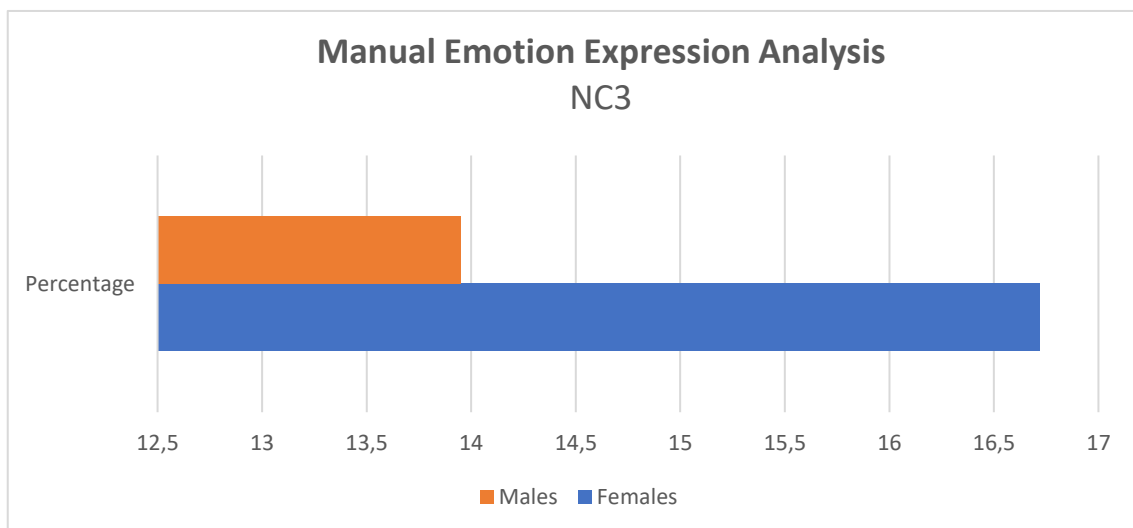


**Figure 41:** A bar chart representing PC1 references found in the female and male corpora resulting from manual annotation.

Examples of PC1 for reference purposes:

- Feeling happy: *I just feel so happy in life...*
- Feeling excited: *I was so excited to move into university halls.*
- Liking something or someone: *I liked living in Canada...*
- Loving something or someone: *I loved that show.*

The female corpus included a higher percentage of references to feeling sad, depressed, apathetic, and lost than the male one (16.72% vs. 13.95%), as shown in Figure 42 below. This category was the second most commonly occurring in both corpora, and included expressions linked to discouragement, loneliness, longing, desperation, regret, disconnection, unfulfillment, and disappointment.

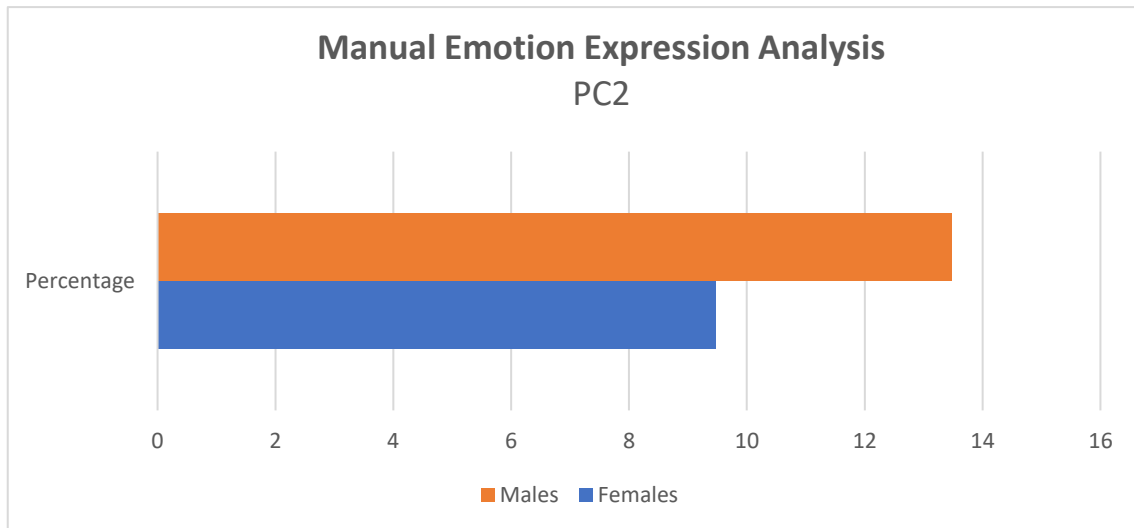


**Figure 42:** A bar chart representing NC3 references found in the female and male corpora resulting from manual annotation.

Examples of NC3 for reference purposes:

- Feeling sad: *I was sadder than I've ever been...*
- Feeling depressed: *At this point in my life, I felt super depressed...*
- Feeling apathetic: *I had no ambition. I didn't care about the future.*
- Feeling lost: *I was just a bit lost and I just wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my life*

In the female corpus, a significantly lower percentage of references were found to feeling proud, confident, brave, and determined (9.47% vs. 13.46%), as can be observed in Figure 43 below. This category was the third most frequently appearing set in both corpora, and the references were often linked with feeling self-disciplined, focused, in control and willing to persevere when faced with challenges.

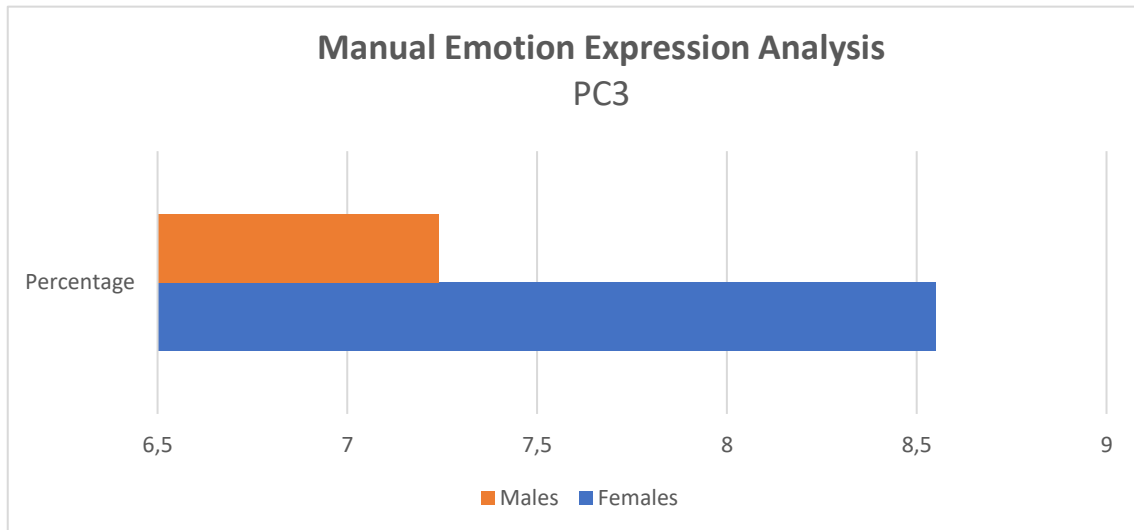


**Figure 43:** A bar chart representing PC2 references found in the female and male corpora resulting from manual annotation.

Examples of PC2 for reference purposes:

- Feeling proud: *I became even more proud of my videos...*
- Feeling confident: *I felt so confident in my cute outfits...*
- Feeling brave: *I came out of Europe so much braver.*
- Feeling determined: *I was really determined.*

There was a higher percentage of references in the female corpus to feeling calm, comforted, supported, accepted, and relieved (8.55% vs. 7.24%), as depicted in Figure 44 below. The category was the fourth most regularly appearing in both corpora, including explicit and implicit expressions reflecting feelings of relaxation, balance and protection by others.



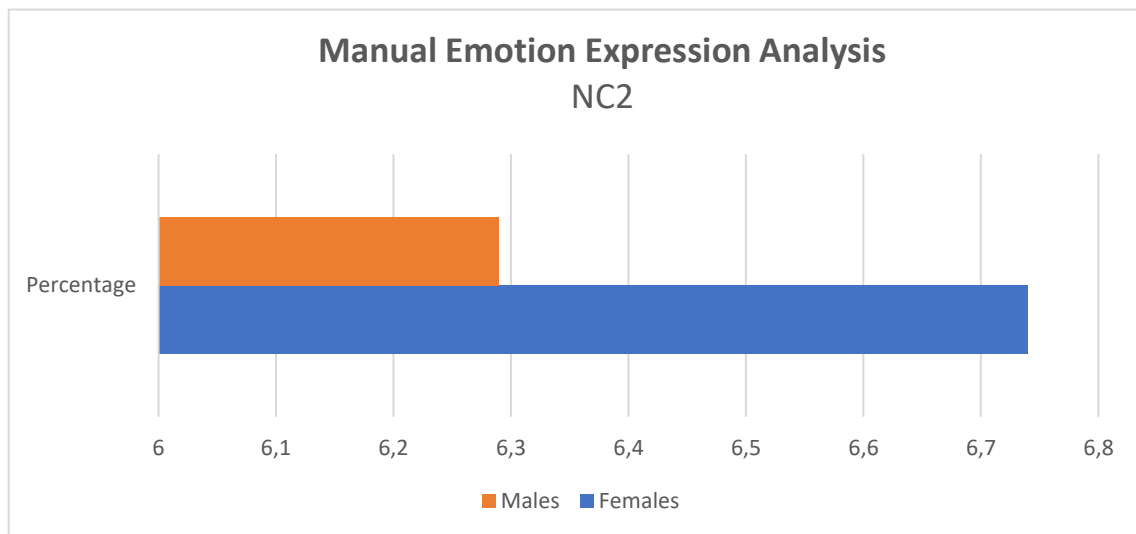
**Figure 44:** A bar chart representing PC3 references found in the female and male corpora resulting from manual annotation.

Examples of PC3 for reference purposes:

- Feeling calm: *I just felt so calm and collected...*
- Feeling comforted: *These people comforted me...*
- Feeling supported: *My teachers encouraged me to keep writing...*
- Feeling accepted: *I finally felt like I really belonged.*
- Feeling relieved: *I'm relieved I didn't leave university.*



While the first four annotation categories coincided in order of frequency in the corpora, the final three were completely different. The fifth most frequent in the female corpus was that of references to feeling shy, embarrassed, and awkward (6.74% vs. 6.29%), with expressions relating to feeling ashamed, intimidated, helpless, inadequate, insecure, distrusting, reluctant, uncomfortable, misunderstood, underappreciated and unsupported. This category, represented in Figure 45 below, was the sixth most frequent in the male corpus.

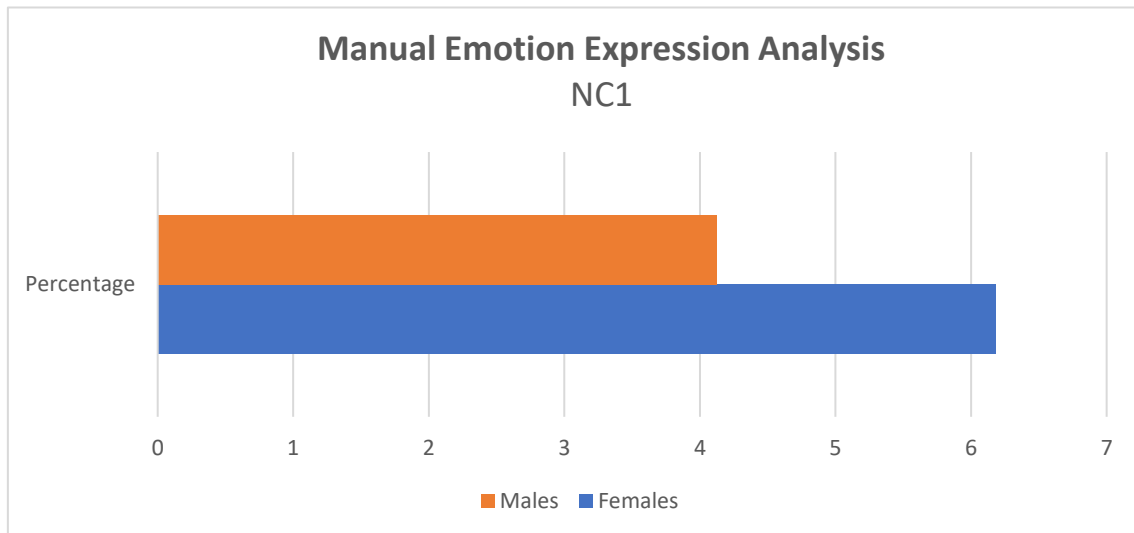


**Figure 45:** A bar chart representing NC2 references found in the female and male corpora resulting from manual annotation.

Examples of NC2 for reference purposes:

- Feeling shy: *Throughout my years in school, I was always really shy...*
- Feeling embarrassed: *I was always embarrassed by my condition...*
- Feeling awkward: *My first year at college was incredibly awkward to say the least.*

The sixth most commonly appearing category in the female corpus, and least frequently occurring in the male corpus, was that of expressions linked to feeling scared, nervous, anxious, stressed, guilty, pressured, and panicked (6.18% vs. 4.12%), with frequent descriptions of worry and paranoia. A comparison between the two corpora is visually depicted in Figure 46 below.

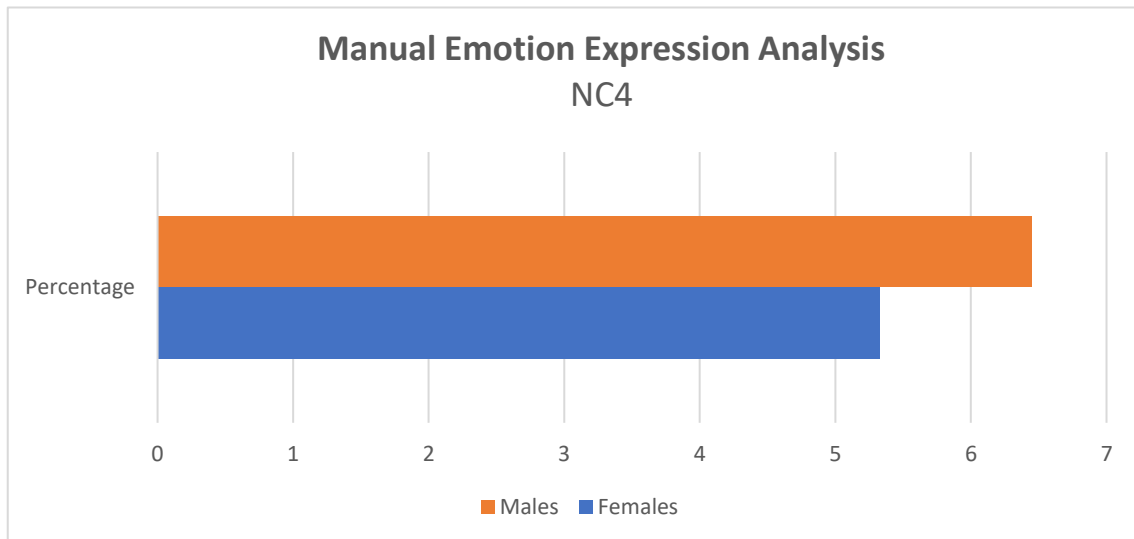


**Figure 46:** A bar chart representing NC1 references found in the female and male corpora resulting from manual annotation.

Examples of NC1 for reference purposes:

- Feeling scared: *I was going to be the new kid and I was really scared.*
- Feeling nervous: *I was nervous I was going to get beaten up...*
- Feeling anxious: *I found myself getting into my old just socially anxious tendencies.*
- Feeling stressed: *Uni and life basically just stressed me out.*
- Feeling guilty: *I felt so guilty that I couldn't save her.*
- Feeling pressured: *When my school years came to an end, I felt pressure to go to uni...*
- Feeling panicked: *I was panicking about what I wanted to do with my life.*

Lastly, the least frequently appearing category in the female corpus and fifth in the male one was that of references to feeling angry, frustrated, jealous, and disliking/hating something or someone (5.33% vs. 6.43%), with frequent allusions in both corpora to feeling annoyed, disgusted and unappreciative. This data is shown in Figure 47 below.



**Figure 47:** A bar chart representing NC4 references found in the female and male corpora resulting from manual annotation.

Examples of NC4 for reference purposes:

- Feeling angry: *I got really angry, trying to handling it on a physical level...*
- Feeling frustrated: *I was kind of at a crossroads and just frustrated.*
- Feeling jealous: *She had long straight hair that I was super jealous of.*
- Disliking something or someone: *I didn't really like school much...*
- Hating something or someone: *I hated my program.*

**Chapter V:**  
**Conclusion**

## Chapter V: Conclusion

The present research had the purpose of determining similarities and differences in the quantity and typology of emotion-related expressions – both implicit and explicit references to “feelings, moods and all kinds of affective experience” (Mackenzie and Alba-Juez, 2019, p. 15) – of 100 self-identified females (with a corpus of 248,613 words in total) and 100 self-identified males (with a corpus of 227,979 words in total) in their autobiographical videos within the *Draw My Life* YouTube genre.

With the aim of ascertaining as comprehensive and reliable data conveying the female and male YouTubers’ emotion-related expressions as possible, the study, based on the tenets of triangulation, has combined quantitative and qualitative research methods relying on various computerised tools as well as manual annotation processes. The research falls within the domain of Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) and the specific computerised tools used in the analysis of the sentiment/emotion-related DML data are Lingmotif, LIWC2015 (Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count) and Wmatrix4.

It was expected that the investigation would verify suppositions in previous research highlighting social expectations relating to females’ “greater emotional expressivity” (Chaplin, 2015, p. 14) and males’ “restrictive emotionality” (O’Neil, Good, & Holmes, 1995, p. 176). The following research questions were posed:

- 1. Will the female or male YouTubers include a higher frequency of overall emotional linguistic content in their Draw My Life stories?*
- 2. What will be the quantity and typology of positive emotional linguistic content in the female and male YouTubers’ Draw My Life stories?*
- 3. What will be the quantity and typology of negative emotional linguistic content in the female and male YouTubers’ Draw My Life stories?*

Below are the answers to these questions based on both qualitative and quantitative data:

*1. Will the female or male YouTubers include a higher frequency of overall emotional linguistic content in their Draw My Life stories?*

In both the software-led and manual annotation-led findings, the self-identified female YouTubers were found to include a higher frequency of overall emotional linguistic content in their *Draw My Life* narratives. For example, the LIWC2015 software output showed that the female YouTubers' narratives include a higher percentage of emotional words overall (3.07% vs. 2.56%), as did the Wmatrix4 output (1% vs. 0.8%). Similarly, the manual annotation-led data showed that the self-identified female YouTubers include a higher percentage of overall emotional references in their narratives (2.75% vs. 2.43%).

*2. What will be the quantity and typology of positive emotional linguistic content in the female and male YouTubers' Draw My Life stories?*

Firstly, the software-led data showed that the male YouTubers include a percentage of positive emotional references that is equal to or higher than that of the self-identified female YouTubers. The Lingmotif software indicated a Text Sentiment Score of 73 for each corpus of transcripts, meaning that both the female and male corpora have a very positive leaning overall. The accepted positive emotional words of the LIWC2015 output represent 80.3% of the total accepted emotional words in the self-identified male YouTubers' emotion-related corpus, and 77.4% of the self-identified female YouTubers' corpus. In the same way, the Wmatrix4 output showed that 40.8% of the total accepted emotional words/phrases in the self-identified male YouTubers' emotion-related corpus was connected to happiness, while 38.2% of the female YouTubers' corpus was linked to this emotion.

While the software output relating to positive emotional references was limited to either generally positively leaning words or those found within the broad category of "happiness" in the case of Wmatrix4, the manual thematic annotation helped to further break down the typology of positive emotional linguistic content in the *Draw My Life* narratives. In particular, the male YouTubers were found to include a higher percentage of references to feeling happy, excited, and liking/loving something/someone, including

implicit and explicit expressions relating to feeling appreciative, hopeful, inspired, intrigued, bonded, liberated, motivated and fulfilled, with 48.74% of the male emotion-related annotated references and 47.01% of the female emotion-related annotated references belonging to this category.

Although the percentages of references to feeling happy, excited, and liking/loving something/someone were very similar in the female and male corpora, the female corpus was found to include a significantly lower percentage of references to feeling proud, confident, brave, and determined, with fewer expressions in the female corpus depicting feelings of self-discipline, focus, control and willingness to persevere when faced with challenges. While 13.46% of the male emotion-related annotated references belonged to this category, 9.47% of the female emotion-related annotated references did. A difference in frequency (8.55% of the FDML corpus and 7.24% of the MDML corpus) was also noted when comparing the references to feeling calm, comforted, supported, accepted, and relieved.

### *3. What will be the quantity and typology of negative emotional linguistic content in the female and male YouTubers' Draw My Life stories?*

The preliminary Lingmotif data indicated that the female YouTubers included a higher frequency of references to “anxiety”, “depression” and feeling “really sad”. Likewise, in the LIWC2015 output, the female YouTubers used a higher frequency of terms relating to sadness (9.5% vs. 7.8%), a higher frequency of words relating to anxiety (8.5% vs. 5.9%), and a lower frequency of words relating to anger (4.5% vs. 6%). Lastly, the Wmatrix4 data showed that the female YouTubers' narratives included a higher frequency of words/phrases relating to sadness (26.7% vs. 24.3%), a higher frequency of words/phrases relating to worry (9.9% vs. 6%), a higher frequency of words/phrases relating to fear/shock (15.2% vs. 14.2%), and a lower frequency of words/phrases relating to violence/anger (9.8% vs. 14.5%).

The manual annotation findings indicated that the female YouTubers made a higher percentage of references to feeling sad, depressed, apathetic, and lost than the male ones (16.72% vs. 13.95%), including expressions of discouragement, loneliness, longing, desperation, regret, disconnection, unfulfillment, and disappointment. The females also

included a higher percentage of references to feeling shy, embarrassed, and awkward (6.74% vs. 6.29%), with explicit and implicit descriptions of feeling ashamed, intimidated, helpless, inadequate, insecure, distrusting, reluctant, uncomfortable, misunderstood, underappreciated, and unsupported. Likewise, the females used a higher percentage of expressions referencing feeling scared, nervous, anxious, stressed, guilty, pressured, and panicked (6.18% vs. 4.12%). Lastly, and unlike the other negative emotion-related categories, the females were found to include a lower percentage of references to feeling angry, frustrated, jealous, and disliking/hating something or someone (5.33% vs. 6.43%).

Furthermore, in the manual thematic analysis of the *Draw My Life* narratives, it was found that more female YouTubers made explicit reference to facing mental health issues. In particular, 107 explicit negative mental health references were made by 55 females and 50 explicit negative mental health references were made by 36 males. In terms of typology, a much wider range of negative mental health conditions were also referenced by the female narrators. In particular, depression was found to be the most discussed mental health issue by both the female and male YouTubers, with 35 and 20 respective references to depression in their videos. While anxiety is frequently discussed by the female YouTubers (25 mentions in total), it is only referenced six times by males. The females were also found to mention more panic attacks than the males, with nine versus three cases respectively in the two corpora. Conversely, it was found that the males made more references to exhaustion, or feeling “burnt out” (three cases vs. one case).

The narrator of MDML #78 describes being “too proud to ask for help” when struggling with panic attacks. He does not want to admit to what he sees as a weakness, preferring instead to ignore his feelings and put on a brave face. Another male creator (MDML #99) discusses having cried over being bullied, but jokingly shrugs off his pain by describing his crying as “manly”: “I actually cried a few times. I mean, like, manly cries, but I did cry”. This kind of reluctance to share emotional and mental health-related issues with others was found in the manual thematic analysis to be much more frequent in the male narratives than the female ones, with further references in the male corpus to feeling emotionally alone (MDML #77) and wearing an emotional mask (e.g. MDML #89, MDML #60).



Along these lines, many of both the female and male YouTubers describe a perceived parental influence on the social construction of gender norms and in the male-created narratives, the YouTubers frequently describe intense peer-pressure to conform to the masculine gender norms of strength (both physical and emotional) and aggression. For example, in MDML #26, the narrator is criticised because of his passion for dance. Homosexuality, or perceived homosexuality in some cases, is also often linked with weakness by social peers in the DML stories. For example, the narrator of MDML #34 describes himself as being “awkward”, “an A+ student”, and “never playing sports”. His peers, then, link deviating from social norms for masculinity (e.g. confidence, love of physical sports) with homosexuality, and perceived homosexuality as a reason to outcast him.

The immense social pressure described by the male YouTubers to come across as brave, confident, tough, strong, and even aggressive, can be seen as directly impacting how comfortable they feel publicly sharing their emotions/feelings. In this manner, societal expectations on boys and men to be emotionally “strong” and on girls and women to be “unfocused, fickle, and too emotional to get the job done” (Murdock, 2020, p. 6) can be seen to be rooted in misogyny and stifling to both genders.

Does the fact that the female YouTubers include a higher frequency of emotional linguistic content in their narratives mean that they actually *feel* more emotional? Historically, biology has been noted as the main driving factor in gender differences as regards emotional expressivity, with women traditionally being considered biologically more emotionally unstable and visceral, and men the biologically more rational and less emotional gender (Ruberg and Steenbergh, 2011, p. 1). However, if we take a social-constructionist view instead, we can factor in Goldshmidt and Weller’s (2000, p. 130) argument that there are societal expectations on girls and women to “work on themselves to express emotions”, and on men and boys to “work on themselves to avoid expressing emotions”, as observed in the aforementioned pressures described by the YouTubers in their *Draw My Life* narratives.

As researchers, the socially stemming disconnect between the emotional expressions and “true” feelings of speakers may seem potentially stunting in terms of the stability and reliability of our results. Of course, it would be impossible to reach into the minds of the *Draw My Life* narrators to know whether what they are expressing lines up exactly with what they are feeling (or what they felt during the events described). This is

not at all limiting, however, as this was never the research aim of the current project. Our interest was the YouTubers' emotional manifestations (Fiehler, 2002, p. 81) — the linguistic expressions of emotion through their autobiographical narratives on the platform — and the social implications of these expressions. As we have seen, while Fiehler focuses on emotional manifestations in interaction, the YouTubers' expressions of emotion take place within the unique context of parasocial interaction (Horton and Wohl, 1956). What this means for the current study is that there are several interrelated levels of social influence affecting the narrators and likely to be impacting their discourse.

Firstly, we observe gender role-related expectations as to emotional expression, which researchers such as Goldshmidt and Weller (2000, p. 117) and Widen and Russell (2002, p. 248) view as stemming from socialisation, and which the present study's thematic analysis findings support. Secondly, we must also take into consideration the social expectations on YouTubers to cater to the perceived expectations of their audience within the context of parasocial interaction. YouTubers' descriptions of emotions and mental health conditions may well not only be consciously or subconsciously constructed to fit in with preconceived notions regarding gender roles, but also to maintain personal expectations about their mediatized self-image and to fulfil perceived audience expectations as to their online personas, including speech patterns and behaviour.

As discussed in Chapter IV, one case that particularly stood out was that of GlitterForever17 (FDML #56), real name Breland Emory Avdeev. The YouTuber created two different *Draw My Life* videos, telling her viewers that she was producing the second version in order to “fill in the blanks” missed out from the first. Her reference to feeling pressure to uphold a “glitter-full”, happy-go-lucky persona in her original video is extremely telling. While Avdeev's first DML narrative is mostly positive and upbeat, her second, based on the same life experiences, is much more reflective and contains many more references to anxiety, depression, and general life struggles.

Although other YouTubers may not be as open as Avdeev about concerns over maintaining a certain kind of online persona, as Gustafson (2013, para. 4) argues, “any memoir is selective”. The YouTubers, over the course of around ten minutes, draw and narrate what Gustafson calls the “broad strokes” (para. 4) of their lives, choosing what they wish to highlight and conceal — be it due to internal/external, conscious/subconscious, pressures/interests, or any combination of these.

Along these lines, what is commonly shared by the creators on their channels evidently plays a significant role in the construction of their digital personas. For instance, the female-created content most frequently revolves around lifestyle/vlogging, and therefore talking about life events and their feelings about these events. In contrast, the top categories of the male creators are comedy, often including fake characters in constructed sketches, and gaming, involving habitually competitive and aggressive content. It could be inferred, then, that the male content relies less on opening up and establishing connection with viewers on an emotional level, and more on competitive “banter” and making the viewers laugh. While the YouTubers establish and maintain parasocial rather than social relationships with their viewers, these social cues could still have a large impact on their behaviour and willingness to share about certain emotions over others.

According to Seidler (1989, p. 153), males are often socially pressured to conceal external expressions of pain and vulnerability, as these manifestations threaten what he calls an “inherited sense of masculinity”. On this subject, De Boise and Hearn (2017, p. 779) argue that the social encouragement and improvement of “men’s emotional communication is key to fostering greater gender equality” and “tackling men’s underreporting of mental health issues”. The current study’s results support this idea and indicate that awareness needs to be raised as to the social burden on boys and men to repress their emotions, evident in the *Draw My Life* narratives.

Society at large — including educational institutions and the media — needs to redefine “what it means to be powerful” (Charteris-Black and Seale, 2009, p. 108) by normalising boys’ and men’s open expressions of emotion and discussion of mental health issues. Likewise, ingrained ideas about girls and women being “unfocused, fickle, and too emotional to get the job done” (Murdock, 2020, p. 6) must be rejected as pervasive and extremely harmful social constructions as well. Based on the *Draw My Life* data, a substantial amount of work needs to be done worldwide in the re-education of both genders in this regard.

As Keltner and Ekman explain (*Opinion / The Science Of ‘Inside Out’*, para. 9), the historical opposition between emotionality and rationality is ungrounded. They state that emotions have the immense power to “guide our perceptions of the world, our memories of the past and even our moral judgments of right and wrong”. Emotional

disclosure helps us to make sense of our lives, relationships, and ultimately, ourselves. The present research has reaffirmed my strong personal belief that nobody, regardless of gender, should ever feel judged for the open discussion of mental health issues or external expression of any kind of emotion.

Through a multi-layered study based on the tenets of triangulation, the present research has ultimately made it possible to verify suppositions relating to females' "greater emotional expressivity" (Chaplin, 2015, p. 14) and males' "restrictive emotionality" (O'Neil, Good, & Holmes, 1995, p. 176). The revised software output provided a consistent and reliable dataset, as well as the opportunity to compare the different programs' results and assess their validity. The fact that Lingmotif indicated a sentiment intensity score of 100 for both the female and male transcripts gave a strong initial indication of the high emotional content of the DML stories. The Lingmotif word clouds were also highly valuable when it came to approaching the data, because they gave a visual representation of the females' much higher number of references to anxiety.

When focusing on specific emotion-related references by using LIWC2015 and Wmatrix4, I came to agree with Mehl and Gill's (2010, p. 125) argument for the likelihood of fruitful results being obtained from the combined use of these two programs. For instance, while LIWC2015 is limited to counting specific words (e.g. "happy" "excited"), Wmatrix4 has the capacity to calculate 2-5-word n-grams such as "on top of the world", "on cloud nine" and "over the moon". However, it should also be noted that LIWC's internal emotion-related dictionary is significantly more extensive than that of Wmatrix, given notable quantitative differences in output relating to comparable emotions (e.g. Wmatrix4's "FDML Sad" – 588 terms/phrases vs. LIWC's "FDML Sadness" – 1,158 terms). This means that while one program provided a series of thought-provoking n-grams, the other provided a wider variety of single terms, overall allowing for a more comprehensive dataset for comparison purposes.

It was also interesting to reflect on categorical discrepancies between the two programs, with cases such as "upset" being represented as an anxiety-related marker rather than a sadness-related one by LIWC2015, and Wmatrix4 interpreting the word as a sadness marker and not a worry-related one. Similarly, the term "jealous" is marked by Wmatrix4 as sadness-related but by LIWC2015 as anger-related. Examples such as these demonstrate how challenging it is to reach full-blown conclusions regarding the dividing

lines between one emotion and another, with frequent cases of overlapping and ambiguity, despite the overriding consistency of emotion set-based work. When manually annotating the transcripts using my original framework, I became even more aware of the nuances and constantly implicit emotion-related references made in everyday speech — especially when narrating impactful life episodes.

Regarding these manual annotation-led results, I believe that it would be very useful for other researchers to cross-reference my framework and decisions made based on perceived implicit and explicit emotional references in each narrative. In line with Barrett (2004, p. 266), “there is no known objective, external measure of the subjective, internal events that we experience as anger, sadness, fear, and so on”. Thus, any attempt to “evaluate the nuances of human conversation” (Lappeman et al., 2020, p. 2) and emotional references in this way may be expected to veer towards subjectivity in some areas at least. Manual cross-referencing by other investigators would therefore help to counteract any potential bias.

The current research has involved the composition of two databases with transcriptions which I believe can be used in future research projects for a wide range of applications. First of all, for further comparison purposes, Lingmotif 2 (released in the first half of 2021) and LIWC 2021 (pending release in the second half of 2021) could be applied to further analyse the data. In particular, for more specific results, I think that it would be beneficial to break down the transcripts of the content creators in the study corpus into sub-groups based on their demographic categories such as age and educational background. Given that gender identities are increasingly complex and fluid, it would also be useful to place the focus beyond a female/male division in future research, taking into particular consideration the testimonies of non-binary identifying content creators, among others.

Secondly, there are many *Draw My Life* narratives in other languages which could also be studied, such as those in Spanish (e.g. Germán Garmendia, Luis Fernando Flores Alvarado, Ana Vbon and Giovanna Bravar), French (e.g. Cyprien Iov), Russian (e.g. Natalia Volodina), and Vietnamese (e.g. Giang Oi), all with millions of views. Frameworks such as that of Olomskaya et al. (2018), who carried out comparative research into Russian and English expressions of grief and suffering, Mathieu and Fellbaum (2010), who compared the French and English emotion verb lexicons, and Ho

et al. (2020), who looked for emotion-related expressions in Vietnamese social media texts, could be extrapolated and used to examine *Draw My Life* videos in any of the languages in which they have been produced.

Focusing now on the visual side of the DML narratives, further gender-related studies could shift the focus from the transcripts to the YouTubers' whiteboard/digital drawings. For instance, Silver (1992, p. 85) examined drawings produced by female and male school children and found that significantly more boys than girls “drew pictures about violently assaultive relationships”. I tentatively also noticed more violent imagery in the male-created *Draw My Life* videos and frequent depiction of family/friend-oriented scenes in the female-created *Draw My Life* videos, so this could be a very fruitful research line. Likewise, following Mackenzie and Alba-Juez's (2019, p. 17) argument that the emotive function is “most effectively realized by phonological means (through intonation and a high pitch)” as well as pragmatics, the intonation and pitch of the speakers while narrating their stories would certainly be worth examining in future studies as well.

I would like to conclude by highlighting my belief that any multidisciplinary research efforts to provide empirically based insights into self-representation and emotional expression in the fields of Corpus Linguistics, gender and media studies should always be encouraged. To contest ingrained beliefs regarding females being “unfocused, fickle, and too emotional to get the job done” (Murdock, 2020, p. 6) and males' innate “restrictive emotionality” (O'Neil, Good, & Holmes, 1995), we must understand the impact of these suppositions on our discourse and bring awareness to their stemming from socially motivated norms. As Lakoff (2016, p. 4) suggests, “the conceptual is inseparable from the emotional, and vice-versa”.

**Chapter VI: Summary in Spanish/  
Resumen en Castellano**

# Chapter VI: Summary in Spanish/ Resumen en Castellano

*Draw my Life*: Un análisis sobre la cantidad y tipología de contenido lingüístico emocional en las narrativas autobiográficas de YouTubers femeninos y masculinos

## 6.1 Introducción

La presente investigación tiene como objetivo determinar similitudes y diferencias en la cantidad y tipología de expresiones relacionadas con la emoción – referencias tanto implícitas como explícitas a “feelings, moods and all kinds of affective experience” [sentimientos, estados de ánimo y todo tipo de experiencias afectivas] (Mackenzie y Alba-Juez, 2019, p. 15) – de 100 personas autoidentificadas como mujeres (con un corpus de 248.613 palabras en total) y 100 personas autoidentificadas como hombre (con un corpus de 227.979 palabras en total) en sus vídeos autobiográficos dentro del género *Draw My Life* de YouTube.

YouTube es un medio con gran contenido de historias digitales que fomentan la reflexión del espectador y aprovechan lo que Stokel-Walker (2019, p. 263) llama “the human algorithm” [el algoritmo humano]. Un género narrativo especialmente atractivo en la plataforma es el formato de vídeo *Draw My Life*, en el que los narradores cuentan su vida en un espacio de aproximadamente diez minutos, describiendo los altibajos de su infancia, niñez, adolescencia y edad adulta, y, por supuesto, su camino hacia YouTube.

Estas narraciones autobiográficas orales suelen ir acompañadas de imágenes ilustrativas, bien (1) dibujadas a mano en un papel o una pizarra y grabadas para su posterior digitalización, o bien (2) creadas digitalmente mediante un software de ilustración. Por ejemplo, cuando una YouTuber describe el divorcio de sus padres en su vídeo *Draw My Life* (diciendo “Mis padres decidieron divorciarse, lo que hizo que las cosas en la vida fueran un poco más difíciles y también significó que tuve muchos más



ataques de pánico”), se muestra a los espectadores una pizarra blanca en la que ella dibuja un corazón roto y a sus padres como figuras de palo que se alejan el uno del otro.

Dada su destacada combinación de narración autobiográfica e imágenes de estilo cómic, la académica de los medios de comunicación Kemp (2017, p. 13) describe los vídeos de *Draw My Life* como un “rich and powerful genre” [género rico y poderoso] que reúne “existing genres that emerge from narratives or life stories, along with comics’ inventive visual resources” [géneros existentes que surgen de narraciones o historias sobre la vida, junto con los recursos visuales inventivos de los cómics]. La investigadora señala que los vídeos DML son una herramienta de gran “importance to community building and identity formation” [importancia para la construcción de la comunidad y la formación de la identidad] (p. 63), aunque no son “researched or employed enough” [no se les está dando la importancia que merecen en la investigación] (p. 63), destacando una carencia particular de estudios relacionados con las expresiones de las identidades interseccionales y los estudios de género basados en las historias.

Los vídeos de *Draw My Life* más vistos en YouTube han acumulado más de treinta millones de visualizaciones hasta 2021. Según Gustafson (2013, párr. 4), su inmensa popularidad entre los espectadores de YouTube se debe en parte a las descripciones íntimas y reflexivas de los narradores sobre “the emotions of life and the small things that make us who we are” [las emociones de la vida y las pequeñas cosas que nos hacen ser quienes somos]. Como cabría esperar de unos relatos tan personales, las referencias relacionadas con las emociones son habituales en las narraciones de DML, una característica que enlaza con la sugerencia de Habermas (2019, p. 10) de que las historias autobiográficas son un “ideal medium to understand emotions” [medio ideal para entender las emociones].

## 6.2 Metodología

Con el objetivo de obtener representatividad de género a través de datos extensos y contrastables, se tomaron una serie de medidas. En primer lugar, para encontrar los vídeos que constituirían los datos del corpus, busqué la frase “*draw my life*” en la barra de búsqueda de YouTube. Inicialmente, filtré por “recuento de visualizaciones” y seleccioné manualmente los vídeos de *Draw My Life* con narradores femeninos y

masculinos de habla inglesa (los recuentos de visualizaciones de los vídeos han fluctuado desde entonces, por lo que el orden de la transcripción en el corpus de estudio no es siempre un indicador del orden actual de los recuentos de visualizaciones). También fue necesario elegir vídeos de *Draw My Life* con narradores humanos (no personajes de dibujos animados/videojuegos). Además, evité los vídeos con múltiples narradores (por ejemplo, Wassabi productions, Threadbanger, Katherine y Rachel), las versiones abiertamente jocosas/paródicas del género (por ejemplo, KSI, Miranda/Glozell, watermelondrea) y los vídeos sobre episodios vitales concretos (p. ej., una boda, el nacimiento de un hijo) en lugar de los que narran historias vitales completas.

Para los fines del presente estudio, también era imprescindible evitar los vídeos publicados por los canales extremadamente populares “Draw Their Life”, “TikTak Draw” y “Draw The Life TikTak”. Estos canales presentan vídeos con el mismo formato de cómic y contenido de historias autobiográficas que cabe esperar del género, sin embargo, están guionizados y no son narrados por los protagonistas sino actores interpretando un personaje (aunque a veces utilizan pronombres en primera persona). Por ejemplo, el canal “Draw The Life TikTak” incluye vídeos al estilo *Draw My Life* de personalidades famosas del pasado, como Salvador Dalí o Martin Luther King, obviamente narrados por actores que trabajan para el canal. Una vez guardados todos los datos de los vídeos elegidos (título, fecha de publicación, nombre del YouTuber y su canal, año de nacimiento/lengua materna del narrador) y los enlaces en un documento de Word, comencé a transcribirlos en su totalidad.

El proyecto actual se sustenta en la noción de Lutz (1990, p. 151) de que “any discourse on emotion is also, at least implicitly, a discourse on gender” [cualquier discurso sobre la emoción es también, al menos implícitamente, un discurso sobre género], con frecuentes suposiciones en investigaciones previas sobre las expectativas sociales relacionadas con la “greater emotional expressivity” [mayor expresividad emocional] de las mujeres (Chaplin, 2015, p. 14) y la “restrictive emotionality” [emocionalidad restrictiva] de los hombres (O’Neil, Good, & Holmes, 1995, p. 176).

Con el objetivo de obtener datos completos y fiables sobre las expresiones relacionadas con las emociones de los YouTubers femeninos y masculinos, el estudio combina métodos de investigación cuantitativos y cualitativos que se basan en varias herramientas computerizadas, así como en procesos de anotación manual. En particular, se adopta un marco de análisis crítico del discurso basado en corpus, motivado por la

suposición de Baker et al. (2008, p. 227) de que las investigaciones de Lingüística de Corpus “offer the researcher a reasonably high degree of objectivity; that is, they enable the researcher to approach the texts (or text surface) (relatively) free from any preconceived or existing notions regarding their linguistic or semantic/pragmatic content” [ofrecen al investigador un grado razonablemente alto de objetividad; es decir, permiten al investigador acercarse a los textos (o la superficie del texto) (relativamente) libre de cualquier noción preconcebida o existente sobre su contenido lingüístico o semántico/pragmático].

El proyecto se enmarca dentro del dominio de los Estudios de Discurso Asistidos por Corpus, definido por Partington, Duguid y Taylor (2013, p. 10) como “that set of studies into the form and/or function of language which incorporate the use of computerised corpora in their analysis” [ese conjunto de estudios sobre la forma y/o la función del lenguaje que incorporan el uso de corpus informatizados en su análisis”]. Las herramientas informáticas específicas que se utilizan en el análisis de los datos de *Draw My Life* relacionados con sentimientos/emociones son Lingmotif, LIWC2015 (Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count) y Wmatrix4.

En primer lugar, Lingmotif es una aplicación de escritorio de análisis de sentimiento basada en lexicones que permite determinar las puntuaciones globales de intensidad de sentimiento y las orientaciones semánticas, o “valence” [valencia], de cada conjunto de datos (Moreno-Ortiz, 2017), ya sea positivo o negativo. A continuación, se utilizan otros dos programas de software para extraer expresiones y términos específicos relacionados con las emociones en los textos, siguiendo el argumento de Mehl y Gill (2010, p. 125) sobre la probabilidad de que se obtengan resultados fructíferos del uso combinado de LIWC, un programa basado en el conteo de palabras especialmente popular en la investigación psicológica, y Wmatrix, una aplicación más compleja de análisis de texto automático desarrollada dentro del campo de la lingüística de corpus. Específicamente, los datos de LIWC2015 se desglosan en términos relacionados con las emociones “positivas” y los relacionados con las categorías “Tristeza”, “Ansiedad” e “Ira”. Los datos de Wmatrix4, por otro lado, se dividen en palabras clave comparativas y concordancias para las categorías relacionadas con las emociones “Miedo/Conmoción”, “Felicidad”, “Tristeza”, “Violencia/Enfado” y “Preocupación”.

Sin embargo, hay que recordar la descripción de Lappeman et al. (2020, p. 2) de las investigaciones con corpus informatizados: “the absence of human assistance often is

unable to accurately evaluate the nuances of human conversation” [la ausencia de asistencia humana a menudo es incapaz de evaluar con precisión los matices de la conversación humana]. Para asegurar un análisis preciso, revisé manualmente los datos del software, dejando de lado una parte sustancial de las referencias debido a problemas con significados erróneos (por ejemplo, “dreadlocks”/“rastas” que indicaba erróneamente ansiedad), intensidad débil/disminuida por el contexto (p. ej., la intensidad disminuida del verbo no literal “hit”/“alcanzar” en “hit 700.000 subscribers”), el desplazamiento de referencias personales (p. ej., “Molestaba a mis hermanos” en lugar de la molestia que sentía el narrador), construcciones negativas (p. ej., “No estaba feliz” como un falso indicador de felicidad), anhelo/cuestionamiento/problemas de tiempos verbales (p. ej., “Pensé que sería divertido” como descripción de un evento que el narrador no considera realmente como divertido) y sarcasmo/ironía (p. ej., “las alegrías de ser adolescente”, que indica lo contrario de lo que se expresa literalmente). Todas estas referencias habrían contrarrestado la validez de los resultados del software si no se hubieran revisado y descartado manualmente.

Otro paso metodológico en la investigación es un análisis temático de las 200 transcripciones, basado en una reflexión cualitativa y crítica sobre el hallazgo del software de que las YouTubers se refieren con más frecuencia a la ansiedad y la depresión en sus narrativas autobiográficas que los creadores masculinos. En particular, resalté y anoté manualmente el discurso en las transcripciones que expresaban temas relacionados con las normas/estereotipos de género y sus vínculos potenciales con la diferencia en la tipología y la cantidad de manifestaciones de emociones verbales. Este paso metodológico se basa en el trabajo de Chaplin (2015, p. 19), quien aboga por un modelo bio-psicosocial de las diferencias de género en la expresión emocional.

El análisis temático inicial mostró que las mujeres YouTubers a menudo indican sentirse abrumadas por emociones intensas, con referencias a “batallas” emocionales, “montañas rusas” de emociones, comer como “escape emocional” y tener sensación de “agotamiento” emocional. Por lo contrario, los YouTubers masculinos describen con frecuencia el “desapego” emocional y las dificultades para expresar y describir las emociones, con constantes referencias a la presión social para ser fuertes e inexpresivos.

Por último, en un intento por averiguar si un examen manual daría como resultado hallazgos similares a los resultados revisados del software, el estudio actual también hace uso de la anotación manual cualitativa de “emotion indicators of any length” [indicadores

de emoción de cualquier extensión], tanto explícitos como implícitos (Aman y Szpakowicz, 2007, p. 199) en las transcripciones. El marco de anotaciones original consta de siete categorías codificadas por colores: tres relacionadas con las emociones positivas y cuatro relacionadas con las negativas. A cada color también se le asignó un código (PC se refiere a categorías positivas y NC a categorías negativas):

*A) Categorías positivas:*

PC1: Sentirse feliz, emocionado, que le guste/ame algo o a alguien

PC2: Sentirse orgulloso, seguro, valiente, decidido

PC3: Sentirse tranquilo, reconfortado, apoyado, aceptado, aliviado

*B) Categorías negativas:*

NC1: Sentirse asustado, nervioso, ansioso, estresado, culpable, presionado y sentir pánico

NC2: Sentirse tímido, avergonzado, incómodo

NC3: Sentirse triste, deprimido, apático, perdido

NC4: Sentirse enojado, frustrado, celoso y desagradar/odiar algo o a alguien

## **6.3 Resultados principales**

Al revisar los datos de los programas Lingmotif, Wmatrix4 y LIWC2015 y los resultados de las anotaciones manuales, se plantearon las siguientes preguntas de investigación:

- 1. ¿Serán los YouTubers femeninos o los masculinos los que incluirán una mayor frecuencia de contenido lingüístico emocional general en sus historias de Draw My Life?*
- 2. ¿Cuál será la cantidad y tipología de contenido lingüístico emocional positivo en las historias de Draw My Life de las y los YouTubers?*
- 3. ¿Cuál será la cantidad y tipología de contenido lingüístico emocional negativo en las historias de Draw My Life de las y los YouTubers?*

A continuación, se muestra un resumen de los principales resultados:

- 1. ¿Serán los YouTubers femeninos o los masculinos los que incluirán una mayor frecuencia de contenido lingüístico emocional general en sus historias de Draw My Life?*

Tanto en los resultados del software como en los de las anotaciones manuales, se encontró que las mujeres incluían una mayor frecuencia de contenido lingüístico emocional general en sus narrativas de *Draw My Life*.

Los datos de LIWC2015 mostraron que las narrativas de las YouTubers incluyen un porcentaje más alto de palabras emocionales en general (3,07% frente a 2,56%), al igual que los de Wmatrix4 (1% frente a 0,8%). Del mismo modo, los resultados de las anotaciones manuales mostraron que las YouTubers incluyen un mayor porcentaje de referencias emocionales generales en sus narrativas (2,75% frente a 2,43%).

## 2. ¿Cuál será la cantidad y tipología de contenido lingüístico emocional positivo en las historias de *Draw My Life* de las y los YouTubers?

En primer lugar, los datos de los programas informáticos indicaron que los creadores masculinos incluyen un porcentaje de referencias emocionales positivas igual (Lingmotif) o superior (LIWC2015/Wmatrix4) al de las creadoras femeninas.

Lingmotif asignó una “Text Sentiment Score” [puntuación de sentimiento del texto] de 73 a cada corpus de transcripciones, lo que significa que tanto el corpus femenino como el masculino tienen una inclinación muy positiva en general. Las palabras emocionales positivas aceptadas de LIWC2015 representan el 80,3% del total de palabras emocionales aceptadas en el corpus relacionado con las emociones de los YouTubers masculinos, y el 77,4% del corpus de YouTubers femeninas. De la misma manera, el resultado de Wmatrix4 mostró que el 40,8% del total de palabras emocionales aceptadas en el corpus relacionado con las emociones de los YouTubers masculinos estaba relacionado con la felicidad, mientras que el 38,2% del corpus de las YouTubers femeninas estaba relacionado con esta emoción.

Si bien los datos de los programas informáticos relacionados con las referencias emocionales positivas se limitaron a palabras con inclinaciones positivas generales (Lingmotif/LIWC2015) o aquellas que se encuentran dentro de la categoría amplia de “felicidad” en el caso de Wmatrix4, la anotación temática manual ayudó a desglosar aún más la tipología de contenido lingüístico emocional positivo en los vídeos de *Draw My Life*. En particular, se encontró que los YouTubers masculinos incluían un mayor porcentaje de referencias a sentirse felices, emocionados y que les gusta/aman algo/a

alguien, incluidas expresiones implícitas y explícitas relacionadas con sentirse agradecido, esperanzado, inspirado, intrigado, unido, liberado, motivado y satisfecho, con el 48,74% de las referencias anotadas relacionadas con la emoción masculina y el 47,01% de las referencias anotadas relacionadas con la emoción femenina pertenecientes a esta categoría.

Aunque los porcentajes de referencias a sentirse feliz, emocionado y que les guste/aman algo/a alguien fueron muy similares en los corpus femenino y masculino, se encontró que el corpus femenino incluía un porcentaje significativamente menor de referencias a sentirse orgulloso, confiado, valiente y decidido, incluidas aquellas expresiones vinculadas a sentirse disciplinado, centrado, en control y dispuesto a perseverar ante los desafíos. El 13,46% de las referencias anotadas en el corpus masculino y el 9,47% de las referencias anotadas en el corpus femenino pertenecían a esta categoría.

También se observó una diferencia al comparar los porcentajes de referencias a sentirse tranquilo, reconfortado, apoyado, aceptado y aliviado, incluidas las expresiones relacionadas con sentirse relajado y protegido por otros. El 8,55% de las referencias femeninas pertenecían a esta categoría, y el 7,24% de las masculinas.

### *3. ¿Cuál será la cantidad y tipología de contenido lingüístico emocional negativo en las historias de Draw My Life de las y los YouTubers?*

Los datos preliminares de Lingmotif indicaron que las YouTubers incluían una mayor frecuencia de referencias a “ansiedad”, “depresión” y sentirse “muy tristes”. Asimismo, en los resultados de LIWC2015, las YouTubers utilizaron una mayor frecuencia de términos relacionados con la tristeza (9,5% frente a 7,8%), una mayor frecuencia de palabras relacionadas con la ansiedad (8,5% frente a 5,9%) y una menor frecuencia de palabras relacionadas con la ira (4,5% frente a 6%). Por último, los datos de Wmatrix4 mostraron que las narrativas de las YouTubers incluían una mayor frecuencia de palabras relacionadas con la tristeza (26,7% frente a 24,3%), una mayor frecuencia de palabras relacionadas con la preocupación (9,9% frente a 6%), una mayor frecuencia de palabras relacionadas con el miedo/conmoción (15,2% frente a 14,2%), y una menor frecuencia de palabras relacionadas con la violencia/ira (9,8% frente a 14,5%).

Los hallazgos de la anotación manual indicaron que las YouTubers hicieron un mayor porcentaje de referencias a sentirse tristes, deprimidas, apáticas y perdidas que los hombres (16.72% vs 13.95%), incluyendo expresiones vinculadas al desánimo, soledad, anhelo, desesperación, arrepentimiento, desconexión, insatisfacción y decepción. Las mujeres también incluyeron un mayor porcentaje de referencias a sentirse tímidas, avergonzadas e incómodas (6,74% frente al 6,29%), con expresiones frecuentes relacionadas con sentirse intimidadas, indefensas, inadecuadas, inseguras, desconfiadas, reacias, incomprendidas, subestimadas y sin apoyo. Asimismo, las mujeres utilizaron un mayor porcentaje de expresiones que hacen referencia a sentirse asustadas, nerviosas, ansiosas, estresadas, culpables, presionadas y presas del pánico (6,18% frente al 4,12%). Por último, y a diferencia de las otras categorías relacionadas con las emociones negativas, se encontró que las mujeres incluían un menor porcentaje de referencias a sentirse enfadadas, frustradas, celosas y detestar/odiar algo o a alguien (5.33% vs 6.45%).

## 6.4 Conclusiones

Para contextualizar estos resultados, es vital revisar los diversos niveles interrelacionados de influencia social que afectan a las y los narradores y que probablemente estén condicionando su discurso. En primer lugar, observamos las mencionadas expectativas relacionadas con los roles de género en cuanto a la expresión emocional, que investigadores como Goldshmidt y Weller (2000, p. 117) y Widen y Russell (2002, p. 248) ven como derivadas de la socialización. En segundo lugar, debemos tener en cuenta las presiones sociales de las y los YouTubers para satisfacer las expectativas percibidas de su audiencia en el contexto de la interacción parasocial (Horton y Wohl, 1956).

Según Chen (2016, p. 233), YouTubers están condicionados por las posibilidades que brinda la plataforma para mostrar u ocultar ciertas partes de su identidad y, en el caso de los vídeos de *Draw My Life*, de sus narrativas autobiográficas: “With the advent of new technology, mediated experience may (...) enable consumers to conceal aspects of their selves that they find undesirable” [“Con el advenimiento de la nueva tecnología, la experiencia mediada puede (...) permitir a los consumidores ocultar aspectos de sí mismos que encuentran indeseables”]. Por lo tanto, las descripciones de las y los YouTubers sobre las emociones y las condiciones de salud mental pueden bien no solo



estar construidas consciente o inconscientemente para encajar con las nociones preconcebidas sobre los roles de género, sino también para mantener las expectativas personales sobre su autoconcepto mediatizado y para cumplir con las expectativas de la audiencia.

Asimismo, es útil considerar los datos recopilados sobre las principales categorías de contenido del canal de los YouTubers femeninos y masculinos. Lo que comúnmente comparten los creadores evidentemente juega un papel importante en la construcción de sus personajes digitales. Por ejemplo, el contenido femenino gira con mayor frecuencia en torno al estilo de vida/la vida diaria y, por lo tanto, ellas hablan sobre eventos cotidianos y sus sentimientos sobre estos eventos. En contraste, las categorías principales de los creadores masculinos son la comedia, que a menudo incluye personajes falsos en bocetos contruidos, y los videojuegos, que incluyen contenido habitualmente competitivo y agresivo. Se podría inferir, entonces, que el contenido masculino se basa menos en abrirse emocionalmente y establecer conexiones emocionales con los espectadores, y más en “bromas” competitivas y hacerles reír.

Los hallazgos del presente trabajo de investigación apoyan la idea de que la sociedad en general, incluidas las instituciones educativas y los medios de comunicación, necesita redefinir “what it means to be powerful” [lo que significa ser poderoso] (Charteris-Black y Seale, 2009, p. 108), normalizando la expresión emocional de tanto niños/hombres como niñas/mujeres. La investigación reafirma mi creencia personal de que nadie, independientemente de su género, debería sentirse juzgado por la discusión abierta sobre problemas de salud mental o la expresión externa de cualquier tipo de emoción. De acuerdo con los datos de *Draw My Life*, se necesita hacer una cantidad sustancial de trabajo en todo el mundo en la reeducación de ambos géneros en este sentido.

Al centrarme en referencias específicas relacionadas con la emoción utilizando LIWC2015 y Wmatrix4, llegué a las mismas conclusiones que Mehl y Gill (2010, p. 125) sobre la probabilidad de obtener resultados fructíferos del uso combinado de estos dos programas. Por ejemplo, mientras que LIWC2015 se limita a contar palabras específicas (por ejemplo, “feliz” o “emocionado”), Wmatrix4 tiene la capacidad de calcular n-gramas de 2 a 5 palabras como “on top of the world” [en la cima del mundo]. Sin embargo, también hay que señalar que el diccionario interno relacionado con las emociones de

LIWC es significativamente más extenso que el de Wmatrix, dadas las notables diferencias cuantitativas en los resultados relacionados con emociones comparables (por ejemplo, “FDML Sad” de Wmatrix4 - 588 términos/frases frente a “FDML Sadness” de LIWC - 1.158 términos). Esto significa que, mientras que un programa proporcionó una serie de n-gramas que invitan a la reflexión, el otro proporcionó una mayor variedad de términos individuales, lo que en general permite un conjunto de datos más completo a efectos de comparación.

También fue interesante reflexionar sobre las discrepancias categóricas entre los dos programas, con casos como “upset” representado como un marcador relacionado con la ansiedad y no con la tristeza por LIWC2015, y Wmatrix4 interpretando la palabra como un marcador de tristeza y no de preocupación. Del mismo modo, el término “jealous” es relacionado con la tristeza por Wmatrix4, pero LIWC2015 lo relaciona con la ira. Ejemplos como estos demuestran lo difícil que es llegar a conclusiones definitivas sobre las líneas divisorias entre una emoción y otra, con frecuentes casos de solapamiento y ambigüedad. El proceso de anotación manual reforzó aún más estos matices y las referencias constantemente implícitas relacionadas con las emociones que se hacen en el discurso cotidiano, especialmente cuando se narran episodios vitales impactantes.

## 6.5 Futuras líneas de investigación

La presente investigación ha supuesto la composición de dos bases de datos con transcripciones que creo que pueden utilizarse en futuros proyectos de investigación para una amplia gama de aplicaciones. En primer lugar, a efectos de comparación, podrían aplicarse Lingmotif 2 (publicada en el primer semestre de 2021) y LIWC 2021 (pendiente de publicación en el segundo semestre de 2021) para seguir analizando los datos. En particular, para obtener resultados más específicos, creo que sería beneficioso desglosar las transcripciones de las y los YouTubers en subgrupos basados en sus categorías demográficas, como la edad y el nivel educativo, además de investigaciones sobre creadores con otras identidades de género más fluidas.

En segundo lugar, hay muchas narrativas de *Draw My Life* en otros idiomas que también podrían estudiarse, como en español/catellano (por ejemplo, Germán Garmendia, Luis Fernando Flores Alvarado, Ana Vbon y Giovanna Bravar), francés (por ejemplo,

Cyprien Iov), ruso (por ejemplo, Natalia Volodina) y vietnamita (por ejemplo, Giang Oi), todas ellas con millones de visitas. Marcos como el de Oloms kaya et al. (2018), que llevaron a cabo una investigación comparativa de las expresiones rusas e inglesas de pena y sufrimiento; Mathieu y Fellbaum (2010), que compararon los léxicos verbales de emoción franceses e ingleses, y Ho et al. (2020), que buscaron expresiones relacionadas con la emoción en los textos de las redes sociales vietnamitas, podrían extrapolarse y utilizarse para examinar los vídeos de *Draw My Life* en cualquiera de los idiomas en los que se han producido.

Centrándonos ahora en el aspecto visual de las narrativas de DML, otros estudios de género podrían cambiar el enfoque de las transcripciones a los dibujos de pizarra/digitales de los YouTubers. Por ejemplo, Silver (1992, p. 85) examinó los dibujos producidos por escolares de ambos sexos y descubrió que un número significativamente mayor de niños que de niñas “drew pictures about violently assaultive relationships” [hacían dibujos sobre relaciones violentas]. También observé que había más imágenes violentas en los vídeos de *Draw My Life* creados por hombres y una representación frecuente de escenas orientadas a la familia/amistad en los vídeos de *Draw My Life* creados por mujeres, por lo que esta podría ser una línea de investigación muy fructífera.

Asimismo, siguiendo el argumento de Mackenzie y Alba-Juez (2019, p. 17) de que la función emotiva se realiza “by phonological means (through intonation and a high pitch)” [por medios fonológicos (a través de la entonación y un tono alto)], así como por la pragmática, propongo que la entonación y el tono de los hablantes mientras narran sus historias también merecerían ser examinados en futuros estudios.

Me gustaría concluir destacando mi creencia de que siempre se debe fomentar cualquier esfuerzo de investigación multidisciplinar que proporcione conocimientos con base empírica sobre la autorrepresentación y la expresión emocional en los campos de la lingüística de corpus, el género y los estudios de los medios de comunicación. Para rebatir las creencias arraigadas de que las mujeres son “fickle, and too emotional to get the job done” [inconstantes y demasiado emocionales para hacer el trabajo] (Murdock, 2020, p. 6) y la “restrictive emotionality” [emocionalidad restrictiva] innata de los hombres (O’Neil, Good y Holmes, 1995), debemos comprender el impacto de estas suposiciones en nuestro discurso y concienciarnos de que éstos derivan de normas socialmente motivadas. Como sugiere Lakoff (2016, p. 4), “the conceptual is inseparable from the emotional, and vice-versa” [lo conceptual es inseparable de lo emocional, y viceversa].

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# **Appendix**

# Appendix

## Video Database

### *A) Female YouTubers*

FDML #1: Zoella (Zoe Sugg)

<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=qx6fwery65M>

Year of publication: 2013

FDML #2: Anonymous

Unpublished

Year of publication: 2013

FDML #3: iHasCupquake (Tiffany Garcia)

<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=QZjHpruFSF0>

Year of publication: 2013

FDML #4: IISuperwomanII (Lilly Singh)

[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=yfTV3UV\\_WIY](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=yfTV3UV_WIY)

Year of publication: 2013

FDML #5: Michelle Phan

<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=05KqZEqQJ40>

Year of publication: 2013

FDML #6: LaurDIY (Lauren Riihimaki)

Part 1: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=LRYyJXZujCE>

Part 2: [https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=hIZmjIhe\\_5w](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=hIZmjIhe_5w)

Years of publication: 2013 - 2016

FDML #7: Wengie (Wendy Jie Huang)

[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=8\\_L7Ha4Vl6E](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=8_L7Ha4Vl6E)

Year of publication: 2016

FDML #8: SSSniperWolf (Alia Shelesh)

<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=leAQdGVFvBw>

Year of publication: 2014

FDML #9: LDShadowLady (Elizabeth Dwyer)

<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=f4ruioYbQiQ>

Year of publication: 2015

FDML #10: Bubzbeauty (Lindy Tsang)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=fH1koUfPq1E>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #11: dope2111 (Promise Phan)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=4vzss\\_X9CTQ](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=4vzss_X9CTQ)  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #12: Meghan McCarthy  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=6xguscbRc5A>  
Year of publication: 2014

FDML #13: ItsFunneh (Kathrine La)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=WEzO1qagw0c>  
Year of publication: 2017

FDML #14: Niki and Gabi (narrator: Nicola DeMartino)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=ti2Pp2nHGDw>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #15: Aphmau (Jessica Bravura)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=ekOog6xKDMQ>  
Year of publication: 2015

FDML #16: MayBaby (Megan DeAngelis)  
Part 1:  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=bRSLPcUBaWw>  
Part 2:  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=I6qJdRHt\\_\\_Q](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=I6qJdRHt__Q)  
Years of publication: 2013 - 2016

FDML #17: Gigi Gorgeous (Giselle Loren Lazzarato)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=fBfRTdjd1vA>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #18: Inquisitor Master (Alexandra Teran)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=SgFW5Qx4e8M>  
Year of publication: 2017

FDML #19: Let Me Explain Studios (Rebecca Parham)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Cf3zj7D8SQ4>  
Year of publication: 2018

FDML #20: 2011teenagemom (Vanessa Garitano)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=p-CWFaCRPcI>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #21: AndreasChoice (Andrea Brooks)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=z3XvpVIB--0>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #22: Gloom (Kassima Isabelle)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=G0zZeb4WZx8>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #23: Kyutie (Ellen Pellon)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=ni\\_0ruNLyL4](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=ni_0ruNLyL4)  
Year of publication: 2016

FDML #24: Meredith Foster  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=bm1X7mIeC60>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #25: Shay Mitchell  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=90Z5MrtOOLE>  
Year of publication: 2016

FDML #26: blndsundoll4mj (Trisha Paytas)  
[http://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Rd\\_7ajArBoc](http://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Rd_7ajArBoc)  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #27: Dulce Candy  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=ABLcOnOjHDA>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #28: Anonymous  
Unpublished  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #29: Strawburry17 (Meghan Camarena)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=GK\\_E7YbpoDI](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=GK_E7YbpoDI)  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #30: Kelly & Carly (Kelly Fitzsimmons)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDdSUc4fQe8&t=104s&ab\\_channel=Kelly%26Carly](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDdSUc4fQe8&t=104s&ab_channel=Kelly%26Carly)  
Year of publication: 2017

FDML #31: MyHarto (Hannah Hart)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=qWAPAReu87c>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #32: Anonymous  
Unpublished  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #33: Wolfychu (Kayleigh Smyth)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=UV6TLfJJ6CY>  
Year of publication: 2018

FDML #34: Baylee Jae (Baylee Jae Brazeau)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=-GrGXsUpGM>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #35: Anonymous  
Unpublished  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #36: LaToya Forever (LaToya Wilson)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=y2-PpjjgORfw>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #37: Yammy (Yasmin Uddin)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=\\_Owu4kLtbOs](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=_Owu4kLtbOs)  
Year of publication: 2017

FDML #38: JesssFam (Jessica Jean Skube)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=tQeNnNUSX\\_A](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=tQeNnNUSX_A)  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #39: LaurenzSide (Lauren Weber)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=cYOeM37RNGw>  
Year of publication: 2014

FDML #40: Catrific (Catherine Elizabeth Valdes)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=RaHdXpFeb6k>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #41: Tama Hero (real name not public)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=h5L2niwyl\\_s](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=h5L2niwyl_s)  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #42: Sierra Furtado  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=UipI4VQ4x-w>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #43: Olga Kay  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=zRuD7-K9kYo>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #44: Pokimane (Imane Anys)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=D7-VGhnADRA>  
Year of publication: 2017

FDML #45: LeahLouu (Leah Shaye)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=OmSn5aSUGZs>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #46: Amy Lee (Amy-Lee Hart)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=FY7xO63vy\\_w](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=FY7xO63vy_w)  
Year of publication: 2017

FDML #47: Shaaanxo (Shannon Harris)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=4rZaE765gow>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #48: Anonymous  
Unpublished  
Year of publication: 2016

FDML #49: goInspo (Ayesha Curry)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=5X9-59bm\\_cc](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=5X9-59bm_cc)  
Year of publication: 2017

FDML #50: SaydeeWhoa (real name not public)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=xU2Qn7sPOu4>  
Year of publication: 2016

FDML #51: Simonandmartinabonus (Martina Sazunic)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=dvtDWssF-Wg>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #52: Anna Akana  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=DY8OgfGWnNU>  
Year of publication: 2016

FDML #53: Amena (Amena Khan)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=foztBU3Af\\_E](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=foztBU3Af_E)  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #54: Art ala Carte (real name not public)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=GZHjgjzY9DY>  
Year of publication: 2015

FDML #55: The Michalaks (Hannah Michalak)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=klCc5hUcAjQ>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #56: GlitterForever17 (Breland Emory Kent)  
Part 1: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=iodwzPdXKdU>  
Part 2: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=WfMUex4E0ds>  
Years of publication: 2013 - 2018

FDML #57: Chriselle Lim  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=shHv4N6bSNU>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #58: Kelly Eden  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=i18DabcUZiE>  
Year of publication: 2016

FDML #59: Sejal Kumar  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=qSBOH-wA12Y>  
Year of publication: 2016

FDML #60: Maqaroon (Joanna Zhou)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=avEdyFXyvIE>  
Year of publication: 2018

FDML #61: WhispersRed ASMR (Emma Smith)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=0VzyFO-KKAw>  
Year of publication: 2017

FDML #62: Mortem3r (Suzanne Berhow)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=GMOgPaQT\\_eg](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=GMOgPaQT_eg)  
Year of publication: 2014

FDML #63: HeyBrittany (Brittany Joyal)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=XDNGsiAkoIM>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #64: Emzotic (Emma Lock)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=vR4Sw5\\_XsJ8](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=vR4Sw5_XsJ8)  
Year of publication: 2018

FDML #65: Jessie Paege  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=mFHwk3NMdjk>  
Year of publication: 2018

FDML #66: Holistic Habits (Sarah Marie Nagel)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Nrkq02i06Co>  
Year of publication: 2015

FDML #67: Emilia Fart (real name not public)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=8sNQeHgi8C4>  
Year of publication: 2018

FDML #68: polandbananas20 (Christine Riccio)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=mvgarADQC7s>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #69: Sacha Stevenson  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=9yPBdf8s-oE>  
Year of publication: 2013



FDML #70: Julia Graf  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=mb07S85x-wY>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #71: Kate Murnane  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=okKcJj9i2ow>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #72: Lana McKissack  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=2rugjAHBSyU>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #73: Emily Norris  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=\\_zl1qFfEbDo](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=_zl1qFfEbDo)  
Year of publication: 2017

FDML #74: MyInvisible Chyrsalis (real name not public)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=-7ysrOJypvU>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #75: Samantha Schuerman  
Part 1: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=PMSNVThEMK8>  
Part 2: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=fImvDmRD7EM>  
Years of publication: 2013 (May) – 2013 (July)

FDML #76: BeautyQQ (Queenie Chan)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=13GzMnVMN\\_g](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=13GzMnVMN_g)  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #77: SophieMichelle ASMR (Sophie Goodall)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Qeu5IiCMT80>  
Year of publication: 2018

FDML #78: LizziesAnswers (Lizzie Estella Reezay)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=155nuEvwTQw>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #79: SabsBeauty (Sabrina Novenschi)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=R9ymbt8SYL0>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #80: Kat Blaque  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=QQqGCfa-oEo>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #81: Kati Morton  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=t7QQ2ILCAgM>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #82: Saloni Srivastava  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=STh36XdGf54>  
Year of publication: 2018

FDML #83: Jewel (real name not public)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=V74yvDU07jI>  
Year of publication: 2016

FDML #84: Kayla Marie (real name not public)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=VIN9-O4ZgbU>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #85: Damielou Shavelle  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=57XdEluscoE>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #86: Emilythebrave (Emily Carson)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=i-\\_PnjzABQo](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=i-_PnjzABQo)  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #87: Anonymous  
Unpublished  
Year of publication: 2014

FDML #88: Anonymous  
Unpublished  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #89: Lindee Link  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=TXCMZYzG1\\_Q](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=TXCMZYzG1_Q)  
Year of publication: 2015

FDML #90: Abi Abroad (Abigael Taiwo)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=NaIwu5kHrmE>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #91: Sally Jo (Sally Jo Hickey)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=2bPg3041xBM>  
Year of publication: 2016

FDML #92: MissMikaylaG (Mikayla Greenwood)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=EtQsCcw-yg>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #93: Oxminaox (Marina Preciado)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=zBJLcUROT-k>  
Year of publication: 2018

FDML #94: SuzelleDIY (Julia Anastasopoulos)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=ENNgQjknPDU>  
Year of publication: 2018

FDML #95: Meghan Rienks  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=oBvmUSi9ACo>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #96: RealAsianBeauty  
(Kristine Roces)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=BxPHFKyyJmU>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #97: Lily Pebbles (Lily Garnham)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=k\\_8AyIymq1w](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=k_8AyIymq1w)  
Year of publication: 2016

FDML #98: Tadelesmith (Taylor Adele Smith)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=P9hO5d6HY14>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #99: Grace Helbig  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=LyYO0kPLVfQ>  
Year of publication: 2013

FDML #100: Farah Dhukai  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=sGx8So88mEQ>  
Year of publication: 2013

## ***B) Male YouTubers***

MDML #1: PewDiePie (Felix Kjellberg)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=6yBBO8PzWFI>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #2: Niga Higa (Ryan Higa)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=KPmoDYayoLE>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #3: Dan TDM (Daniel Robert Middleton)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=N2D9Y6lSFkw>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #4: Markiplier (Mark Edward Fischbach)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=6Sl-1X58ObY>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #5: Guava Juice (Roi Fabito)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=E-JXISEJyjE>  
Year of publication: 2016

MDML #6: Denis (Denis Kopotun)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Knj6DuMOcbY>  
Year of publication: 2016

MDML #7: The Game Theorists (Matthew Patrick)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=8mkuIP\\_i3js](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=8mkuIP_i3js)  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #8: Jacksepticeye (Seán William McLoughlin)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=yH1oVW2lX8w>  
Year of publication: 2014

MDML #9: Preston (Preston Blaine Arsement)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=YMq4yHBxNGI>  
Year of publication: 2015

MDML #10: Jake Paul  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=whOIQ9Z4Iz4>  
Year of publication: 2016

MDML #11: Boogie2988 (Steven Jay Williams)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=HZ1cUp0ATg>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #12: Joey Graceffa (Joseph Michael Graceffa)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=MjnBPSBmVio>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #13: SuperMario Logan (Logan Austin Thirtyacre)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=-cf0H2f\\_bc4](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=-cf0H2f_bc4)  
Year of publication: 2014

MDML #14: Daniel Howell  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=ypDWE-3kdgA>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #15: ThatcherJoe (Joseph Sugg)  
Part 1: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=RggG3VcZUII>  
Part 2: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=uAIZF7Ws9qc>  
Years of publication: 2013 – 2015

MDML #16: Domics (Dominic Panganiban)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=HyXFtBFXaMo>  
Year of publication: 2015

MDML #17: Tyler Oakley (Mathew Tyler Oakley)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=cqfSdF6M-g4>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #18: Thinknoodles (Justin Andrew Watkins)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=PM7zAj3kTok>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #19: Casey Neistat  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=V6Y-ahQFQDA&t=23s>  
Year of publication: 2015

MDML #20: CaptainSparklez (Jordan Maron)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=TexLwzN\\_PiU](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=TexLwzN_PiU)  
Year of publication: 2014

MDML #21: Gabriel Conte  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=xlQl6L3\\_acs](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=xlQl6L3_acs)  
Year of publication: 2017

MDML #22: PointlessBlog (Alfie Deyes)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=NJcaix-wLfo>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #23: Joe Weller (Joseph Martin Weller)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=jDLM0fQS1Bg>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #24: AmazingPhil (Philip Lester)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Mv1SLUjDGpA>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #25: Caspar (Caspar Lee)  
Part 1: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=2UMeg8h7WRY>  
Part 2: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=u8iqRSj66aI>  
Years of publication: 2013 – 2015

MDML #26: Anonymous  
Unpublished  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #27: Connor Franta  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=zMNI0894Bhw>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #28: Anthony Padilla  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=fUmSSKMqeoC>  
Year of publication: 2016

MDML #29: DeStorm Power

<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=8QTaTK7xyt8>

Year of publication: 2013

MDML #30: The DOMINICshow (Dominic Kyle Sandoval)

<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=LAepXz13TqY>

Year of publication: 2013

MDML #31: Tanner Braungardt

<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=zY7dgY5z4ao>

Year of publication: 2016

MDML #32: JoshuaDTV (Joshua Evans)

<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=VxrsTwqM82M>

Year of publication: 2014

MDML #33: DOPE or NOPE (Matthew Fredrick)

[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=n7fDQ\\_Hxmyw](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=n7fDQ_Hxmyw)

Year of publication: 2013

MDML #34: Jacksfilms (John Douglass)

<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=SAHDywxvxuw>

Year of publication: 2013

MDML #35: Jim Chapman

[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=mLzchqmC\\_eY](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=mLzchqmC_eY)

Year of publication: 2013

MDML #36: Alex (Alexander Stephen Orman)

<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=G2QPY7xGJEs>

Year of publication: 2017

MDML #37: Oli White (Oliver Alan White)

Part 1: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=JCKTn-IrluY>

Part 2: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=L8FRMXF5nNs>

Years of publication: 2013 – 2016

MDML #38: Jazza (Josiah Brooks)

<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=JFWw2sXDc7M>

Year of publication: 2013

MDML #39: Zach King

[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=\\_QPmSi9UD7o](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=_QPmSi9UD7o)

Year of publication: 2013

MDML #40: FunForLouis (Louis John Cole)

<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=8vHaENsYR8g>

Year of publication: 2013

MDML #41: Anonymous  
Unpublished  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #42: JC Caylen (Justin Caylen Castillo)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=mDe2sM3ACV0>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #43: TGFBro (Jamie Michael Swingler)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=PydBFOk1Csw>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #44: Burnsy (real name not public)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=zc5usIb0zoo>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #45: Infinite Lists (Caylus Cunningham)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=PbL4AL4Smvk>  
Year of publication: 2017

MDML #46: Shonduras (Shaun McBride)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=BIE1B9R64Rg>  
Year of publication: 2015

MDML #47: Julien Solomita  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=pyxRIDsjcBU>  
Year of publication: 2014

MDML #48: Alex Aiono  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=S4u0O3mgrHU>  
Year of publication: 2017

MDML #49: Kwebbelkop (Jordi Maxim van den Bussche)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=zWoKJNTAAAbA>  
Year of publication: 2014

MDML #50: Jonathan Joly  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=qnKVnFIRkAk>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #51: Jus Reign (Jasmeet Singh Raina)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Po1y\\_wtcXE4](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Po1y_wtcXE4)  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #52: DavidParody (real name not public)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=gEiVy4tlyaU>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #53: SmallishBeans (Joel Batty)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=kiQUm-AtFlg>  
Year of publication: 2017

MDML #54: KickThePJ (PJ Liguori)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=4R4O6YxC2VE>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #55: Moretoki (Motoki Maxted)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=yUmwdow7sWs>  
Year of publication: 2017

MDML #56: CreepsMcPasta (real name not public)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=jFCrmxB6Vg0>  
Year of publication: 2015

MDML #57: FaZe Teeqo (Jakob Swärden)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=XrWTLdCBDxs>  
Year of publication: 2016

MDML #58: Tom Daley  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=7Vz4lgcebq4>  
Year of publication: 2016

MDML #59: Conan Gray  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=UIvzS03Jra0>  
Year of publication: 2016

MDML #60: Sky Williams  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=KOsoGMacUxw>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #61: Unspeakable (Nathan Graham)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Rn818GdFeMQ>  
Year of publication: 2018

MDML #62: Chrisandthemike (Christopher Foltz)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=3RXHpoL8Bz8>  
Year of publication: 2014

MDML #63: Anonymous  
Unpublished  
Year of publication: 2016

MDML #64: Mr. Fruit (Christian Miller)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=4GnXqNjoq-Q>  
Year of publication: 2017



MDML #65: Matthew Santoro  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=n3qheJr\\_1pg](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=n3qheJr_1pg)  
Year of publication: 2017

MDML #66: LordMinion777 (George Barnes)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=i1dw-h2hhCY>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #67: Simonandmartinabonus (Simon Stawski)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=1EPO1Zblq3o>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #68: Truegreen7 (Ron Sroor)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=HOsBTfzLvtQ>  
Year of publication: 2017

MDML #69: Behind The Meme (Kyle Bryce)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=6ZoYRNSUOnU>  
Year of publication: 2017

MDML #70: Bijuu Mike (Michael Lucas)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=-vnT\\_WAmv5U](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=-vnT_WAmv5U)  
Year of publication: 2016

MDML #71: LHUGUENY (Logan Hugueny-Clark)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=JQdeLCK6CjE>  
Year of publication: 2017

MDML #72: JayzTwoCents (Jason Langevin)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=1Lw-eSCqyqU>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #73: Graser10 (Zachary Graser)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=LBySkbZvjEA>  
Year of publication: 2016

MDML #74: C4ETech (Ashwin Ganesh)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Vynllm0j5j4>  
Year of publication: 2015

MDML #75: JeffreyFever (Jeffrey Chang)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=1P9KbJIGuLE>  
Year of publication: 2017

MDML #76: SoCloseToToast (real name not public)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=1jU6nqSyvUw>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #77: Mrwhosetheboss (Arun Maini)  
Part 1: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=hdstgPuMrcA>  
Part 2: [https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=xJ\\_C6-Vvx7A](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=xJ_C6-Vvx7A)  
Years of publication: 2016 - 2019

MDML #78: Simon Clark  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=W1KphCUrqJQ>  
Year of publication: 2015

MDML #79: Doug Armstrong  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=g8\\_PXd7A-x8](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=g8_PXd7A-x8)  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #80: The Ukulele Teacher (John Atkins)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=OqspvJB9LI>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #81: Charisma On Command (Charlie Houpert)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=HCeZ5pgU13k>  
Year of publication: 2018

MDML #82: Muyskerm (Bob Muyskens)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Am0Iw\\_ZwV4Q](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Am0Iw_ZwV4Q)  
Year of publication: 2014

MDML #83: SAMTIME (Sam Alan Tucker)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=IfX4f9hbrHs>  
Year of publication: 2016

MDML #84: Troll Munchies (Cody Roeder)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=sCyXTN7Sg-0>  
Year of publication: 2014

MDML #85: Patrick Villarin  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=XwT9w64Sh0k>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #86: Adorian Deck  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=ZaIMU8wTUvc>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #87: CakesByChoppA (real name not public)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Z63dfIw0lgk>  
Year of publication: 2014

MDML #88: Plan Zero (Kyle Skelly)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=MOuqr3nm2KU>  
Year of publication: 2018

MDML #89: MrKravin (Mike Norris)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=hi-sdm-g7a0>  
Year of publication: 2016

MDML #90: Lane Fournerat  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=N5nf3wrxacs>  
Year of publication: 2016

MDML #91: Jay Swanson  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=-MrvL37jTKM>  
Year of publication: 2017

MDML #92: Ryann Soriano  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=uuht4GIz7z0>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #93: Anonymous  
Unpublished  
Year of publication: 2018

MDML #94: Jessethereader (Jesse George)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=m-qz7yHnIKk>  
Year of publication: 2013

MDML #95: Pinkstylist (Charlie Short)  
Part 1: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Pcikhkc2-b4>  
Part 2: <https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=LczxyyKbYsw>  
Years of publication: 2013 - 2018

MDML #96: ImJayStation (Jason Ethier)  
[https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Y3b5g7\\_DkTQ](https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Y3b5g7_DkTQ)  
Year of publication: 2019

MDML #97: ZacharyZaxor (Zachary Todd)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=7Py6TvALISk>  
Year of publication: 2018

MDML #98: Browney (Stan Browney)  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=5SVVmO98W1k>  
Year of publication: 2017

MDML #99: Aaron Burriss  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=HAHYk9Cx6JU>  
Year of publication: 2014

MDML #100: Jamie Miles  
<https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=UeaeiaMBN7w>  
Year of publication: 2014

## Study Corpus

The documents below reflect the software output revision and thematic annotation processes. The revised words and phrases were manually colour-coded in all LIWC2015 and Wmatrix4 output as follows (before being set aside from what I deemed accurate results):

unrelated meaning

weak/diminished intensity in context

personal reference displacement

negative construction

longing/questioning/tense issue

sarcasm/irony

For all raw data, please see the following site: <https://mural.uv.es/ankay/Appendix.html>

## LIWC2015

### Females: Positive

<i>FDML #1</i>			<i>FDML #2</i>	
	plays	fun		love
best	plays	confidence	loves	Well
Yay	played	love	cool	favourite
promise	enjoy	appreciate	alright	fun
promise	cool	Thank	pretty happy	best
well	happy	hope	like	smart
good	enjoyed	enjoy	played	cool
enjoyed	super	enjoy	play	liked
exciting	happy	interesting	play	didn't like
best	best	hope	love	sentimental
exciting adventures	nicest	enjoyed	loved	best
hilarious	amazing	Thank	loved	nice
best	glad	enjoy	play	played
pretty hilarious	comfort	please	awesome	comfortable
exciting	amazing	love	play	greatest

funny	loved	fine	positively	
funny	loved	supportive	love	<i>FDML #5</i>
excited	didn't like	happy	sure	well
excited	loved	love	positives	love
funny	nice	thankful	assure	save
good	easy	happy	positives	Well
excited	laugh	helping	healing	beautiful
happy	smile	Thank	good	Thanks
I liked	honestly		smiles	Nice
cool	smiling	<i>FDML #4</i>	awesome	welcome
amazing	happy	Okay	love	party
awesome	stronger	Well	amazing	lovely
loved	play	honestly	truth	amazing
sunshine	play	proud	definitely	gentle
happy	Super	glorious	thankful	wonderful
happy	play	loved	hope	loving
love	love	strength	hope	fun
support	play	loved	true	loving
love	awesome	appreciate	loves	playing
love	creative	thanks	promise	Luckily
easy	active	great	Thank	favourite
love	great	talent	nice	wonderful
support	pretty awesome	honestly	good	fun
happy	sure	desire	hope	okay
happier	loved	honestly	okay	well
thank	interested	desire	happy	fun
love	interesting	easy	okay	okay
	Surprisingly	create	Ready	smile
<i>FDML #3</i>	super	healthy	okay	created
care	love	importantly	happiness	strong
loved	support	love	love	care
pretty	comfortable	better	good	happy
active	true	true	don't like	excited

happy	Promise	pretty	okay	thank
excited	happy	cool	I liked	love
loved	healthy	good	passions	super
happy	well	honest	Okay	cute
best	well	best	nice	awesome
loved	special	best	love	happy
fine	save	well	amazing	amazing
play	happy	best	safety	thank
funny	special	would like	good	supported
best	beautiful	nice	amazing	honestly
played	great	best	nice	amazing
play	happy	won	happy	honestly
playing	fun	definitely	happy	definitely
played	best	proud	inspired	better
save	Good	comforting	Desire	thank
greatest	Luck	comforting	Inspire	amazing
lucked		supercute	loved	thank
pretty	FDML #6	Definitely	great	cutest
loved	Okay	good	nice	adorable
heal	cute	super	amazing	Okay
easy	love	amazing	nice	kidding
shared	sure	opportunities	honestly	loving
good	good	liked	happy	best
Well	passion	blessed	amazing	truly
beautiful	played	definitely	great	cool
love	good	favourite	didn't like	truly
safe	played	blessed	opportunities	amazing
happy	cool	sure	happy	sure
beautiful	good	warm	well	active
beautiful	cool	thank	amazing	played
awesome	won	best	amazing	excelled
special	award	pretty	creative	good
beautiful	award	good	supportive	Alright

good	creative	love	excited	surprising
better	freedom	truly	excited	definitely
true	passion	great	excited	amazing
great	favourite	adventures	sure	encouraged
best	pretty	love	excited	strong
won	strong	laugh	super	talent
award	truly	adventure	happy	good
award	thank	adventure	awesome	creative
pretty	good	excited	hope	creativity
cool	amazing	happy	enjoyed	luck
valuable	best	happy	fun	ready
challenge	luck	excited	fun	enjoyed
pretty	awesome	share	hope	beauty
smart	favourite	love	enjoyed	loved
well	good	opportunities		share
awards	enjoy	best	FDML #7	love
sure	love	comfort	pretty	support
cool	glad	ready	best	encouragement
nice	free	excited	enjoy	energy
okay	opportunities	pretty	adventure	great
excited	admired	support	played	opportunity
love	truly	hope	cheer	loving
fun	passion	enjoy	pretty	supportive
funny	amazing	please	save	encouragement
definitely	adventure	excited	nicer	courage
definitely	sure	good	best	engaged
creativity	pretty	glad	play	beautiful
create	sunshines	positivity	active	better
create	confidence	pretty	good	Thank
share	truly	super	created	hope
desire	honest	excited	love	share
inspire	support	promise	cute	funny
best	sharing	opportunities	favourite	love

hope	Okay	happy	play	cool
enjoyed	fun	I like	create	jokes
	super	cute	loved	good
<i>FDML #8</i>	happy	happy	pretty	liked
super	excited	best	well	liked
excited	favourite	enjoyed	pretty	play
OK	favourite	enjoyed	good	played
OK	good	Thanks	playing	liked
Hopefully	Best		great	well
favourite	profit	<i>FDML #9</i>	confident	care
favourite	impressed	support	partying	rewarding
excited	advantage	confidence	party	appreciate
play	didn't like	share	party	cheer
favourite	you like	created	partying	happy
favourite	better	thank	playing	cheer
favourite	best	support	enjoyed	interested
amazing	best	hope	glad	partying
play	awesome	enjoy	good	happy
Best	hope	love	hopes	played
play	good	pretty	romance	hope
better	don't like	good	I liked	stronger
party	better	great	ready	hope
play	did not like	well	played	happy
better	sure	play	playing	
super	pretty	loved	reassuring	<i>FDML #10</i>
best	good	true	heals	giving
best	liked	smart	peace	I like
didn't like	I liked	glad	happy	truly
best	Peace	encouraged	free	warm
play	happy	good	cute	playing
I liked	love	nice	funny	play
Okay	bestest	playing	kind	opportunity
fun	better	play	interests	laugh



funny	encouragement	funny	accept	love
strong	confidence	pretty	fun	perfect
appreciated	greatness	love	fun	good
favorite	comfortable	loved	pretty good	exciting
cheer	cared	lover	freedom	thank
easily	cool	nurture	bright	loving
smart	fine	loves	sure	encouraging
liked	save	cool	good	supporting
play	comfort	pretty	hoping	love
hoped	silly	awesome	best	good
love	smile	good	warm	special
great	encouragement	well	kind	thank
pretty	love	good	amazing	beautiful
encouraged	promise	encouraging	love	hug
fine	inspiration	bright	inspiration	
good	love	would like	loved	<i>FDML #12</i>
happy	beauty	hopefully	loved	definitely
interesting	happiness	ready	awesome	good
liked	hope	good	Promise	hopefully
kind	enjoyed	definitely	cool	enjoy
confidence	to like	thankful	good	okay
beautiful		share	good	Okay
pretty	<i>FDML #11</i>	exciting	good	Okay
well	cool	excited	nice	love
better	true	good	share	pretty
hoping	loved	good	wonderful	great
enjoy	care	cool	kind	nicest
care	agreed	hope	thankful	sweet
courage	best	excited	inspired	super
good	play	true	nice	happy
shared	funny	well	kind	loved
interests	smarter	laugh	loved	peace
support	good	laugh	loved	kidding

good	won	cute	better	sure
better	award	kind	laughter	excitement
nice	laughed	play	funny	nicest
played	happy	super	Thank	blessed
good	okay	loved	creative	love
playing	playing	loved	hoping	I like
loved	laugh	funny	support	smile
good	happier	smart	nicest	better
play	nice	cool	successful	laughter
honestly	cool	enjoy	awesome	would like
okay	good	playing	better	thank
pretty	impression	silly	interest	Thank
fun	okay	best	confidence	amazing
awesome	sweet	play	smile	appreciate
adorable	love	Super	play	love
smartest	cool	playing	happy	hope
kiss	cute	pretty	better	inspires
kiss	adorable	nice	created	perfect
best	happy	share	created	awesome
best	pretty	complimented	popular	Thank
hope	awesome	happy	created	love
well	happy	smile	joy	enjoy
awesome	happy	loved	Love	sure
cool	Well	care	pretty	
super	sure	loved	decent	<i>FDML #14</i>
liked	Okay	playing	best	beautiful
honest	Love	excited	joking	nice
good		care	played	cute
nice	<i>FDML #13</i>	funny	pretty	loved
happy	share	laughed	okay	good
play	create	enjoyed	play	excited
play	super	comedian	Play	well
loved	special	laugh	pretty	excited

freedom	best	best	thank	played
awesome	okay	loved		Fantasy
exciting	awesome	fun	<i>FDML # 15</i>	playing
nice	best	enjoy	best	Fantasy
excited	best	humour	best	adventures
best	awesome	beauty	wonderful	amazing
exciting	well	best	cool	perfect
truebest	okay	beauty	best	party
best	best	happy	shared	party
yay	best	happy	nice	cool
happy	interest	good	play	Fantasy
best	beauty	laugh	awesome	sweet
best	loved	best	play	enjoyed
cool	fun	best	play	played
laughed	best	happy	best	didn't like
joke	Pretty	best	play	play
best	good	best	play	played
best	talented	best	Super	Fantasy
laughing	loved	happy	interested	playing
fun	best	relieved	keen	Fantasy
excited	happy	happy	sharing	best
peace	best	happy	played	sure
excited	best	beauty	Best	awesome
great	partied	love	surprise	super
best	fun	happy	excited	cool
interests	pretty	beauty	lucky	favourite
liked	awesome	happy	nice	fun
happy	fun	happier	advantage	cool
best	best	hope	fun	enjoy
fun	well	best	played	fun
grateful	best	hopefully	glorified	lucky
successful	best	truly	Hero	laughed
fair	best	love	fun	fun

well	pretty	benefits	adventures	enjoy
special	definitely	parties	comfortable	love
special	fun	good	amazing	amazing
comfortable	definitely	cheer	I liked	Good
hope	fun	cool	fun	great
enjoyed	great	win	creative	definitely
hope	super	win	excited	Well
care	super	win	exciting	perfectly
thank	happy	cheer	definitely	exciting
Thank	happy	loved	fun	well
hope	definitely	excited	grateful	happy
enjoyed	best	hope	creating	fun
	best	enjoyed	excited	interesting
<b>FDML #16</b>	loved	thankful	to like	brave
appreciate	cheer	amazing	best	adventures
hope	best	amazing	definitely	inspired
enjoy	won	special	proud	share
pretty	champions	fond	hope	create
smart	glad	definitely	enjoyed	passionate
best	loved	please	played	passionate
awesome	accepted	okay	nices	happy
good	glad	surprised	play	
honest	best	share	fun	<b>FDML #17</b>
nice	hilarious	Alright	proud	hope
well	share	amazing	best	enjoy
I liked	best	welcoming	cool	glorious
okay	shared	amazing	proud	pretty
good	liked	cool	love	love
well	Pretty	amazing	hope	love
Fortunately	cheer	opportunities	creating	popular
plays	amazing	honestly	excited	share
love	glad	pretty	Okay	Pride
good	opportunity	fun	sure	interests

loved	good	important	best	good
favourite	hopefully	comfortable	easy	silly
gorgeous	thank	amazing	best	fun
beautiful	exciting	amazing	beauty	created
Love	amazing	talents	beauty	enjoyed
favourite	win	desires	okay	fun
funny	positive	amazing	best	free
laugh	amazing	gorgeous	funny	fun
Strong	love		cute	enjoyed
smile	supporting	<i>FDML #18</i>	liked	happy
loved	strong	share	best	best
good	I like	cool	fun	OK
great	love	better	good	happy
amazing	diving	loved	happy	supported
support	fun	play	amazing	favourite
loved	appreciate	perfect	fun	thank
appreciated	amazing	fun	hope	support
surprised	sure	nice	okay	true
surprise	interesting	devotion	happy	Thank
best	amazing	laughing	thanks	love
excited	appreciate	funny	happy	Thank
best	passion	joke	created	
happy	love	pretty	enjoyed	<i>FDML #19</i>
playing	love	treat	funny	entertainers
playing	kiss	excited	love	thank
playing	funny	fun	laugh	gratitude
fun	care	play	funny	Well
diving	good	laugh	loved	grand
interested	happy	happy	create	neat
diving	desires	laugh	proud	play
good	love	didn't like	fun	interest
best	care	perfect	ready	creative
challenge	love	fun	good	plays

support	talent	stronger	best	happy
loved	Adventures	better	better	proud
loved	better	best	free	happier
kind	accepted	kind	didn't like	good
better	encouraged	loyal	good	happy
well	best	fair	best	kiss
didn't like	pretty	well	happy	thanks
happy	well	Favorite	best	thanks
creative	supportive	Favorite	well	kiss
created	confident	entertainers	appreciate	pretty
love	ready	thank	best	cool
diving	excel	love	great	well
hero	Funny	thank	definitely	romance
Courage	good	thank	well	love
well	success	Thank	great	ok
won	inspiration	helping	liked	good
parties	well	true	fun	best
Definitely	good	thank	good	good
creativity	proud		nice	free
credits	hopefully	FDML #20	good	great
loves	encouraging	Welcome	happy	interesting
joy	loved	interesting	great	surprise
passion	creation	better	talented	great
well	exciting	happy	cool	promise
better	better	fun	cool	cool
certain	well	well	cool	love
fun	surprisingly	sunny	Well	great
favourite	play	pretty	Well	happy
pretty	strength	great	happy	good
sure	courage	great	luckily	happy
accepted	kindness	love	accepting	love
good	love	smart	accepted	care
original	okay	love	nice	good

great	amazing	happy	hope	true
beautiful	favourite	loved	Thanks	best
healed	cool	fun	love	laugh
happy	loved	pretty		beautiful
healthy	special	beauty	<i>FDML #22</i>	care
strong	joking	best	likes	happy
easy	special	healthy	thankfully	importantly
easy	share	funny	loved	healthy
love	created	laugh	I liked	confident
happy	share	pretty	I liked	loving
healthy	free	free	security	better
great	good	beauty	Amazingly	smiling
great	well	awesome	perfectly	trusted
okay	good	happy	fine	care
good	happy	fun	happiest	smiled
okay	played	helps	play	great
happy	popular	honestly	challenge	smiling
thank	interested	best	sure	loved
love	excited	happy	thank	beautiful
	fun	love	amazing	confidence
<i>FDML #21</i>	playing	love	super	amazing
welcome	interest	love	kidding	excited
entertaining	pretty	love	resolved	share
comfortable	free	thankful	best	fun
funny	free	awesome	loved	perfectly
loves	create	awesome	plays	fine
laugh	beauty	thankful	creative	interest
fun	fun	support	playing	liked
surprise	happy	hope	laugh	shared
better	awesome	share	laughed	helping
well	cool	thank	please	resolved
loving	popular	awesome	amazing	amazing
favourite	liked	positive	hilarious	loved

comedy	loved	care	surprisingly	best
laugh	brilliant	cared	honestly	fun
supported	smile	winner	plays	best
great	laugh	Honestly	favourite	pretty
success	loved	care	popular	fun
love	created	happy	Fine	good
happiness	energy	honestly	entertainment	diving
creates	well	liked	honour	love
happy	good	nice	amazing	thrilling
great	well	charming	Fine	best
love	Honestly	best	entertainment	great
positivity	save	amazing	amazing	played
Happiness	grateful	honestly	Honestly	played
honestly	compassion	pretty	honestly	fun
smile	positive	cool	blessing	good
good	easy	lucky	thank	best
popular	fair	proud	Thank	pretty
truth	happiness	honestly	thank	good
inspires	please	easy	appreciate	exciting
Good	laugh	honestly	special	pretty
good	strength	care	love	played
love		okay	hope	fun
positivity	<i>FDML #23</i>	Well	enjoyed	favourite
true	honestly	honestly	thanks	adventures
laugh	amazing	challenge		adventures
truly	thank	challenge	<i>FDML #24</i>	kiss
grateful	honestly	wow	Okay	kiss
beauty	honestly	well	Well	good
joy	thank	challenge	I like	supported
perfect	sweet	well	thankful	cool
positivity	Honestly	amazed	loved	cool
easy	honestly	honestly	fantastic	positive
perfect	special	awesome	best	thankful



grateful	interested	pretty	Okay	Okay
happy	creative	great	fun	Okay
fun	definitely	Okay	well	Fine
true	Pretty	grace	Fine	fun
amazing	super	grace	okay	well
brilliant	exciting	super	talent	winner
thanks	Bliss	fun	fun	won
Thanks	amazing	great	awesome	Yay
happy	share	Okay	happy	shared
good	amazing	okay	Okay	fun
favourite	adventure	super	Well	entertain
Lively	importantly	super	good	loved
Lively	good	super	okay	Well
favourite	sharing	gorgeous	credit	luckily
loved	thank	super	Okay	fun
loved	amazing	super	good	great
appreciate	best	support	well	well
Good	support	sure	gorgeous	well
good	thank	good	to like	love
good	Well	impress	innocence	love
smile	hope	better	good	loved
Okay	enjoyed	beautiful	fun	good
kidding	sure	handsome	fine	Well
thank		smart	beautiful	talents
love	FDML #26	better	pretty	Sure
	good	play	pretty	great
FDML #25	Okay	flirt	Okay	love
Precious	great	I liked	well	Talent
best	Okay	smart	great	Talent
best	beautiful	encouraged	good	joking
opportunity	definitely	better	fun	great
opportunity	great	love	exciting	okay
exciting	awesome	Yay	care	super

great	love	smart	beautiful	thankful
wonderful	hoping	best	beautiful	love
definitely	thank	share	nice	love
loved	entertain	super	wow	happier
care	entertain	well	definitely	positive
care	thank	adventurous	pretty	thankful
good	love	fearless	happy	blessed
good	Thanks	fearless	good	thank
okay		loves	partying	love
happy	FDML #27	definitely	cool	successful
happy	okay	fun	cute	definitely
good	sweet	love	legit	promise
best	sweet	helping	legit	beautiful
best	sweet	strong	better	beautiful
love	cute	super	please	cool
best	loved	super	glad	nice
best	loved	nice	thankful	supportive
forgive	fond	nice	happy	encouragement
love	lovely	easy	certain	positive
good	loved	easy	freedom	supportive
good	proud	grateful	great	happy
good	blessed	super	pretty	amazing
awesome	amazing	happy	awesome	best
I like	super	wonderful	pretty	best
create	awesome	fun	pretty	blessing
inspire	awesome	beautiful	blessed	nice
love	super	loved	love	wow
loved	fair	good	share	better
love	well	well	shared	hope
love	fair	love	active	enjoyed
loved	super	favourite	fun	thank
love	creative	loved	love	
love	super	favourite	Beauty	

<i>FDML #28</i>	okay	happier	fabulous	happy
hope	good	loved	best	Well
enjoy	pretty	thankful	party	peace
lovely	played	great	easier	strength
favourite	fun	enjoy	happy	good
favourite	fun	I like	to like	better
beautiful	super	beauty	care	forgive
Winnie	fun	Beauty	hopes	faith
funny	pretty	best	better	giving
Winnie	super	thankful	easy	good
favourite	handsome	opportunity	playing	funny
favourite	super	thank	perfected	helping
awesome	popular	hope	better	opportunities
super	pretty	entertain	happiest	better
care	surprised	enjoy	easily	best
pretty	likes	hope	excited	loved
nicest	super	beautiful	funny	save
loved	I liked	hope	laugh	cute
fun	great	amazing	happy	encouraged
pretty	great	definitely	laugh	prize
wealthy	loved	hope	great	winning
playing	enjoyed	beauty	Luckily	best
super	best	Thank	free	best
fun	proud	giving	sure	hoped
best	pretty	love	hopes	Amazing
Winnie	pretty	love	better	hope
please	thankful		good	encouragement
please	definitely	<i>FDML #29</i>	better	better
great	improved	relax	caring	grateful
dignity	best	Well	partying	Thank
pretty	forgive	easy	funny	Thank
cool	love	super	laugh	creative
hug	better	party	healthy	amazing

love	super	great	happy	okay
hope	confident	great	well	cool
enjoyed	happy	giving	super	Yay
	pretty	free	happy	love
<i>FDML #30</i>	super	free	super	Yay
welcome	super	funny	nice	fair
super	nice	better	play	cool
good	well	well	special	smiled
better	awesome	great	best	bright
pretty	great	loved	best	cool
super	pretty	sure	okay	Great
happy	pretty	loved	happy	Well
super	super	parties	better	I like
good	sure	love	super	pretty
hoping	great	party	happy	pretty
okay	great	party	goodness	happy
pretty	happy	great	happily	happy
nice	super	well	love	pretty
play	happy	good	super	happy
best	great	excited	happy	positive
nice	great	well	great	positive
best	happy	love	amazing	cool
super	Well	cute		loved
super	best	great	<i>FDML #31</i>	cool
super	okay	well	Ready	play
excited	happier	great	smile	hugs
best	great	great	cool	cool
nice	super	well	Cool	super
sunny	happy	exciting	Okay	happy
cool	well	best	love	pretty
super	great	proud	love	good
nice	great	well	kidding	care
super	good	well	Well	wow

cool	good	play	parties	cool
love	love	Party	appreciate	jokes
nice	love	nice	super	joking
love		super	cared	fun
great	<i>FDML #32</i>	better	happiest	nice
Good	okay	happy	happy	sweet
play	okay	care	greatest	I like
good	thank	perfect	passion	super
happy	thank	happy	excited	charm
well	honestly	fun	sure	cool
liking	support	thankful	awesome	funny
I like	happiest	pretty	creating	happy
Okay	hope	thank	amazing	interested
pretty	enjoy	happy	award	happier
liking	great	played	great	love
to like	lovely	played	alright	amazing
well	joy	played	I like	happy
happy	super	happy	great	pretty
exciting	loved	welcome	fun	easy
interesting	adorable	amazing	thankful	awesome
fine	joy	wow	hopefully	amazing
happy	loved	care	better	great
amazing	awesome	cared	super	loved
cool	loved	care	flexible	didn't like
awesome	loved	care	passions	passionate
interesting	loved	care	definitely	okay
fun	playing	care	super	play
good	super	well	cool	love
Okay	important	happy	party	passionate
love	surprised	Happy	awesome	share
great	loved	enjoyed	good	passion
love	play	happier	well	interested
happy	Party	good	relaxing	perfect

play	liking	love	fun	fun
okay	best	grateful	fun	well
funny	loved	Thank	excited	I like
happy	best	support	good	grand
passion	pretty	hope	hugging	adventure
happy	great	enjoyed	adventure	
honestly	easy	cool	well	FDML #35
thank	enjoyed	rewards	care	share
happy	great	Thank	enjoyed	enjoy
joy	fun		fair	enjoy
happy	best	FDML #34	agreed	Okay
happy	good	best	fair	better
passionate	interest	play	good	well
share	favourite	we liked	courage	exciting
thank	surprised	good	fun	better
thankful	liked	lover	flirting	well
support	fun	fun	agreed	better
share	liked	cool	kissing	better
thank	fun	fun	warm	yay
support	happy	fun	good	loyal
amazing	love	good	liked	healthy
passion	amazing	best	didn't like	loved
confidence	happier	fun	didn't like	well
joy	sure	proud	good	loved
love	loved	lucky	Sure	honest
thank	encourage	didn't like	comfort	cool
love	create	healthy	enjoying	cool
fun	keen	lucky	interested	cool
thank	created	lucky	interest	cool
love	creating	well	supportive	I like
	lucky	please	well	I like
FDML #33	happy	nice	best	perfect
loved	thanks	best	support	beautiful

playing	wow	definitely	fun	thank
well	pretty	strengthened	fun	best
Please	cool	inspired	beautiful	supporters
good	interested	love	fun	OK
good	cute	honestly	best	Thank
well	best	best	lover	Wonderful
awesome	excited	love	funniest	
talent	excited	happily	jokes	FDML #37
Championships	fun	romantic	kiss	welcome
cool	happy	beautiful	sexy	nice
wow	happy	happy	enjoyed	playing
pretty	well	true	OK	sunshine
love	easy	definitely	best	great
good	good	played	Well	loved
Better	sweet	definitely	party	dearly
well	romantic	strengthened	best	best
funny	best	strength	party	definitely
good	romantic	smiles	love	loved
proud	cool	inspiring	sexy	play
definitely	happy	Thank	best	play
okay	yay	hope	best	favourite
easier	definitely	enjoyed	good	play
fine	played	definitely	happy	adventures
care	loved	care	happiness	love
admirable	sure	thank	beauty	playing
well	best		comedy	agreed
appreciates	love	FDML #36	truly	love
loves	approve	Thank	comedy	welcomed
loved	care	love	love	creative
important	stronger	loved	laugh	super
excited	stronger	best	joy	best
care	loved	best	care	nice
giving	well	OK	Hopefully	great

well	opportunities	better	pretty	forgive
support	lucky	good	well	happiest
honestly	pretty	love	interests	honestly
best	loved	loved	likes	happiness
best	loved	well	pretty	perfect
cute	best	love	adorable	best
easy	strength	well	amazing	positive
liked	better	cute	attracted	honestly
kind	best	cute	pretty	love
super	love	loved	good	loving
cute	best	cute	love	good
play	thank	liked	nice	thanks
super	Thank	liked	love	hope
supportive	grateful	loved	love	enjoyed
welcomed		love	exciting	hope
support	<i>FDML #38</i>	better	honest	enjoyed
easier	better	super	pretty	
happy	pretty	happy	surprisingly	<i>FDML #39</i>
super	interesting	strong	happy	popular
fun	well	beauty	better	share
support	pretty	sure	sure	supportive
shared	happy	okay	okay	awesome
love	ready	happy	excited	Well
super	super	supportive	honest	amazing
laugh	good	excited	best	amazing
loved	care	beautiful	super	super
creating	good	love	original	cool
super	didn't like	cool	ecstatic	we liked
funny	care	interested	beautiful	better
enjoyed	cute	super	better	truly
interests	kidding	proud	loved	favourite
best	loved	perfect	loved	lucky
accepted	didn't like	loved	best	caring



loved	loved	happy	goodness	play
playing	happy	helps	played	Sure
kidding	play	happy	loved	fun
silly	love	well	succeeding	awesome
okay	created	Thank	good	wonderful
okay	opportunities	happier	helping	you liked
liking	best	sunshines	best	play
safe	opportunities	sure	supportive	play
good	amazing	to like	lucky	play
nicer	super	sure	best	impressed
love	amazing		love	well
playing	Honestly	FDML #40	important	pretty
True	fun	love	loved	loved
great	cared	best	played	pretty
optimistic	fine	greatest	playing	liked
humour	loves	loved	definitely	confidence
bright	impress	loved	Okay	interests
hero	love	happy	well	to like
credit	loves	best	share	happy
giving	trusts	best	Thank	treat
humour	love	best	sure	better
well	strengthened	happy	sure	happiness
sweet	truly	well	awesome	confidence
best	helps	I liked	awesome	fun
parties	best	I liked	Thanks	entertaining
good	good	Yay		sure
amazing	play	happy	FDML #41	interested
funny	laugh	love	sunny	loved
jokes	play	awesome	luckily	funny
smile	laugh	pretty	pretty	love
improved	amazing	best	lucky	pretty
thank	creative	love	pretty	good
hero	helps	play	nice	confidence

I liked	comfort	nice	excited	<i>FDML #43</i>
sweet	Luckily	fun	well	great
safe	liked	best	well	funny
didn't like	liked	play	fun	Okay
liked	happily	cool	best	haha
played	exciting	nice	fun	sure
playing	free	good	funnest	wow
nice	confidence	fine	fun	winning
success	great	nice	well	okay
good	thanks	best	didn't like	succeed
cool	good	cool	good	fine
great	care	besties	best	amazing
enjoy	opportunities	fun	did not like	helps
liked	happiest	good	thankfully	succeed
laughing	best	loved	beauty	stronger
cool	grateful	opportunity	create	best
nice	truly	better	super	good
funny	better	happy	happy	love
liked	love	better	happier	loved
I liked	sincerely	good	well	creativity
certain	hope	popular	cool	loved
pretty	improving	fun	awesome	entertain
peace	hopefully	fun	fun	love
Sure		cool	excited	love
agreed	<i>FDML #42</i>	good	love	Yay
kiss	hope	well	love	excited
pretty	popular	best	love	true
cute	cute	loved	love	super
better	love	won	best	excited
happier	nice	awards	better	Okay
fine	play	cool	thank	Wow
best	loved	better	happier	special
good	cool	fun	definitely	winning

happy	<i>FDML #44</i>	bold	thank	enjoy
favorite	welcome	winning	hope	best
yum	thank	best	enjoyed	cool
yum	Alright	good		special
winning	super	well	<i>FDML #45</i>	liking
important	pretty	partying	loved	challenged
awesome	care	super	fun	better
love	well	super	opportunity	appreciate
create	pretty	playing	love	appreciate
created	playing	pretty	happily	love
hoping	playing	play	liked	best
lucky	played	comfortable	joke	best
happy	awesome	playing	pretty	best
created	lucky	playing	super	best
fun	played	love	excited	thank
playing	played	loved	share	well
love	played	easy	cool	happy
love	loved	pretty	cool	confidence
attracted	encouraging	Luckily	thankfully	glad
attracted	helpful	sure	thankful	respect
true	well	entertainment	good	pretty
passion	satisfaction	happy	funny	won
entertain	joy	gladly	plays	cool
happy	good	grateful	pretty	cheers
helps	proud	thanks	good	pretty
succeed	important	Thank	proud	cool
ok	proud	support	good	best
thank	funny	thank	happy	amazing
funny	proud	grateful	excited	pretty
Thank	good	support	happy	cool
giving	loved	truly	love	do not like
love	gratification	lucky	loved	accepted
	good	blessed	challenge	accepted

courage	played	bright	didn't like	giving
love	best	bright	care	confidence
to like	encouraged	impressed	best	thank
confidence	love	pretty	confidence	helping
glad	special	nice	great	true
comfortable	confidence	Okay	happy	
nice	sure	good	love	<i>FDML #48</i>
sweet	good	nice	enjoy	best
fun	love	cool	true	please
excited	peace	cool	passion	nice
thank	kindness	good	best	cute
would like	wonderful	best	confidence	funny
would like	confidence	best	better	love
love	best	fun	support	good
sweet	share	happy	better	happy
supportive	thank	good	good	super
love	grateful	best	happy	Wow
great	love	hilarious	best	smart
	Thanks	happy	happy	loved
<i>FDML #46</i>		bright	bliss	loved
welcome	<i>FDML #47</i>	better	amazing	favourite
happy	excited	better	supportive	excited
didn't like	play	better	excited	loved
happiness	play	confidence	loves	surprisingly
best	sure	liked	excited	nice
happy	play	happy	best	funny
calm	easy	best	happy	we liked
improved	fun	best	love	excited
love	love	best	thank	best
confidence	good	love	love	excitement
improved	accepted	good	better	great
happy	happy	better	thankful	didn't like
inspiration	loved	cared	Thank	sure

didn't like	happy	hope	loved	truly
okay	proud	wise	loved	true
happy	good	best	handsome	amazing
excited	happy	perfect	wow	entertainment
cool	grateful	grateful	great	cool
excited	happy		success	exciting
best	best	FDML #49	played	proud
adventures	happy	love	yummy	share
excited	best	Super	better	happy
Thankfully	thankfully	cool	playing	Great
peace	fun	super	joy	super
excited	grateful	beautiful	cute	excited
nice	perfect	I like	passions	cool
best	perfect	passionate	loved	best
didn't like	sure	good	loved	lucky
kissing	happy	joke	perfect	wonderful
didn't like	nice	love	share	silly
good	nice	sweet	joy	comfort
happy	liked	great	lovely	super
nicest	love	Okay	play	excited
nice	exciting	love	joy	silly
cared	best	amazing	better	sure
cares	cool	party	amazing	cool
excited	well	nice	blessed	interested
excited	nice	definitely	honoured	giving
didn't like	loved	best	they liked	love
thankfully	happier	cool	share	inspires
fun	best	thank	favourite	giving
thankful	strong	decent	easy	love
excited	excited	loved	easy	excited
thankful	honestly	play	Okay	better
happy	grateful	loved	super	charitable
sweet	best	safe	excited	love

excited	best	love	amazing	super
inspired	trust	Thank	awesome	flexible
excited	trust	best	amazed	great
hope	best	true	okay	parties
enjoyed	happy	supporting	better	easily
sure	best	helping	love	easily
thanks	honest	accepting	beautiful	easier
thank	strong	truly	interested	love
	agree	love	loved	I like
<i>FDML #50</i>	strong	thank	Ok	definitely
favourite	helps	support	loved	don't like
cute	supports	love	playing	super
play	bestest	thank	Thanks	cool
pretty	best		joking	gentle
surprise	true	<i>FDML #51</i>	talent	well
interested	best	wowed	super	tolerance
best	passion	amazing	excited	honestly
pretty	best	Well	play	great
pretty	great	super	play	great
brave	best	excited	play	healthy
laughed	cool	fun	well	Luckily
laugh	supported	create	played	surprisingly
best	sharing	treasure	save	calm
supported	best	create	playing	joke
best	best	play	super	joking
fun	supporter	awesome	sexy	fine
best	Thank	shared	play	sexy
truly	supporting	Well	well	sexy
support	love	super	nice	free
truly	Thank	lucky	playing	super
courage	helping	awesome	playing	important
cute	great	awesome	better	perfect
courage	supporter	playing	playing	happy

happier	Super	loved	romantic	trust
happy	success	pretty	love	okay
carefree	laugh	nice	desire	good
calm	proud	lovely	surprised	precious
peaceful	opportunity	comfort	true	Thank
happy	better	safe	love	
good	better	enjoy	ease	<i>FDML #54</i>
good	honestly	popular	best	welcome
great	lucky	eased	joke	best
awesome	privilege	desire	loving	playing
wonderful	love	adventure	pleasant	fun
laughing	awesome	love	valued	best
joker		inspired	contentment	fun
adventures	<i>FDML #53</i>	best	happy	loved
wonderful	impression	shared	precious	loved
surprise	surprise	good	happy	playing
best	laughter	laughs	blessed	play
laugh	love	good	fun	fun
supportive	good	good	pretty	exciting
love	happy	romantic	special	amazing
love	lucky	love	create	enjoyed
love	fearless	love	special	Beauty
support	bold	creative	share	amazed
laugh	better	liked	well	special
smile	inspired	passion	blessings	Wonderful
hope	created	special	grateful	Beauty
Thanks	easy	honours	contentment	create
hope	loved	proud	popularity	sweet
	creative	love	true	encouraged
<i>FDML #52</i>	passionately	admiration	gratitude	super
party	share	interesting	supportive	excited
hilarious	good	love	kind	adventure
charming	advantage	peace	peace	excited

awesome	kind	love	play	support
truly	encouraging	fun	promises	treat
blessed	good	blessing	play	beauty
amazing	amazement	energy	best	Beauty
bright	amazing	exciting	great	cute
bright	amazing	love	enjoyed	lovely
bright	admiration	strength	wisest	support
enjoy	create	adventures	love	best
excited	inspire	kind	excited	better
easily	fantastic	sure	adored	Beauty
good	amazing	admire	best	I liked
impressive	cared	encourage	parties	perfect
encouraged	important	cared	brilliant	Well
encouraged	best	kind	playing	free
best	loved	fine	caring	Beauty
rich	good	excited	favourite	well
good	encourage	thank	adore	fun
goodness	Well	adventure	beautiful	humour
Beauty	save	bless	special	best
fantastic	best		carefree	best
original	Well	<i>FDML #55</i>	care	lucky
good	well	super	treat	beautiful
Well	create	excited	credit	beautiful
happy	amazing	play	truly	luckiest
smiling	enjoyed	fun	love	better
laughing	best	great	relief	surprised
thank	create	best	great	champagne
free	fun	loved	stronger	happy
pretty	encourage	play	better	adventure
hopes	encouraged	entertainment	happier	sweetheart
delicious	sweetest	fondness	appreciate	interested
would like	encouraged	grateful	super	exciting
super	love	loved	lucky	fun



glamorous	perfect	best	kidding	super
loved	beautiful	beloved	attract	yummy
positive	super	happy	love	super
parties	amazing	fun	love	fun
Grand	good	excited	luckily	love
truly	playing	I liked	excited	happy
lovely	best	happy	fun	strong
supportive	parties	exciting	loved	love
hopes	definitely	enjoying	loved	best
supportive	favourite	I like	honour	blessing
grateful	fun	ready	funny	truly
lovely	smile	favourite	fun	love
happiest	beautiful	favourite	win	happily
love	blessed	good	award	sure
support	awesome	love	won	cared
best	loved	yummy	best	inspired
appreciative	cute	treasure	favourite	beautiful
better	beautiful	exciting	honours	inspired
good	luckily	fun	nice	beauty
special	perfectly	sure	awesome	created
delicate	fine	good	good	loved
Thanks	fearless	special	good	amazing
	love	fun	loved	enjoyed
<b>FDML #56</b>	cool	beautiful	favourite	helping
challenges	good	perfect	fun	loved
share	adventures	fun	cool	beauty
glamorous	fun	super	amazing	super
pretty	helper	excited	True	excited
awesome	sure	adventure	awesome	true
favourite	playing	great	passionate	helping
cool	play	nice	cool	excited
liked	nurture	play	neat	blessings
definitely	proud	play	loved	opportunities

success	Luckily	beautiful	loved	promise
opportunities	Well	wonderful	created	better
thank	play	encouraged	loved	better
Thank	pretty	valuables	super	respect
*	good	luckily	popular	proud
sure	calm	kind	true	positive
favourite	strong	generous	love	exciting
created	dear	best	respect	hope
enjoy	luckily	definitely	amazing	love
good	fun	free	respect	support
true	Well	strength	funny	love
challenges	created	better	truly	promise
good	win	Thank	love	Thank
sharing	happy	honour	fave	love
ready	love	love	created	kidding
well	sure	happy	funny	Thank
party	love	ready	loved	goodness
definitely	bright	helping	loved	
happy	great	rewarded	funny	<i>FDML #57</i>
true	super	care	laugh	loves
please	fantasy	rewards	love	happy
care	nicer	free	amazing	important
peace	agreed	party	romance	hope
respected	pretty	amazing	fun	better
giving	well	honest	love	Well
comfort	honestly	good	easy	opportunity
adventure	care	funny	beautiful	excited
fun	excited	super	fantastic	wonderful
parties	excited	share	sure	care
relieved	enjoyed	favourite	great	love
fun	play	funny	truth	care
beautiful	love	loved	truth	smiled
surprise	care	popular	honest	affection

excited	passion	love	fun	giving
play	passion		best	happy
agreed	fun	<i>FDML #58</i>	Fantasy	creativity
excited	happy	welcome	pretty	happy
great	glamorous	play	fine	special
healing	excited	loved	benefit	happy
happy	excited	playing	brave	comfortable
well	Wow	fun	pretty	pretty
heal	definitely	created	sure	loves
Well	interesting	happy	cute	happiness
safe	would like	Thankfully	admire	adventures
excited	confident	smart	Well	loving
healed	support	Thankfully	sure	supportive
healed	confidence	talent	fun	rejoice
thankful	surely	passion	exciting	loved
good	Well	loved	love	accepted
well	cute	good	popular	truly
liked	cute	sure	fun	happy
popular	create	passion	truly	true
pretty	honest	play	partying	love
popular	confidence	favourite	save	share
sexy	confidence	talent	yay	truly
play	creating	accepted	good	love
cool	thank	blessing	creating	sharing
fun	supporting	best	special	thank
liked	encouraging	liked	safety	supporting
save	Thank	Fantasy	passion	enjoyed
cute	strength	well	fun	favourite
confident	hope	cool	supportive	Thanks
cute	strength	share	caring	
compliment	encouragement	adventures	loved	<i>FDML #59</i>
confidence	well	best	importantly	Happy
strength	thank	thankful	good	hope

enjoy	fun	creating	inspiration	support
party	won	create	creating	best
Joy	fun	sure	wow	good
playing	amazing	cute	pretty	great
play	best	sure	pretty	definitely
cool	amazing	thankfully	positive	supportive
well	amazing	grateful	Fortunately	please
love	amazing	awesome	well	hope
fun	amazing	amazing	share	enjoyed
awesome	great	awesome	fun	thanks
cool	enjoyed	play	healthy	sure
jolly	best	easily	please	Thank
won	fun	loved	appreciate	
best	amazing	creative	improved	<i>FDML # 61</i>
award	great	play	happy	fun
cool	hope	easier	beauty	fun
playing	happy	joy	beauty	grateful
playing	great	loved	wealth	lovely
fun	support	popular	important	nice
confident	happy	good	well	played
passionate	encourages	joking	blessed	certain
loved	positive	played	well	true
cool	okay	love	happy	thank
fun	thank	favourite	confidence	ready
fun	sure	share	succeeding	kindness
cool		pretty	creativity	love
fun	<i>FDML #60</i>	good	create	care
surprise	welcome	successful	encouraged	trusted
fun	create	creativity	confidence	gratitude
good	free	better	useful	trusting
pretty	creative	active	original	share
Play	freedom	please	important	nice
nice	support	loved	thankful	lovely

cherished	yay	value	great	played
support	good	okay	opportunities	cool
good	great	loved	interested	warmest
best	nice	loved	thank	strong
love	favourite	bright	goodness	love
well	pleaser	love	excited	good
fine	polite	playing	best	better
surprise	favourite	strong	funny	beautiful
surprise	laughter	determined	well	sweet
happy	care	good	best	gorgeous
well	comfort	support	courage	relief
loved	love	fabulous	good	surprised
playing	amazing	won	good	care
parties	care	play	amazing	proud
fun	loved	cool	free	well
lovely	fun	well	free	accepted
Thankfully	please	intelligence	parties	pleasing
fun	confidence	successful	free	surprisingly
playing	love	amazing	loved	super
play	love	agreed	created	beautiful
great	don't like	charity	played	ready
fun	smart	proud	party	easier
smile	brave	brave	best	improved
pretty	truth	comfort	ready	enjoyed
well	well	great	smiling	partying
loveliest	good	amazingly	party	care
funny	valued	talented	nice	good
lovely	talent	fun	nice	best
interesting	festivals	support	party	fun
lovely	play	great	good	lively
nicer	bright	supported	challenged	best
great	confidence	amazing	won	funny
playing	talent	great	beautiful	happy

determined	sure	Thank	well	love
care	surprised	fun	brilliant	support
fun	surely	good	well	strong
nice	luckily	nice	energy	care
nice	thank	good	welcome	good
happy	goodness	heal	loved	agreed
loved	care	thank	love	important
happy	care	good	confidence	amazing
nicely	helping	comfortable	advantage	amazing
improved	helpful	pretty	wonderful	lovely
kindly	enthusiasm	assured	important	healing
agreed	smart	Thankfully	promised	love
beautiful	love	well	engagement	fun
kind	agree	wealthy	calm	best
sweet	nice	safe	attracted	proud
agreed	good	sure	nice	better
beautiful	glad	please	beautiful	respected
care	thank	please	loving	kindness
please	goodness	important	happy	perfect
good	improved	sure	better	love
smiling	amazing	safe	better	happiness
pleaser	loveliest	support	prettier	love
luckily	determination	strength	agreed	support
free	healing	relaxation	well	care
grateful	improved	thank	important	supported
best	amazing	goodness	good	wonderful
sure	easily	certainly	peace	enjoys
perfect	relaxation	proud	calm	nice
perfect	courage	enjoy	fun	appreciates
happy	amazing	exciting	loving	Well
better	care	opportunity	loved	keen
save	importance	great	adored	helps
grateful	best	fantastic	care	better

funny	amazing	laugh	good	did not like
loves	won	super	amazing	courage
loves	proud	pretty	fun	accepted
super	win	favourite	promising	accepted
positive	amazing	active	proud	fun
definitely	fun	play	thankful	Well
Ok	support	love	blessed	fair
wonderful	inspiration	played	Thanks	loved
care	liked	played		accepted
determined	inspired	talent	<i>FDML #64</i>	good
love	fun	played	lovers	nice
beautiful	passions	best	share	happy
would like	thank	best	adventure	awesome
love	best	playing	cool	sexy
hope	excited	best	Free	good
supportive	Please	safe	I like	good
excited	exciting	cool	cute	good
thank	share	outgoing	super	decent
sweet	Thank	care	happy	safe
	Loyal	original	carefree	good
<i>FDML #62</i>		promising	beautiful	best
promising	<i>FDML #63</i>	ready	play	supportive
Yay	Joyal	amazing	definitely	special
shared	loved	Safe	Well	laughing
favourite	best	pretty	kidding	truly
sure	well	honour	love	promised
pretty	inspirations	talented	cheer	okay
confidence	shared	accept	proud	Best
won	love	awards	play	well
won	cute	inspired	play	save
successful	super	pretty	luck	good
fun	best	successful	happy	didn't like
enjoy	loved	acceptance	cool	trusted

enjoyed	awesome	good	Definitely	well
happy	best	love	comfortable	cool
well	precious	beautiful	super	courageous
honour	happy	share	easy	silly
love	certain	love	nice	passion
party	best	passion	nice	play
awesome	shared	bright	nicest	interests
excited	shared	Thank	outgoing	definitely
strength	determined		best	parties
strength	Luckily	<i>FDML #65</i>	adorable	free
fun	best	amazing	loved	support
super	sure	kind	beautiful	beauty
joke	peace	sweetest	definitely	comedic
hope	well	proud	interest	love
loved	determination	giving	love	beauty
passionate	care	likes	interest	love
certain	loved	honestly	love	inspired
happy	care	proud	interests	well
excited	Thankfully	love	Loved	strength
best	loved	proud	super	loved
Luckily	surprised	love	outgoing	loved
lovely	definitely	comedic	nice	comedy
loved	ready	Alright	definitely	sharing
favourite	supportive	pretty	definitely	humour
loved	kisses	beautiful	definitely	Thank
well	better	easiest	loved	love
loved	support	relaxed	share	truth
partied	happy	easy	well	cool
super	sharing	certain	loving	play
super	fun	certain	humour	played
lol	support	certain	interests	played
humour	safely	special	loved	played
adventure	loving	super	loved	super



super	great	grateful	comfortable	hopes
honestly	best	fun	faith	wonderful
definitely	best	love	strong	comfort
great	love	healing	strong	love
truly	cool	truly	strong	safe
creative	intelligent	happy	proudly	thankful
opportunities	hilarious	care	strong	kind
cool	love	super	hope	determined
party	better	super	enjoyed	popular
wow	happy	happy	loving	better
cool	comfortable	happy	love	best
super	cool	confident	kind	love
important	proud	love	proud	nice
pleased	happier	love	proud	best
care	cool	amazing	Proud	partying
care	super	proud	giving	parties
wise	comfortable	okay	love	truly
well	happy	important	Thank	perfect
happiest	great	Thank	Thank	to like
Party	confident	giving	Thank	treat
play	positive	cool	Yay	loved
super	happy	appreciative		special
improving	energy	hope	<i>FDML #66</i>	healthy
giving	better	hope	share	courage
great	happy	comfortable	best	interested
favourite	strong	happy	loving	loved
wow	beautiful	hope	caring	great
great	beautiful	comfortable	shared	calming
shared	beautiful	hopes	care	calm
giving	beautiful	love	playing	good
great	beautiful	appreciate	enjoyed	care
comfort	happier	hope	flexible	care
true	care	super	love	great

comfort	best	share	valuable	Cutest
excited	beauty	beautiful	promise	play
happy	creating	important	romantically	play
definitely	passionate	appreciative	divinity	best
challenges	surprise	hope	romantic	silly
important	pretty	happy	care	dear
well	good	hope	respect	best
hope	share	better	respect	wonderful
healing	sure	healing	great	super
relax	confidence	love	creative	exciting
sunshine	sweet	thanks	sweet	well
healthy	smile		precious	accepted
healing	grateful	<i>FDML #67</i>	helping	super
positive	care	perfect	sweet	excited
positivity	inspiring	I liked	joy	interesting
better	happy	nice	grateful	I liked
best	passion	adventures	grateful	love
amazing	don't like	create	love	love
important	confidence	popular		great
gently	great	honest	<i>FDML #68</i>	good
definitely	important	cool	honest	party
passionate	love	adorable	thank	grateful
healing	happiness	great	loved	relief
honestly	love	beautiful	loved	pretty
happy	best	creative	enjoyed	happier
stronger	love	cool	awesome	comfort
appreciate	happiness	love	pretty	hopefully
better	succeed	exciting	interesting	accepted
positive	confidence	smart	proudly	excited
challenging	happiness	passionate	amused	super
positive	happy	good	original	super
energy	creative	romantically	easily	excited
positive	proud	loved	ecstatic	winning

best	hoping	acceptable	loved	shared
fun	wise	super	best	encouraged
braver	amazingly	comedy	loved	sure
best	didn't like	cool	Well	pretty
excited	pretty	satisfied	opportunities	kiss
wonderful	glad	great	cared	shared
fantastic	interesting	well	beloved	supported
best	interesting	good	well	fun
Best	happy	care	support	adventurous
pretty	happy	pretty	brave	good
better	innocent	glad	luckily	best
hopefully	didn't like	happy	easy	ready
hope	attracted	happy	easier	loved
Thank	surprise	love	special	best
	excited	thank	good	beautiful
<i>FDML #69</i>	I liked	thank	favourite	super
good	didn't like		best	loved
Okay	fun	<i>FDML #70</i>	better	beautiful
played	fun	hope	free	cool
play	beautiful	enjoy	proud	nice
happy	valuable	lucky	happy	loved
cool	supportive	care	best	excited
happy	cool	adorable	creative	adventure
didn't like	interesting	beautiful	good	party
liked	interesting	played	creative	cute
party	true	play	win	beautiful
Ok	love	carefree	proud	liked
love	easy	excited	talent	loved
amazing	fun	good	smart	Well
freedom	amazing	true	better	luck
adventures	cool	lucky	nice	liked
inspiration	love	nice	good	love
wise	Fun	happy	creative	partying

well	loved	success	happy	Charity
happier	wow	happy	enjoyed	better
care	well	happy	favourite	heal
happy	fun	Thank	favourite	played
well	free		sweets	proud
adventure	great	FDML #71	impressed	loved
adventure	shared	welcome	enjoy	love
definitely	interests	sure	sweets	certain
interesting	interested	save	best	definitely
sure	encouraged	hope	best	liked
strong	loved	enjoy	loved	luck
Well	successful	please	honestly	best
valued	beauty	nice	amazing	best
treasures	exciting	good	loved	to like
Well	happy	thanks	fine	well
accepted	beauty	true	happy	laugh
best	supportive	happy	grateful	definitely
excited	well	nicest	better	best
hopeful	proud	created	great	happier
excelled	opportunities	beautiful	exciting	wonderful
awesome	support	handsome	exciting	honestly
accepted	truly	pretty	happy	happy
well	truly	amazing	pretty	definitely
love	thankful	rather	pleasant	smile
wonderful	great	liked	nice	nice
support	enjoying	enjoy	happy	amazing
excellent	beautiful	enjoyed	importantly	interested
good	great	nice	enjoy	beauty
definitely	love	pretty	loved	love
great	well	enjoyed	talent	great
interest	resolve	enjoyed	best	to like
well	good	liked	play	enjoyed
creative	happiness	enjoyed	Sweet	beauty

amazed	lucky	winning	loved	carefree
grateful	fine	devote	better	love
grateful	happy	play	better	Great
enjoy	sure	kidding	good	best
happy	amazing	truly	best	easy
happy	loved	happiest	nice	amazing
love	awesome	share	support	beauty
plays	energy	joy	support	gorgeous
grateful	sweet	love	best	wonderful
play	brilliant	love	excited	surprised
exciting	love	talented	well	loved
amazingly	best	amazing	honest	trust
happy	beautiful	dear	nice	true
honestly	beautiful	fun	assured	flexible
thank	blessing	Thank	truth	perfect
supported	love	supporting	care	love
hope	important	love	charm	enjoying
better	hero		relief	truth
hopefully	intelligent	<i>FDML #73</i>	Relief	positive
Thanks	funny	grateful	amazing	love
	greatest	love	decent	sharing
<i>FDML #72</i>	importantly	support	best	happiest
Okay	loved	special	wonderful	amazing
true	peace	good	loved	true
loving	loving	ready	well	privileged
beautiful	compassionate	lucky	glad	honest
intelligent	hilarious	nice	love	caring
talented	talented	Luckily	funny	respectful
entertainer	comforting	pretty	handsome	well
excelled	joked	special	kind	happy
honours	laughed	Thankfully	honest	wonderful
certain	certain	relieved	trusting	grateful
successful	love	play	amazing	lucky

amazing	awesome	treat	played	loved
easy	Please	love	favourite	great
beautiful	please	love	won	cute
please	please	happy	prize	nice
strength	cool	loved	excited	play
inspiration	good	perfect	favourite	best
sharing	good	talents	loved	award
better	okay	grace	super	good
hope	please	Thanks	special	super
please	did not like	glory	special	excited
thank	smiled	glory	happy	good
love	Well	awesome	Yay	doesn't like
	okay	share	Honestly	Well
<i>FDML #74</i>	great	thanks	favourites	great
great	great		fun	loved
amazing	love	<i>FDML #75</i>	cool	best
talented	cared	loves	best	care
intelligent	party	hopefully	loved	loved
gorgeous	partying	super	best	super
care	care	super	good	good
ready	ready	liked	excited	super
pretty	beautiful	liked	play	cool
awesome	beautiful	liked	pretty	popular
loved	freedom	to like	amazing	best
playing	love	surprised	love	excited
fond	respect	pretty	best	cool
wonderful	important	good	super	super
excel	loves	pretty	beautiful	super
love	love	sure	cool	super
love	pride	super	beautiful	Well
loved	stronger	pretty	loved	amazing
pretty	love	pretty	favourite	super
intelligent	love	exciting	great	care

free	great	cool	fun	beautiful
great	inspired	sweet	fun	healthy
loved	favourite	cute	great	nice
loved	great	lucky	fond	beautiful
definitely	luckily	hug	didn't like	happy
definitely	sweet	laughed	don't like	nice
hope	better	funny	enjoying	well
hoped	beautiful	cute	super	nice
you liked	comfortable	love	cute	nicer
definitely	favourite	excited	happy	nice
exciting	beautiful	beautiful	enjoyed	amazing
*	care	nice	care	normally liked
loves	laughed	beautiful	fun	positive
welcome	fun	loved	funny	excited
happy	fun	Luckily	beautiful	super
great	luckily	flexible	best	okay
loved	loved	surprised	beautiful	exciting
best	better	excited	relaxed	perfect
happy	good	happy	happy	perfect
cool	fun	truly	favourite	excited
cool	well	happy	pretty	beautiful
kiss	beauty	excited	talented	healthy
romantic	pretty	loved	Well	super
super	super	love	fun	excited
super	good	loved	warm	beauty
pretty	pretty	loved	well	thank
love	happy	perfect	hilarious	appreciate
thank	nice	opportunity	amazing	thank
laughed	beauty	great	love	thank
love	sure	exciting	delightful	pretty
super	luckily	nice	excited	nice
luckily	honestly	romantic	exciting	appreciate
enjoying	proud	beautiful	enjoyed	true

positive	save	love	best	best
definitely	love	love	please	popular
better	love	love	definitely	happy
better	special	beauty	Hope	love
thank	surprise	beauty	enjoy	nice
hope	party	favourite	sharing	sure
enjoyed	true	share	Good	promising
you like	happiness	beauty	Luck	fair
please	love	beauty		excited
favourite	kiss	beauty	<i>FDML #77</i>	love
share	sure	good	Thank	good
Thanks	enjoy	better	thank	best
	wealthy	sharing	Welcome	loved
<i>FDML #76</i>	hoping	satisfaction	Greater	love
love	opportunities	beauty	party	laughing
well	hope	rich	loved	true
love	create	beautiful	share	good
admire	opportunities	wisdom	easier	popular
love	Well	definitely	loved	love
love	true	helps	best	promised
loved	positive	better	play	luckily
well	confident	easy	favourite	well
easy	well	appreciate	win	party
love	love	important	won	good
thank	love	love	share	love
loved	happiness	beautiful	prize	fair
courage	beauty	grateful	excited	confidence
enjoyed	good	love	loved	play
happiness	adventure	love	praised	win
favourite	free	love	best	won
best	enjoying	love	well	played
happy	care	Happiness	to like	enjoyed
loved	satisfaction	Happiness	favourite	excited



giving	loving	amazing	Glad	accepted
definitely	best	better	created	loved
important	shared	good	helping	win
Luckily	loved	happy	fun	fun
beautiful	worship	wonderful	amazing	best
well	played	Creative	smart	love
Gentle	create	accepted	talented	well
love	played	best	beautiful	amazing
lovers	played	amazing	loves	best
great	amazing	amazing	truth	happy
favourite	adored	good	faith	amazing
excited	played	promised	good	interests
loved	playing	caring	glad	favourite
better	super	awesome	helps	amazing
stronger	surprise	inspiring	love	perfect
love	best	Creative	amazing	freeing
thank	perfect	winning	encouraging	faith
Thank	play	awards	loving	Passion
love	fun	love	Best	Worshipping
love	inspiration	good	excited	best
Good	happy	love	happy	loved
	played	love	love	best
<i>FDML #78</i>	beautiful	favourite	wisdom	Passion
glad	loved	super	giving	passionate
excited	excited	encouraged	Save	helping
hug	beautiful	fine	winning	excited
favourite	prettier	honest	stronger	love
loved	favourite	good	strongly	sharing
loved	better	great	loved	truth
loved	awesome	forgive	true	truth
worship	best	happy	loved	inspires
won	best	happy	liked	blessed
loved	best	great	certain	excited

share	better	great	confident	best
amazing	best	ready	liked	surprised
hope	best	good	accepted	Okay
inspires	happy	pretty	well	promise
honest	best	cool	excited	flirt
freeing	love	good	honestly	flirt
love	important	nice	excited	well
excited	created	love	cute	did not like
promise	amazing	well	fabulous	good
	glad	Thanks	Well	pretty
<i>FDML #79</i>	You liked	hope	definitely	Well
Beauty	supported	fun	cute	forgive
fun	love	interesting	nice	Honestly
playing	Awards		honestly	pretty
playing	important	<i>FDML #80</i>	didn't like	relieved
fun	important	loving	attracted	confident
happy	create	loved	interested	care
sunny	winner	honestly	honest	honestly
beautiful	amazing	good	accept	confident
nice	supported	certain	happy	Fine
loved	amazing	favourite	honest	hopes
happy	thankful	loved	love	success
loved	passion	loved	pretty	honestly
best	loved	loved	play	accepted
best	amazing	create	impress	respected
best	amazing	kind	happy	loved
loved	amazing	liked	best	encouraged
fun	winning	talents	excited	excited
fun	greatest	devote	partied	honestly
best	beautiful	energy	definitely	relieved
good	best	honest	honestly	luckily
best	fun	good	party	creative
best	good	did not like	party	certainty

happy	amazing	excited	<i>FDML #82</i>	well
thank	Please	exciting	fun	well
Thanks	hope	best	amazing	confident
	accepted	excited	love	amazing
<i>FDML #81</i>	Hurray	created	loved	amazing
love	excited	excited	enjoyed	best
cool	ready	Wow	playing	Beauty
loved	best	true	best	amazing
playing	happy	love	awesome	true
play	well	excited	pretty	happy
play	thanks	Wow	good	excited
play	best	cool	favourite	well
played	thanks	excited	actively	nice
Hurray	excited	happy	well	liked
play	proud	excited	richest	amazing
play	better	good	happiest	loved
cheer	Haha	excited	well	loved
Yay	Please	hoping	better	laugh
fun	love	hilarious	good	cool
cool	wonderful	favourite	best	engaged
good	good	well	love	fun
Ha	love	good	awesome	you like
ha	amazing	laugh	amazing	you liked
excited	thanks	hoping	great	please
favourite	cute	cool	loved	
good	love	amazing	love	<i>FDML #83</i>
played	thanks	exciting	calm	easy
played	Peace	healthy	beautiful	easy
enjoyed	helping	healthy	beautiful	cool
I liked	amazing	love	enjoying	won
laughed	excited	hopefully	freedom	well
excited	Well	thanks	beautiful	easy
love	please		decent	Sunshine

Sunshine	pretty	credit	super	respect
happy	easier	joke	well	safe
best	pretty	play	rich	happy
easiest	hero	funny	good	happy
cool	pretty	Haha	care	well
loved	okay	hilarious	care	appreciate
loved	nice	play	good	pretty
loved	Well	played	improving	helping
happy	lucky	bright	challenge	rich
easier	luckily	okay	challenge	healthy
beautiful	best	played	beautiful	easy
nice	loved	enjoyed	well	loves
well	rich	playing	nice	well
well	playing	play	safe	better
hero	played	loved	comfortable	love
loved	played	favourite	easier	helping
cute	good	played	good	okay
lovely	happy	playing	happier	save
well	didn't like	easy	better	save
fine	safe	play	lovely	agreed
liked	care	excited	good	supported
beautiful	honestly	amazing	care	surprise
care	happy	happy	truth	helps
well	credit	amazing	best	love
well	Lucky	happy	care	accept
perfect	nice	care	promised	love
party	good	glad	pretty	support
share	happy	care	pretty	hope
shared	okay	play	care	better
shared	okay	play	better	easy
pretty	happy	okay	honestly	strong
fun	surprised	nice	play	strong
excited	hoped	impress	play	strong

love	Thank	loved	nice	nice
proud	Thank	loved	super	didn't like
love	Love	loved	outgoing	peace
love		awesome	fun	beauty
proud	<b>FDML #84</b>	super	cool	beauty
amazing	pretty	cool	loved	loved
smart	nice	I liked	nice	awesome
love	nice	super	loved	nice
amazing	enjoyed	super	nice	honestly
strong	good	liked	awesome	confidence
confident	amazing	creative	cheer	loving
proud	luckily	liked	awesome	awesome
proud	blessed	good	great	super
amazing	great	accept	best	super
smart	awesome	luckily	nice	happy
beautiful	loved	Awesome	amazing	hope
love	super	Welcome	amazing	well
supporters	active	outgoing	honestly	create
funny	playing	super	passions	happiest
Okay	pleasure	luckily	great	active
nice	super	honestly	sweetheart	
better	promise	best	cool	<b>FDML #85</b>
sure	pretty	Best	good	Good
wow	pretty	best	nice	hope
better	good	pretty	best	you like
helping	pretty	awesome	best	care
happy	good	awesome	great	awesome
confidence	loved	loved	pretty	love
good	loved	awesome	Luckily	pretty
happy	good	loved	okay	sure
happy	loved	great	good	sexy
thankful	loved	okay	faith	I like
thank	loved	good	okay	we like

I liked	play	beautiful	amazing	love
love	love	play	amazing	blessed
good	thank	best	interest	pride
cool	helping	besties	love	joy
interests	okay	played	beauty	great
liked	Thanks	challenges	beauty	awesome
liked		best	create	good
I liked	<i>FDML #86</i>	hero	well	party
I liked	play	strong	created	luck
playing	best	grateful	excited	love
I liked	happy	thank	amazing	care
joke	great	happy	thank	loved
pretty	I liked	excited	excited	honest
sure	best	great	happy	cool
strong	Joy	great	truly	best
grateful	Joy	best	happy	awesome
inspired	okay	best	excited	beautiful
play	definitely	glad	awesome	super
inspired	wonderful	share	excited	beautiful
alright	best	interests	awesome	gorgeous
entertain	best	original	enjoy	pretty
love	Luckily	besties	Thank	great
loved	best	love	hope	good
alright	passion	cool	enjoyed	good
alright	love	funny	kidding	sure
love	happy	fun	love	super
playing	okay	great		Well
happy		don't like	<i>FDML #88</i>	cool
laugh	<i>FDML #87</i>	best	Okay	best
awesome	hope	shared	love	best
love	happy	passions	loved	opportunities
love	cute	played	favourite	love
entertaining	love	Beauty	great	heaven

best	excited	play	cool	loved
smiling	save	best	best	super
share	hopefully	love	Well	worshipping
pretty	Alright	perfect	true	great
pretty	love	happier	true	good
sure	love	hope	love	well
love	Wow	definitely	cool	good
luck	Wow	love	loved	good
best	kidding	faith	loved	happy
Well	loved	thank	happy	excited
Surprise	loved	love	fun	enjoyed
fine	please		best	good
okay	Praise	<i>FDML #90</i>	fun	honours
love	loved	Welcome	best	amazing
happy	favourite	happy	fun	great
cute	playing	funny	fun	amazing
happy	cool	fun	good	best
love	cool	smart	sweet	better
happy	fun	sure	super	amazing
kidding	loved	smart	sweet	great
love	great	great	didn't like	best
well	better	nice	great	fun
better	best	pretty	cool	awesome
love	excited	healed	fun	great
awesome	love	great	loved	excited
hopefully	best	perfect	loved	best
happy	love	good	love	true
passion	thank	nice	love	excited
love	welcoming	ok	amazing	good
Kisses	nice	sure	amazing	partying
	loved	better	love	fun
<i>FDML #89</i>	opportunities	fun	lovers	love
special	amazing	super	care	love

favourite	please	cool	loved	helping
enjoy		awesome	assured	beauty
enjoy	<i>FDML #91</i>	awesome	beauty	entertainment
favourites	exciting	fun	enjoyed	fantastic
pretty	hope	good	free	amazing
sure	enjoy	enjoyed	super	thank
better	beautiful	happy	better	thank
awesome	super	I liked	freely	hope
cool	good	okay	better	enjoyed
cool	treasure	good	lucky	well
inspired	best	best	thank	amazing
Smiling	funny	fun	goodness	
love	humour	love	loved	<i>FDML #92</i>
Thank	awesome	definitely	awesome	popular
amazing	super	awesome	best	excited
amazing	super	cool	favourite	hopefully
thank	best	glad	rewarding	amazing
appreciative	playing	glad	funny	amazing
thankful	awesome	value	supportive	amazing
thank	liked	loved	joking	super
thank	playing	loved	well	super
love	liked	well	best	honestly
grateful	good	exciting	festival	best
happy	good	accepted	we liked	fantastic
grateful	excited	cool	good	amazing
supportive	play	cool	best	definitely
blessed	award	care	definitely	definitely
honest	well	loved	pretty	good
hope	award	loved	super	super
sure	fun	playing	gorgeous	amazing
share	happy	lucky	well	beautiful
support	Okay	play	Thank	excited
amazing	good	beautiful	love	awesome



opportunity	talented	loved	helping	greater
super	honestly	super	free	positive
good	better	super	supporting	determined
fine	excited	pretty	fun	hope
talented	awesome	pretty	good	inspires
favourite	proud	best	sure	trust
won	fun	nice	fine	stronger
awards	fun	happiest	fine	
cool	fun	good	super	<i>FDML #94</i>
pretty	amazing	attracted	comfort	loyal
good	amazing	attracted	sure	honest
well	opportunities	super	okay	creative
easy	thank	super	glad	luck
fun	great	good	better	good
best		super	good	best
best	<i>FDML #93</i>	excited	comfort	best
loved	Welcome	good	honestly	played
funny	well	excited	good	favourite
best	welcome	good	comfortable	good
nice	good	sure	pretty	cool
good	sure	best	welcoming	share
fun	happy	comfort	okay	creativity
fun	love	okay	better	Save
best	best	super	proud	play
good	ready	excited	excited	love
pretty	best	play	best	exciting
cool	sure	best	hopefully	share
amazing	best	happiest	thankful	Special
lucky	play	best	share	thanks
amazing	playing	loved	love	love
fun	super	favourite	inspire	
best	super	helping	sure	<i>FDML #95</i>
amazing	best	helping	forgiveness	surprised

cute	best	beauty	pretty	love
amazing	good	best	happy	smiles
lucky	created	thankful	good	lucky
awesome	surprising	best	luckily	amazing
love	love	amazing	Yay	special
best	best	credit	favourites	fun
love	love	Hopefully	Promise	joke
lol	best	thank	encouraged	fun
love	kiss	wise	happy	laugh
super	better	love	courage	treasure
smart	party		happy	challenge
play	parties	FDML #96	happy	won
good	party	hope	truly	happy
loved	fun	enjoy	blessing	funny
popular	parties	beautiful	perfect	love
best	fine	happy	prettiest	great
loved	excited	cute	richest	parties
okay	excited	promise	blessing	loved
loved	loved	happy	thank	party
cool	super	good	support	party
loved	cute	happy	Thank	party
nice	definitely	happy	thank	great
plays	awesome	excited		loved
loved	best	happy	FDML #97	funny
love	cares	warm	lovely	admired
love	super	welcoming	luckily	strength
love	fun	happy	pretty	best
best	excited	happy	sure	best
love	best	confident	love	amazing
loved	to like	talents	likes	best
Gracie	to like	cool	credit	glad
Gracie	super	Wow	fair	Rich
best	thankful	Free	cute	great

cool	ready		comedy	playing
confidence	Rich	FDML #99	happy	smiling
excited	enjoying	luck	Grace	well
well	grateful	interesting	silly	excited
Rich	support	Gloria	we like	loved
surprised	great	Gloria	true	love
happiness	Thanks	Gloria	happy	love
cool		awesome	happy	amazing
won	FDML #98	support	sure	to like
free	Okay	charming	free	playing
best	well	rich	love	play
fun	pretty	happy	happy	loved
easy	cool	great		best
perfect	engaged	hilarious	FDML #100	cool
creative	didn't like	comedy	Welcome	kiss
helps	smart	great	thank	play
Rich	good	happy	enjoy	kissed
helping	cool	thrilled	Okay	play
supporting	best	sure	desire	laugh
opportunity	credit	creative	love	play
beauty	fondness	great	joy	played
beauty	good	creative	happy	hero
well	improved	cares	love	love
free	won	great	play	super
love	awards	thanks	Well	super
opportunity	success	excited	cool	nicely
encouraged	pretty	good	cool	cool
good	best	adorable	liked	exciting
Rich	best	great	nice	well
good	courage	better	loved	heal
passionate	stronger	laugh	cute	well
Rich	playing	amazing	play	jokes
fair	good	Thanks	hope	jokes

jokes	loved	excited	happy	honestly
popular	Okay	perfect	good	love
liking	enjoy	perfect	happy	love
funny	love	happy	happy	enjoy
excited	love	kissed	happy	love
best	love	perfect	happy	truly
great	beauty	beautiful	positive	thank
cute	happy	fine	positive	Thank
care	encouraged	peace	positive	love
cute	loved	fine	positive	support
hopes	loved	smile	good	thank
prettiest	playing	laugh	positive	helping
nice	best	okay	happy	thanks
super	ok	care	happy	
love	trust	appreciate	thankful	
Well	agreed	best	thankful	
promised	loved	happy	happy	
thanks	cute	confidence	amazing	
loved	fun	care	love	
happy	loved	admire	happy	
best	proud	confidence	happy	
best	happy	love	peace	
party	love	loves	thankful	
didn't like	confident	admire	love	
cool	excited	confident	happiness	
pretty	great	Okay	super	
nice	confident	confident	thank	
pretty	happy	happy	helping	
best	good	confident	positive	
care	confident	honest	happy	
best	encourage	confidence	love	
loved	good	beautiful	laugh	
loved	Okay	happy	smile	

<b>Males: Positive</b>	love	lucky	well	better
<b>MDML #1</b>	excited	good	interest	pretty
welcome	well	true	helping	creative
cool	fun	love	surprise	interests
happy	beautiful	love	supportive	interest
happy	best	good	thanks	loved
favourite	best	cool	thanks	great
sure	perfect	fun	thanks	fun
fabulous	nice	popular	thanks	played
favourite	happy	laugh	good	playing
interest	thanks	laugh	thanks	good
play	comfortable	funny	happy	creativity
played	important	surprisingly	better	well
Super	thanks	fun	better	good
cool	happy	fun	okay	well
amusement	proudly	good	easy	Well
honestly	hope	best	challenge	happy
happy	enjoyed	funny	Happiness	enjoyed
laughed	thanks	loved	happy	enjoy
smiled	awesome	laugh	better	sure
great		Well	well	played
interest	<b>MDML #2</b>	courage		great
well	honest	honours	<b>MDML #3</b>	pretty
creative	interesting	Well	honest	awesome
best	well	well	party	smart
playing	lucky	Pretty	Pretty	pretty
accepted	loving	sure	awesome	good
fine	better	Sure	best	play
creative	challenges	lucky	love	love
fun	played	championship	awesome	create
opportunity	Well	beautiful	played	great
success	loved	perfect	happy	better
better	win	sharing	definitely	nice

confident	proud	playing	happy	happy
nice	definitely	playing	important	entertain
loved	honest	Super	fine	playing
warm	secure	played	good	happy
surprise	glad	awesome	great	love
save	happy	pretty	play	thank
pretty	passionate	cool	great	Sincerely
happy	confidence	happy	happy	support
play	thank	happy	pretty	good
amazing	love	well	fun	charity
played	eagerly	pretty	pretty	improve
played	sure	pretty	cool	grateful
awesome	thanks	love	excited	sincerely
enjoying	beautiful	pretty	pretty	thank
pretty	giving	win	smart	best
liked	support	perfectly	bold	thank
well	would like	fine	agree	
honesty	good	care	pretty	MDML #5
easily	good	perfectly	love	cute
okay	Thank	pretty	liked	super
Luckily		win	cool	happy
good	MDML #4	good	nice	good
honestly	thank	good	approve	cool
best	special	Well	helping	playing
amazing	important	Well	pretty	love
Thanks	appreciate	awesome	thankfully	awesome
great	pretty	cool	well	appreciate
adventure	beautiful	awesome	comedy	comfortable
great	beautiful	agree	better	comfortable
enjoying	awesome	nicest	playing	good
ready	sure	agreed	play	best
thanks	awesome	pretty	happy	comfortable
pretty	amazing	excited	care	best

thankful		truly	entertaining	parties
created	<i>MDML #6</i>	confidence	truly	perfect
created	honestly	easier	thankful	excitement
glad	pretty	comfort	happiness	parties
honest	fine	energy	happy	played
best	Winnipeg	faith	happiness	cool
truly	truly	care	easier	success
faith	playing	best	accepted	interesting
happier	best	Pretty	truly	Well
awesome	creative	playing	happy	honest
honestly	impressed	interest	happiness	cool
good	share	love	hope	honestly
helps	cool	creative	Thank	care
truly	cool	good		perfect
Well	pretty	pretty	<i>MDML #7</i>	creative
honestly	pretty	promising	Welcome	love
greatest	good	gorgeous	honestly	Credits
create	free	party	grateful	popular
sure	play	truly	challenging	good
successful	play	loved	important	worthwhile
nice	play	accepted	fun	liked
truly	passion	interest	super	thanks
happy	pretty	interested	important	better
best	popular	love	playing	creativity
inspire	best	Winnipeg	passion	giving
Honestly	laugh	Well	cool	free
thank	excited	agreed	played	sure
supporting	best	truly	dear	best
welcome	laugh	nicely	loved	love
share	compliment	interested	loved	helping
hope	pretty	well	Creative	happy
enjoyed	comfort	would like	fun	best
amazing	truly	talents	cool	entertainment

well	loved	play	supportive	great
true	playing	happy	great	happy
supporting	thankfully	enjoying	great	ok
success	awesome	enjoyed	love	Thank
success	liked	happy	thankful	you liked
helping	playing	interesting	grateful	thank
loyal	happy	gorgeous	thank	
best	original	pretty	thank	<i>MDML #9</i>
support	awesome	save	helping	hope
thanking	love	thankfully	special	awesome
love	playing	alright	great	Welcome
support	surprised	great	thank	special
faith	awesome	determined	giving	better
true	play	amazed	special	thank
	Fantasy	cool	pretty	gratitude
<i>MDML #8</i>	play	share	pretty	blessed
lucky	Fantasy	impressions	good	thankful
beautiful	playing	play	happy	amazing
good	played	enthusiastic	happy	hope
awesome	well	well	thank	encourages
Thank	well	Okay	great	love
beautiful	great	well	great	great
respect	super	win	wonderful	true
amazing	sexy	won	well	surprise
please	great	winners	nice	honestly
thank	advantages	amazing	nice	happiest
hugs	I like	great	thankful	best
pretty	well	play	proud	amazing
Funnily	loved	well	better	Well
best	nice	happier	great	original
loved	happy	best	respect	good
loved	wonderful	happiest	love	good
loved	Fantasy	happy	Thank	healthy



favourite	great	awesome	super	happiest
loved	happy	thanks	happy	thanks
played	happy	cool	adventure	thank
awesome	play	free	Thanks	hope
awesome	thankfully	played	good	awesome
well	happy	loved	loved	wonderful
Freedom	super	loved	supported	safe
proud	super	fun	beautiful	
proud	excited	well	ready	MDML #10
great	loved	opportunity	fun	Thank
greatest	promise	sure	cutest	please
pretty	excited	Wow	good	Thank
favourite	honestly	awesome	wiser	nice
play	loved	cool	happy	caring
play	inspiration	love	true	care
fun	happy	awesome	excited	great
Thank	kind	thanks	love	best
happy	great	thank	thanks	adventure
Sure	happy	love	gorgeous	play
definitely	fun	hopefully	honestly	better
rewarding	good	beautiful	pretty	playing
save	loved	love	honestly	playing
play	awesome	romantic	happy	best
played	honoured	well	hope	definitely
fun	honestly	super	love	better
thankfully	fun	okay	determination	good
super	happy	happiest	hope	sure
proud	passionate	calm	hopes	improve
super	good	amazing	love	popular
happy	agreed	great	bless	entertainment
Wow	awesome	cool	Thank	favourite
proud	gorgeous	fun	best	loved
great	favourite	enjoyable	honestly	create

playing	created	play	good	happier
free	easily	better	heal	sharing
funny	legit	happy	luck	love
hilarious	true	great	stronger	Thank
better	comedy	liked	supported	
jokes	laughing	shared	exciting	<i>MDML #12</i>
didn't like	better	great	exciting	cool
good	thank	good	well	shared
fun	thank	best	joke	loving
interest	grateful	Wise	nice	special
perfectly	sure	okay	good	play
loved	Peace	opportunity	cool	pretty
loved		agreed	Cool	comfortable
loved	<i>MDML #11</i>	best	cool	fun
loved	okay	awesome	cool	save
good	glad	played	excited	created
amazing	pretty	great	support	good
fun	cool	love	happier	good
true	pretty	loved	best	well
laugh	fun	loved	awesome	pretty
attracts	liked	loved	interested	definitely
Love	liked	loved	surprising	didn't like
smart	care	happy	love	accepted
agreed	good	fun	happier	proud
save	opportunity	didn't like	great	play
smiled	happy	playing	encouraged	definitely
Love	cool	play	stronger	favourite
amazing	funny	great	care	better
fun	they liked	pretty	hope	super
best	They liked	pretty	happy	excited
cool	they liked	pretty	better	funniest
awesome	they liked	well	happy	best
created	they liked	okay	certain	fun

well	play	perfect	free	amazing
play	cool	Sure	loved	Super
comfort	fun	sure	fun	Thank
best	Super	helps	happiest	
accept	cool	loved	awesome	<i>MDML #14</i>
passionate	awesome	good	amazing	OK
cool	pretty	super	cool	cool
Amazing	good	super	well	special
true	cool	Super	happy	pretty
thank	funniest	Sunshine	happy	cool
supporting	loved	loved	party	happiest
better	good	cared	better	smiling
truly	better	best	cool	laughing
love	love	good	heaven	joy
thank	better	care	better	Winnie
supporting	adventures	amazing	free	sunshine
favour	good	superior	happy	okay
Good	playing	happy	great	kissed
	cool	cared	Thank	lol
<i>MDML #13</i>	funny	super	thanks	amazing
super	adventures	Well	favourite	Fantasy
cool	laughing	Adventures	cool	interest
cool	laugh	yay	cool	play
play	adventure	good	support	great
thank	adventures	better	love	joyful
loved	loving	better	glad	definitely
okay	loved	happy	love	nice
Super	thank	excited	excited	joke
prize	love	glad	best	joys
love	accepted	amazing	amazing	fun
Super	loved	hope	amazing	fun
played	please	strength	thank	fun
loved	played	better	amazing	better

good	honestly	played	sure	pretty
inspirational	exciting	well	well	created
Wow	interested	love	nice	easier
cool	sexy	best	alright	better
Thankfully	well	glad	sure	good
okay	Please	best	safety	good
fun	enjoyed	won	sure	laugh
Festival	Thanks	award	pretty	good
cool		amazing	amazing	share
well	<i>MDML #15</i>	laugh	amazing	opportunity
good	Good	laughed	opportunities	loved
clever	luck	best	charity	opportunity
playing	calm	good	Relief	amazing
fun	thanks	best	amazing	created
glad	played	best	cool	comedy
perfect	played	well	funny	amazing
cool	happy	good	joke	amazing
luckily	playing	welcome	amazing	best
cool	pretty	surprise	amazing	best
blessing	sure	party	ready	best
okay	happy	nice	special	joke
awesome	playing	safe	ready	honestly
loving	kiss	pretty	thanks	amazing
happier	romantic	happy	thanks	amazing
confidence	kiss	party	hopefully	amazing
great	Well	enjoying	proud	well
love	luck	play	well	well
important	Luckily	save	great	love
safe	loved	Thanks	honest	lucky
please	confidence	I like	enjoyed	love
care	best	Thank	impressions	love
hope	confidence	*	impression	Alright
Okay	well	loving	amazing	alright

calm	Well	silly	supportive	<i>MDML #18</i>
pretty	well	encouraged	truth	pretty
love	best	pretty	supportive	interesting
amazing	best	relax	lucky	inspirational
love	best	free	important	interesting
enjoyed	great	favourite	support	play
happy	won	Adventures	love	loved
	awards	inspired	importance	well
<i>MDML #16</i>	well	fun	cared	well
Thank	best	fair	fun	important
Thank	pretty	share	advantage	better
support	good	Luckily	best	super
Thank	excitement	interested	love	excited
thank	challenge	encouraged	challenge	pretty
blessed	honestly	successful	inspired	improved
entertain	wise	pretty	loving	great
supported	Surprise	silly	enjoy	easy
better	I liked	well	surely	good
best	pretty	fun	loving	free
talent	Fun	supporting	amazing	good
giving	best	amazing	opportunity	pretty
freedom	passion	hope	favourite	okay
excited	well	hope	favourite	awesome
impressed	security	love	true	parties
amazing	encouraged	entertain	care	great
compliment	lol		true	great
best	ready	<i>MDML #17</i>	thank	good
inspiration	well	bright	excited	excited
talent	well	value	loved	good
improve	Amazing	best	sure	amazing
original	Happiness	smart	inspired	ready
comfortable	enjoyed	Luckily	amazing	popularity
beauty	humour	happiness		surprised

excited	great	liked	good	promise
surprising	luck	best	acceptance	enjoyed
fun	opportunity	better	playing	interest
excited	opportunity	certain	certain	played
happy	certainly	interested	acceptance	fine
happy	agreed	played	importantly	good
thankful	smarter	favourite	awesome	good
thank	definitely	favourite	share	love
thank	better	rewarded	true	good
		special	bonus	cool
<i>MDML #19</i>	<i>MDML #20</i>	well	funny	success
Okay	Alright	Adventure	excited	interested
well	hope	good	awesome	okay
pretty	welcome	playing	lucky	certain
wonderfully	hopefully	better	sure	well
pretty	forgiven	pretty	promise	pretty
great	hopefully	surprising	sincerely	better
well	honest	well	sure	desire
didn't like	free	cool	awarded	grateful
Okay	important	pretty	neat	stronger
happy	joy	cool	sharing	support
liked	loved	pretty	share	opportunities
okay	good	awesome	lucky	interested
funny	super	value	super	love
loved	exciting	good	pretty	support
credit	love	good	excited	support
free	special	good	interests	agreed
good	certain	good	strong	improve
okay	playing	decent	Well	opportunity
opportunities	definitely	good	shared	love
super	better	played	interest	best
good	true	agree	free	good
love	strong	playing	enjoyment	share

best	pretty	championship	trust	well
honest	Grace	honestly	okay	enjoy
good	honest	pretty	energy	love
well	important	good	liked	enjoy
best	love	playing	partying	fun
enjoying	shared	played	enjoying	fun
Sure	truth	play	opportunity	better
enjoyed	loved	best	opportunities	truly
awesome	care	love	share	amazing
helpful	love	entertainment	Passion	Well
happier	pretty	Beauty	Pretty	best
pretty	hoping	played	exciting	support
nice	healthy	played	true	amazing
pleased	perfectly	played	pretty	opportunities
happy	healthy	played	good	thank
share	faith	pretty	definitely	happy
sharing	love	pretty	appreciate	excited
good	love	well	beautiful	good
hope	pretty	win	blessed	thank
trust	honest	popularity		fun
thank	free	pretty	<i>MDML #22</i>	hope
Thank	free	awesome	sunny	enjoyed
thank	well	honest	good	Wow
best	pretty	definitely	laughing	thank
Thanks	great	safe	laughed	
thanks	well	happy	Well	<i>MDML #23</i>
	happy	good	best	pretty
<i>MDML #21</i>	loved	enjoying	definitely	original
easy	respect	appreciation	win	pretty
Hope	honestly	I liked	won	Lovely
you like	talented	entertainment	happy	pretty
promise	win	accepted	amazing	pleasant
happy	won	super	loved	jokes

better	nice	inspired	best	adventure
lol	Good	popularity	better	luckily
laughing		love	best	happy
good	<i>MDML #24</i>	brilliant	loving	cool
nice	didn't like	great	happier	I liked
kiss	I like	opportunities	love	best
good	playing	amazing	amazing	okay
Love	sure	enjoyed	caring	funny
well	surprise	best	cool	opportunity
good	well	loving	popular	laugh
good	good	happiest	love	great
good	lucky	loving	positive	festival
well	playing	grateful	best	well
cool	good	Well	inspired	awesome
good	Ok	excited	hope	inspired
good	better	free	happiest	inspirations
enjoyed	best	inspired	Thank	Relief
enjoyed	best	better	love	proudest
special	enjoyed	Please	Thank	good
enjoyed	best	Okay	*	great
good	inspired		good	hope
pretty	loved	<i>MDML #25</i>	happy	enjoy
enjoyable	cool	played	excited	supporting
better	fun	play	success	opportunity
well	hoping	play	excited	Thank
hope	pretty	better	plays	happier
happy	best	playing	good	Thank
enjoyable	funny	happy	cool	
enjoy	sure	loved	cool	<i>MDML #26</i>
enjoy	opportunities	winning	exciting	Fun
best	comedy	funny	great	share
best	party	best	exciting	lover
cool	creative	better	fun	excited



cute	great	dearly	approval	innocent
amazing	active	great	confidence	security
playing	good	successes	happier	care
cool	enjoyed	Okay	romantic	party
super	playing		okay	kissed
fun	fun	<i>MDML #28</i>	accepted	proud
love	love	loved	Thank	Well
honestly	greatest	cool	support	excited
cared	good	shared		loved
super	pretty	humour	<i>MDML #29</i>	Bless
confident	surprised	truly	honestly	better
Good	happy	liked	cool	great
energy	well	free	sure	popular
certain	favourite	create	favourite	well
definitely	pretty	useful	better	support
pretty	cool	better	entertain	strong
popular	best	thankfully	play	best
thanks	pretty	created	fond	inspiration
thanks	awesome	popularity	Welcome	inspiration
success	Cool	funny	stronger	inspiration
best	okay	loved	free	faith
kidding	thank	super	strong	care
thanks	best	exciting	positive	smile
success	favourite	super	funny	Well
super	truly	amazing	cool	great
fun	passionate	pretty	best	success
awesome	best	excited	Security	creating
thanks	amazing	loved	freestyle	share
thank	love	amazing	impress	challenge
peace	truly	opportunity	hopes	created
	excited	loved	Well	challenges
<i>MDML #27</i>	amazing	comedy	cool	respecting
Okay	love	good	lucky	win

awards	grateful	played	good	polite
Award	love	playing	best	sweet
inspire	beauty	play	super	love
pride	smile	credit	surprise	pretty
hero	love	Thankfully	play	cool
smile	love	happy	care	loving
definitely	sure	loved	support	definitely
	enjoyed	loved	love	love
<i>MDML #30</i>	creating	party	loves	well
beautiful	thanks	determined	cares	pretty
okay	inspired	fun	amazing	best
cool	grateful	love	supported	perfectly
good	loving	loved	thanks	definitely
best	love	loved	love	played
funny	best	playing	fun	best
grateful	thanks	play	care	better
kiss	appreciation	fun	love	best
cool	love	interested	supporters	decent
joy		better	giving	super
inspirations	<i>MDML #31</i>	okay	best	popular
greatest	Pretty	play	love	pretty
amazing	cool	fun	would like	smart
liked	happy	fun	care	opportunity
kissing	Good	cool	happier	flirt
loved	playing	glad	Thank	to like
sweetheart	Hero	good	thank	definitely
love	love	good	support	Alright
pretty	played	Thankfully	Peace	pretty
legit	love	good		fun
opportunity	play	good	<i>MDML #32</i>	fun
win	free	best	popular	fun
Best	fun	loving	party	fun
won	cool	Thankfully	fun	fun

pretty	love	love		flirting
playing	favourite	true	<i>MDML #33</i>	ready
talents	well	love	playing	loves
harmonizing	funny	healthy	loved	Pretty
loved	special	happiness	pretty	sure
Well	beautiful	definitely	best	love
play	talented	play	shared	won
Well	funny	happiness	love	Best
accepted	silly	happy	loved	loved
best	kissed	important	play	proud
awesome	love	happier	played	love
loved	save	Fine	played	beautiful
loved	harmonizing	love	played	
definitely	perfect	love	better	<i>MDML #34</i>
pretty	perfect	love	pretty	fun
loving	Well	Well	fantastic	Okay
better	awesome	healthy	loved	laughing
sure	pretty	happy	cared	loved
love	happy	healing	played	loved
Well	well	love	play	talented
cool	won	awesome	best	Loved
sweetest	grand	super	play	Okay
well	well	blessing	beautiful	Well
Well	perfect	surprised	playing	cool
love	Wow	sure	playing	assure
cared	great	support	Luckily	truth
definitely	loves	creative	shared	played
success	loved	love	passion	champion
pretty	positivity	love	play	love
cool	love	truly	proud	played
play	love	hope	played	loved
created	perfect	ready	played	creative
loved	love	nice	playing	fun

fun	best	adored		loved
talent	cool	hero	<i>MDML #36</i>	pretty
well	laugh	pretty	pretty	amazing
true	funny	cool	interesting	definitely
don't like	Comedy	pretty	cute	happy
I liked	Well	great	pretty	awesome
Best	kind	great	fantastic	enjoy
best	trust	impress	definitely	Luckily
confident	inspiration	cool	best	popular
created	comedy	enjoyed	adventure	successful
loved	heroes	party	enjoy	created
loved	Comedy	good	luckily	success
love	comedy	courage	definitely	true
fun	heroes	good	cool	courage
comedy	cool	flirting	winner	honestly
love	awesome	amazing	super	lucky
helps	thank	happily	care	support
fun	neat	save	Luckily	love
profit	best	kissed	diving	sure
honestly	thank	enjoying	Wow	love
sure		encouraged	active	comfortable
successful	<i>MDML #35</i>	energy	Wow	amazing
love	best	loved	won	support
Fine	cool	opportunities	pretty	enjoying
love	amazing	cool	cool	thanks
smart	hoping	amazing	super	sure
fun	interesting	sharing	happy	awesome
popular	best	love	honour	pretty
honest	elegantly	truly	luckily	thank
best	impressive	thanks	favourite	good
amazing	I like	lucky	brilliant	
promise	win	Thank	accepted	<i>MDML #37</i>
love	playing	love	love	loved

playing	thanks	thank	best	heaven
fantastic	Kiss	thank	pretty	comfort
favourite	Kiss	Thank	humour	pretty
amazing	strong	hope	played	care
play	better	enjoyed	played	heaven
interest	opportunities		wonderful	cares
played	creating	MDML #38	Good	love
pretty	Thank	Good	good	loved
truly	*	honest	pretty	shared
resolve	welcome	honest	great	play
okay	good	wonderful	won	playing
glad	good	loved	pretty	wonderful
best	good	yay	well	confident
best	well	best	good	pretty
good	best	fond	fun	proud
playing	loved	strong	pretty	positive
good	better	faith	honest	happy
played	Awards	good	good	better
loved	awesome	great	pretty	sentimental
loved	amazing	pretty	Luckily	sentimental
passion	well	fond	awesome	happy
pretty	free	pretty	love	share
love	fun	played	accept	thank
well	interesting	happy	ideal	
enjoyed	cool	well	values	MDML #39
accepting	best	well	honest	good
I like	amazing	liked	favour	amazing
good	cool	values	pretty	great
proud	thankful	pretty	pretty	enjoy
loved	honestly	lucky	best	playing
passion	supporting	advantage	faith	glad
creating	supporting	super	heaven	impresses
creating	amazing	fun	faiths	Well

okay	encouraged	great	exciting	easy
pretty	love	cool	better	happy
cool	support	silly	better	happy
Great	fun	excited	opportunities	gratification
free	amazing	positive	comfort	smile
cool	well	hope	super	laugh
best	comfortable	interested	nice	excitement
accepted	loving	love	well	passion
pretty	caring	hope	innocence	optimism
free	Inspired	enjoyed	acceptance	loved
create	good		good	loved
adventure	fun	<i>MDML #41</i>	energy	love
easy	good	gracefully	great	best
I like	amazing	happy	good	determined
create	exciting	I like	good	supportive
passion	adventures	giggling	positive	great
creative	fun	loved	laughter	love
thanks	valuable	easily	best	pretty
cool	free	enjoyed	free	well
	relief	favourite	confidence	love
<i>MDML #40</i>	support	favourite	Humorous	love
happy	charity	I liked	credit	opportunity
best	nice	challenged	accepted	love
inspired	supporting	playing	enjoyed	love
love	charities	best	acceptance	happy
Inspired	engage	happy	happy	well
won	parties	loved	accepted	hope
proud	creative	Honor	bestie	strong
love	good	cool	partied	hope
inspiring	silly	fun	amazing	enjoy
encouraging	adventure	liked	love	accept
strongest	popularity	pleasant	better	hug
support	awesome	calm	care	Thank

okay	amazing	play	love	Yay
hope	share	loved	thanks	nice
energy	interests	loved	enjoy	fun
confidence	best	creative	enjoy	good
jokes	best	creative	love	fun
laughs	best	play	happy	win
	passion	kiss	smile	great
<i>MDML #42</i>	excited	hugged	laugh	play
best	great	energetic	inspirational	enjoyed
cool	creation	well	create	champions
Well	best	easy	original	rich
amusement	support	treat	respected	enjoyed
laugh	grateful	you like	trust	approve
joke	best	caring	Good	parties
care	happy	honest	Thanks	parties
love	adventure	caring	Hope	party
favourites	love	care	Enjoyed	laughing
played	important	laughing		hope
Okay	inspire	playing	<i>MDML #44</i>	best
popular	positive	caring	welcome	party
cool	energy	best	Well	party
Popularity	thank	didn't like	sexy	fun
interested	love	played	happily	strong
wisely	hope	entertainers	amazing	fun
true	enjoyed	laugh	well	party
well	thank	good	good	party
inspired		didn't like	happy	parties
create	<i>MDML #43</i>	interesting	liked	interested
Well	best	didn't like	happy	played
cool	hope	Okay	best	smart
honestly	enjoy	love	best	best
care	true	happy	Well	joke
positive	don't like	amazing	well	interested

positive	play	love	well	love
successful	glad	cool	Well	beautiful
happy	sure	fun	amazing	laugh
entertaining	good	well	okay	adventure
best	glad	loving	amazing	adventure
love	played	appreciate	luckily	perfect
good	played	hope	adventure	fun
love	play	enjoy	exciting	super
greatest	play	excited	best	loved
entertain	playing	sure	pretty	love
grateful	cool	best	good	loved
supporting	pretty	hope	true	created
happy	decent	enjoy	love	engaging
positivity	play	Peace	creative	opportunities
happy	popular		energy	win
support	confident	<i>MDML #46</i>	fun	free
thank	favourite	love	good	Okay
beautiful	cool	Okay	pretty	awesome
	playing	cute	good	energy
<i>MDML #45</i>	interested	great	adventure	Wow
appreciate	best	won	strengthen	Okay
kidding	loved	challenges	improve	Okay
agree	good	nice	loved	favourite
nice	save	fun	share	greatest
loved	favourite	play	adventure	smartest
cool	popular	challenges	best	share
love	well	well	playing	fun
loved	favourite	Well	pretty	sharing
kidding	fun	cute	promising	adventures
played	excited	well	positive	share
play	sure	fun	pretty	smile
kidding	hoping	loved	play	share
pretty	fun	better	sure	adventures



positive	please	relax	energy	passion
creativity	Alright	care	happy	loved
fun	Thank	play	happy	truthfully
creative	favourite	easy	love	share
engagement	love	good	sweetheart	better
engagement	better	best	happy	Well
interest	passionate	play	created	blessed
created	please	accepted	passion	shared
fun	Thanks	hoped	helping	play
adventure		play	happy	favourites
amazing	<i>MDML #47</i>	playing	hope	agreed
loved	sure	good	enjoyed	liked
Creating	play	good	Thank	original
favourite	play	play		lucky
creative	easy	play	<i>MDML #48</i>	interest
engaging	play	Alright	thank	winning
adventures	good	playing	support	sharing
Okay	fair	smiling	amazing	truly
created	share	okay	Thank	passionate
fun	parties	great	sharing	love
better	playing	strong	thank	love
best	fun	proud	thank	play
adventures	party	loved	thank	great
favourite	fun	great	thank	excited
fun	playing	loved	thank	love
enjoy	play	loved	share	thanks
share	loved	loved	hope	thank
fun	play	cute	enjoy	love
well	playing	nice	enjoyed	important
share	play	lucky	playing	better
fun	best	pretty	cool	positive
appreciate	play	security	amazing	fun
support	cool	great	determined	joy

excited	easily	enjoy	well	well
appreciate	didn't like	did not like	popular	clever
thanks	nice	did not like	laugh	good
great	easy	I liked	create	well
creative	easily	did not like	create	harmony
creating	pretty	did not like	Funnily	well
share	sure	enjoying	play	fun
cool	better	enjoying	love	good
success	Well	great	happiest	play
thank	play	easily	funny	loved
faith	Pretty	did not like	enjoying	sure
adventure	sure	did not like	definitely	giving
awesome	Pretty	good	play	best
grateful	sure	succeed	likes	supportive
exciting	funny	trust	okay	cute
ready	funny	trust	to like	easy
	good		popular	cool
<i>MDML #49</i>	well	<i>MDML #50</i>	parties	parties
nice	sure	Welcome	parties	sure
well	safe	please	happy	Awesome
hilarious	alright	nice	happy	pretty
improvement	good	shared	party	cool
good	good	cool	super	beautiful
I like	happy	best	popular	Okay
pretty	happy	fun	well	amused
sure	liked	fun	great	giving
well	happy	good	great	loves
did not like	played	easier	play	love
nicest	laugh	play	happy	super
nice	played	okay	loved	brilliant
loved	pretty	lucky	enjoyed	brilliant
loved	nice	best	alright	honours
didn't like	better	better	peaceful	proud

fine	good	thank	pretty	well
hope	honestly	hope	easy	love
passion	creative	okay	Honour	did not like
hopefully	creative	hope	pretty	certain
amazing	thank	enjoyed	enjoying	cutest
happy	thank	Okay	playing	helping
happy	well		pretty	popular
truth	nice	MDML #52	safe	loved
hope	nice	sexy	funny	playing
exciting	kidding	pretty	pretty	great
thank	relieved	perfect	amazing	cool
hope	blessing	healthy	laugh	created
liked	positive	pretty	love	amazing
hope	good	healthy	important	share
	well	glad	love	amazing
MDML #51	creating	okay	love	amazing
great	festivals	definitely	thank	favourite
Sure	won	Okay	Thank	amazing
Alright	good	funny	reassuring	amazed
Good	strong	funny	love	love
cool	enjoyed	thank	grateful	playing
likes	love	amazing	Thank	played
cool	creative	loved		fun
interesting	pretty	play	MDML #53	loved
I liked	giving	win	promised	healed
well	opportunity	Pretty	trust	playing
interesting	good	cool	free	luckily
energy	definitely	best	laugh	played
Respect	challenges	best	well	play
cute	playing	play	well	better
funny	greatest	play	cute	favourite
interest	laugh	playing	favourite	loved
interested	supporting	fun	love	played

created	thank	cool	hilarious	thank
plays	thank	well	funny	Thanks
good	thank	Cool	awesome	helping
amazing		enjoyed	created	smile
awesome	<i>MDML #54</i>	please	fun	sure
well	Good	well	glad	sure
playing	playing	I like	played	happy
enjoying	Super	best	enjoyed	please
luckily	ready	win	please	thanks
cute	play	cool	good	Hope
playing	sweets		hopes	great
free	favourite	<i>MDML #55</i>	entertainment	
I liked	Helpful	good	great	<i>MDML #56</i>
laugh	playing	pretty	care	welcome
enthusiasm	cool	cool	good	better
encouraged	warm	luckily	healthy	cute
I liked	interest	cute	true	grander
decent	fun	Luckily	ready	pretty
loved	cool	pretty	confident	sure
create	won	great	happy	playing
creativity	win	fun	inspired	pretty
great	definitely	caring	well	cute
perfect	ready	exciting	value	play
happy	relieved	pretty	trust	giving
well	best	luckily	passion	creativity
amazing	fun	fun	carefree	creative
amazing	playing	great	better	better
love	hilarious	played	love	rich
love	fun	great	grateful	happy
grateful	won	fun	joke	sweets
amazing	award	super	honestly	advantage
love	award	cool	super	profits
amazing	playing	plays	Luckily	popular

honestly	super		sure	fun
popular	creating	<i>MDML #57</i>	honestly	happy
great	excited	enjoyed	sure	happy
popular	determination	please	playing	happy
great	interest	sure	better	happy
honestly	satisfying	likes	happy	amazing
amazingly	agreed	please	good	thankful
perfect	well	appreciation	original	best
silly	amazing	enjoy	sure	easiest
loved	impressing	thank	sure	best
inspired	happy	enjoy	approved	happy
Fantasy	best	welcome	valuable	thankful
best	agreed	nice	happy	appreciate
funny	best	passion	ready	thank
amusing	good	love	happy	Thank
playing	romantic	love	appreciate	support
play	fun	happy	happiest	Thank
playing	healed	playing	happy	happy
enjoyed	interesting	play	positive	thank
intelligence	amazed	play	good	thankful
energy	super	play	you like	thank
great	happy	played	good	hope
good	impressed	interest	happy	enjoyed
liked	perfectly	played	happy	Thank
ready	energy	playing	good	sure
interest	joking	played	happy	enjoyed
free	thanking	fun	happiness	support
playing	thank	playing	certain	thank
I liked	supporter	playing	happy	thank
Beauty	value	care	good	appreciate
loved	honestly	play	happy	
loved	hope	playing	happy	<i>MDML #58</i>
interest	great	good	playing	diving

luck	fond	loved	silly	created
diving	fun	happy	blessed	well
diving	carefree	super	best	best
best	love	nice	best	well
diving	happiest	amazing	We liked	sure
amazing	didn't like	loved	best	passion
support	care	pretty	loving	truly
diving	funny	well	beautiful	grateful
win	definitely	welcomed	thank	love
inspiration	better	super	truly	support
win	bright	cute	loved	love
won	play	loved	loved	loved
happy	loved	super	love	sure
loved	well	pleasant	surprise	blessing
awesome	well	liked	free	Thank
win	well	vigorous	free	grateful
opportunity	hug	love	challenge	passionate
best	perfect	playing	love	love
love	great	fun	certain	safe
Thanks	fantastic	support	ready	great
special	playing	liked	thank	love
thank	excited	rich	important	amazing
support	play	pleasant	loved	love
to like	happy	perfect	succeed	support
	safe	respect	support	success
<b>MDML #59</b>	loved	peace	love	Thank
Good	welcomed	rich	acceptance	Bless
I like	Confident	play	truly	
pleasant	Confident	pretty	proud	<b>MDML #60</b>
pleasant	thank	best	truly	Welcome
loved	well	best	loved	assure
great	beautiful	best	inspired	hope
care	bright	loved	loving	fun

bonus	best	popular	success	happy
love	lucky	comedian	Okay	hope
popular	played	love	Comedy	proud
cool	shared	successful	laugh	hope
thank	passion	played	comedy	success
talented	attraction	smarter	honestly	hope
brilliant	best	successful	ready	Thanks
cool	cared	determination	please	
excited	cared	support	Thanks	MDML #61
love	awesome	best	care	welcome
Okay	great	played	share	definitely
thank	laugh	care	passion	definitely
laughed	best	supported	share	sure
appreciated	comedy	playing	talent	blessed
played	Comedy	strong	share	awesome
cool	laugh	easy	best	well
Well	laugh	play	perfect	well
strong	jokes	good	fair	fun
advantage	comedians	luck	share	good
well	comedic	happy	succeed	blessed
jokes	jokes	hope	hope	awesome
laugh	funny	championship	awesome	awesome
Well	good	Comedy	fun	loved
laughs	laugh	comedians	fine	loved
Okay	plays	best	luck	love
well	funny	great	hope	favourite
pretty	happiness	prize	super	well
fun	talent	care	awesome	definitely
play	jokes	passion	love	favourite
Well	joke	played	love	creative
pretty	joke	play	hope	love
good	joke	best	love	create
Super	winning	well	strength	better

creative	impress	ready	best	super
pretty	awesome	hope	engaged	well
creative	best	inspiration	improved	true
love	improving	strength	share	lovely
super	passion	well	happier	excited
exciting	awesome	loved	hope	amazing
share	improve	loved	entertaining	fun
interesting	awesome	best	smile	fun
funniest	beautiful	play	strong	successful
free	beautiful	healed	hope	tolerance
opportunity	improve	better	Thanks	Sure
amazing	blessed	better	supporting	sweet
fun	improve	excited	free	cute
fun	passion	save	share	I liked
free	love	strong		love
create	thank	smartest	<i>MDML #63</i>	laughing
entertaining	thankful	sweetest	love	Ha
entertaining	grateful	sharing	sunny	ha
honest	true	played	nice	ha
Creating	passion	enjoy	liked	kidding
passionate	truly	played	save	joked
Alright	truly	fun	lovely	joking
pretty	true	loved	magnificent	pretty
okay	thank	loved	Thankfully	created
glad	hope	play	popular	best
pretty	safe	truth	beautiful	love
sure	fantastic	strength	Well	loves
honestly	sure	truths	good	true
perfect	Thank	innocent	I liked	loved
honestly		appreciate	good	desired
liked	<i>MDML #62</i>	Well	smiled	favourite
funny	Welcome	improved	happy	best
love	favourite	great	inspired	amazing



easily	thank	best	helps	thanks
awesome	better	liked	certain	supporting
beautiful	liked	comfortable	loved	thankful
happy	pretty	played	truly	Thank
fine	liked	important	excited	giving
giving	strong	loved	happy	sure
cutest	welcome	truly	playing	well
happy	pretty	play	beloved	happier
confident	appreciate	cool	loved	comedy
secure	helping	love	inspired	laughing
amazing	love	played	likes	certainly
amazing	playing	Championship	save	comedy
love	original	championship	free	honestly
opportunity	original	loved	likes	I like
happy	great	happy	reinvigorated	funnier
win	loved	thankful	creative	thank
won	cool	loving	better	charity
good	well	warmest	certainly	awesome
happy	playing	warmest	played	Well
fabulous	Super	blessed	good	special
fabulous	played	good	playing	profits
loved	Super	smile	excited	charity
favourite	played	relief	grateful	charity
honest	outgoing	comfortable	best	okay
happy	pretty	enjoying	laugh	well
true	important	great	lucky	charity
awesome	hopes	happy	happiness	glad
amazing	accepted	cared	truth	great
sure	happy	better	love	hopefully
hope	Well	better	laugh	giving
Thank	loved	trust	fun	good
	play	easy	played	sure
MDML #64	lucky	best	love	thanks

well	well	loved	won	fun
thank	pretty	happy	Award	pretty
Hopefully	happy	free	honest	easier
nice	definitely	free	nice	great
thank	well	important	truth	play
fantastic	honestly	great	amazing	Truth
	well	well	good	happy
<i>MDML #65</i>	easy	love	important	happy
Okay	credit	determined	better	happy
kidding	thankful	good	comfort	happy
pretty	privilege	good	okay	happy
well	loved	good	creating	hoping
truth	laugh	Luckily	love	love
well	nice	free	better	best
loving	important	won	care	playing
entertain	true	Fiesta	sharing	happiest
creative	great	great		peaceful
important	promise	happy	<i>MDML #66</i>	truly
truthfully	perfect	safe	welcome	good
exciting	popular	fun	party	surprise
cutest	important	great	pretty	pretty
loved	courage	hilarious	funny	best
special	truth	comedy	party	shared
play	good	humour	funny	interests
sure	pretty	inspired	pretty	played
love	good	Luckily	fun	save
Luckily	well	good	fun	loved
loving	inspired	grateful	playing	playing
laugh	love	exciting	fun	peace
popular	exciting	truth	well	play
thankful	Fun	well	played	playing
pretty	encouragement	you like	pretty	played
great	strength	loved	true	playing

loved	well	fun	smart	cool
playing	sure	pretty	well	pretty
play	pretty	thanks	honoured	funny
play	jokes	thank	good	smart
playing	honestly		smart	love
well	party	<i>MDML #67</i>	good	laugh
happiness	party	Ok	good	respected
well	fun	well	happy	helping
care	interested	better	laugh	happy
best	passion	awesome	laugh	Ha
best	desire	Ok	good	compassionate
happy	passion	pretty	play	sweetest
better	definitely	successful	play	good
good	encouraged	better	well	hope
care	great	hopes	trust	ok
ready	pretty	better	good	credit
well	play	Good	played	Okey
inspiration	happier	well	good	loved
good	easy	easy	lucky	great
pride	love	truly	smarter	ok
encouraged	strong	appreciate	great	rich
truly	awesome	love	good	wealthy
love	thanks	joking	smart	play
exciting	support	healthy	well	creative
happy	support	bless	perfect	awesome
okay	successful	Fortunately	happy	bonus
enjoyed	fun	love	happy	cool
loved	awesome	hero	easy	like-minded
engaged	awesome	worshipping	sociable	sure
great	easy	play	confident	silly
I liked	fortunately	pretty	pretty	sure
ready	happy	played	Fortunately	better
pretty	happy	good	lucky	Thanks

love	better	luckily	pretty	care
please	excel	wonderful	good	loved
	actively	loving	pretty	creating
<i>MDML #68</i>	accepted	sure	awesome	pretty
well	pretty	care	favourite	amazing
interesting	creating	great	playing	important
loving	cutest	Joke	played	important
share	confidence	joke	parties	surprise
interests	positively	humour	fun	interested
played	confident	super	playing	happy
played	confidence	cool	best	hopefully
love	better	benefits	playing	surprised
play	best	pretty	beauty	thanking
Super	helps	cool	play	happier
enjoy	lovely	pretty	important	opportunity
created	engaged	awesome	well	beautiful
good	well	fun	cool	helps
enjoy	good	good	pretty	helps
liked	loyal	pretty	luckily	truly
love	hope	pretty	Well	thank
certain	successful	luckily	care	love
enjoyed	pretty	strong	well	appreciation
won	good	pretty	well	beautiful
cool	sure	sure	playing	
popular	true	thanks	love	<i>MDML #70</i>
created		playing	love	sure
favourite	<i>MDML #69</i>	silly	save	giving
loved	welcome	playing	save	special
created	well	created	happy	amazing
popular	best	strong	create	special
enjoy	create	playing	create	appreciation
loved	Sure	laugh	creativity	hope
entertaining	pretty	joke	creating	enjoy

lucky	good	thankful	best	best
laugh	better	support	playing	truth
Super	confidence	amazing	loved	love
love	love	Thanks	play	thank
honest	best	support	good	Thank
loving	good	faith	supportive	happy
caring	love	support	love	thankful
playing	love	thank	play	happier
important	interest	true	cool	enjoy
Honestly	value	true	supportive	hope
loving	sure	Thank	play	enjoyed
thank	agree		relaxing	better
okay	trust	<i>MDML #71</i>	great	free
playing	loving	better	true	create
play	forgiving	flirting	love	Play
you like	loving	win	loved	create
best	love	cool	passion	thank
playing	amazing	thankful	lucky	supporting
good	inspires	surprised	entertainment	love
better	play	great	fun	hope
calm	decent	great	created	enjoy
thanks	care	awarded	better	peace
thanks	enjoyed	Luckily	thanks	
favourite	amazing	well	better	<i>MDML #72</i>
good	okay	funny	creating	funny
Romance	pretty	fond	thanks	party
pretty	loving	definitely	amazing	keen
great	good	shared	best	important
thanks	great	passions	love	fine
good	fun	loved	happiest	livelihood
good	laugh	playing	lucky	playing
fun	honest	great	thankful	interested
exciting	thankful	playing	loved	excited

play	excited	opportunity	creative	thankfully
play	Okay	confidence	loved	good
play	fine	funny	passionate	great
honestly	great	cool	played	good
playing	happy	smart	Joker	fondness
best	happy	Sure	Joker	well
hah	engagement	good	created	cheer
kidding	surprise	better	Well	cheer
loved	kiss	better	valuable	amazing
welcome	truth	best	improve	play
play	truth	Thank	creative	share
good	engaged	confidence	good	good
truth	trust	Thank	good	love
confidence	cool		improve	Thanks
good	cute	<i>MDML #73</i>	truly	support
pretty	pretty	comfortable	improvement	wonderful
good	care	sharing	better	encouragement
good	love	ready	perfect	original
played	hope	blissful	strong	love
played	happy	excited	play	Thank
strong	beautiful	great	Well	
pretty	gorgeous	entertainer	determined	<i>MDML #75</i>
good	beautiful	awesome	well	cool
cute	playing	play	Luckily	best
funny	confidence	sunny	silly	fun
I liked	comfort	certain	glad	play
okay	confidence	best	important	good
trusting	happy	hopefully	support	fun
fun	best	kidding	faith	play
cute	excited	favourite	Thank	playing
funny	cute	well		play
confidence	confidence	good	<i>MDML #74</i>	cool
love	confidence	love	thank	well

smart	happy	Ha	challenge	loved
well	smile	kidding	better	playing
well	Respectful	Please	positive	play
better	Happiness	true	approval	liked
played	giving	happy	forgive	loved
well	admired	best	healed	energy
won	loved	interested	challenges	I like
good	I liked	truth	strength	fun
proud	best	opportunity	excited	love
love	playing	successful	easy	great
popular	Wow	thanks	truly	championship
play	Honestly	agreed	Well	care
loved	good	improve	improve	love
funny	play	accepted	smile	support
funny	well	innocent		grateful
well	amazing	thankful	MDML #76	support
passionate	good	thankful	welcome	hope
talent	loved	well	perfect	good
thanks	best	favourite	perfect	played
loved	Love	successful	well	happy
better	sure	would like	dearly	good
laughed	heal	play	love	great
joked	smile	happy	thank	loved
cool	laugh	accepted	love	good
loved	okay	loved	thank	important
Honestly	smiling	successful	thank	popular
honest	happy	Well	lovely	best
nice	healed	best	sweet	talent
Truth	accepted	encourage	brave	won
well	Joking	best	joy	talent
happy	I liked	I liked	love	love
happy	Talent	playing	sure	passion
smile	loved	fun	super	love

passion	loved	better	healthy	keen
great	laugh	better	determination	pretty
loved	greatest	stronger	better	good
love	pretty	confident	privilege	favourite
created	beneficial	determined	creates	interested
great	agree	thanks	happy	easier
awesome	laughter	lovers	good	fair
funny	funny	thank	determined	keen
good	honestly	important	good	good
thankful	thank	success	Determination	Cool
hope	thank	determined	great	pretty
inspire	great	*	fine	best
Love	good	great	best	good
Thank	opportunity	love	better	important
Peace	well	true	sure	pretty
	love	inspired	appreciate	awesome
<i>MDML #77</i>	honestly	thankful	thank	funny
best	stronger	save	creating	great
care	create	lucky	better	best
creative	loved	grateful	pretty	happy
play	happy	great	great	definitely
love	improving	wow		they liked
play	good	happy	<i>MDML #78</i>	best
enjoy	opportunity	smile	best	supported
good	confidence	appreciate	happy	clever
playing	love	good	great	good
nice	freedom	great	love	playing
decent	ready	good	love	well
cool	best	better	love	good
talented	loved	creative	important	played
plays	passion	great	intelligent	best
confidence	satisfaction	upbeat	encouraged	Play
satisfaction	honestly	smiling	loved	playing



warm	good	lucky	playing	liked
love	play	best	best	hope
won	honest	useful	surprise	lucky
Winning	opportunity	honest	super	amazing
awesome	free	reassured	lucky	encouraging
liked	great	accepting	healthy	happy
cool	won	valuable	pretty	excited
I liked	award	happy	enjoyed	nice
inspirational	good	Okay	Luckily	thank
won	enthusiasm	success	interest	enjoy
awards	loved	honest	loved	love
played	beautiful	interest	Fortunately	comfortable
cared	interests	created	loved	easy
loved	lucky	amazing	played	best
better	fantastic	devoted	laugh	opportunity
pretty	good	confident	cared	good
well	important	interesting	proud	best
Fortunately	okay	well	enjoyed	interesting
happy	good	honestly	nice	enjoying
happiest	okay	exciting	good	party
relief	good	opportunities	play	fun
happy	brave	grateful	love	Festival
sure	honest	amazing	well	awesome
proud	honest	support	plays	best
well	accept		favourite	inspired
Well	good	<i>MDML #79</i>	enjoyed	opportunity
great	confident	Hopefully	freedom	thank
good	proud	play	pretty	hope
success	sure	cool	fun	enjoyed
smartest	care	loved	cool	sure
easy	luck	awesome	interesting	hope
welcomed	okayed	good	love	Thanks
easy	original	save	inspired	

<i>MDML #80</i>	playing	best	bold	confidence
sunny	funny	pretty	thank	confidence
love	joke	interest	happy	inspired
well	sure	play	best	pretty
surprised	funny	liked	care	save
great	joke	won	fun	truth
played	special	won	created	grand
play	Well	comfort	success	Luckily
play	I like	good	loved	trusted
pretty	love	kissed	loved	success
cool	best	happy	confident	good
played		kiss	success	supported
good	<i>MDML #81</i>	didn't like	helping	creating
happiest	awesome	kissing	sharing	amazing
loved	loved	true	confidence	loved
awesome	success	courage	amazing	freedom
nice	love	best	cared	successful
definitely	pretty	important	better	loved
exciting	awesome	confident	loved	Okay
Luckily	loved	outgoing	Sure	joke
helping	playing	good	helper	best
well	pretty	special	best	loved
fun	sure	care	best	thankful
exciting	appreciated	precious	loved	honest
great	loved	nice	best	confidence
fun	loved	liked	super	wonderful
pretty	save	engaged	excited	created
good	loved	adventure	good	fun
special	smart	cared	support	peace
comedy	interest	best	played	well
better	fantasy	successful	fun	okay
played	Fantasy	easy	parties	impression
funny	liked	support	interest	Truthfully

awesome	honestly	great	better	great
well	blessings	play	love	hope
amazing	pretty	sweet	luck	enjoyed
important	good	don't like	great	hope
benefit	play	loved	cool	laugh
improvements	play	best	well	hopefully
love	honest	playing	giving	interesting
interested	played	accepted	important	Thank
enjoying	played	fun	best	
well	enjoy	adventures	party	MDML #83
share	played	better	perfectly	welcome
positively	cool	pretty	courage	happy
luckiest	creative	play	love	best
thank	positive	strong	shared	love
thank	best	devote	hopefully	Cool
hope	best	I liked	awesome	best
enjoyed	parties	I liked	love	play
	fun	playing	fun	play
MDML #82	loved	playing	fun	play
welcome	parties	played	sure	play
special	loved	devoted	please	awesome
awesome	good	played	cool	party
thank	party	played	charity	pretty
thank	parties	fun	cool	fun
thank	great	loved	cool	party
Thank	parties	love	charities	enjoyed
Sharing	loved	fantastic	support	well
better	played	good	good	fun
helps	playing	love	exciting	pretty
best	parties	playing	grateful	cool
thank	interests	fun	opportunity	best
thank	parties	passion	excited	silly
popular	play	devote	opportunity	favourite

won	thanks	good	cute	honours
cool	Okay	good	best	fun
thank	Cheers	playing	cute	care
thank		playing	fun	confidence
loved	<i>MDML #84</i>	funny	laugh	thank
strong	thank	funny	fun	support
pretty	Welcome	better	laughed	love
cool	appreciate	Nice	played	appreciate
I liked	thanks	amazing	best	importantly
trusted	love	appreciate	accepting	better
relax	greatness	awesome	glad	fun
I like	amazing	thank	grateful	Thanks
good	love	thanks	cool	grateful
good	care	love	best	Thanks
pretty	best	Peace	accept	love
well	exciting		better	
well	certain	<i>MDML #85</i>	good	<i>MDML #86</i>
amazed	awesome	well	thankfully	Adorian
interesting	cool	cool	accepted	playing
funny	happy	pretty	cool	cute
love	well	awesome	cutie	well
thanks	good	giving	I Like	true
comedy	didn't like	well	inspiration	excited
favorite	fun	play	better	Adorian
favours	well	cute	inspired	liked
bold	well	fun	created	Adorian
funny	improved	funny	loved	better
good	popular	care	surprised	hooray
fun	greatest	care	confidence	okay
warming	well	fun	thanks	Yay
well	well	excited	awesome	Adorian
comfortable	fun	strongest	super	outgoing
Thanks	love	good	happy	fun

innocent	play	thank	silly	hilarious
good	save	support	creative	funny
wonderful	well	happy	loved	silly
adventures	hope	happy	loved	good
delicious	good	strong	favourite	share
warming	thank	love	amazing	pretty
treasured	fun	Thank	love	love
grateful	created		helping	fun
Perfectly	well	<i>MDML #87</i>	amazing	I liked
successful	fun	Good	favourite	thanks
won	support	Welcome	loved	well
award	happy	excited	darling	love
cute	award	share	amazing	happy
care	trust	love	happy	happiness
care	proud	brilliant	fun	create
wonderful	proud	thank	thanks	proud
pretty	supported	thank	well	happy
success	lucky	inspiration	strong	definitely
good	stronger	enjoyed	interest	excited
happy	amazing	amazing	good	best
play	strong	love	played	amazing
treasured	stronger	good	best	truly
important	well	happy	played	love
sure	stronger	Best	great	admire
happy	better	love	great	thank
super	happy	impressed	loved	helping
free	better	better	great	better
joke	strong	impressed	good	love
happy	strength	fun	best	hope
wealthy	happy	play	liked	thanks
nice	important	play	enjoying	
accepted	strong	awesome	funny	<i>MDML #88</i>
great	promise	liked	likes	Welcome

sure	good	won	fun	comedy
fine	great	play	cool	relief
won	great	playing	Adventures	loved
shared	amazing	cool	played	great
best	better	did not like	pretty	loved
fun	love	liked	successful	smile
popular	best	Super	wise	love
playing	Thank	fun	Adventures	strong
good	hope	enjoying	well	great
honest	enjoyed	great	play	Fun
joke	sure	entertainment	happy	surprise
cool		Well	happy	creating
honest	<i>MDML #89</i>	okay	appreciate	smile
popular	lucky	save	happier	laugh
pretty	honestly	great	thank	smile
good	Thank	happy	thank	play
well	Thank	surprisingly	liking	silly
giving	thank	okay	sharing	love
thank	thank	super	helps	party
good	thank	cute	thank	played
loved	thank	courage	love	love
good	pretty	party	Thank	love
amazing	divine	kissing	thank	fun
good	joke	liked	Thank	comedy
Pretty	lucky	played	great	won
best	valued	great		award
best	play	play	<i>MDML #90</i>	Festival
good	definitely	fun	Fun	festivals
loved	Entertainment	fun	good	comedy
better	play	funny	good	silly
fun	play	Plays	cool	Fun
passions	I liked	well	Super	security
liked	liked	playing	best	love

opportunity	appreciate	love	great	great
playing	thank	lovely	luckily	glad
engaging	favourite	generosity	great	happy
appreciate	well	plays	playing	play
importantly	create	created	awesome	played
accepted	fun	fantasy	great	playing
excited	thank	cool	ideal	better
great	thanks	fantasy	true	fun
passionate		pretty	passions	good
well	<i>MDML #91</i>	good	play	good
play	forgive	energy	played	easier
hoping	sharing	cool	festivals	liking
strong	Hopefully	adventure	great	fun
desire	helpful	free	share	I liked
strengthened	greater	happy	lucky	good
create	would like	excited	amazing	positive
strong	share	adventure	thank	opportunity
hopes	well	hope	thank	special
created	surprise	Well	true	sure
Funny	I liked	sure	smile	excited
play	well	to like	good	interesting
love	favourite	helps	good	love
fun	faithful	you like	Good	hope
love	accepted	would like	smile	enjoyed
great	hoped		hope	thank
creating	pride	<i>MDML #92</i>	smile	liking
passionate	Nice	smiles	Thanks	enjoy
sharing	Thankfully	best	Smiling	
opportunity	well	best		<i>MDML #94</i>
Thank	charity	love	<i>MDML #93</i>	play
loved	free	original	welcome	good
sharing	perfect	playing	funny	love
sure	amazing	Super	better	ready

honestly	happy	interest	wow	love
best	love	best	beauty	amazing
best	love	awesome	awesome	goodness
best	good	Well	funny	smart
play	happy	hilarious	glamour	beautiful
play	honest	care	better	lovely
won	happy	love	wow	nice
cool	loved	fine	amazing	love
we liked	best	laughing	special	confidence
sure	bestest	joking	lucky	better
creative	best	Okay	honest	good
well	happy	honest	love	Party
strong	happy	Okay	happy	wow
energy	loved	lovely	okay	cool
stronger	love	great	love	Party
easier	best	better	support	thank
great	fun	nice	amazing	appreciate
better	plays	interested	awesome	amazing
sure	bless	better	good	save
okay	popularity	well	excellent	amazing
fun	fun	honest	loved	amazing
Thanks	laugh	I like	special	amazing
Hope	well	liked	well	wonderful
	laugh	laugh	special	happy
<i>MDML #95</i>	okay	bright	opportunity	amazing
Okay	good	interest	amazing	love
fun	good	beauty	better	happiness
Yay	fun	enjoyed	awesome	best
yay	laughs	would like	determined	love
well	laugh	good	proud	okay
best	brilliant	enjoy	fun	accepted
best	honest	loved	good	good
good	kissing	beauty	love	happy



nice	fantastic	perfect	fantastic	admired
amazing	Surprise	beautiful	adventures	fun
amazing	Well	perfect	wonderful	fabulous
thank	well	super	lucky	honestly
supportive	well	lovely	best	best
thank	interesting	perfect	amazing	wonderful
hopefully	good	fun	amazed	amazing
thank	bless	beautiful	ecstatic	thanks
better	bless	beautiful	super	fantastic
important	good	lovely	super	fabulous
would like	fun	pleasant	well	please
best	hopefully	determined	thank	wonderful
super	love	laugh	wonderful	please
appreciate	please	giving	lovely	please
better	sure	fun	amazing	please
hope	lucky	Champs	lucky	amazing
happy	adventure	good	thank	wonderful
well	amazing	hopefully	fabulous	awesome
amazing	interest	honest	fantastic	thank
thank	favourite	optimistic	amazing	amazing
hope	definitely	confident	wonderful	amazing
you liked	Adventure	fair	ecstatic	thank
*	amazing	yay	grateful	lovely
okay	loved	definitely	fun	love
well	amazing	bless	love	comfort
improved	wonderful	truth	Plays	hopes
honestly	good	laugh	amazing	easier
Yay	good	laughing	pretty	festival
special	best	funny	fantastic	wonderful
Awesome	good	Well	Yay	amazing
special	awesome	funny	pleasure	special
Yay	Okay	brilliant	honour	wonderful
love	laughing	pretty	amazing	amazing

privilege	wonderful	wonderful	strong	diving
favourite	proud	beautiful	won	true
wonderful	wonderful	happy	free	passion
amazing	lucky	excited	good	free
wonderful	wonderful	Thank	best	true
special	Yay	Okay	amazing	passion
thanks	wonderful	happy	strong	challenges
lovely	wonderful	playing	best	pretty
wonderful	honestly	loved	great	good
lucky	lucky	didn't like	fun	good
Super	love	play	happy	successful
excited	loves	play	sure	honestly
excited	perfectly	healthy	credit	free
amazing	love	enjoy	love	diving
amazing	Thank	happy	loves	good
wonderful	hope	good	loved	good
interest	enjoyed	fun	did not like	challenge
special	well	laugh	honestly	well
fantastic	well	best	happiness	hopefully
wonderful	better	great	success	happy
privilege	super	fun	super	Ok
fantastic	interesting	truly	good	Ok
wonderful	thank	loved	truly	happy
amazing		love	favourite	true
exciting	<i>MDML #96</i>	I like	loved	awesome
lucky	Welcome	fun	happy	love
opportunities	special	well	diving	happy
wonderful	thank	joking	free	happy
wonderful	love	Honestly	freeing	honestly
beautiful	support	super	save	happy
talented	thank	nice	diving	giving
proud	love	promise	diving	definitely
beautiful	beautiful	accepted	freeing	well

agree	better	<i>MDML #98</i>	easily	thank
wonderful	love	Alright	support	good
amazing	parties	Welcome	happy	Fun
Thank	playing	Okay	yay	fun
supporting	played	Okay	playing	playing
true	laugh	interesting	special	pretty
love	enjoyed	pretty	best	awesome
Thank	surprise	pretty	play	funny
	great	pretty	Okay	Yay
<i>MDML #97</i>	amazing	luckily	played	love
pretty	good	sweetest	popular	haha
play	well	loved	best	pretty
play	thank	luckily	best	important
laughing	playing	truth	popular	useful
laughing	playing	truth	honest	loved
Luckily	love	fun	favourite	love
kind	surprise	pretty	Honestly	play
love	love	nice	great	cool
nice	cool	pretty	great	awesome
fair	best	cool	Nice	Well
loved	cool	fun	pretty	Okay
playing	proud	alright	nice	sure
proud	thank	alright	nicer	true
fun	true	smart	best	enjoyed
fun	thank	playing	best	liked
fun	true	true	nice	challenges
jokes	thank	playing	best	loved
jokes	hope	true	heaven	true
interest	enjoyed	cool	play	best
playing	enjoyed	okay	awesome	good
free	love	okay	pretty	good
excited	thank	easily	awesome	best
agreed		easily	thank	okay

glad	best	I like	sure	wise
helping	fine	sure	Hope	Well
awesome	Love	awesome	you liked	loved
thank	love	happy		pretty
loved	loved	Well	<i>MDML #100</i>	cool
pretty	awesome	awesome	loyal	wonderful
love	supported	played	relax	cool
liking	creativity	good	nice	save
kidding	Well	perfect	share	favourites
interesting	best	good	special	hug
best	decent	fine	thanks	thank
pretty	thank	well	beautiful	wonderful
liked	certain	good	helping	playing
happy	funny	good	playing	fantastic
hope	loved	sure	pretty	pretty
amazing	support	better	cool	innocent
healthy	thank	good	Well	nice
pretty	supporting	amazing	great	nice
pretty	liking	Hilarious	better	well
they liked	sharing	awesome	glad	helpful
adored	Thank	happy	pretty	well
funny	Fun	luckily	keen	playing
interested	awesome	awesome	liked	liked
trust	better	popular	best	decent
I like	important	good	pretty	glad
better	thank	amazing	cool	love
impressions	support	hilarious	I like	played
important	thank	didn't like	Well	comfort
better	supported	easier	loved	compliment
pretty		luckily	loved	love
pretty	<i>MDML #99</i>	pretty	playing	loved
beautiful	interesting	loved	loved	keen
best	sure	thanks	I like	Loved

free	value	great	value
best	greater	special	nice
pretty	enjoyable	pretty	value
sure	amazing	sure	nice
well	freedom	care	awesome
nice	freedom	sure	cool
interesting	relaxing	fun	sure
diving	playing	enjoy	love
play	love	fantastic	love
cares	sharing	supports	love
fantastic	entertaining	amazing	adventure
good	Cool	rewards	important
profit	true	intellectually	well
loved	value	importantly	love
giving	won	nice	popular
amusing	True	share	exciting
smile	sharing	sure	sure
plays	wonderful	you like	hoping
play	share	easier	Thank
love	thank	definitely	hope
played	sentimentality	success	sure
I liked	Great	free	happy
free	parties	decent	
fantastic	love	important	
good	love	better	
well	harmony	free	
didn't like	amazing	free	
playing	entertain	energy	
interesting	helping	relaxation	
loved	adventures	ideal	
charities	nicer	value	
fantastic	share	ideal	
play	better	important	

<b>Females: Anxiety</b>	tremble	embarrassing	embarrassed	miserable
	panic	overwhelming	obsessed	afraid
<b>FDML #1</b>	upset		shy	obsessed
scared	embarrass	<b>FDML #7</b>	insecure	nervous
nervously	upset	scary	scared	
anxiety	ashamed	worried	humiliated	<b>FDML #14</b>
anxiety	embarrassed	obsessed	scared	nervous
horrible		shy	pressure	frightening
panic	<b>FDML #5</b>	worried	scared	confused
anxiety	terrifying	shy	nervous	panic
panic	shy	scary	awkward	obsessed
scary	awkward	horrible	scared	scared
			insecure	scared
<b>FDML #2</b>	<b>FDML #6</b>	<b>FDML #8</b>		
confused	scared	scary	<b>FDML #11</b>	<b>FDML #15</b>
nervous	terrifying	obsessed	embarrassing	Nervous
confused	scared		stressed	
confused	terrifying	<b>FDML #9</b>	upset	<b>FDML #16</b>
	terrifying	overwhelming	nervous	dwelled
<b>FDML #3</b>	upset	embarrassing	scared	struggles
scared	awkward	threatened		anxiously
shy	awkward	scare	<b>FDML #12</b>	embarrassed
	worry	shy	obsessed	worry
<b>FDML #4</b>	stressed	scary	worry	stress
obsessed	scares	paranoia		
scary	anxiety	scary	<b>FDML #13</b>	<b>FDML #17</b>
scary	anxiety	scared	nervous	obsessed
scary	anxiety	upset	worried	obsessed
irrational	anxiety	obsession	scared	confusing
uncomfortable	scary	miserable	shy	insecure
nervous	scared		nervous	scary
fears	terrified	<b>FDML #10</b>	awkward	vulnerable
scary	timid	desperate	stressed	

<b>FDML #18</b>	upset	stress	scared	stress
nervous	awkward	worrying	avoid	awkward
ashamed	scared	stress		miserably
avoiding	scary	fear	<b>FDML #26</b>	afraid
avoided	pressure	worry	awkward	upset
scared	scared	guilty	awkward	worries
insecure	scary	afraid	awkward	threatening
confused	overwhelming	shamelessly	awkward	struggled
			humiliated	
<b>FDML #19</b>	<b>FDML #21</b>	<b>FDML #23</b>	awkward	<b>FDML #30</b>
shamelessly	obsessed	upset	scary	nervous
shy	shy	scared		stressed
awkward	scared	confused	<b>FDML #27</b>	
anxiety	shy	confused	scared	<b>FDML #31</b>
pressure	upset	awkward	scared	Confusing
horrible		confused	scary	
horrible	<b>FDML #22</b>	nervous	scared	<b>FDML #32</b>
worry	confused	anxiety	awkward	horrible
miserable	alarmed	stress	awkward	horrible
shy	shaken	stressed	shy	upset
awkward	confusing	scare	scary	stressed
panic	humiliated		obsessed	confused
struggled	fear	<b>FDML #24</b>		awkward
anxious	humiliating	scary	<b>FDML #28</b>	uncomfortable
stressful	fear	frightening	embarrassed	confused
anxiety	anxiety	awkward	stress	upset
scared	insecure	scary	fear	scared
pressure	irritable	awkward	stressed	uncomfortable
scary	miserably	worry	horrible	worried
shy	risk	obsessed	afraid	worried
struggles	worried	upset	threatened	worried
	worried			worried
<b>FDML #20</b>	shaken	<b>FDML #25</b>	<b>FDML #29</b>	anxiety

panic	scared	<b>FDML #39</b>	scared	terrifying
panic	scary	nervous	anxiety	horrible
scary	shake	worried	awkward	horrible
anxiety	guilt	horrible	reluctant	upset
worry	shy	horrible	scary	pressure
	stress	doubt	doubt	
<b>FDML #33</b>	desperate	stressed	scared	<b>FDML #46</b>
scared	miserable	anxious		obsessed
shy	nervous	upset	<b>FDML #42</b>	fear
confused	upset		doubt	fear
doubts	upsetting	<b>FDML #40</b>	scared	nervous
	upsetting	scary	obsessed	fears
<b>FDML #34</b>		obsessed	obsessed	misery
scary	<b>FDML #36</b>	scary	dreading	
avoided	scared	terrifying	embarrassing	<b>FDML #47</b>
hesitate	afraid	scary		upset
scary	scared	obsessed	<b>FDML #43</b>	shy
awkward	scared	anxious	upset	shy
dreading	embarrassing	scared	worry	shy
shaken		fears	terrified	scary
hesitant	<b>FDML #37</b>	dreaded	confusing	insecure
desperately	scared	stressed	confusing	upsets
worried	embarrassing		afraid	worry
hesitant	horrible	<b>FDML #41</b>	terrified	anxiety
	embarrassed	horrible		upset
	stressful	anxiety	<b>FDML #44</b>	
<b>FDML #35</b>		obsessed	afraid	<b>FDML #48</b>
struggling	<b>FDML #38</b>	horrible	unsure	horrible
upset	scared	anxiety		obsessed
obsessed	terrified	threaten	<b>FDML #45</b>	embarrassing
awkward	scared	scary	horrible	uncomfortable
shy	scared	fear	horrible	
embarrassing		anxiety	horrible	
scariest				



<i>FDML #49</i>	struggling	worried	<i>FDML #58</i>	stressed
-	anxiety	confused	miserable	terrified
<i>FDML #50</i>	anxiety	scary	anxiety	embarrassment
risk	shake	threatened	struggling	worry
humiliate		fear	anxiety	stressed
threats	<i>FDML #54</i>	worry	confusing	struggled
afraid	awkward	overwhelming	desperate	shy
scared	nervous	scary	embarrassed	confused
ashamed	overwhelmed	paranoid	obsession	embarrassed
humiliated	struggles	anxiety	vulnerable	obsessed
avoid	scare	horrible	anxiety	desperate
embarrassing	scared	anxiety	stressed	upsetting
avoiding	frightening	terror	feared	scared
embarrassed		anxiety	horror	terrified
	<i>FDML #55</i>	panic	vulnerable	worrying
<i>FDML #51</i>	strain	horrible	horrors	scared
ashamed	pressure	struggle	risk	scared
shake	nervous	anxiety	worry	terrified
overwhelming	terrified	panic	shy	scared
upset	uncertain	panic		stressed
upset	nervous		<i>FDML #59</i>	stressed
	stressful	<i>FDML #57</i>	shy	stress
<i>FDML #52</i>	frantically	nervous	embarrassing	anxiety
alarm	nervous	nervous	obsessed	stressed
stress		pressure		overwhelmed
stress	<i>FDML #56</i>	stress	<i>FDML #60</i>	stress
confusing	worry	terrified	obsessed	stressful
	scary	confused	anxious	terrified
<i>FDML #53</i>	scary	awkward	stress	risk
upsetting	stressing	stressful	stress	panic
humiliated	scary	unsure	anxiety	anxiety
dreaded	scary	obsessive		anxiety
guilty	scary		<i>FDML #61</i>	panic

stress	nervous	anxiety	anxiety	
worrying	panicked	anxiety	anxiety	<b>FDML #69</b>
uncomfortable	scared	anxiety	obsessive	suspicious
terrifying	doubt	anxiety	anxiety	dreadlocks
shame	worry	anxiety	anxiety	risks
threatened	obsessively	Guilty	anxiety	horrible
scary	afraid	shy	anxiety	worry
threatened		anxiety	anxiety	
worry	<b>FDML #65</b>	insecure	struggled	<b>FDML #70</b>
stress	anxiety	insecure	anxiety	confused
stressful	avoid	shy	anxiety	scared
pressures	uncomfortable	anxious	anxiety	embarrassed
impatient	shyness	shy	horrible	ashamed
embarrassed	shy		dwell	worried
	shy	<b>FDML #66</b>	doubt	worried
<b>FDML #62</b>	obsessed	shy	avoid	ashamed
-	obsessed	terrified	stressful	embarrassed
	anxiety	uncomfortable		
<b>FDML #63</b>	anxiety	avoid	<b>FDML #67</b>	<b>FDML #71</b>
embarrassing	anxiety	anxious	desperate	scared
embarrassed	scared	anxious	fear	anxious
	insecure	anxiety		scared
<b>FDML #64</b>	struggles	panic	<b>FDML #68</b>	panic
guilty	scared	ashamed	obsession	panic
scared	insecure	awkward	hesitantly	scared
paranoid	anxious	anxiety	terrified	struggle
miserable	shy	anxiety	obsessed	petrified
worried	nervous	terrified	awkward	scared
horrible	anxiety	awkward	scary	anxiety
risk	scary	avoid	nervous	scared
horror	scary	anxiety	nervous	worried
horror	shy	shy	dread	panic
Horror	scary	scared	tense	nervous

scared	obsessed	<i>FDML # 77</i>	stressful	embarrassed
horrible	horrible	struggled		overwhelmed
obsessed	fear	struggle	<i>FDML #81</i>	scared
anxious	fear	scare	confused	shy
	scared	scares	confused	nervous
<i>FDML #72</i>	obsessed	confusing	scared	anxiety
stress	stressed	shame	horrible	nervous
worry	embarrassing	shy	embarrassed	
irritated	upset	scared	nervous	<i>FDML #85</i>
	nervously	stress	overwhelming	tense
<i>FDML #73</i>	struggled	struggle		awkward
confused	upset	shamefully	<i>FDML #82</i>	awkward
struggle	upset	panicking	shook	
terrifying	embarrassing	anxiety		<i>FDML #86</i>
panicking	shakes		<i>FDML #83</i>	obsessed
scared	struggling	<i>FDML #78</i>	afraid	desperately
confusing	stressed	nervous	confusing	
avoid	nervous	horrible	shake	<i>FDML #87</i>
scared	nervous	awkward	shaky	obsessed
confused	obsessed	doubting	uncomfortable	scared
scared	embarrassing	stressed	struggling	panic
horror	horrible	upset	uncomfortable	scared
horrible	nervous	insecurity	struggled	horrible
risk	obsessed	struggling	stressed	obsessed
anxiety	horrible	scary	struggling	
panic	horrible		afraid	<i>FDML #88</i>
anxiety	horrible	<i>FDML #79</i>	worries	nervous
	miserable	Scared	upset	
<i>FDML #74</i>			stressful	<i>FDML #89</i>
confused	<i>FDML #76</i>	<i>FDML #80</i>	afraid	confused
insecure	upset	confusing		obsessed
	obsessive	nervous	<i>FDML #84</i>	unsure
<i>FDML #75</i>		stressful	guilty	stress

	struggled	nervous
<b>FDML #90</b>	scared	confused
upset	scared	nervous
confused	horrible	
obsession	scared	<b>FDML #98</b>
	scared	awkward
<b>FDML #91</b>	upset	anxiety
embarrassing		
worry	<b>FDML #94</b>	<b>FDML #99</b>
shy	Shame	afraid
shy		repression
doubt	<b>FDML #95</b>	repression
stress	awkward	horrible
worried	awkward	
worried	awkward	<b>FDML #100</b>
scary	obsessed	scared
upset	worry	obsessed
scary	awkward	obsessed
struggling	awkward	shy
	awkward	shy
<b>FDML #92</b>	terrified	upset
worried	miserable	struggle
scared	anxiety	scared
afraid		scary
obsessed	<b>FDML #96</b>	shy
stressful	insecure	obsessed
obsessed	insecurities	embarrassed
stressing	insecure	shy
	awkward	worry
<b>FDML #93</b>		shy
confusing	<b>FDML #97</b>	obsessed
confusing	shy	shy
confused	awkward	overwhelming

<b>Males: Anxiety</b>		scared	terrified	anxiety
	<i>MDML #5</i>	terrified	petrified	tension
<i>MDML #1</i>	shy		struggled	doubt
scared	shy	<i>MDML #10</i>	petrified	
Shy	uncomfortable	Upset	worried	<i>MDML #20</i>
	shy		doubt	obsession
<i>MDML #2</i>	shy	<i>MDML #11</i>	scary	scary
shy	uncomfortable	-	terrified	fear
scared			scariest	fear
stressed	<i>MDML #6</i>	<i>MDML #12</i>	terrified	irrational
	obsession	miserable	scary	fear
<i>MDML #3</i>	nervous	struggles		fear-
scary	dreadful		<i>MDML #16</i>	awkward
shy	struggling	<i>MDML #13</i>	horribly	doubt
shy		horribly	Stress	afraid
shyness	<i>MDML #7</i>	horribly	stressed	scary
pressure	upset	horribly	shy	struggle
unsure	avoid	horrible	worried	stressful
shy	desperate	upset		uneasy
scariest	desperation	scared	<i>MDML #17</i>	afraid
horrible	doubt	risky	obsessed	
scary		horrible	obsessed	<i>MDML #21</i>
risk	<i>MDML #8</i>			horrible
	shake	<i>MDML #14</i>	<i>MDML #18</i>	horrible
<i>MDML #4</i>	confused	horrible	nervous	threat
doubt	scary	obsessed	embarrassed	nervous
confused	uncertainty	horror	stressed	scared
horrible		scared	anxious	
confused	<i>MDML #9</i>	obsession	scared	<i>MDML #22</i>
upset	scary	embarrassing	scary	worried
stress	miserable	doubted		upset
suspicious	miserable		<i>MDML #19</i>	worry
stressed	nervous	<i>MDML #15</i>	horror	worried

	fear	stress		doubt
<i>MDML #23</i>	panic		<i>MDML #36</i>	obsessed
-	terrified	<i>MDML #32</i>	hesitation	shy
<i>MDML #24</i>	panic	awkward	horrible	nervous
obsessed	anxiety	obsessed	worry	apprehension
horror	anxiety	obsessed	upset	afraid
scary	fear	terrified	overwhelming	miserable
obsession	panic	risk	scared	inhibited
scariest	panic		struggled	
shy	fear	<i>MDML #33</i>		<i>MDML #42</i>
	panic	shy	<i>MDML #37</i>	-
<i>MDML #25</i>	anxiety	worry	horrible	<i>MDML #43</i>
afraid		confused	horrible	scared
worry	<i>MDML #29</i>	embarrassed	embarrassed	threatened
embarrassed	scary	scary	afraid	overwhelmed
awkward	pressure		fears	
scary		<i>MDML #34</i>		<i>MDML #44</i>
	<i>MDML #30</i>	fear	<i>MDML #38</i>	upset
<i>MDML #26</i>	-	obsession	upset	
awkward	<i>MDML #31</i>	struggle	awkward	<i>MDML #45</i>
doubt	horrible	obsession	awkward	obsessed
fright	worries	awkward	awkward	obsessed
	horribly	shook	struggling	obsessed
<i>MDML #27</i>	afraid	awkward		terrifying
obsessed	afraid	struggled	<i>MDML #39</i>	shy
worried	obsessed	hesitant	-	confused
	doubting		<i>MDML #40</i>	<i>MDML #46</i>
<i>MDML #28</i>	upset	<i>MDML #35</i>	struggling	fear
shy	anxiety	awkward	dreadlocked	horrible
terrors	stressed	embarrassing		worry
terrifying	worried	awkward	<i>MDML #41</i>	
anxiety	scared	embarrassing	obsessed	<i>MDML #47</i>
shy		scared		

threatened	scary	stress		<i>MDML #67</i>
confused	shy	panic	<i>MDML #63</i>	horror
	horrible	ashamed	uncomfortable	embarrassed
<i>MDML #48</i>	horrible	worry		miserable
doubt	miserable	worry	<i>MDML #64</i>	struggles
	scary		shy	anxious
<i>MDML #49</i>	horrible	<i>MDML #58</i>	upset	awkward
-	stress	-	ashamed	threatening
	struggled		overwhelmed	
<i>MDML #50</i>		<i>MDML #59</i>	struggling	<i>MDML #68</i>
upset	<i>MDML #54</i>	struggling		hesitating
stress	scaring	pressure	<i>MDML #65</i>	ashamed
frightening	scares		confused	
scary	scared	<i>MDML #60</i>	awkward	<i>MDML #69</i>
upset		horrible	struggle	confusing
upset	<i>MDML #55</i>	apprehension	hesitate	worry
horrid	inadequate	awkward	risk	scary
upset	afraid	doubt	risk	struggle
	worried	worried	confusing	fear
<i>MDML #51</i>	fear	doubt	risk	stresses
horrible	worrying	scared	risks	misery
horrible		doubted	scare	stress
	<i>MDML #56</i>			stressful
<i>MDML #52</i>	worrying	<i>MDML #61</i>	<i>MDML #66</i>	fear
shake	shameless	upset	guilt	horrible
scary	awkward	embarrassed	afraid	confused
shy	tensions		fear	
embarrassing	tensions	<i>MDML #62</i>	scared	<i>MDML #70</i>
embarrassing	scares	avoid	desperate	awkward
pressure		horrible	guilt	horrible
overwhelming	<i>MDML #57</i>	tension	shook	confused
	risk	tension	struggles	
<i>MDML #53</i>	anxious	guilty		<i>MDML #71</i>

obsessed	confused	pressure	miserable	horrible
obsessed	scared	overwhelmed	shaking	horrible
risk	avoided	stresses	struggling	
	nervous	uncertain	terrified	MDML #85
MDML #72	insecurities		desperation	shy
upset	awkward	MDML #78	hesitate	shy
terrorizing	insecurities	reluctantly	dreaded	struggling
terrorizing	insecurities	scariest	desperation	obsessed
shy	risk	shook	desperation	struggling
terrified	risky	doubt	obsessed	
afraid	risks	struggling	obsession	MDML #86
scary	shaking	struggled	upset	anxiously
worry	struggling	panic	shy	nervous
ashamed	desperation	panic	guilt	shyness
shy	worried	shook	fear	fear
shy	insecurities	struggling	afraid	embarrassment
terrified	desperately	horrible		shyness
terrified	scary		MDML #82	scared
	insecurities	MDML #79	horribly	confusing
MDML #73		doubt	struggles	embarrassingly
overwhelming	MDML #76		overwhelmed	struggles
obsession	horrible	MDML #80	terrifying	
fear	horrible	obsessed	horrible	MDML #87
nervous	phobia	scary	horrible	obsessed
fear	afraid	worry		
	Shake		MDML #83	MDML #88
MDML #74		MDML #81	reluctant	risk
-		guilty	worry	
	MDML #77	shy	embarrassing	MDML #89
MDML #75	scary	shy	shy	reluctantly
embarrassed	dweller	shy	struggling	Fear
hesitating	embarrassed	confused		
fear	pressure	nervous		
	pressure	embarrassed	MDML #84	MDML #90



horrible	anxiety	anxious
horrible	nervous	awkward
	upset	stressful
<i>MDML #91</i>	shame	insecure
risk	worry	stressed
risk	panic	
	uneasy	<i>MDML #99</i>
	horror	-
<i>MDML #92</i>	fear	
struggling	worry	<i>MDML #100</i>
nervous	scary	avoid
shy	anxiety	worry
awkward		irritating
shy		shy
awkward	<i>MDML #96</i>	shamed
	shy	overwhelming
<i>MDML #93</i>	shy	
scared	shy	
	horrible	
<i>MDML #94</i>	scared	
shook	risk	
shy	panicking	
anxiety		
terrifying	<i>MDML #97</i>	
insecurities	scary	
	scared	
<i>MDML #95</i>	embarrassed	
horrible	embarrassed	
panic	embarrassed	
shaken	embarrassed	
horrible	shy	
Horror	shy	
horrible		
shy	<i>MDML #98</i>	

<b>Females: Anger</b>	arguing	hated	threatened	annoyed
			ugly	arguments
<i>FDML #1</i>	<i>FDML #6</i>	<i>FDML #8</i>	sucked	anger
hated	sucks	annoying	hated	
tricky	ugly	fought		<i>FDML #14</i>
tricky	hate	fought	<i>FDML #10</i>	sceptical
attacks	fight	fighting	ugly	mocking
attacks	bitches	fighting	crap	ugly
	ridiculous	crappy	pissed	dumb
<i>FDML #2</i>	hell	ugly	beaten	dumb
hated	hated	suck	weapon	dumb
sucked	sucks	mad	weapon	stupidest
killed	sucks	assholes	blame	Liars
trick	hated	bother	humiliated	
	hell	ugly	teased	<i>FDML #15</i>
<i>FDML #3</i>	suck	anger	hated	arguing
yell	suck	mad		battle
hateful	sucks	stupid	<i>FDML #11</i>	
bother	hate	stupid	teasing	<i>FDML #16</i>
tricked	hated	hate	punishments	lying
annoying	hated	stupid	ridiculous	cheat
	sucked	sucked		sucks
<i>FDML #4</i>	hate	ugly	<i>FDML #12</i>	
bitter	crappy	fight	idiot	<i>FDML #17</i>
fight	hate	asshole	yelled	hate
fighting	kills	sucks	insult	hated
villain		yell	stupid	fight
wicked	<i>FDML #7</i>	yell	sucked	intimidating
	suck	asshole	cheating	fought
<i>FDML #5</i>	frustrated		crappy	
kill	fighting	<i>FDML #9</i>		<i>FDML #18</i>
cruel	Fighters	fight	<i>FDML #13</i>	ugly
nagged	blame	argue	trick	ugly

ugly		<i>FDML #24</i>	lying	fight
hating	<i>FDML #22</i>	intimidated	crappy	hated
mad	attacks	lied	jealous	
Wars	humiliated	Lying	ugly	<i>FDML #30</i>
	hate		suck	fighting
<i>FDML #19</i>	aggression	<i>FDML #25</i>	ugly	
stupid	humiliating	crap	ugly	<i>FDML #31</i>
fight	angry	Liars	attacked	-
war	jealous		attacked	
abusive	bitter	<i>FDML #26</i>	battle	<i>FDML #32</i>
attack	aggression	sucky		bitches
	teased	teased	<i>FDML #28</i>	annoying
<i>FDML #20</i>	critical	hated	fought	yelling
teased	scepticism	bitch	abusive	shit
hate	aggressive	hated	angry	fight
offensive	poison	battle	jealous	fight
Grudge	pestered	battle	threatened	yells
dumb	critical	hated	yell	fucking
dumb	fight	hated	fighting	damn
stupid	hated	hated	hated	attacks
stupid	critical	angry		attacks
fight	fight	angry	<i>FDML #29</i>	attacks
fought	fight	mad	abusive	crap
		angry	kill	raging
<i>FDML #21</i>	<i>FDML #23</i>	killed	hell	shitty
fought	teased	killed	hated	shit's
fought	tease	fighting	argue	Hell
hated	hated	cheating	argue	Hell
stupid	hate	humiliated	hated	
crappy	sucked	cheated	hated	<i>FDML #33</i>
suck	fought	shit	threatening	sucked
suck	fight		resented	
mad		<i>FDML #27</i>	arguing	<i>FDML #34</i>

hated		abuse	abuse	hate
attacks	<i>FDML #38</i>		abuse	insult
tease	cheated	<i>FDML #42</i>		humiliated
fight		hated	<i>FDML #47</i>	insult
	<i>FDML #39</i>	sucked	tease	
<i>FDML #35</i>	rebelled	bitchy	angry	<i>FDML #51</i>
jealous	cheating	rude	hell	fight
war	arguments	fighting	liar	Nasties
killed		annoying	crap	tricked
hated	<i>FDML #40</i>	bitchy	attacks	sucks
killing	-	sucked		sucks
stupid		sucked	<i>FDML #48</i>	arguably
Hell	<i>FDML #41</i>	sucked	intimidated	killed
	attack	hated	violent	crappy
<i>FDML #36</i>	bothering		blame	angry
fighting	bother	<i>FDML #43</i>	hate	angry
hated	abuse	yelling	nasty	angry
shitless	destroyed	Screw	cheating	angry
pissed	ugly	trick	hating	angry
angry	ugly	hell	ugly	kill
harassment	crap			Nasties
hated	teased	<i>FDML #44</i>	<i>FDML #49</i>	
bitches	abusive	yell	-	<i>FDML #52</i>
cheated	threaten	yell	<i>FDML #50</i>	killed
damn	war	fighting	crappy	envying
fight	fight	hated	sucky	
hate	fight	mad	humiliate	<i>FDML #53</i>
	attacking	sucked	hate	confrontation
<i>FDML #37</i>	viciously		threats	humiliated
blamed	tricked	<i>FDML #45</i>	nasty	killing
argue	angry	argued	mocking	
War	war	<i>FDML #46</i>	insulted	<i>FDML #54</i>
War	crap		insult	frustrations

	ugly	<i>FDML #61</i>	<i>FDML #63</i>	
<i>FDML #55</i>	obnoxious	hated	hated	<i>FDML #68</i>
angry	ugly	beaten	kill	Idiot
torture		frustration	kill	arguments
	<i>FDML #58</i>	frustrated	Killer	fight
<i>FDML #56</i>	fought	battle	yelled	hell
suck	angry	hated		anger
kill	frustrated	hated	<i>FDML #64</i>	frustration
poisonous	pissed	hated	dumb	
lied	offense	hated	cruel	<i>FDML #69</i>
lied	suck	frustrated	blame	hated
arguing	anger	Rage	hated	destroy
arguing	mad	mad	hated	enemies
arguing	aggressive	tortured	hated	sucks
violent	angry	war	critical	
rage	crappy	abusive	poisoning	
foetus		argued		<i>FDML #70</i>
mad	<i>FDML #59</i>	argued	<i>FDML #65</i>	hated
threatened	annoying	screws	ugliest	hated
Damned	ridiculous	attacks	Wars	hated
furious	annoying	attack	Battlestar	sucks
angry	annoying	attack	sucked	
jealous	annoying	lies	shit	<i>FDML #71</i>
yell	fight	threatened		attack
violent	brutal	threatened	<i>FDML #66</i>	attacks
abuse		intimidate	Nagel	hell
attacks	<i>FDML #60</i>	tricky	vicious	arguments
crap	tricky	frustrations	attack	attacks
attacks	bothered	resentment	critical	
battle	angry	frustrations	hate	<i>FDML #72</i>
attack	hated			battling
	ridiculously	<i>FDML #62</i>	<i>FDML #67</i>	aggressive
<i>FDML #57</i>		-	bitch	
			fuck	<i>FDML #73</i>

abuse	<i>FDML #75</i>		abusive	raged
argument	liar	<i>FDML # 77</i>		hate
abusive	hate	battling	<i>FDML #81</i>	fuck
abuse	blamed	hate	pissy	ugliest
abuse	ridiculous	anger	jealous	dumbest
fighting	mad	Stupidly	nasty	crap
abuse	nasty		angry	abuse
abusing	ridiculous	<i>FDML #78</i>	hell	argued
rebel	mad	annoyed	sucked	anger
lying	sucked	hated	hell	mad
nasty	teased	rebel	shitty	argued
hated	crappy	annoyed	attack	anger
lies	shit	hated	pissed	anger
attacks	murderer	rebels		mad
ridiculous	Damn	hating	<i>FDML #82</i>	abuse
tricks	dummy	hated	-	
	yell	killings		<i>FDML #84</i>
<i>FDML #74</i>	pushy	War	<i>FDML #83</i>	hated
damn	pushy	arguing	argued	crap
hated	annoyed	hated	argue	yelled
hated	ridiculously	arguments	greedy	Crap
killed	frustrating	argument	angry	
kill	annoyed	arguments	angry	<i>FDML #85</i>
hated		hate	resented	fucking
revenge	<i>FDML #76</i>	torture	blame	fuck
hated	tricks	annoy	offended	Fuck
sucked	destroyer		shit	fuck
stupid	shit	<i>FDML #79</i>	rage	hell
crappy	battle	mad	mad	rebel
hated	kill		killed	fuck
lies	bitch	<i>FDML #80</i>	shitty	Bitch
lies	bitch	frustrating	war	fucking
	blame	mad	hated	fucked

fuck		hell	shitty
kill	<i>FDML #91</i>	dominant	yell
fucking	teasing	shit	Damn
fucking	hate	bitch	
fucking	hate	blame	<i>FDML #100</i>
fucking	asshole	angry	suck
fuck	annoying	furious	ugly
fucking		fighting	ugly
pissed	<i>FDML #92</i>	hell	ugly
shit	angry	sucked	yelled
crap		suck	dumb
	<i>FDML #93</i>	sucked	rebel
<i>FDML #86</i>	fought	offense	rebellious
hate	hated	hell	ugly
	sucked	stupid	hated
<i>FDML #87</i>	arguing	shit	ugly
attack	yelling		ugly
stupid	fighting	<i>FDML #96</i>	annoying
shit	fighting	-	obnoxious
ridiculous	fighting		annoying
	lying	<i>FDML #97</i>	annoying
<i>FDML #88</i>	argue	war	hated
jealous	argument	teasing	hate
fight	killed		angry
sucks	killed	<i>FDML #98</i>	angry
	murder	war	hated
<i>FDML #89</i>	abuse	fought	kill
-	anger	dumb	angry
	hate	brutal	sucks
<i>FDML #90</i>		attack	
nasty	<i>FDML #94</i>		
lying	-	<i>FDML #99</i>	
rebel	<i>FDML #95</i>	dumb	

<b>Males: Anger</b>	mad	kill	angry	stupid
	mad	hell	sucked	stupid
<b>MDML #1</b>	mad	goddamn	angry	stupid
hating	yell		angry	dumb
idiot	mad	<b>MDML #9</b>	angrier	stupid
	mad	fighting	sucked	dumb
<b>MDML #2</b>	mad	battlefield	ugly	stupid
hated	frustrated	idiot	lies	stupid
mad	angrier	Warfare	fighting	stupid
hated	Argh	kills	angry	kill
hating		frustrating	angry	hated
battle	<b>MDML #5</b>		angry	yelling
bothered	hated	<b>MDML #10</b>	angrier	hated
hated	sucked	suck	stupid	angry
angry		savage	mad	sucked
argue	<b>MDML #6</b>	savage	kill	stupid
	angry	savages	sucked	stupid
<b>MDML #3</b>	sucked	Goddammit	asshole	sucked
damn	sucked	fighting		killling
frustrating		Savage	<b>MDML #12</b>	hated
tricky	<b>MDML #7</b>	destroyed	crappy	lies
damn	Screw	Savage	hated	Stupid
	attack	haters	hate	Dumb
<b>MDML #4</b>	trick	hating	poisoning	hell
fought	pestering	nastiest	teased	hated
fought		haters	arguments	critical
fought	<b>MDML #8</b>	yell	annoy	hate
dumb	ridiculous	jealous	crap	fight
dumb	shit	intimidating	hated	killed
stupid	fought		stupid	killed
frustrated	goddamn	<b>MDML #11</b>		stupid
mad	hated	angry	<b>MDML #13</b>	stupid
mad	screw	angry	killed	



<i>MDML #14</i>	Hated	sucky	prick	<i>MDML #27</i>
shit	fight	ridiculous	prick	hated
crappy	hell	suck	fighter	murdered
suck		Revenge	fight	
punished	<i>MDML #17</i>	Revenge	shit	<i>MDML #28</i>
shitty	-	frustrations	crap	jealous
crap		frustration	shit	fucking
violently	<i>MDML #18</i>	idiot	hate	attack
hate	attacks	sarcastic	hate	shitty
Hell	attack		shit	attacks
crap		<i>MDML #21</i>		attacks
hated	<i>MDML #19</i>	nasty	<i>MDML #24</i>	attack
	hate	threat	foetus	attacks
<i>MDML #15</i>	fight	kill	intimidating	attack
Wars	blame	kill	hated	
beaten	argument	ugly	kill	<i>MDML #29</i>
tease	fight	blaming	killed	damn
Ugly	fight	sucked	destroyed	kill
idiot	sucked	suck		killing
annoyed	hell	stupid	<i>MDML #25</i>	fuckers
annoyed	attacks		Damn	fight
screwed	pissed	<i>MDML #22</i>	hated	Shit
annoying		-	shit	violent
war	<i>MDML #20</i>		enemies	fighting
	obnoxious	<i>MDML #23</i>	enemies	battle
<i>MDML #16</i>	beaten	fucking	angry	Villains
hell	crap	cunts	shit	battles
hated	frustrated	fuck		battle
hated	enemies	idiot	<i>MDML #26</i>	battle
attacked	hate	cunt	dumb	bitches
hell	frustrated	shit	haters	hell
offense	frustration	shit	crappy	shit
ridiculous	hated	shit		shit

damn	kill	fight	fucking	stupid
Fuck	annoys	Wars	bitches	lies
murderers	fight	attack	Hate	stupidity
bitch		destroyed	fuck	shit
bitch	MDML #32	hate	fuck	fucked
Shit	sucks		destroyed	shit
hell	hated	MDML #37		
shit	sucked	hated	MDML #42	MDML #44
shit	crap	hated	hated	fight
Damn	argue	hate	stupid	sucked
Shit	ugly	abuse		sucked
hell	bitter	hell	MDML #43	asshole
bastards	argue		shit	assholes
Shit	angry	MDML #38	lied	cheated
damn	fight	asshole	shit	stupid
killed		argument	shit	fuck
damned	MDML #33	dumb	shit	stupid
	frustrated	hell	shit	stupidity
MDML #30		annoyed	shit	stupidity
hell	MDML #34		mad	fucking
yell	damnit	MDML #39	shit	stupid
	mad	mad	fuck	furious
MDML #31	hated		crap	suck
angry	hated	MDML #40	stupid	
punished	Sucks	-	fucking	MDML #45
fighting	hell	MDML #41	stupid	tricks
angry	Sucks	fight	rebel	sucked
hated	damn	fucking	aggressive	mad
tricks		ridiculed	threatened	sucked
hated	MDML #35	teased	stupid	trick
ridicule	fight	hell	moron	sucked
hated		hated	stupid	screw
attacks	MDML #36	yelling	stupid	

<i>MDML #46</i>	shit	frustrated	fighting	sucks
sucked	shit	wicked	hating	
suck	fighting	Shit	annoyed	<i>MDML #60</i>
stupid	fighting	stupid	fighting	stupid
	cheating	hated	arguing	shit
<i>MDML #47</i>	cheating			hated
fights	lied	<i>MDML #52</i>	<i>MDML #57</i>	confrontational
fought	stupid	suck	destroyed	confrontational
punishment	angry	yell	Warfare	angry
sucked	fuck	hated	Temper	killed
shit			Temper	confronted
threatened	<i>MDML #50</i>	<i>MDML #53</i>	Temper	sceptical
shit	stubborn	frustrating	Temper	fuck
sucks	ridiculous	War	attacks	killer
sucked	stupid	War	shit	trick
aggravated	fight	hates	shit	fuck
attacks	fighting			anger
	frustrated	<i>MDML #54</i>	<i>MDML #58</i>	stupid
<i>MDML #48</i>	fighting	tricks	nasty	fight
intimidating	frustrated	stupid	fight	intimidation
	angry	rebellng		frustrating
<i>MDML #49</i>	fight	intimidated	<i>MDML #59</i>	hate
mad	lying	hate	attacked	revenge
mad	sucker		attacker	damned
annoying		<i>MDML #55</i>	sceptical	fuck
arguments	<i>MDML #51</i>	jealous	sceptical	shit
fighting	hell	stupid	destroy	liars
punished	idiots		destroy	
fighting	shit	<i>MDML #56</i>	angry	<i>MDML #61</i>
yelling	arguing	killed	angry	hating
yelling	sucks	frustrated	yelling	dumbest
yelling	Shit	tricks	fighting	dumb
harassing	fights	fought	sucky	Idiots

Idiot's	hateful	lying	resented	
	dumb		grudges	MDML #70
MDML #62	killer	MDML #65	dummy	meanest
abusive	fucking	crap	suck	angry
cheating	bastard	envy	shit	arguing
anger	hate	sucked	damn	fighting
anger	rude	lies	fuck	crap
abused	yelling		shit	argued
anger	shit	MDML #66	bother	arguments
arguing	dumbass	Wars	suckered	hell
punishment	crap	fight	tricked	stupid
jealous	crappy	abusive	tricked	hated
cheating	shitty	violent	shit	hated
argument	shit	Wars	shit	resentful
angry	stupid	hated	threatening	hell
abusive	rude	hate	sucks	
abuse	fucking	yelled		MDML #71
abuse	fucking	poisoning	MDML #68	attack
fight	fucking	fighting	annoyed	fought
crap	fuck	fighting		War
angry	hating	cheated	MDML #69	war
lying	fuck	fought	suck	War
crappy	hell		hell	fought
	fuck	MDML #67	Hell	hate
MDML #63	stupid	suck	jealous	cunt
Hell	hated	Mad	Furious	Rage
fuck		angry	sucks	ridiculous
pissy	MDML #64	Fuck	lied	Wars
kills	Wars	stupid	lies	brutal
fucking	Battlefront	Fuck	liar	tricks
hell	enemy	shit	sarcastic	hate
bitch	fight	damn	attack	lies
prejudiced	battle	hating	killing	

*MDML #72*

hell  
weapons  
blame  
annoying  
bother  
annoying  
stupid  
hell  
ugly  
stupid  
pestering  
angry  
cheated  
cheated  
yelled  
hell  
cheated  
cheated  
cheated  
cheat

*MDML #73*

fighting  
Fighty  
annoy  
arguments

*MDML #74*

Angry  
sarcasm  
screw

*MDML #75*

envied  
insulted  
bother  
teased  
tricks  
mock  
fight  
ridiculed  
nagging  
annoying  
yell  
mad  
sceptical  
confront

*MDML #76*

sucker  
damn  
fight

*MDML #77*

dumb  
stupidity  
ridiculous  
hate  
hate  
lying

*MDML #78*

hate  
haters  
haters  
hell  
destroying

*MDML #78*

dumb  
lying  
crap  
attack  
attack  
attack  
crap  
hate  
furious

*MDML #79*

fight  
hate  
hate  
hated

*MDML #80*

fighting

*MDML #81*

stupid  
dumbest  
ludicrous  
ludicrous  
kill  
confronted

*MDML #82*

ridiculously  
raging  
offensive

*MDML #83*

wicked  
hell  
stupid  
frustrated  
sucked  
ridiculous

*MDML #84*

sucked

*MDML #85*

hell  
dumbass  
hated  
fighting  
hell

*MDML #86*

sucked  
abusive  
abusive  
fought  
shitty  
offense  
beaten  
hate  
yelling  
attack

*MDML #87*

hate  
mad

*MDML #88*

hell  
stupid  
trick  
hate

*MDML #89*

crap  
suck  
argue

*MDML #90*

fucking  
hated  
hell  
shits  
fuck  
dumb  
shit  
stupid  
asshole

*MDML #90*

ridiculous  
killed  
yelled  
yell  
yell

*MDML #91*

-

*MDML #92*

suck

sucks	hated	insulting
	mad	anger
<i>MDML #93</i>	hated	anger
-	hated	mad
	hated	Damn
<i>MDML #94</i>	mad	attack
fought	hated	shit
	dumb	shit
<i>MDML #95</i>	dumb	hate
fight		killed
beaten	<i>MDML #97</i>	mad
confrontational	jerk	cheat
bother	jealous	shitload
stupid	yelled	
mad	fight	<i>MDML #99</i>
annoyed	jealous	sucked
frustrated		teasing
offending	<i>MDML #98</i>	teased
ridiculously	kill	
damn	hated	<i>MDML #100</i>
annoying	hate	murderous
	annoying	killed
<i>MDML #96</i>	hell	killed
Damn	hated	weapon
hated	offended	poisoned
yell	mad	scepticism
yell	angry	War
violent	shit	ridiculous
fight	fighting	sucked
fight	mad	ridiculous
fight	anger	contradictions
angry	stupid	ridiculously
hated	fighting	ridiculous

**Females:  
Sadness**

**FDML #1**

lost  
suffer

**FDML #2**

sad  
broke  
sad  
sad  
sad  
cry

lonely

broke

cried

sad

sad

ruined

sad

cried

sad

broke

sad

sad

lost

**FDML #3**

cry

miss

hurtful

alone

**FDML #4**

broke

depression

lost

lost

lost

depressed

depression

depression

cry

losing

cry

heartbroken

alone

depressed

sad

depressing

**FDML #5**

broke

cry

Sadly

missing

heartbroken

hurt

devastated

cried

cry

**FDML #6**

sad

sad

sorry

failed

failed

sad

Sorry

sorry

broke

sorry

sorry

depressed

sad

lose

sorry

miss

depressed

devastated

alone

broke

tears

overwhelming

**FDML #7**

cried

broke

suffering

resign

**FDML #8**

cried

crying

cry

crying

cried

**FDML #9**

overwhelming

crying

alone

alone

hurt

hurt

hurt

suffering

hurt

Sadly

missing

sad

lost

lonely

rejected

devastated

sad

rejection

miserable

**FDML #10**

hurts

cry

sad

crying

useless

cry

broke

miss

cry

missed

miss

alone

sorry

low

lower

cry

Sorry

**FDML #11**

crying

ruin

abandoned

worthless

devastated

sad

sadly

lower

fail

hurting

hurting

lonely

sad

homesick

miss

**FDML #12**

sad

cried

miss

sad

broke

sad

pathetic

	sad	lose	lost	alone
<b>FDML #13</b>	sad	lose	crying	hurts
missed	missed	hurt	overwhelming	hurt
lonely	losers	broke		hurting
broke		hurt	<b>FDML #21</b>	
broke	<b>FDML #15</b>		lost	<b>FDML #23</b>
sad	sorry	<b>FDML #19</b>	missed	crying
sad	cry	ruin	devastated	crying
alone	sadly	alone	sad	crying
miserable	lonely	miserable	sadness	cry
depressing	hurt	sorry		sadly
tears	abandon	Grim	<b>FDML #22</b>	
losing	sad	tears	alone	<b>FDML #24</b>
broke		loss	crying	sad
cried	<b>FDML #16</b>	failed	sorry	alone
tears	alone	failure	depression	sad
cried	broke	worthless	fatigued	sad
tears	crying	depression	depression	cry
sadness	sad	disappointing	failed	
	failed	lose	miserably	<b>FDML #25</b>
<b>FDML #14</b>	alone	depression	depression	-
sad	broke	sad	lose	
losers	missing	tears	abandoned	<b>FDML #26</b>
hurtful		devastated	depressed	sad
lonely	<b>FDML #17</b>	heartbroken	depression	abandonment
losing	crying	losing	lost	broke
losers	tears		depression	sorry
cry	crying	<b>FDML #20</b>	isolation	low
lonely	miss	cried	miss	depressing
losers		sad	hurting	missing
hurt	<b>FDML #18</b>	cry	cry	isolated
crying	sad	fail	sorrow	miss
grave	heartbroken	lost	heartbroken	sad



losing	cry		lowered	
sad	cried	<i>FDML #31</i>	sad	<i>FDML #35</i>
sad	Sadly	sad	missed	miss
depressed	depressed		lonely	lose
sad		<i>FDML #32</i>	sad	sad
miss	<i>FDML #29</i>	cry	missed	missing
miss	depression	lose	cry	devastated
broke	sad	broke	sad	crying
abandoned	failed	sad	crying	miserable
abandoned	miserably	depressed	depressed	lost
pathetic	missed	alone	cry	sad
sad	devastated	lose	tears	missed
	depression	isolated		missed
<i>FDML #27</i>	sad	worthless	<i>FDML #33</i>	homesick
miss	depressed	sad	lost	
saddest	depression	alone		<i>FDML #36</i>
depressed	alone	sad	<i>FDML #34</i>	depressed
crying	hurting	alone	Gravelbourg	depressing
crying	lost	alone	Gravelbourg	loser
depressed	depression	lonely	sadly	lost
depressed		sad	Gravelbourg	cried
depressing	<i>FDML #30</i>	sad	cry	broke
low	sad	sad	cry	broke
alone	sad	alone	miss	
miss	sad	sad	sad	<i>FDML #37</i>
	cried	tears	crying	broke
<i>FDML #28</i>	sad	tears	alone	disappointed
lost	sad	alone	Gravelbourg	lost
lost	sad	failing	alone	lonely
lost	Sorry	unhappy	Gravelbourg	heartbreaking
lost	sad	alone	regrets	depression
cry	empty	broke	tears	low
sad	sorry	devastating	tears	

**FDML #38**

sorry

cry

cried

missed

alone

ruin

regret

sorry

**FDML #39**

cry

sorry

alone

loss

lost

depression

alone

missing

lose

lost

broke

missing

Sorry

**FDML #40**

depressed

depression

sorry

**FDML #41**

alone

lonely

loser

loser

alone

lose

lost

hurt

hurt

hurting

lost

missed

**FDML #42**

lost

sad

saddest

depressed

lost

losing

**FDML #43**

Sad

cried

cried

regrets

**FDML #44**

crying

depressed

**FDML #45**

cry

cry

cry

disappointing

hurt

hurt

broke

hurt

cried

hurt

sadness

sad

unhappy

broke

lowest

cried

broke

depressed

sad

**FDML #46**

alone

lose

hurt

suffered

depression

suffered

suffered

misery

**FDML #47**

broke

lost

depression

miss

**FDML #48**

sad

sad

crying

hurting

sad

alone

depression

alone

regret

depression

broke

sad

lost

isolated

isolating

alone

crying

alone

alone

sorry

sad

**FDML #49**

missed

lose

**FDML #50**

lose

cried

depressed

depressed

depression

depression

hurt

crying

worthless

worthless

depression

crying

tears

depression

alone

regret

depression

**FDML #51**

ruining

sorry

overwhelming

low

low

broke

low

suffering

heartbreak

grief

failure

loneliness

suffering

suffering

alone

miss

**FDML #52**

failed

ruined	tears	depression	broke	miss
depressed		depression	crushed	ruining
cry	<i>FDML #55</i>	sorry	depression	missing
hopeless	unhappy	sorry	sorrow	alone
loss	lost	lose	unhappy	lose
failure	lost		low	missing
depressed	suffering	<i>FDML #57</i>	depression	
	sadness	heartbroken	lost	<i>FDML #61</i>
<i>FDML #53</i>	alone	cried	cried	cried
missed	lost	cried	sorrow	missing
sobbing	cried	cried	despair	ruined
lost	lost	sad	depression	crying
hurt	sadness	regret	grievance	disappointed
broke		suffered	suffered	cried
disillusioned	<i>FDML #56</i>	Sigh	depression	tragically
alone	missed	low	suffered	depressing
loner	gravel		depression	alone
depression	abandoned	<i>FDML #58</i>	depressed	alone
crying	miss	miserable	isolated	alone
missing	lost	sadness	alone	empty
lonely	hurting	depression	missed	lose
missing	lose	depression	lonely	tragic
loneliness	overwhelming	sad	lost	alone
emptiness	low	depression		lonely
emptiness	low	neglected	<i>FDML #59</i>	sorry
sorry	sad	depression	cry	overwhelmed
	lost	isolated	crying	sorry
<i>FDML #54</i>	broke	despair	sadly	crushed
miss	lose	alone	sad	alone
crying	losing	sadly	Miss	lowest
overwhelmed	broke	low		depressed
Miss	low	depression	<i>FDML #60</i>	sad
miss	Graves	missed	alone	missed

missed	hopeless	lonely	hurt	lonely
sad	hurting	isolated	sad	disillusioned
missing	sad	isolation	lonely	depression
devastated	miss	isolated	dull	depressed
hurt	regretted	sad		miss
sad	alone	sad	<i>FDML #68</i>	
sad	miserable	sad	broke	<i>FDML #71</i>
lonely	alone	heartbreak	crying	sad
missed	broke	cry	sad	sad
lost	crying	heartbreak	alone	miss
	resignation	crying	broke	low
<i>FDML #62</i>	lost	sad		alone
-	broke	lonely	<i>FDML #69</i>	isolated
	alone	broke	lonely	sad
<i>FDML #63</i>	lonely		broke	fail
broke	lost	<i>FDML #66</i>	crying	ruining
rejected	lower	miss	broke	sad
regretted	losing	broke	sad	
alone	lost	devastating	depressed	<i>FDML #72</i>
cry	loss	alone	crying	low
tears	grief	cry	depression	sorry
cried	alone	hopeless	useless	devastating
heartbroken		depression	sad	
	<i>FDML #65</i>	hopeless		<i>FDML #73</i>
<i>FDML #64</i>	tears	lose	<i>FDML #70</i>	sad
hurt	low		sad	alone
sad	cried	<i>FDML #67</i>	missing	devastated
lonely	isolated	cry	cried	alone
alone	isolating	broke	alone	depressed
abandoned	unhappy	lame	alone	cry
hurting	isolated	alone	cried	ruined
suffered	hurt	sad	missed	tragic
abandon	lonely	broke	sad	regret

sad	missed	miserable	cried	devastated
cried	missed	crying	hurt	sorry
isolated	missed		crying	depressed
lonely	sad	<i>FDML #76</i>	cry	failure
alone	missed	crying	cry	depressed
	missed	lost	unhappy	Sadly
<i>FDML #74</i>	cry	lost	Sorry	
Miss	cry	loner	sad	<i>FDML #81</i>
Miss	sorry	alone	cried	Sorry
Miss	cry	Miss	miss	sad
alone	heartbreak	Miss	miss	unhappy
grieved	sad	Miss	missed	lost
losing	cried	empty	lose	sorry
sad	cried	Sadly	sobbing	cried
depression	cried		cry	cry
alone	hurt	<i>FDML #77</i>	helpless	sad
sad	losing	cry	alone	cried
sad	sad	sad	rejected	sad
losing	lost	lost	suffering	alone
lost	cry	sadly		sad
lost	alone	regret	<i>FDML #79</i>	sorry
alone	crying	lost	sad	cried
grave	alone	lost	sad	sad
alone	depressed	lost	sad	lose
alone	cried	failed	alone	cried
cry	depressed	crushed	alone	sorry
crying	disappointed	failed	tears	overwhelming
lonely	lost	lonely	alone	alone
	alone		sad	
<i>FDML #75</i>	fail	<i>FDML #78</i>		<i>FDML #82</i>
hurt	miss	failed	<i>FDML #80</i>	lame
crying	missed	sorry	missed	lost
lost	broke	lonely	depressed	loss

loss		hurt	losing	<i>FDML #96</i>
	<i>FDML #87</i>	sad	sad	suffered
<i>FDML #83</i>	cried	sad	depressed	hurt
cried	regret	broke	cry	
alone	cry	sad		<i>FDML #97</i>
devastated	broke	sad	<i>FDML #94</i>	miss
loss	sorry	sadly	loner	cry
disappointed		broke		homesick
sad	<i>FDML #88</i>	broke	<i>FDML #95</i>	cried
alone	sad	sad	depressing	empty
sad	saddest	broke	failed	
crying	sad	broke	crying	<i>FDML #98</i>
empty	depressed		crying	Sorry
low	broke	<i>FDML #91</i>	hurt	cried
alone	sad	low	lost	alone
hurting	sad	crushed	hurt	rejected
depressing	cried	sad	sad	
low	sad	miss	broke	<i>FDML #99</i>
	miss	sad	broke	hurt
<i>FDML #84</i>	sorry	Sorry	lose	sad
alone		discouraged	lost	lost
low	<i>FDML #89</i>		hurt	sad
overwhelmed	cried	<i>FDML #92</i>	broke	sad
missed	cried	sad	cried	sad
miss	crying	sorry	miserable	sad
miss	sad	sad	depressed	sad
lost	lost	sad	cry	abandoned
	alone	lost	cry	sad
<i>FDML #85</i>			cry	sad
alone	<i>FDML #90</i>	<i>FDML #93</i>	suffered	sad
	crying	cry	alone	depressed
<i>FDML #86</i>	sad	sad	miss	sad
devastated	sad	crying		

*FDML #100*

empty

sad

cry

cry

sad

lonely

missed

sad

cry

tears

miss

sad

depressed

lonely

missed

lost

empty

sad

depressed

lost

empty

depressed

sad

missing

empty

cry

lose

overwhelming

empty

empty

sad

lose

empty

<b>Males: Sadness</b>	Sadly	sad	discouraged	saddest
	sad	sorry	lost	sadder
<b>MDML #1</b>	sad	sad	alone	sad
failed	lose	sad	missed	lose
cried	lost	failed	lost	sad
sad	lost	sad	cried	sad
lost	unhappy	fail		
lost	lost	broke	<b>MDML #11</b>	<b>MDML #12</b>
<b>MDML #2</b>	sadder	lost	sad	hurt
lose	sadder	lonely	sad	hurt
rejected	alone	lose	sad	heartbroken
sad	lost	worthless	sad	miserable
devastating			alone	lonely
loser	<b>MDML #5</b>	<b>MDML #9</b>	depressed	depressed
loner	broke	sad	alone	
lose		saddest	sad	<b>MDML #13</b>
lose	<b>MDML #6</b>	depressing	sad	hurt
Sorry	tragic	hurt	sad	hurts
loser	lost	depressed	sadder	lost
unhappy	lost	broke	sad	cried
broke	lose	depressed	sad	losing
sorry	failed	miserable	sad	miss
sad	lonely	miserable	hurt	suffering
rejects	lost	sad	sad	missing
depressed	lower	broke	flunked	Miss
sorry		hopeless	sad	suffering
	<b>MDML #7</b>	sad	sadder	suffering
<b>MDML #3</b>	depressing	sad	depressed	failing
missed	lost	sad	sad	lose
lost	rejection	cried	broke	broke
	Failbook	alone	sadder	sad
<b>MDML #4</b>			sad	suffer
miss	<b>MDML #8</b>	<b>MDML #10</b>	depressed	failing



loser	discourage		broke	
hurts	broke	MDML #21	sorry	MDML #30
		lost		lost
MDML #14	MDML #17	sadly	MDML #26	lost
cried	unhappy	losing	alone	failed
cried	losing	sadly		
sad	unhappy	failed	MDML #27	MDML #31
pity	Miss	failed	sad	miss
lame	regretted	failing	cried	sad
regret	missed	lonely		broke
cried	rejection	loneliness	MDML #28	missing
broke	rejection		broke	sad
regrets	discouraged	MDML #22	cry	alone
regrets	missing	crying	cry	lonely
unhappy	cried	crying	crying	alone
	alone	cries	cry	hurting
MDML #15		crying	crying	hurting
cried	MDML #18	cry	suffered	losers
Sorry	sad	miss	suffers	
grave	doomed		lost	MDML #32
graveyard		MDML #23	fail	suffered
sorry	MDML #19	missing	ruined	sad
crushed	lower	crying	lose	miss
regret	sad		low	broke
ruined	loser	MDML #24		lost
useless		crushed	MDML #29	lost
ruined	MDML #20	low	lost	lose
	broke	sadness	failed	failure
MDML #16	abandon	sad	lost	lost
sad	empty		lose	tears
loner	disappointing	MDML #25	lost	
alone	regret	crying	wept	MDML #33
alone	sorry	unsuccessful	regrets	depression

hurt	lost	sorry	missed	crying
depressing	lost		whining	crying
		<i>MDML #44</i>		failed
<i>MDML #34</i>	<i>MDML #39</i>	heartbroken	<i>MDML #50</i>	failed
Useless	sad		lose	miserable
		<i>MDML #45</i>	lost	unhappy
<i>MDML #35</i>	<i>MDML #40</i>	regret	empty	
lost	-		broke	<i>MDML #54</i>
broke		<i>MDML #46</i>	sad	alone
lost	<i>MDML #41</i>	graveyards	sad	crushed
regret	crying	miss	empty	lost
	sad	crushed	unhappy	losing
	Miss		depressed	broke
<i>MDML #36</i>	Miss	<i>MDML #47</i>	hurt	neglected
longingly	crying	broke	broke	homesick
crying	alone	lost	missed	miss
lost	broke	hurt	missed	sorry
lost	tears	sad	missed	
failed	sad	lost	broke	<i>MDML #55</i>
failed	alone	lost		inadequate
sorry	miserable	discouraging	<i>MDML #51</i>	lost
overwhelming	unhappy		miss	broke
	sad	<i>MDML #48</i>	sorry	Sadly
<i>MDML #37</i>		-	sorry	hurts
-	<i>MDML #42</i>		hurt	disappointment
	sorry	<i>MDML #49</i>		
<i>MDML #38</i>	low	crying	<i>MDML #52</i>	<i>MDML #56</i>
alone	loner	crying	cried	sadly
lonely		dooming	cried	Sadly
losing	<i>MDML #43</i>	suffers	fail	alone
unhappy	miss	disappointment	overwhelming	loser
loss	broke	broke		alone
hurt	overwhelmed	lost	<i>MDML #53</i>	fail
sad				

crying	depressing	depressed	depression	miss
sad	depressed	flunked	depression	
lost	ruined	depressed	depression	<i>MDML #66</i>
lost	loser	suffer	sadness	regretted
lower	Miss	suffered	overwhelmed	sad
lower	disappoint	sad	depression	sad
lost	pity	sorry	depression	sad
sadly	loss		depression	sad
tears	loser	<i>MDML #63</i>	depression	cried
devastating	cried	low	suffer	losing
lonely	doomed	tears	sadness	heartbroken
depressed	pathetic	sad	sad	alone
depressed	hurt	despair	depression	Tragedy
lowest	crying	miss	depression	low
	miss	miss		tragedy
<i>MDML #57</i>	depression	hurting	<i>MDML #65</i>	lost
lost	alone	pity	loser	lost
lost	lose		sad	depression
lost	loser	<i>MDML #64</i>	sad	miss
lost	sorry	regrettably	saddest	miss
lost		miss	depressed	
lost	<i>MDML #61</i>	regrets	devastated	<i>MDML #67</i>
	failing	miss	Lost	lost
<i>MDML #58</i>	failing	pathetic	fail	loner
lost		low	lost	broke
	<i>MDML #62</i>	lose	broke	sad
<i>MDML #59</i>	depress	depression	lost	miserable
losing	abandoned	depression	depressed	low
alone	lose	depression	isolated	depressed
sad	broke	sad	depressed	failed
	lose	depression	lost	broke
<i>MDML #60</i>	depressed	depression	unhappy	broke
sad	sad	pity	miss	alone

depressed	alone	<b>cry</b>	<b>failure</b>	<i>MDML #81</i>
	<b>losing</b>	Sadly	<b>sorry</b>	<b>sorry</b>
<i>MDML #68</i>	broke	rejected	<b>disappoint</b>	hurt
lost	broke	<b>rejected</b>	overwhelmed	<b>rejected</b>
devastated	loser	<b>alone</b>	lonely	miserable
<b>miss</b>	<b>lose</b>	broke	alone	missed
<b>lower</b>	<b>sad</b>	yearned	alone	missed
	<b>lost</b>	<b>missed</b>	unhappiness	missed
<i>MDML #69</i>	crushed	<b>disappointed</b>	lonely	losing
<b>sorry</b>	<b>hurt</b>	failure	lost	Failing
<b>sad</b>	hurt	fail	<b>fail</b>	failing
<b>crying</b>	<b>hurt</b>	cried		<b>Sorry</b>
<b>loss</b>	broke	fail	<i>MDML #78</i>	<b>lame</b>
misery	broke	rejected	lonely	failing
sadness	<b>Miss</b>	missing	unhappy	<b>sadness</b>
	<b>crushed</b>	<b>suffer</b>	<b>Miss</b>	<b>rejection</b>
<i>MDML #70</i>	<b>lose</b>		<b>missed</b>	broke
sorry	sad	<i>MDML #76</i>	<b>disappointed</b>	sadder
sad	hurtful	depression	<b>failed</b>	sad
sad		<b>cry</b>	failure	sadness
<b>lost</b>	<i>MDML #73</i>	cry	devastated	rejection
broke	<b>overwhelming</b>	depression	unhappy	grieved
depressed	disappointing	sad	depression	cried
lost	hurt	sad	crying	rejected
miss	<b>lost</b>		<b>missing</b>	alone
Losing		<i>MDML #77</i>	<b>cry</b>	rejections
	<i>MDML #74</i>	alone		
<i>MDML #71</i>	pessimistic	loneliness	<i>MDML #79</i>	<i>MDML #82</i>
sad	<b>failed</b>	<b>depressed</b>	<b>disappointed</b>	<b>tragic</b>
<b>lose</b>		low	depressing	<b>hurt</b>
	<i>MDML #75</i>	<b>broke</b>		<b>hurt</b>
<i>MDML #72</i>	cried	hurt	<i>MDML #80</i>	<b>overwhelmed</b>
lonely	broke	<b>regret</b>	-	

<i>MDML #83</i>	cried	alone	sorry	missed
homesick	lame	losing		depressed
broke	ruined	alone	<i>MDML #96</i>	sad
sad		lost	sad	
	<i>MDML #89</i>	lost	alone	<i>MDML #98</i>
<i>MDML #84</i>	lonely	lost	sad	crying
cried	alone	sorry	depressed	crying
depressed		depressing	sad	broke
lonely	<i>MDML #90</i>	depressing	missing	lost
broke	tragic		unhappy	pity
	broke	<i>MDML #95</i>	broke	sad
<i>MDML #85</i>		sorry	heartbroken	lost
sad	<i>MDML #91</i>	sad	lowest	alone
sad	regret	sorry	low	loser
hurt	abandoned	sorry	ruined	Sorry
alone	missed	cried	unhappy	rejected
suffered	abandoned	miss	sad	sorry
cry	alone	crying	missed	
crying	failure	cried	unhappy	<i>MDML #99</i>
depressing		sorry	lost	cried
	<i>MDML #92</i>	sorry	lost	cries
<i>MDML #86</i>	hurt	sorry	lost	cry
hurt	sad	sorry	devastated	
sadness	lost	crying	cried	<i>MDML #100</i>
low	alone	failed	cried	sad
	alone	failed	losing	lame
<i>MDML #87</i>		failed	devastated	lame
missing	<i>MDML #93</i>	doom	ruined	neglecting
sad	cried	hurt		regret
	abandoning	sorry	<i>MDML #97</i>	neglected
<i>MDML #88</i>		alone	sadly	overwhelming
hurt	<i>MDML #94</i>	sorry	lost	
cried	Sorry	sorry	crying	

## Wmatrix4

unrelated meaning

weak/diminished intensity in context

personal reference displacement

negative construction

longing/questioning/tense issue

sarcasm/irony

### Females: Happy

thinking it was so hilarious. This was before speedy  
t Alex, they are pretty hilarious but when you watch them b  
n't really make me that **happy**. And by this point my an  
which made me so super happy and I replied "Obviously,  
and old and had so much fun. I apologize Tyler and J  
everyone wound up pretty happy. So where are my sibling  
on my face, so stop making **fun** of me. And growing up, I a  
and I used to make these funny videos for myself but I'd  
uld ever think they were **funny**. Then I went to grad sch  
nernet, like how to be **funny** and how to blog and how e  
wasn't really making me **happy** and I wanted to make vide  
YouTube makes me really happy. And all of you make me  
ll of you make me really happy, and without your love a  
ant to do is make people happy. And so now, for my fut  
k on me. I would always **laugh** it off and act like it wouldn't  
her me. I always kept a **smile** on my face because honest  
face because honestly, **smiling** tricked me into being hap  
ng tricked me into being **happy**. Deep down, their words  
making videos made me so happy. My love for making vide  
e. I'm so thankful and happy, and I don't know where  
the reason someone upset **smiles**, then all my efforts wil  
okay, let 's talk about **happy** stuff okay? Ready okay,

someness, explosions of  
t first I thought it was  
I remember I had so much  
classmates, they made  
ething else that made me  
ake care of us. We were  
d a stepdad. We were so  
born. Steve and I were  
er so much. I was never  
ay with my dolls. It's  
where they're safe and  
Promise. So everyone is  
thing that takes me to a  
, so don't settle for a  
be continued is way more  
t quite fit in and I was  
ally upset and I was not  
this is me being really  
life is that I'm really  
I'm just really really  
sidence and had a lot of  
I am now, and it's so  
i together. He makes me  
but you'll also know how  
ed both in my life to be  
are excited. I'm super  
my life. I had so much  
eel like. I had so much  
my grandfather tried to  
m strangers on Microsoft  
thing I learn about this

happiness and cupcakes falling from  
fun but later I found out it  
fun. You never forget the fi  
fun of me, calling me names. M  
smile. It was drawing. I'd dra  
happy. We didn't have much,  
happy to finally have a father  
overjoyed to have a little sister,  
happy when I was home. Turns o  
funny how the best things in li  
happy. My mother is as beautif  
happy and healthy. As for me,  
happy place. It was art. And  
happy ending, because to be co  
fun! And I 'm wishing you th  
happy but, I just, I just did  
happy at all in first year, so  
happy with all my friends, and  
happy and university, yeah rrl  
happy with where I 'm at right  
fun that year with the girls  
funny looking back and thinking about h  
laugh in a way no one has befor  
happy I am when I'm in the sun  
happy, so this month I'm pack  
happy and this year is going to  
fun putting it together. I k  
fun putting together for you  
cheer me up by buying me a packet of  
comic chat. By the way, do  
funny thing called life. I lov

brothers always just made  
at school, this kid made  
of Hearts so I was super  
a couple months later at  
Kaz. And I was finally  
home and we're like a big  
doing whatever makes me  
passing, and I'm just  
ought that he was cute,  
ed have all these inside  
nd that really helped to  
also had Joel to keep me  
oel to keep me happy and  
ass degree. I'm really  
pe that you will get the  
e but everybody tends to  
so I ended up finding it  
the one that would come  
Sarah and we were really  
t a reason for me not to  
tion, love, beauty and  
d there's also this one  
bigger brother. Another  
s really mean. He would  
ay and his friends would  
lementary school was not  
ddle school was a lot of  
sylvania, I was a super  
ay that year, so not so  
e, so nice and I was so  
everyone in the audience

fun of her because she had curly  
fun of me, called me ugly and p  
happy and excited because it wa  
Comic Con. We both dressed up  
happy doing what I wanted, but  
happy family now. He's so flu  
happy. It's really the best w  
happy that I had him in my life  
funny, kind and he had the sam  
jokes and we became really, re  
cheer me up. And I also had Joel to  
happy and cheer me up. After a  
cheer me up . After a while, my dad  
happy with where my life is at  
happy ending that you deserve.  
laugh at this, so I ended up fin  
funny. As I got older, I was  
cheer me up , and whenever it used to  
happy. Moving on to something  
smile every day. My philosophy  
happiness, and together, we will  
funny story, a family story,  
funny thing is my parents told  
laugh at everything I say and h  
laugh along with him. I t  
fun at all. Now middle schoo  
fun. I went to a big middle  
happy kid and I had lots of fri  
fun things happened. Oh that  
happy. But then something crap  
laughed and I was so happy, and



nce laughed and I was so  
ant to do is make people  
e and we're just really  
razy. I just want to be  
d I want to make you all  
but I thought it was so  
work, and I felt really  
I felt really happy. My  
camera. I would record  
y and cousins. Everyone  
also known as the little  
ng able to see my family  
day a little better with  
continued to make these  
e of things that made me  
deos with my dog. I was  
e, and I cried tears of  
she the best? No, I'm  
o. I like making people  
erson's day better with  
hearts just to show how  
e called losers, people  
name, they called us a  
at school mocking us,  
at us and always making  
o we were and we were so  
y things and just having  
start making our own for  
h times and helped me be  
together. Everyone had  
videos and probably make

happy, and I realised that I w  
**laugh** because that makes me hap  
happy. Life is pretty awesome  
happy and I want to make you al  
**happy** too. Well, I guess that  
funny. Since there is five of  
happy. My smile was unbreakabl  
smile was unbreakable. I remem  
funny skits with this and show  
**laughed** and really enjoyed it. I  
**comedian** in my family. Being able  
**laugh** meant the world to me bec  
**laughter**. As the year went on, I  
funny video skits. They were n  
smile, which was video games,  
happy. After three years, my  
joy, but I also cried tears  
joking - don't do that guys. D  
**smile** and being able to make on  
**laughter** means the world to me. Y  
happy we were that we had a bes  
**laughed** at our girl group name,  
**joke**, and it's hurtful. So  
**laughing** at us and always making f  
**fun** of us, calling us ugly, du  
happy to have best friends. We  
fun, and we were so grateful  
fun, but we just didn't hav  
happy again but anyway, we sti  
fun and junior year was just  
**fun** of them, but Gabi and I and

nd we just loved to have  
ademic and had different  
nnel and then we were so  
had meaning and we were  
y and people would still  
Gabi, and they made me  
ren and they all made me  
oy was I relieved and so  
with my life. And I'm  
at we love and we can be  
tinue with what makes us  
g it home and my parents  
which was really kind of  
on 2 controller. It was  
ould be something really  
we could do together for  
tioned, so every time I  
ed and it was incredibly  
oint, but it was really  
ely memorable and really  
me being really, really  
st five years and was so  
high school, and I was  
ver forget that. It was  
one, we had some pretty  
just was having so much  
, and that's definitely  
to play that role was so  
made me really, really  
se experiences became so  
n keep doing that, I am

fun and go shopping and, and  
**humour** and just different, and  
happy to see that our viewers a  
happy that you guys looked up t  
laugh and say, "Ew" and say "I ha  
happy, just having them in my  
happy. So then, after all the  
happy just to get done with mid  
happy, and I couldn't ask for  
happy. And now we have college  
happy, and I couldn't be more  
hilariously arguing over how to insta  
fun but actually very lonely  
fun and I played more games o  
fun to look into. Since I wa  
fun and maybe if we were luck  
laughed, it hurt so much. But I  
fun. I could ignore the pain  
fun and I wasn't the biggest  
fun and so great to see them  
happy. I had only wanted to do  
happy when you finally got to m  
overjoyed when I got the letter say  
hilarious and I'll never share wit  
fun adventures. And that is  
fun with being creative with  
fun for me. I'm forever gra  
fun because I got to kind of  
happy. All of those experience  
fun and interesting to me and  
happy. And I know that you guy

I just think that's so funny; I laugh every time I think about it, and does it all with a smile on her face. This is my srrlike really, really happy. I went through a really them were having so much fun and then I was just kind top and I'd had so much fun and all the people I met e. One night I was just messing around on my computer and I found show which was a really funny point, I think. It just got happy over the years just listed. I've made myself so make fun of me for it. My first language but other people would laughing, so for some reason, I to say and they started funny like a joke. Then they pointed to maybe it was something joke. Then they pointed to a s something funny like a her, and I had a lot of fun making these films and after we made, and they would laugh. And it just made me read it just made me really happy. That day was the day they e movies and make people laugh. I really didn't like coming and people would make fun of me even though I tried my . I think it's a little funny to meet that way. Around And people would make fun of me and tell me that I look trip, and I was really happy. Once I got in New Orleans us, and I had the most fun I've ever had in years. ain. We were all really happy because we didn't want to have my dad here. We were happy until we realised that we I really enjoyed making funny videos, and I realised that o. I love making people laugh. My friends would come over we would film all these funny videos and upload them to videos, and they would make fun of us for it. People would make myself into a zombie a clown or even Spiderman. It was a Spiderman. It was really fun to do but I started running joyed it. It was really fun to do, and I had a lot of

e time. It was the most  
njoyed it. I was really  
parents weren't really  
of that. I went from a  
e in forever I felt that  
.com and revelled in the  
faculty were incredibly  
ubscribed to, Daneboe.  
yep, there is me - the  
there is me - the happy,  
on who can make your day  
everybody just kind of made  
ct to this day. So, so  
iends and I was just not  
e to me and I was really  
teem rose and I was just  
gain and thanks, thanks  
nd it was just a great,  
grades and I was really  
is all healed and she is  
he background! She's a  
imagine that and I am so  
r brother - he's really  
mum freaked out, but we  
h about it now. Another  
k about that. I'm just  
me with friends. What a  
freshman year was really  
and we just had a lot of  
ll, rlike, really big  
so we were always really

fun I've had in a while. I  
happy. One day, My camera and  
happy with this and even though  
happy, spontaneous shamelessly  
joy, that passion, that spa  
fun I was having. One day,  
uplifting and supportive. I felt s  
Funny enough, we would eventua  
happy, fun me you see in every v  
fun me you see in every video  
happy and that was my friend Sa  
fun of me and I was really  
happy of that friendship. She  
happy, so I decided to fail th  
happy, because I made a whole  
happy. Oh, oh, and I got my  
kid for my first kiss. That  
happy year. And it led me to g  
happy, but then, a month late  
happy and healthy. We stayed i  
happy, healthy one and a half-  
happy for this experience and I  
funny - and he loves video game  
laugh about it now. Another fu  
fun fact - a lot of you guys  
joking. That last part did not  
happy day! So we all played ba  
fun. My sister and I were st  
fun doing our own little proj  
cheerleaders for all of our artwork,  
happy to show them what we did

eaking up. But I was so  
eaching. It was so much  
sometimes they were just  
my sister and she would  
esome. And I was really  
body, and I had so much  
of a blur, but I'm so  
e, she actually made me  
s waiting. The boys all  
group of friends were so  
ds were so hilarious and  
ight and made each other  
was always putting on a  
al pain, she was always  
rst day of my life. She  
iends and was constantly  
Tube before but it was a  
nd I loved his knack for  
He was always making us  
can stand in your way of  
n't know if I'd ever be  
nd filmed a video called  
herself. When I see her  
ame together and made me  
my immense capacity for  
. She could make anyone  
life. She could make me  
d I have to fight for my  
food and try to make you  
my draw my life video in  
t they said. I was just

happy that I was finally gradua  
fun and also at that point in  
funny videos and I would show m  
laugh and she would help me a l  
happy but then unfortunately,  
fun and I didn't want to lea  
happy and I'm able to do what  
laugh so hard I peed my pants.  
laughed hysterically and I just s  
hilarious and uplifting. Middle sc  
uplifting. Middle school was diffi  
laugh. Near the end of middle  
happy front. I later learned t  
smiling and being a complete goof  
smiled at the sight of us and st  
smiling. I left school a second  
fun and shallow channel which  
comedy. He was always making us  
laugh. Terry witnessed the imp  
happiness. It's a feeling that's  
happy again. We were inseparab  
Happiness takes effort. If it were  
smile in photos now, I'm remi  
laugh, cry and feel truly grat  
joy. I'm not perfect but I  
smile on the worst day of their  
laugh if I was heartbroken. We  
happiness. If you're hurting righ  
laugh. But for now, build you  
celebration of a million subscribers  
happy that they didn't take my

rapids and it was really in the air and it was so high and it was a lot of , which was so extremely at she made it and I'm so ently and I had a lot of 10th grade, I was very and maybe even babies, at experience in my book ng a star, and all this f course, the summer's ame up and it was really l, which my dad was not d money. So it was ttle goatee and all that sses, whatever. It was but it was more just for a headshot, and it was on national TV - are you ght here, right, he's ght, he's happy. I'm e's definitely a lot of lse, I was always super there and we always had till, I was very, very high school, I wasn't s and it was just such a rall, we are just a big, her preggo belly. So, . Although I had lots of ad and it was just super

fun. I have always been real fun and they used to call Ara fun. So the summer before I fun. I met a ton of new peop happy till this day that she 's fun making them, and then I happy because I had really good smile. What? Who said that Bliss. Oh yeah, I wrote a boo fun stuff. Is that, that 's fun, blah blah blah, my dad fun and awesome, and guess w happy about. He was really ang fun, it was fine, then fun stuff. She said we fun - not really what I wante fun and just to, rlike, wh fun, youknow, a lot of rli joking? but when I heard that H happy. I'm happy with him. W happy with him. We have a good fun to be around with, so I happy, so close to my dad and fun, especially during the s happy in junior high. See, wh happy with my life, and I did fun way for me to step outsid happy family. And as you know funny story - my dad actually f fun during my childhood, the fun and one of my best memori

had no friends. People made fun of me all the time and I ate people would just make fun of me. I would sit in the super tall and people made fun of me for my crooked teeth ake, she wasn't a very happy person. She'd be heavil bathroom. I became the funny kid and did whatever I co hatever I could to get a laugh out of people. It made m t of people. It made me happy being able to make other ble to make other people laugh and helped me deal with t r a night. I became the funny girl again. When I drank round me. I made people laugh and for a moment, all my I just went to make her happy. A lot of things the pas e Hill 88. They were so funny. I remember wanting to b ad, and they were super happy that I was born because t so they were, rlike, happy enough to go in, because it was great. I was so happy because I was finally bac my friend Amy was super happy to see me and yes, we we s day now. And I was so happy to be back with all my fr , and we were all super happy living together and of co t job, which was not so funny. But I thought I'd put m as well and we were so happy. Of course as well, we renting and we're super happy and it's super big and t kay. So now guys, I am happy as Larry living in a hous ogether and we're super happy, working away on our cha at drawing - and we're happily in love and we're a supe love and we're a super happy family. But who what's ne something on my face, a smile, and I'm doing rlike a t I wore sunglasses and I smiled a lot and I came up with was like. I was pretty happy, youknow? But then as rlike man, not that happy. But I was still pr , but I was still pretty happy, youknow, keep positive d this baby we 're super happy, oh and then a bunch of

gic thing. Look at that  
pizza I guess. It's a  
ing and who wouldn't be  
some and interesting and  
t then sometimes you're  
d draw my life, in  
me, a little bundle of  
rable bundle of annoying  
, but unfortunately, my  
lies and everyone was so  
seemed to just be having  
but I think he was just  
ey were their own little  
ealthy. They decided to  
house. And said, Hi,  
population 300 people.  
I went crazy. I was so  
parent award ceremony to  
to them. I had so much  
I was rlike making some  
s at him. I was kind of  
of joking around, making  
I really thought he was  
to rlike make his fans  
it was amazing. I am so  
, you're, you're semi  
nd I started to get more  
ion in life and just get  
h it and being there and  
going to, rlike, cry  
ike, cry happy tears of

happy derpy face! So basically  
happy thing. Next stage of my  
happy to have a job. But  
fun! And I started doing You  
happy. That's life and it's  
celebration of a hundred thousand sub  
joy. Sup bitches? I was  
joy. One thing that I loved  
happy family didn't last very  
happy and here was my family,  
fun and I started to lose a l  
happy that I had friends there  
happy family just the two of th  
celebrate my 15th birthday after I  
happy birthday. You're actual  
Happy birthday. One home that  
happy and I actually went right  
celebrate some of the great work th  
fun, and I was so thankful t  
jokes at him. I was kind of jo  
joking around, making fun of hi  
fun of him at stuff and then out  
funny. I watched some of his h  
happy, and I, I was really in  
happy with him and even from a  
funny, I guess, sometimes. And i  
happy. I started to see more p  
happy about what I'm doing for  
cheering me up. And this brings us to t  
happy tears of joy because I am  
joy because I am so happy. I



s of joy because I am so  
so happy. I am just so  
t that I would find such  
and streams and all this  
ad great friends and had  
but it was also a lot of  
nd he was just always so  
nd always made me really  
I just feel so lucky and  
the animal lover, other  
it and it was scary and  
t bikes and have so much  
stitches, which was not  
summers there even more  
ore fun. We had so much  
wo of us at the fair and  
as coming up which meant  
were at Caesar's Palace  
s wouldn't be this much  
lack Nikki girl, you so  
all night and it was so  
spend together and I was  
was happy I was finally  
me to go back, I was so  
t, I was rlike,  
where I am today. I am  
head, my family's  
ave strength, she still  
school. I had a lot of  
to Oklahoma was actually  
in Oklahoma was actually

happy. I am just so happy to b  
happy to be able to pour my hea  
joy in life and in something  
fun time with you guys. So a  
fun every day, but once I st  
fun and I just wanted to draw  
fun to talk to and always mad  
happy. I realised that I was f  
happy to be where I am today.  
fun areas were the old house  
fun. We would ride our bikes  
fun. Mm, we even had two po  
fun but I was proud that I di  
fun. We had so much fun boat  
fun boating, tubing, water-  
had a good time, and at the end of the  
fun times at Elbow and flirti  
having a good time when my phone  
fun. You guys keep me motiva  
funny, but I was really good a  
fun. And months later, we,  
happy I was finally happy and I  
happy and I just couldn't beli  
happy. I thought, Yes! rlike  
on cloud nine that night. rlike Jamie  
happily married to the most roman  
happy, I've got this whole Yo  
smiles at you and, I mean, it  
fun at that school. We would  
fun though. It took us 30 ho  
fun. Football games, basket

nd we thought it was the  
a lot. I was the class  
. I was always cracking  
ya'll. He was sexy. I  
outside, but I wasn't  
and money didn't buy me  
watching beauty videos,  
was and still is to make  
s. I love making people  
people laugh; it brings  
lying colours. I was so  
edia. College was super  
n the max at college and  
cribers. She made super  
de my mum and dad really  
ich made me really super  
f my mum's. He wasn't  
rake he was surprisingly  
t the main thing is that  
to do it for you guys to  
order to film our crazy  
, my dad never lost his  
dit him for giving me my  
telling really weird and  
g really weird and funny  
jokes to try and make me  
I loved that he made her  
Now mind you, I had my  
eos because they made me  
tention of making people  
not only helps me to be

funniest thing, but then some ner  
**clown** up in that school. I was  
**jokes**. I was loud in the hallw  
enjoyed myself up in that bathroom, OK  
**happy** with myself, and money d  
**happiness** like I thought it would.  
comedy videos, talk show hosts  
comedy videos. I love making pe  
**laugh**; it brings joy to my hea  
joy to my heart. Yes, it do  
happy! This enabled me to star  
fun and much different to hig  
**laugh** at them in front of me.  
funny Minecraft videos and I re  
**happy**, except my dad never wan  
happy. And Gabe and I stayed s  
**happy** at all. He waited until  
**happy** which made me feel a lot  
happiness is not the absence of pro  
celebrate me hitting 25,000 subscri  
antics. Eventually, Sara found  
**humour** or his bright spirit, an  
sense of humour as well as my sweet  
funny jokes to try and make me  
jokes to try and make me smile  
smile, or teaching me all abou  
**happy** again. After dating that  
fun in college, but I also  
laugh so much. I eventually sh  
**laugh**. I decided to reboot my  
happy but also helps others to

also helps others to be  
il-A, so I wasn't very  
her parents weren't too  
I decided I wasn't very  
was, but I had a lot of  
s all I had that made me  
ge toll on my health and  
dence but it was so much  
rming for people. It's  
hem all just talking and  
really cool and nice and  
be angry. I was totally  
uld say this story has a  
t was just really nice,  
s hers, and it was just  
r. But I was really not  
nt out and did all these  
time I thought they're  
hipsters and it's just  
and, yeah, we had some  
o Barbados and it was so  
l August we just had the  
lot and it was just not  
sucked but I was kind of  
s awesome and it's just  
s is going to get really  
t to do it. So then one  
no regrets. I am really  
ds - it was just so much  
's what really makes me  
by hand. It's kind of

happy as well. Thank you all s  
happy about this because I had  
happy about that because I was  
happy and I just had to do some  
fun anyway. When I got to fi  
happy. To treat my ADD, the d  
happiness. I 'm still underweight  
fun being on stage and entert  
funny when you consider that th  
laughing. One of these people was  
funny and also made Pokemon hack  
over the moon and life had never been b  
happily ever after, but I'm not  
fun times at this preschool.  
fun times all around. So, g  
happy about it at first - I hat  
fun things - at the time I th  
fun and I just thought I was  
fun times. So then it was se  
fun times, but of course, i  
fun, but of course, I had t  
funnest times ever. But then Aug  
fun and I became a little dep  
happy at the same time because  
fun, and I just like to focu  
funny and weird, but let's be  
happy day, my aunt got a phone  
happy and I invested a lot of t  
fun - and I opened Olga Kay G  
happy every morning when I wake  
funny. I need to take a class

lot of satisfaction and  
ishments. It's kind of  
ts sector. I'd be very  
t this would be a really  
And my parents are still  
s born. My dad liked to  
thing that I find really  
s just not, it's not a  
old Carter and I'm really  
n't end well. I was not  
n art club and they were  
accepted and I was just  
I am having just so much  
lone. I was basically a happy  
tim of severe abuse. My  
give my brothers and I a  
proved and I was getting  
t anyway. I had so much  
chool. I was really not  
dinner and have lots of  
ts of fun. I was really  
this is just absolutely  
ontact lenses. I was so  
f friends - I was really  
oked. And I was really  
use I knew it made me so  
my entire life. I am so  
, and I'm just at total  
est thing ever. I'm so  
e and my brother and the  
eally sad and not really

joy when I would get a good g  
funny because this cycle has be  
happy if it did, but if it doe  
fun opportunity to kind of sh  
happily married to this day. Whe  
joke that he kind of had a rea  
funny now is that he's actuall  
happy memory. But enough with  
happy. So around this time, I  
happy but I never cried when he  
cheerleaders and they were also in ban  
overjoyed and I also graduated high  
fun, rrlike, building up my cha  
little kid. I was totall  
happiness faded and I lived in cons  
happy life. The older I got,  
happy. Although, all this cha  
fun. I used to love performi  
happy - I didn't want to go th  
fun. I was really happy beca  
happy because I got to go back  
hilarious. I remember for about a  
happy. I remember being real s  
happy. I had a boyfriend. But  
happy. Near the end of high sc  
happy, I decided to leave BAVI  
happy, I've made so many frie  
bliss at the moment with myself  
happy I'm living up here in Au  
funny thing, we came out looki  
happy in her relationship. So

ot very nice things, so **funny** enough, Lupita and I got  
so it all kind of had a happy ending. All right so now  
good and just not being **happy**. So, since my mum did n't  
like, hang out and have fun and I was just so thankfu  
blems, but I was really happy that we at least had a bi  
own-to-earth and I'm so happy I met her. Even though w  
really close. I felt so happy because she was always ki  
ve around. I was really happy because I had rlike a be  
friend and I was just so happy to have him in my life at  
ust be driving and doing fun things, and, ah, I'm ju  
g there, but I was just happy. I was at kind of a stab  
stro van. This is not a **joke**. It was burgundy. I lov  
eth Curry, my bundle of joy - isn't she cute? So, shor  
and things that brought joy into my life. Next, I t  
my tiny little bundle of joy. Just when I thought our  
empowerment makes me so happy to be a part of it. And  
g my LPS videos and they **laughed**, insulted me and everyon  
ne in the comments would **laugh** and insult me too. Soon  
stead of me. They would **make fun** of me in front of them, ins  
sion washed away. I was happy. By the 11th grade, I w  
e. My sister was a very fun older sister who would dr  
there I discovered more **comics** and more food and this wh  
ots of friends due to my joking nature. I really have n'  
eally upset that I would joke about something like this  
once I told them I wasn't **joking**, they called my sister,  
ally just focus on being happy and realise that I was n'  
ld word that means to be happy, carefree, calm, and p  
t in the way of me being happy. Simon and I have a rule  
d close to them. I miss laughing with my joker dad, talki  
I miss laughing with my joker dad, talking over coffee  
my husband; he makes me laugh more than anyone else I h

eos keep making you guys  
aking you guys laugh and  
, my life-of-the-party,  
only thing that made me  
one part is filled with  
f Rome, we had a lot of  
o proud and that made me  
and their friends. The  
h money, but we were so  
first place. I was very  
apping my hijab. It was  
were playing and having  
dogs and it was so much  
es out of mud and it was  
He just seemed always so  
it, he was just always  
just always smiling and  
ating, we decided to  
o be able to create such  
e job I get to do. Have  
that never stopped being  
felt this huge sense of  
e see that life could be  
with me and made me see  
o be his wife. I was so  
ts. All very exciting,  
e were in such shock and  
a little white chapel,  
days were always so much  
un and they always put a  
ery day. It was so much

laugh and smile, I hope to kee  
smile, I hope to keep making t  
hilarious and charming mother was w  
laugh. I would commute the 2-h  
laughter and love and so many good  
laughs. But with the good times  
over the moon. Finally I felt like my  
joke was on my sisters though  
happy, Alhamdulillah, living our  
happy to be back in teaching wh  
fun and brought back childhoo  
fun even before I could crawl  
fun. My sister and I loved,  
fun. We would select caterpi  
happy whenever I watched interv  
smiling and laughing. Since I wa  
laughing. Since I was going to be  
celebrate and kind of a thank you g  
fun videos and be able to int  
fun with you guys, make vide  
fun. When I was eight, my s  
relief - the suffering and waiti  
fun again, explored with me  
humour in darkness. He taught m  
happy that I cried. Our next a  
fun and glamorous, but blood  
over the moon. We flew out to Vegas an  
celebrating with rooftop parties, di  
fun and they always put a smi  
smile on my face whenever I wat  
fun. And we would find snake

d mum and we were really  
ce. And it was a lot of  
ng vacation and was very  
e ship. It was a lot of  
but it wasn't, it was  
the mall and all of that  
hich is actually kind of  
er, but it was a lot of  
d modelling and all that  
oing into chat rooms for  
in Louisiana, and seven  
er a few years of living  
said before, there were  
d I found it to be quite  
ially with all his crazy  
little nightly getaways  
e beach and have so much  
n't. I'm actually very  
up. I obviously was not  
ey were. Her mum was so  
e Dawson. His vlogs and  
uage and culture and his  
annel where he created a  
ing with him. He was so  
nny, his videos made me  
Moscow. It was so much  
three times and wasn't  
everything. But I never  
as done, we were all so  
back then, kids used to  
work, but I had so much

happy. Teresa moved in with my  
fun. I was so excited. I st  
happy to leave my life in the s  
fun. And here 's my attempt  
fun. And there was an old ab  
fun stuff, and it was also c  
**funny** because I don't have any  
fun, and my grades also help  
fun stuff and also went to ac  
fun, and on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006  
happy years later, we're stil  
happily together, my mum, me an  
happy memories and we did a lot  
fun. Sometimes we would leav  
**antics** driving her away. We wou  
fun. I didn't really realiz  
fun together, but that did n  
happy in life. I don't crave  
**happy** about this and tried to f  
funny - she would always, rrli  
funny sketches were my life at  
funny personality truly bambooz  
funny parody of one of my video  
funny, his videos made me laug  
laugh so much and I had to work  
fun. We also travelled the w  
**happy** with the story, hence th  
**smiled**, never cried, showed no  
happy that she was alive and we  
**make fun** of me. Man, they were so m  
fun while I was studying beca

...rds a purpose. I was so  
believe. We had so much  
the other children were  
n skits. We had so much  
ng photo shoots just for  
wo years we had a lot of  
king at MAC was a lot of  
worry - the story has a happy  
my creativity to make my  
ife. I made a nest - my  
as filled with light and  
to be an outcast and we  
erson when you're truly  
, what's up? Its Sejal.  
se, I just had a lot of  
I used to sit with this  
. So, that was kind of  
rassing now, but it was  
, and that was a lot of  
managed to have a lot of  
o Goa and it was so much  
with, and I had so much  
ads, so that was really  
much and I've had so much  
go. I hope you guys are  
other reason why I'm so  
clothes can replace the  
igh school, but without  
and expos to sell my own  
tually has one of my old  
l out traveling, having

happy. Now while I was studyin  
fun together though unfortuna  
happy and content. I guess it  
fun even though my skills and  
fun and then, in a few short  
fun together, but unfortunat  
fun. I learned a lot from th  
ending. I felt really ou  
happy place. I wanted to turn  
happy place, my sanctuary. I  
happiness. We became very close an  
rejoice in finally being loved an  
happy on your own, and that mu  
Happy new year and todays my bi  
fun in school. I studied in  
jolly annoying girl, Khyati,  
fun. Around this time, I wa  
fun at the time and we used t  
fun. So our school took us t  
fun and still got into a lot  
fun, guys. It was a really go  
fun in the college first. I  
fun. After first year, duri  
fun and just been amazing. S  
happy now. And yeah, and thes  
happy. It really encourages me  
joy of getting a handmade gif  
joking, I was literally the big  
comics. I 'm actually curious t  
comics. If you do, then please  
fun and doing whatever things



ther ways to keep myself  
e hundreds of ways to be  
tell you - some of them  
un, some of them not so  
ut I'd always been very  
uring. Early school was  
e left school and it was  
nd kids had a great time  
again and I was able to  
oveliest baby and such a  
bsolutely crease up with  
. We had our moments of  
but we both had tons of  
ing jobs. She's really  
into the mirror and just  
roducts. It was so much  
he best people ever - so  
e ever - so funny and so  
tough but we had lots of  
was ours and we were so  
e everyone, but we were  
. Once again, I was the  
e and just keep everyone  
you. Life became really  
but he said Go ahead and  
ds and we were still not  
ekends they had a lot of  
with the children having  
to affect our day-to-day  
e of his ideas are quite  
mall. While it was not

happy, such as drawing, craft  
happy that don't involve stari  
fun, some of them not so fun  
fun, but all of them have co  
happy in my own company anyway  
fun. I had lots of friends.  
fun again. I especially reme  
making fun of me. I already had the ni  
smile fully. My face has been  
funny boy. He was sensitive an  
laughter. With both my parents wo  
fun and connection and she wa  
fun. We 'd support each othe  
funny actually. She 'd been le  
smiling at myself - I just, I ju  
fun working alongside really  
funny and so happy. They took  
happy. They took me under thei  
fun. She 'd have her nap bes  
happy to be there, away from t  
happy . Things were ticking alo  
smiling, hard-working people ple  
happy. The 17th of December th  
fun after that. Nam and I st  
enjoy yourselves! I really needed a break  
happy - not in a day to day sen  
fun with their dad. He's ne  
fun together and being a team  
happiness as a couple and a family  
funny. Mia doesn't feel tingl  
fun work, I did enjoy making

panies. It was a lot of  
sh. While animation was  
school, I was the class  
. I loved to make people  
ly wanted to kill me. I  
- one for Spike TV and a  
court show. I was having  
subscribers. Crazy! To  
y early years were super  
o move to Hong Kong. To  
ound out, they were not  
was rrlife some kind of  
old books. I was really  
, my squids, were just  
his drama school, I was  
orror movies are so much  
ds and making some weird  
cided to do what made me  
t I said, "I'm Batman,  
die with a little bit of  
to turn someone who was  
ion and I was feeling so  
animals and just having  
just connected to their  
t. I started to do more  
nd just sharing my weird  
rrlike intelligent and  
ff and it made me really  
me super comfortable and  
once made me incredibly  
in my life that wasn't

fun, but it got old fast. I  
fun, I still had other passi  
clown. I loved to make people  
laugh and was always super soci  
kid you not. She really did  
fun little court show. I was  
the time of my life while living  
celebrate our growing community of  
happy and carefree. My mum, m  
cheer us up , my dad bought us ice cr  
happy, but they let me keep him  
fun game and we would go to t  
happy there. I made friends wi  
laughing at me and they didn't mi  
happy but quiet and I kept to m  
fun to film, and the biggest  
joke about hobbits. Even toda  
happy - and that's working wit  
lol". If I were going to die  
humour. When I got back to Lond  
happy being a certain way into  
happy that I was connecting wit  
fun. I made enough money one  
humour. We had, rrlife, simil  
comedy and just sharing my weird  
sense of humour, which my people  
hilarious in their own ways. I jus  
happy and I was even getting mo  
happy and I had so many great f  
happy started to remind me of a  
happy. And also, my mum and I h

and I almost threw up -  
now. He makes me really  
I was also super, super  
And now I'm in a really  
ou to be comfortable and  
, and I just felt really  
stly, today, I feel so  
ts just puts the biggest  
t I'm a hundred percent  
nstead of trying to find  
conditionally, and then  
confidence and regain my  
doing things to make me  
ething that makes you so  
and painful and full of  
eight-year-old me? Not  
ape to Boston was a huge  
n I was accepted, I was  
e place. It was so much  
t by. I was really  
hard and I wasn't that  
ld stay there, so I was  
's enemies weren't that  
s the boss, so that was  
onesian words and it was  
abic, which was kind of  
wearing nicab anymore.  
It was like a kind of a  
live and I started to be  
in, and then once I was  
Basically, I was a very

fun fact! And then about a m  
happy. Currently he's with my  
happy to be able to give a pupp  
happy place. I feel the most c  
happy with your identity. I ho  
happy. Now this next part I re  
happy because I feel like I hav  
smile on my face, and I'm so  
happy with. So sometimes when  
happiness and love in someone else  
happiness will follow. So going th  
happiness. I'm doing things to ma  
happy, I'm living my dreams,  
happy. So, if I could ask you  
joy and magic that can't be  
amused! I remember we would go  
relief. Toward the end of sopho  
over the moon excited. On January 9th  
fun and it's an experience t  
happy when I started school bec  
happy about it. I didn't like  
happy. But, youknow, my  
happy, youknow, the white/bla  
fun. And these kids, I lear  
fun for a while. And it allo  
fun. My dad, you remembe  
Fun, but when I went to castin  
comedy travel show with t  
happy again, and then once I w  
happy, I started doing things  
happy child. I loved our close

a proud Canadian. I was  
ing, I hung out with my  
e didn't care. We were  
e from my long journey,  
w, well that looks like  
is what made me actually  
are the key to your own  
? Do whatever makes you  
ams for you to make them  
red. It makes me really  
the end. I was quite a  
ne because they knew how  
my friends seemed really  
, and I started to feel  
beach and just generally  
this made me very, very  
and it definitely put a  
what I do just makes me  
years that have made me  
in my life and amazingly  
ibed as a series of high highs  
judge me. Was I really  
itty and youthful and so  
loving, compassionate,  
showing of Avatar and we  
Avatar and we joked and  
want you to share in my  
made my life the crazy,  
o drunk. I used to feel  
t I felt a huge surge of  
a huge surge of relief.

happy to no longer be the forei  
fun and adventurous group of  
happy. Meanwhile, I was savin  
overjoyed to see my family again,  
fun! I want to do that too.  
happy. I don't know where I'  
happiness and success. Don't ever  
happy and don't pursue someone  
happy. And then go out there a  
happy because it's basically t  
happy little girl and I really  
happy we were, and we were mega  
happy there and this really sta  
happy again for the first time  
had a laugh, and it was definitely  
happy to see all of the kids fa  
smile back on my face too. Dur  
happy every single day and ther  
happy, including moving out wi  
happy times in my life, but I  
and low lows. I was a mo  
happy in Japan? Would it be wo  
funny, and he had a photograph  
hilarious and talented genius named  
joked and laughed throughout th  
laughed throughout the first hour  
joy. I owe you guys so much  
fun journey that it is today  
relieved but then also in weird wa  
relief. Relief that he could n'  
Relief that he couldn't come af

ets, and they wanted to  
hard not to - he was so  
old you there would be a  
e, and I think she even  
. I'm different. I am  
ay, but my dad was very  
eggs - and it was really  
ot going to be nearly as  
ends, and I was just so  
thank you and everybody  
embarrassing. Everyone  
ive-in and it was really  
late shakes. The not so  
lose and we had a lot of  
etty or, youknow, felt  
a hug! and I of course  
and I thought he was so  
said yes. I was so, so  
, really, really truly  
as just a really kind of  
y kind of fun, it was a  
much but we were really  
perty and it was kind of  
ck it was actually quite  
t absolutely was just so  
ed teeth! Everyone will  
hought it was absolutely  
ven ounces, and we were  
r life. We were so, so  
ing one. I learned that  
lone, and making myself

celebrate. I was really tired and  
funny and handsome and just gen  
happy ending. But you know wha  
**smiled** when she told me no. And  
happy and I know that I  
**happy** because he said, "Yay, m  
fun and I felt very cool. I  
**happy** as the first one, so be  
happy. At school, I was the c  
**laughed** because I was supposed to  
**laughed** at me. I was teased. I  
fun. I used to flip burgers  
**fun** part was that my dad work  
fun together. Unfortunately  
happy with my body, so it was  
**laughed** because I was so nervous  
funny and cute, and it was lit  
happy, and for the first time  
happy and so excited for my fut  
fun, it was a fun time and I  
fun time and I have great, v  
happy and we enjoyed our life v  
fun, except for, at the mid  
funny but we were kind of annoy  
happy in my life. When I was n  
**make fun** of me! And you guys know wh  
**hilarious**, and I did not. Bu  
overjoyed. It was so nice to have  
happy, and it was just nice to  
happiness were not given by others  
happy was one of my specialties

band but this short-term alcohol are my source of joy and I do what I love. Happiness is not given. I was so happy because it made me feel like everyone was laughing at me because I was overjoyed, and it was so much fun. I also read a bunch of books when I was 12. I was so happy because I'd wanted a cat a lot and that made me happy. In February of that year, I got sad - I'm such a happy person, so I was sad. I was a YouTuber, no one else was, and that made me so excited and happy. I had so much fun competing. I met Nicole and I was just so happy with all the amazing friends. And we have a lot of fun playing with our toys and friends too. We had a lot of fun and we were a very close family. But my parents and I were a very close, happy family. We were always together, and we were a big, happy family. We were always together, but dances were so much fun, and we just have a lot of fun. But then in 9th grade, that's why I'm really happy that we moved, because I wanted to see fun, and we got to see fun and interesting!

I knew that I couldn't be happy in any relationship unless I was finally really happy with how my body looked. I was 21 years old. And to celebrate, we went to a bar. And it was with who I've become. I had fun like kids are supposed to have. And I mean, I had a good time, I was really involved, and I navigated our way as we

happiness didn't last very long so happiness. To see and to be seen. Happiness is not given. Happiness is an attitude, and it can be given. I was so happy. At this time in my life I was laughing at me because I was overjoyed. I also read a bunch of books when I was 12. I was so happy because I'd wanted a cat a lot and that made me happy. In February of that year, I got sad - I'm such a happy person, so I was sad. I was a YouTuber, no one else was, and that made me so excited and happy. I had so much fun competing. I met Nicole and I was just so happy with all the amazing friends. And we have a lot of fun playing with our toys and friends too. We had a lot of fun and we were a very close family. But my parents and I were a very close, happy family. We were always together, and we were a big, happy family. We were always together, but dances were so much fun, and we just have a lot of fun. But then in 9th grade, that's why I'm really happy that we moved, because I wanted to see fun, and we got to see fun and interesting!

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only thing that made me  
I was so excited and so  
if you watch her, she's  
rich is always good for a  
I think this would be a  
job was keeping me very  
im. And he didn't even  
but it was still so much  
rida. I was born into a happy  
y brother and I were not  
s. So, it wasn't very  
e weekends, I was never  
So, youknow, I was so  
felt good. We were very  
ds got loads, but I was  
Xbox thing started as a  
ecause we thought it was  
ringy stuff, but it was  
amazing news - I was so  
furniture, but we were  
d for much. He was just  
o have company and I was  
do we even begin? It's  
ou guys kept me mentally  
d. You, you made me so  
happy. You guys make me  
y like me and they would  
, and I'm super, super  
state school and I, no  
ing that sort of made me  
ube, and I just used to

happy, is that I had to get ba  
happy that I'd reached out to  
hilarious. Jenna Marbles, another  
laugh, and Hannah Hart who doe  
fun video idea, so let's st  
happy and excited and everythin  
laugh at me. He said he actual  
fun. So, this has been the  
family - my mum, my dad  
happy. When my mum told me tha  
fun for us. My grandma did  
happy. Not that I didn't like  
happy that I was away from my g  
happy once again and even thoug  
happy to have a phone, so I wa  
joke. My friend and I would g  
funny to hear them rage and get  
hilarious to hear their reactions.  
happy and again, we were going  
happy. We didn't care - we we  
happy to have company and I was  
happy to have his company so it  
funny, because you guys make m  
happy. I didn't have a lot of  
happy. You guys make me happy  
happy - you still do. I'm so  
make fun of me, and I just felt like  
happy, youknow, I could n't h  
joke, I, I'm pretty sure I  
happy was watching other people  
laugh, rlike, oh my god, li

family. I had a really  
with people that make you  
I was a really, really  
. I was really, really  
- he is really, really  
aura and me had a lot of  
tersweet ending but I'm  
ally say that I am truly  
th because she's always  
that's it. This is our  
're just all so cute and  
f the day, we're a big,  
to LA soon. Just being  
and I was having so much  
nd we were like a little  
mon was born, and it's  
ts of friends and it was  
er forget it. He always  
but I wasn't completely  
me, but he was so much  
ue eyes. She was really  
s of friends and lots of  
riends and I had lots of  
e beach - we had so much  
beyond that and I was so  
o much and I had so much  
tation and I had so much  
And now who am I? I am  
irth to me and I'm really  
was the best. He had a  
he best. He had a funny

happy childhood - a lot of frie  
**happy**. And you 'll be okay.  
happy baby. I never cried and  
happy and excited. Do n't judg  
funny and more like a friend th  
fun there but most of the tim  
happy for a new chapter of my l  
happy again. I 'm excited abou  
**smiling** and then from her I met L  
happy family - that's the end  
happy and we love each other,  
happy family. And then we get  
happy and pursuing YouTube, my  
fun. As much as I loved that  
happy family, and then four ye  
**funny** enough because his name  
fun, and my closest friend w  
**makes fun** of me for that. Anyway,  
**happy**, I guess. And in school  
fun, and we were together fo  
fun, and youknow, we were r  
fun. GCSEs came around, and  
fun which was good. So, I met  
fun. I got to meet all my fa  
happy about that. So, I moved t  
fun. In my last year of univ  
fun and I made so many new fr  
**Smiling** Seoul and I make videos o  
happy and grateful for them, b  
funny sense of humour, hence t  
sense of humour, hence the t-shirt.



ot and that people would **make fun** of me, so I thought, happy it made my family, there  
rk at TVNZ and I saw how fun and a lot of those people  
together. It was so much happy to put my 100% self into  
or the most part. I was fun time. As you guys probab  
ily. It was just such a **funny** now because obviously he  
your studies! which is joking. I just got on with him  
each other, chatting, over the moon. Thank you  
t. And of course, I'm **clown**, so that was why he was  
actually a professional **clown** when I grow up and I said  
ing to be a professional fun. Back to my neighbourhoo  
ke it easy and do it for funny memory. And we all quick  
yeah, so that's just a fun with. I remember middle  
ends that I had a lot of fun, but Nicole and Britney  
ddle school being really fun to have a really big grou  
s there and it's really **fun** to watch. So, in the cu  
ideo because that's not fun and not stressing about  
I'm doing dance as for **fun**. I'm focusing on YouTub  
e - it's supposed to be happy little family of three,  
in my life and we were a fun doing this. She would li  
remember having so much **uplifting** draw my life video done  
t depressing and not too lol. So, I went to alternat  
n't even really crying, fun. So, one night of the s  
d we always had a ton of fun YouTube stuff and travell  
busy doing tons of super and cute child. I had bi  
Kristine Sarah. I was a happy happy and I was also able to at  
e and fed me and we were happy with my mum. And then I  
d a lot, but then I was happy at that time. And so, I  
ese store. I was really happy when my mum told me that  
o much, so I was really happy again and those were my g  
coming, and so I became happy and those were my g  
instead of growing as a **happy** and confident child, bec

that time, I was really  
t cleared up and I'm so  
but I'm choosing to be  
re. Always choose to be  
th video on YouTube. To  
ng up and down with huge  
ime it was just a really  
ightly younger kids. We  
nappies. We had so much  
ouses almost every day,  
ocal league. We were so  
e of 10 to 16. It's so  
gether. We have so many  
drunk that I cried with  
ith two boys could be so  
bathroom. I was really  
girl, Rachel, who was  
we would do all kinds of  
comedy sketches and SNL  
eat. Overall, I was so  
am. I was making people  
t's right, a career in  
eer in comedy. I was so  
eam come true. I was so  
gs with my tail weren't  
and I'll never be fully  
love. Farah also means  
Farah also means joy,  
ay picture, I'm rrlike  
at me and he would just  
e and I learned yo mumma

happy, but then, youknow, th  
happy. I still need to muster  
happy. Never let something tha  
**happy** because you deserve to be  
celebrate, I thought I'd finally  
smiles on our faces. I grew up  
fun holiday and I got to miss  
joke about how her class was s  
fun together in school. We'  
laugh all the time and we'd ge  
happy. I was always writing in  
funny to read now, but I love  
funny stories as we really went  
happiness. So many cool things hap  
fun and easy. It was in that  
happy with the move. I was sta  
hilarious and we would do all kinds  
**comedy** sketches and SNL spoofs a  
**spoofs** as school projects. One  
happy until one day, my tail g  
**laugh** once a week on stage. It  
**comedy**. I was so happy and thin  
happy and things were looking u  
happy, but things with my tail  
**happy**. She was spiralling out  
**happy**. #100 Hi guys! Welcome  
**joy**, happy and traveller. M  
**happy** and traveller. My backgr  
**smiling** and there's rrlike this  
**laugh**. He said, "Don't cry,  
**jokes** from my brother, so I'd

at! I'd tell all these jokes; I actually had this boo  
ad this booklet of mumma jokes and all the popular girls  
me, saying, "You're so funny", and I actually started  
many friends. I was so happy and actually met my best  
it's just what makes me happy, so he said, "Go for it  
dma, and it was so much fun and I loved it so much,  
. rlike one side was so happy, rlike I love New York  
ut I was really, really happy to go home and see my fam  
rfect that night. I was on top of the world - my grandma  
e world - my grandma was happy, but then after a little  
t of me, rlike I would smile and laugh and show everyo  
rlike I would smile and laugh and show everyone that I  
in my life and I'd act happy, youknow, in front of p  
ut I was actually really happy that I was confident enou  
eel beautiful, and just happy, and I thought, Really  
ed making me feel really happy, and it just felt really  
ed making me feel really happy and started filling that  
my god, she would be so happy to see this right now! a  
d it just made me really happy. After that, I started  
tarted letting myself be happy and I started thinking mo  
d I allowed myself to be happy. And now, when I though  
. I was actually really happy and thankful that I did g  
erman and I just feel so happy in life. rlike, I see  
e one. And I'm just so happy in life and I know my gra  
ng down on us and she's happy and she's at peace, and  
so much love and so much happiness, and you guys helped fil  
tive and let yourself be happy and love and laugh and sm  
lf be happy and love and laugh and smile, because that  
y and love and laugh and smile, because that's the mea

## Males: Happy

Felix is Latin and means **happy**. Since the day I was born this name. I was always **happy**, I rarely cried and my friends. I was still always the **happy** kid who laughed and smile always the happy kid who laughed and smiled a lot, but on appy kid who laughed and smiled a lot, but once puberty toshop. It was just for fun, but I got the opportunity I was just doing it for fun anyway. I eventually met . It was nice; we were happy. My channel on YouTube k s to that, I became the happy guy that I had always bee wn to the ground, being **made fun** of for no reason. And yes, ng me was to make people **laugh**, so I figured that if I hat if I could make them **laugh** and become the funny guy hem laugh and become the **funny** guy, they would stop tre worked. Every time they **made fun** of me, I ran with it and I me, I ran with it and I **made fun** of myself even more than the hat point on I wanted to be **funny**. I started picking up my eo for them to watch and **laugh** at. In eighth grade, I one, I still go through highs and lows but ultimately, mately, I'm completely happy. This is my real-life st u to change that today. Happiness is a choice. Choose to b a choice. Choose to be happy. Choose to better your l . What we thought was a **happy** family really wasn't, a guitar. This was great fun and we played a tonne of tle money, we were very happy. Then University came an pensive and we were very happy, content and looking for ad the most amazing time celebrating each other and our future in the end I was really happy to be working for myself . Sadly, it wasn't all **happy** times back then. My dad ocate. She wasn't **happy** where she was and, well time and she made my dad **happy**. And that was basically

, you know. I was really  
and that's always pretty  
so was going to be sketch  
channel that finally made me  
touch me, I was more than  
do with. And I'm just  
use they made me feel so  
even it means being truly  
when we hung out, we would  
cool were when kids would  
. This video was made to  
has brought me so much  
live up on what makes you  
makes you happy. Your own  
do what makes you truly  
ly happy. YouTube is my  
video. Because they're  
r Singles. All just for  
, my job is to make you  
with me and that made me  
s but I was never really  
I understood or made me  
yed and I really wasn't  
dile of nowhere. I'm so  
childhood. I'm really  
I am today and I'm very  
eat spirits and all very  
ou, but it was the most  
keep my mind focused on  
own and also a lot more  
re super proud and super

happy with what I'd done, like  
fun when you're just a young  
comedy videos. So, I ended up  
happy. I didn't even care tha  
happy to do everything it took  
happy that anyone watches my vi  
happy. One time in kindergarte  
happy with yourself and doing y  
laugh and scream and make reall  
laugh and compliment me after w  
celebrate us hitting 500,000 subscri  
happiness. If this story has any m  
happy. Your own happiness shou  
happiness should be your top priori  
happy. YouTube is my happiness  
happiness, and I hope I get to do  
fun. And because I really li  
fun! I even spent summers,  
happy, to give you the best en  
happy. The first gaming system  
happy when I was there. Teache  
happy. So eventually after doi  
happy doing something like that  
happy because I got to move int  
happy with the life I've had.  
happy for that and I just want  
happy, let's all do the outro  
fun thing ever and of course  
happy things and productive thi  
fun so I took apart my parent  
happy and they said "Wow, our t

Air Force so he was very  
was very happy and I was  
hically. Now I was very  
eed to live it and be as  
t outlet for me: I felt  
tch were two of the most  
probably one of the most  
nt in my life I was very  
loved it, I had so much  
's just rlike a really  
er and it's just really  
made us both incredibly  
posed to open up to have  
n enough but I was still  
million? I honestly was  
riends thought they were  
ny and we thought we are  
imagine I was the class  
causing trouble, making  
Football just wasn't as  
making money and having  
The videos just made me  
? On my way out, I just  
, I was having the most  
doing business, making  
skits for Instagram and  
k guy and he was kind of  
and that made me really  
y thought I was cool and  
ll the time. It made me  
I lived in and I was so

happy and I was happy for him.  
happy for him. Unfortunately, m  
happy because of this. I was s  
happy as you can be and be as k  
happy doing it. I was still lo  
fun things in the entire worl  
fun videos I made and at this  
happy because I found something  
fun with it and around this t  
fun get-together and it's ju  
enjoyable, and I decided to go for  
happy and it took me on the cra  
fun with and I had no idea it  
happy to move back to Texas and  
happy with twenty thousand subs  
funny and we thought we are hil  
hilarious, so we kept them making  
clown, always causing trouble  
jokes and I couldn't sit still  
fun anymore and wrestling see  
fun. It was like a dream com  
laugh though. The bad part abo  
smiled and waved. They didn't  
fun I've ever had in my life  
comedy skits for Instagram and I  
laughing the rest of the time. If  
fun but by the time I came ar  
happy because I met a lot of pe  
funny and all these new friends  
happy and eventually it was sen  
happy. So, I started using what

design which was really fat so well that was the this girl has made me so and that made me really and a lot of guys would some of the craziest and ly. We just had so much ideos and having so much and I thought it was the ies. We really actually had just filmed these cool, o on? Because if we're maybe other people will hem every day. I was so eat cancer and he was so my license. Don't make mber seeing - he was not him go from this really e way he was. He was so l time who never stopped never stopped smiling or or laughing or bringing marry me and he cried so, my utterly friendly and r made a classy your mum r person. So yeah, the , dog dies, hormones, dies, hormones, fun, fun, , hormones, fun, fun, rything. I had a lot of ut I had some incredibly

fun even though sometimes I e joke and people did - they cal happy and such a better person happy. And youknow I don't kn make fun of me, call me "gay" or " funniest things. In my first year fun together and we clicked s fun, so I decided to give it funniest thing I've ever seen in a good time playing with these toys a funny adventures we go on? Bec laughing at it, maybe other peopl laugh at them too so that's ho happy that so many people cared happy and excited about living fun of me! So I went and took m happy, he wasn't full of life happy person into someone who j happy and he was so close to Go smiling or laughing or bringing j laughing or bringing joy to others joy to others, so basically lol, too bad. I have memories joyful personality didn't help joke but now I realise all the joys of being a teenager schoo fun, fun, fun! But guess w fun! But guess what? fun! But guess what? Everyb fun and sometimes incredibly fun times with the friends I

te a lot and I was quite  
nk my mum's going to be  
ek and we all had such a  
don't think I've ever  
arms, but I was really  
e charity song for Sport  
was going to be a really  
ing to be a really funny  
ng up I always preferred  
s and it was just such a laugh  
ind of documentary style  
Square premiere which no  
. We've got to keep him  
ally died off, but as a  
s whenever we had time.  
or something but we said  
en I was really into web  
ics. I read Cyanide and  
8. His panel pacing and  
I decided to make my own  
website to post my silly  
ombination of Dominic's  
ut two months of posting  
s I was inspired to make  
ht, hey, this looks like  
e dopey flash to draw my  
e. Yeah, they weren't  
might as well have some  
tuation of my health and  
t and something that was  
time in the computer lab

happy playing all by myself. T  
**happy** about how I've drawn her  
laugh. We even hired a speed b  
laughed so much in one week. I c  
happy. Then I came home from t  
**Relief**. That was a really big m  
**funny** joke throughout the whole  
**joke** throughout the whole thin  
**comics** and graphic novels to act  
and we got to vlog oursel  
**comedy** film where me and Caspar  
**joke** is honestly one of the hi  
**happy**, youknow! #16 1 million p  
celebration to this milestone here's  
**Fun** fact: since I didn't ha  
**lol**, nope and decided to just  
**comics**. I read Cyanide and Happ  
**Happiness**, XKCD, The Oatmeal, bu  
**sense of humour** really intrigued me  
**comic**. Still being in architec  
**comics** and so I decided to just  
**comics**. After about two months  
**comics** non-stop on tumblr I reac  
**comics**, in 2010 I thought, hey  
fun. I decided to try someth  
**comics** since it's often known t  
**comics** but I've already made a  
fun and see where Domics lead  
**happiness**. She was always there to  
fun. Slowly but steadily my  
**messaging** about because I had grown up



y people and had so much fun and meeting and interacti  
when I wake up and I'm happy all day long. I can't i  
that would make me more happy or more fulfilled than wh  
n was in college. I was happy in Virginia but after thr  
an iMac - one of those funny shaped blue ones. Actual  
ever will and I owe that kid a lot. The first two dec  
born a little bundle of joy in the City of Angels aka  
g there but it's really funny because I remembered that  
like people have been as happy with videos as they had b  
but I promise there is a happy ending to this. Now my p  
doing at the time. Very happy about it, too. Now grow  
t? A74. I wasn't too happy with that result. Now th  
s me sitting on the hill laughing, to tell my two friends  
nt. I just sat there, laughed at them naked. You know  
s me with my medal being happy and there's him in secon  
ed to do. This was more fun than college can ever be  
hought I would have more fun, I could travel around m  
e present time. I am so happy. I am so excited for fut  
sible. Let's have some fun together and I hope you g  
is that youknow, making jokes and being a bit of an idi  
people better and look, lol, that represents them la  
l, that represents them laughing. Obviously, the teacher  
sformation. Fat shit to kid that makes vids that does  
ot of hate. Yeah pretty enjoyable. But at the end of the d  
because it does make me happy. It's an enjoyable thin  
make me happy. It's an enjoyable thing to do for me and to  
Mornings were never that fun. At this point I got a j  
some of the sadness for funny memories we had together  
hop worker in the Viking comedy Faintheart which you migh  
more aces which made me happy because I loved winning.  
he shit out of him. The funny thing is today Josh and I

reezing but I was really  
and I thought it'd be a  
alled Gabby and I was so  
own upside down with his  
side down with his funny  
and she said I made her  
ed on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1993.  
mentary school was super  
m though which was super  
told us it was just for  
n 2004. She wasn't too  
shared the same immature  
we thought it was really  
excited. We decided to  
ding was now starring in  
le and run track. It's  
and if I can die with a  
er white garments on, a  
life with no regrets, I  
. Every so often it was  
ol to fill my heart with  
the word beauty is. Her  
f and my mum wasn't too  
bike rides and all that  
t. I still remember how  
at school were going to  
nz, Roblox and all that  
e flips, having lots of  
did it, the more people  
more year when a kid was  
y not? Let's have some

happy and excited because I jus  
fun adventure. I didn't act  
happy. She was really cool and  
funny antics. Soon after I got  
antics. Soon after I got an opp  
laugh. It looks like I've got  
Fun fact is I share the same  
fun for me and during this ti  
fun. Once I graduated from h  
fun but I know it was their v  
happy about this present. I qu  
sense of humour as me. He was one of  
funny and Ian joined in and we  
celebrate by going to Taco Bell and  
comedy sketches being viewed by  
funny because once I got all th  
smile on my face, there should  
smirk on her face, almost to s  
smile because I know life is de  
funny because they kind of soun  
joy, so basically, I was a lo  
smile, her movement, ultimate  
happy about that. When I was 2  
fun stuff. I still remember  
happy I was that night when I t  
make fun of me for it so I just told  
fun stuff. I made videos abo  
fun with it, but the more I  
made fun of me for it. I started my  
making fun of me for doing flips when I  
fun! So, it all starts in a

ople get mean and people  
n of each other and they  
de fun of my face. They  
e fun of my teeth, they  
e fun of my hands, that  
No, it doesn't sound  
autiful and talented and  
ersey and we were pretty  
I had to realise that my  
tely play a part in your  
only reason why you're  
g very quickly. We were  
ust want to hang out and  
a struggle. School was  
mes one? Two. He started  
med a series of sketches  
tape and it was the most  
my parodies. I love to  
ay Night Live and sketch  
ials growing up helps me  
rs. It's smart, it's  
he most amount of people  
o be. I just want to be  
just want to be funny.  
, I grew up watching my  
ay Night Live and Derick  
aking videos watching my  
an amazing job and live  
r his job so I was super  
e. This made me so, so  
ities and make it really

make fun of each other and they made  
made fun of my face. They made fun o  
made fun of my teeth, they made fun  
made fun of my hands, that made fun  
made fun of my ears and it was pretty  
funny, man. It's not really  
funny. She made videos, I mad  
happy. We were right across th  
happiness had to come from myself,  
happiness but they shouldn't be th  
happy, and that was a very imp  
happy. We had a lot of catchin  
mess around. I was in it for the mus  
fun. When I was in first gra  
laughing at me so I threw a rock a  
making fun of books like Beowulf and Al  
fun I had had in years. That  
make fun of absolutely everything. I  
comedy troupes. My love of info  
make fun of them and a few of my vide  
fun and it works. Up until 2  
laugh. That's it. That's wh  
funny. Comedy is one of the fe  
Comedy is one of the few things  
comedy heroes Saturday Night Liv  
Comedy and a bunch of sketch gro  
comedy heroes so it's just, it  
happily ever after in a house mad  
happy with myself. Being a chi  
happy and it's all because of  
fun and interesting and that

Yeah, she wasn't very  
inventing characters and  
n Microsoft PowerPoint -  
she had black hair and a  
ondritis dissecans - not  
kilos and so I'm quite  
more than just a little  
started hanging out and  
any occasion. I was not  
ilitary base. It was so  
iends. It was the crazy  
at Sky. Although it was  
s always told me I was a  
I like to imagine I was  
ver had. She was always  
ol was still very much a  
y peers and learning and  
ke me, maybe it was the  
Nationals and Speech for  
nternet, it made people  
my friends. I was having  
ed. I just wanted to be  
anted other people to be  
know I was making people  
le smile, making people  
guy who makes me really  
y, the confidence, the  
ence, the jokes and the  
ways knew how to make me  
, he knew how to crack a  
ing with the flow. I'm

happy about that. I also used  
comics, worlds, stories. Over  
fun - and later in Flash. My  
sense of humour as immature as my own,  
fun. Because of this, I had  
happy about that. And in all o  
happy to know that around the w  
messing around with visual effects. And  
happy. As a kid my best friend  
fun. I then started my gap y  
fun house I'd always dreamt  
fun, I'd had enough of an o  
happy baby. I like to imagine  
giggling like I just smoked with R  
happy and genuinely loved music  
fun place for me. The course  
having a good time. Over a span of 3  
laughter when my chosen topic was  
Humorous Interpretation two years  
happy. People I didn't even k  
the time of my life. Then reality  
happy and I wanted other people  
happy and YouTube became one of  
smile, making people laugh, e  
laugh, even if I myself was ra  
happy and treats me well and I  
jokes and the laughs. #42 Hell  
laughs. #42 Hello everyone. My  
laugh. If I was ever feeling d  
joke and just make me forget a  
happy with what I'm doing and

e in half and I remember  
of bullshit but it was a  
g and it makes me really  
ese days. People don't  
If and do what makes you  
what makes you happy and  
you happy and smile and  
d, my parents have been  
dad and we were one big  
Mama Burns was not very  
d water-ski and all that  
od time. It was so much  
there was a strange man  
ght of drunken stupidity  
a strong no. All of the  
iness became the biggest  
I was becoming extremely  
e so far and I'm really  
tivity in my life, I'm  
ber? Youknow, just for  
not going to school was  
e and I've had a lot of  
ried. We had tonnes of  
he lake. We always have  
ll my energy. It was so  
l, could always make me  
ect for each other. Our  
so I could share all my  
at would help someone to  
y of the app. It was so  
r kick-off. I created a

laughing on the floor and chewing  
laugh. It was good time. The  
happy. I know you're probably  
enjoy themselves a lot and people are  
happy and smile and laugh. No  
smile and laugh. No matter how  
laugh. No matter how inspirati  
happily married for over thirty y  
happy family. The one lasting  
happy with me. The first frien  
fun stuff. It was a good tim  
fun that these days my mum is  
laughing on the floor and we remai  
fun, she apparently thought  
fun of the crunk house came c  
joke of a school ever. It 's  
happy entertaining a lot of peo  
happy how it's turned out. I  
happy, and I have a lot of peo  
fun. A couple days after I p  
fun and all but I wanted to g  
fun while still making daily  
fun growing up. I remember o  
fun. He was going to college  
fun. I got good pretty quick  
laugh and she crushed it on a s  
fun together continued. We b  
fun new experiences with them  
smile or just escape their prob  
fun! Searching the internet  
fun adventure about trying to

o me. It's just really  
y YouTube. I know it's  
be able to share all our  
to share my messages and  
while everyone else had  
ile everyone kept having  
happen to him, was just  
I did, and I was really  
rnamment and I was really  
ame is Peach and I am so  
but I do know that I'm  
Jackson by bringing only  
by bringing only fun and  
t time in this moment or  
ourse I thought this was  
re going to do something  
ed up not doing anything  
al videos and it made me  
de me happy. It made me  
mum, me, my sister were  
uneScape. Yes, you can  
friend. We had the most  
ous dangerous and stupid  
d with me and they would  
or my childhood which is  
because my parents were  
ts were happy that I was  
myself where I went from  
r-piece. It was kind of  
r way and I wasn't very  
d my life has got, I am

fun being able to see life th  
fun to experience the snapcha  
fun with others. That being  
fun videos. I would hugely a  
**fun** at the party and I just h  
fun. That kind of sucked. W  
**smiling** the whole time and I was  
happy I did. I got third place  
happy to get back into that env  
happy with her. She's my new  
happy with the direction I'm h  
fun and joy through music eit  
joy through music either thro  
celebrating that we are still togethe  
hilarious, until I started crying  
**funny** but he ended up not doing  
**funny**. He would just sit at ho  
happy. It made me happy to see  
happy to see that there were ac  
happy because we knew that this  
**laugh** at me, but we all know eve  
fun in there ever - the most  
fun you could ever do and of  
**laugh** at me and they'd call me n  
**funny** because it didn't actual  
happy that I was happy, so I b  
happy, so I became rlike this  
happy to sad. I just absolutel  
fun, youknow, we toured wit  
**amused** by this fact that my futu  
happy. I'm happy for the firs

got, I am happy. I'm  
 ce sounds like. And the  
 ople. How you made them  
 de them laugh or how you  
 and she thought it'd be  
 she thinks it was really  
 middle school was really  
 youknow? I wasn't really  
 ed it I thought it'd be  
 that I was making people  
 artist, so feel free to  
 y leg, which was not as  
 ible movies together and  
 es, but overall, we were  
 rk because I had so much  
 y first week though I'm  
 ow and we invent our own  
 , Dan and Phil. It was  
 an incredible amount of  
 kids thought it would be  
 have to. I had a lot of  
 me. I did sometimes get  
 ouTube where I saw these  
 hought that they were so  
 created but I had such a  
 de me feel confident and  
 be grateful for that. I  
 ping me have a reason to  
 that's what will make you  
 ink of any way better to  
 h teen I was, I wasn't

happy for the first time in my  
 funny thing is at first, I had  
 laugh or how you cheered them u  
 cheered them up when they were in the  
 funny to run away from me and h  
 funny. I did not. I still hav  
 fun. I had a lot of friends  
 enjoying myself. But high school wasn't  
 funny, "Hey, why don't I make  
 laugh all around the world was  
 laugh at my attempts of drawing  
 fun as it sounds. However,  
 laugh at how bad they were,  
 happy and we decided we should  
 fun making videos. I started  
 relieved I didn't leave universit  
 fun by telling stories and pl  
 hilarious - we felt majorly out of  
 fun and gelato, an incredibl  
 fun to pick on the weird pale  
 fun as a kid; I ended up joi  
 made fun of for being the only Asian  
 hilarious YouTubers called Ryan Hig  
 funny and awesome, and I insta  
 fun time. I'm glad I never po  
 happy, which pushed me to make  
 joke a lot in my videos about  
 smile each and every day knowin  
 happy. Don't let anyone tell y  
 celebrate three years of narrating  
 happy with this either. During

arly 2006. But with the  
the common room. It was  
xth form and started the  
ey told us they were not  
nd arguing, were having  
this day and I'm super  
en ever since. I'm not  
e ever lived through the  
son in my family wasn't  
how they played and how  
iously, I got extremely happy. I said yes in a heartbe  
same time when I was so  
try and just try and be  
omments like Teeqo is so  
sitting here. I'm not  
ppy, I'm genuinely not  
ay, "Oh, he's got to be  
d simply just think that  
't matter if you're not  
I to sit here and not be  
the trigger and I'm so  
g video games and having  
can do that, then I'm  
s the shit that makes me  
ion to make someone else  
e else happy, then I'm  
ife and I'm very, very  
s being here and I'm so  
ze medal, I was just so  
jumped into the pool and  
t and I was obviously so

highs comes the lows. Because  
funny at the time but looking b  
amusing alternate path thing betw  
happy with each other for almos  
fun talking to each other. B  
happy for them. And that takes  
joking when I say I bought all m  
highs. You can't just wait ar  
happy about it; that was my si  
fun they had on Call of Duty  
iously, I got extremely happy. I said yes in a heartbe  
same time when I was so  
happy and I was so ready to be  
happy and try and just apprecia  
happy, you're always so posit  
happy, I'm genuinely not happ  
happy and it's so hard to tell  
happy, he got all that! and I  
happiness came with certain things  
happy. I just didn't tell any  
happy? so that night I did s  
happy I did. That night I cont  
fun and not thinking about or  
happy. That's the shit that m  
happy. If I am in the position  
happy, then I'm happy. I jus  
happy. I just wanted him to co  
happy and I'm forever thankful  
happy and I cannot thank you g  
over the moon and I guess you could pro  
celebrated as if we had just won the  
happy that my mum and my brothe



t my whole family having  
st being weird and doing  
things were very, very  
ilings were and just how  
e for two years. It was  
depressing stuff and the  
god and the whole class  
that said those awkward  
jokes that nobody would  
id n't even give me pity  
d and get to some of the  
I wanted to make people  
a lot watching stand-up  
ching stand-up comedy on  
on stage and make people  
at I want to make people  
ts, I would, rlike, take  
d rlike take jokes from  
now? Not to steal their  
asn't scripted that was  
s making a lot of people  
ays Smash. That dude is  
on the way home, out of  
h school. I had so many  
killer was going to be a  
It was the volume finger  
e finger joke. My first  
nd I said I want to be a  
hat I met were more than  
was LA, the place where  
eople who were rlike on

fun in our tiny house. We di  
funny things that kids do. Som  
happy for a while. Back to my  
happy the house always felt. I  
fun, I guess. My dad worked  
fun will come later. Let's  
laughed and the teacher promptly  
jokes that nobody would laugh a  
laugh at, and then I 'd say th  
laughs. Some people would strai  
fun stuff. Remember when I s  
laugh. I told my mum about thi  
comedy on Comedy Central and tho  
Comedy Central and those guys wo  
laugh and I was infatuated with  
laugh like that. That's what  
jokes from comedians that peopl  
comedians that people probably have  
jokes, and get a sense for wha  
funny, I would put it in my ph  
laugh in multiple conversations  
funny as fuck! Not going to li  
happiness, of course. I had used rr  
jokes in my phone but my killer  
joke about how my stepmother a  
joke. My first joke that ever  
joke that ever got an applause  
comedian, and I was shut down com  
happy to watch me do stand-up.  
comics are born. The intimidati  
Comedy Central, people who were

ng this for years, real placed fourth out of 400 blew up with my friends be the face for eSports s of thousands of people Dave Chappelle of gaming hip but I think it'd be planned for me but I'm oop as well and all that ing just the dumbest and they were having so much ecause they were so much sand subscribers and the nal family. It was very been my goal: to put a ecame known as the class k is this? and then she then she smiled and all t started drawing my own wing my own comics. One , how does anybody have n't even know for their news and then I started d into tears because she fore. I thought she was nd do whatever makes you h my face. I was really w Friday, so I stood my d good hour and I was so honest but I was really million subscribers. To

comedians. And it had only been my comics throughout the whole comp celebrating my success, and while I Comedy. I want to do live shows laugh. Now I want to be invite comedy, youknow? I, but, tho fun. I don't go out much du happy, and I know that I'm no fun stuff. So, I won't go in funniest videos I could with my fr fun, so I thought, if they fun and that's what I did in funny thing was is she never re fun for those brief moments o smile on your face even on a cr clown and of course doing all t smiled and all happy and stuff a happy and stuff and then she to comics. One comic that I drew t comic that I drew that was insp fun around this bitch besides fun. Every dumb question or laughing. I said, "Hahaha, you k joked about that before. I tho joking again this time. It turn happy and don't fucking apolog happy that I found a new way to happy ass up and did an auditio happy. I was going into my sen happy because my dreams were ac celebrate, I thought I 'd do a vid

I was. I was the class clown and incredibly outgoing a  
ideo games meant I was a happy little fruit. Well, not  
ryone else able to be so happy and I can't? I was recl  
eally saw behind my fake smile. Days blended together a  
've ever felt more of a relief in my life. Eighth grade  
very few things made me happy, and why I cared for so  
an truly get excited and happy about. They've always bee  
that was to make people laugh and forget. I'm lucky e  
ldn't fill me with more happiness even if it tried. The tr  
want to remind people to laugh and have fun with games a  
people to laugh and have fun with games and friends,  
from sadness like to use comedy and laughing as a way to  
s like to use comedy and laughing as a way to youknow eithe  
eople. I have turned to comedy and that kind of stuff be  
. I was always the class clown, always doing things to  
ng things to make people laugh. But, despite that, I  
friends and I was pretty happy, except for when I turne  
be onstage making people laugh. In fact, I would do th  
o edit and shoot video. Fun Fact: I almost didn't e  
asn't. In fact, I was happy. For the first time in y  
guy who was really just happy being safe in his little  
gether. It was a ton of fun and I still have many gre  
many great memories and hilarious stories from that  
ig risk: to switch from comedy skits to exclusively Top  
ned" the facts with the humour?" And boom! Soon, I s  
retty musical guy, a funny guy. He was always the l  
said, which is kind of funny. I mean, I guess I've b  
Zack and I had a pretty fun childhood. I picked om h  
d I used to have tons of fun playing with toys whether  
ts, we did all kinds of fun stuff when we were young  
ry once in a while? Our fun as children though was ki

, they were going to be **happy** no matter what I decided  
I was making one person **happy**. I felt like I was makin  
my grandparents would be **happy**, my mum would be happy o  
happy, my mum would be **happy** or my dad would be happy  
happy or my dad would be **happy** and the other two would b  
ghout my life as well as happiness. I've had a very big mi  
xture of both - very big highs and very low lows. In 20  
y best to make my family **happy** after that. I felt like  
anymore. I just wasn't **happy**. Not too long after, I  
sense that he told mean **jokes**, but honestly if it was  
for someone just to have **fun** with or anything else. I  
uccessful doing and have fun doing it. And here I am  
life's tough, but I'm happy. Molly and I are happy. I  
'm happy Molly and I are happy. I'm having a lot of fu  
y. I'm having a lot of fun on YouTube and I wouldn't  
t was haunted. I'm not **joking**. My mum had her friend c  
at school didn't make me **happy** anymore. Basketball was  
ows for a while. Don't **laugh**. Really... Don't laugh  
augh. Really... Don't **laugh**, I'm quite embarrassed  
ty, that I wasn't really **happy**. I didn't have a girlfr  
re doesn't make you read **happy** books. They're basically  
it like that. It is not **uplifting** at all. It's crushing.  
pants and she was really funny and smart in class and sh  
my shell and she made me laugh, she introduced me to mu  
elationship. I was just happy enough to know her and to  
d. I made this video to celebrate 300,000 subscribers and t  
end my mum was a skank! Joke, joke, I meant to say f  
mum was a skank! Joke, joke, I meant to say floozy.  
Don't worry, she has a **sense of humour**. My stepdad was a  
steroids. It wasn't all **fun** and games though. Other  
video games with how we laugh and joke with each other

es with how we laugh and joke with each other. The res parties and had a ton of fun playing music for people t school wasn't making me **happy**. All I wanted to do was much of it. I was just happy to do something productiv now why either. I still laugh about it. As long as I c ed Kirby. It was really fun and exciting to be living personality and was very fun to be around. He always ys made me and my sister laugh and I wish I could have h I must admit that it's **funny** growing up split between mations onto YouTube for fun. One of these animations nk you so much. I am so happy and thankful to be able t 81, and what I think is **funny** about that is when I look had Nintendo and we just had a really good time and I wasn't I was cute or that I was funny. And I noticed they had e bullying and the girls **making fun** of me, and I just had cute and I think you're **funny**, and she started to brin hing was great and I was happy, and she was happy and we I was happy and she was **happy**, and we were planning out arried and everything is happy and it's beautiful and s nd I'm starting to be a happy person again. And on Apr people were saying I was funny and I was cool and I was assionate and played the **Joker** character. I think I had I had a version of every **Joker** scene from every single B ally like gadgets. They cheer me up. So, I decided to cheer myself up and bought a me up. So, I decided to fun I asked my parents to get es. I thought it was so fun watching him play and hav d and it was almost more **funny** guys they just discovered to watch these two other funny, but there was something Yeah! They were really **laughed**. I was confused but I co is way. Everyone around **laughed**. I was confused but I co I became a bully. A guy **joked** about me once so I pushed

if I couldn't make myself **happy**, I'd try to make others h  
, I'd try to make others **happy**. I started to socialize an  
e I ever saw any of them **smile**. Seeing that made me rea  
that made me really **happy** for some reason, so I ke  
t for that, to see them **smile**. I didn't realise the im  
s what life's all about. Happiness doesn't always come from  
that occasional awkward **smile** when I saw the others lau  
le when I saw the others **laugh**. I never had a voice. I  
t started to imagine people **smiling** from watching my videos,  
to. That made me really **happy**. So yeah! Through these  
accepted myself again. Joking and talking about my inse  
p anymore. I also wasn't **happy** with the program I was in  
him that I wasn't really **happy** in LA and I was barely ge  
dent mode, but it was a fun challenge to me. I learn  
at I can imagine someone **smile** for the first time while  
nts. And that's my dad **jumping for joy**. And even though  
Jersey, it was a lot of fun. And then five years lat  
all that and it made me **happy**. It was that escape for  
rs and that's beatbox, funny moments and then beatboxi  
who can somehow make me laugh even in the darkest times  
hear them bellowing with **laughter**, and yeah, it sounds ri  
king back, even kind of funny, but 14-year old me felt  
made me really, really **happy**, so I got up, I grabbed  
done before, and I felt on top of the world. Through trial  
. Everyone has lows and **highs** and the most important th  
w this person must be so **happy**. Little did I realise th  
but when I did, I would smile a little, give myself a  
lished cut up video with **upbeat** background music and a sm  
t background music and a **smiling** Aaron, 95% of the time I  
y, more lonely and less **happy**. I'd lost touch with al  
ncy things, but we were **happy**. I wouldn't have change

ame it, we did it! The  
which said that I was a  
r, St. Peters were very  
a sense, it was a huge  
it was, I remember how  
rd and Reading and I was  
hundred views, I was so  
e kids in my class would  
I didn't have loads of  
videos and it made me so  
yle that is so much more  
ell. This was much more  
g shows. This was great  
is time, I did stand-up  
ason I found this really  
and I found this really  
this really funny. As a  
sure why, but it seemed  
only really made it as a  
wed do together so I was  
sleeping on Ben's floor  
we were having too much  
ere always exploring for  
e it, my man". What a  
re that. This was not a  
of the craziest and most  
I was, and we had some  
id anything that sounded  
playing music and it's  
ow, Mark and I had some  
me shenanigans. Lots of

funny thing is though that desp  
happy child, but maybe that wa  
happy to take me! Finding out  
relief, even though I'd always  
happy mum and dad were. Dad sh  
over the moon to accept my place  
happy. I thought I'd really h  
laugh at me for having this job  
fun there. It was however th  
happy. That hasn't changed an  
fun than a typical night out  
fun. First, they let me put  
fun, and it's pretty good a  
comedy for a bit. But the less  
funny. I then found out that h  
funny. As a joke, I decided t  
joke, I decided to buy a ukul  
funny at the time. Although I  
joke and to teach myself how t  
happy that it had finally becom  
happy as a clam to be reunited  
fun just hanging out with one  
fun parties. Our new housema  
joke, because our relationshi  
fun experience, but on the o  
fun that I had as a kid. I l  
fun times. Everyone would ju  
fun, as much as I could.  
fun, there is a whole other  
fun times, gotten up to some  
fun stuff, but you guys have

that. I hope you don't  
seemed to have a really  
time dancing and having  
l, it was a little less  
g a living out of making  
o think about why I make  
ess imagination, having  
rs and I found a kind of  
d it wasn't very a very  
ver me. It wasn't very  
g is, it wasn't really  
I found D-4, D-4 was so  
his shoutcasting was so  
and the other kids would  
because, youknow, I looked  
of this, the kids would  
le school, people would  
t. They would point and  
augh, call me names and  
hile they all stared and  
chool, youknow. Was so  
here so, I always have  
. So, I've had so much  
always the outgoing and  
't have asked for a more  
and Pokemon. It was our  
. A literal miracle. No  
r and we were building a  
than a year later, as a  
. I was having a lot of  
months. YouTube was my

**laugh** too hard at my horrible,  
**happy** ending where the person t  
fun. I think it's the only  
**fun**. To start off, no one I  
**funny** videos, something that I  
**funny** videos. And I think it '  
fun, doing ridiculous things  
heart-warming and a little crazy  
**happy** time for me. My mum want  
**fun**. I cried all the way hom  
**fun** and wasn't my really cup  
funny to me, his shoutcasting  
funny. I figured if he could d  
**make fun** of me because, youknow, I  
**funny** and I had all these rashe  
**make fun** of me in rlike elementary s  
**make fun** of me because they noticed t  
**laugh**, call me names and make  
**make fun** of me. It was really sad.  
**laughed**. For those who didn't k  
happy I even graduated with hon  
fun making YouTube videos, a  
fun. Thanks again for watchi  
**fun** troublemaker while I was  
heart-warming childhood. My mum grew u  
happy getaway but my brother an  
**joke**, the man same day was ra  
happy family again. A couple d  
fun side project, I created  
fun on the internet but meanw  
happy getaway from all of this



ople. It also makes the  
of my life and I'm very  
now. You really make me  
possible. You deserve a  
my dad's birthday. So  
a lot. She was a lot of  
on them and I'm really  
t we got to do all those  
would still think I was  
ndom stuff and they were  
hought it would be heaps  
a long time just having  
ch made me so incredibly  
o incredibly happy. The  
ator, and that makes me  
mary school was a lot of  
een. That's not even a  
those videos. They are  
on track. I was having  
some weird cosmic divine  
o. I'd always had more  
if I ever will. Junior  
to come out and just be  
time he'd play I'd just  
n-stop. We had a ton of  
ought that it was really  
playing it on my own for  
just changed. I wasn't  
here anymore. I wasn't  
younger sister Lindsey.  
Cricket and I was the

happy things in life so much be  
happy with how it's going. It  
happy and feel like I have mean  
happy and strong life and I lov  
happy birthday dad! Best prese  
fun to play around with and w  
happy that we got to do all tho  
fun things, so thanks dad.  
funny and look after me and stu  
hilarious, and she said we should  
funny if we got the camera and  
fun with the community. One  
happy. The happiness came from  
happiness came from me being able t  
happy. So that's my life up u  
fun though. I was a popular  
joke. I started high school i  
hilariously bad. That is when I met  
fun again, but overall, 201  
joke, somehow my dad got cust  
fun on the weekends with my m  
high was relatively uneventful  
happy. I needed to be myself.  
make fun of him non-stop. We had  
fun and thought that it was r  
funny, and one day he told me  
fun and noticed that he was d  
happy there anymore. I was n't  
happy doing IT work for people  
Fun fact: my sister and I ar  
comedy relief of the show, and

t and I was the comedy  
let me know that I put a  
my family and my kids.  
, I was able to make her  
le to make her smile and  
ause I was able to put a  
reans. We had a really  
andicapped was an absurd  
ddies and I would put on  
son that stuck with me.  
ated a new channel, The  
iosities with all of the  
roduct reviews and other  
, with no real plan but  
see. #92 Draw my life,  
n earth - to make people  
dork. If I make someone  
sted. I hope I made you  
ntil next time, keep on  
to my parents, which is  
I did it, but I'm also  
alled me George Bush for  
ust think about how much  
during this time, like  
ght now I'm just having  
ought it could be really  
ith them now, it's all  
ol, it's not very many  
. There's only one real  
said I've not got many  
t many happy, very many

relief of the show, and I still  
smile on somebody's face that  
Fun fact: during this trip t  
smile and laugh. She called me  
laugh. She called me that nigh  
smile on her face after that tr  
fun time there, just being w  
comedy about this guy whose body  
comedy shows in Lafayette and ju  
Fun story: so one day, me a  
Funny Rats, which is just a pl  
fun things that we do togethe  
fun family videos, so if you  
happy to be back in France, an  
smiles edition. First things fi  
smile and essentially become a  
smile each day, then it's not w  
smile. Want to know more about  
smiling. #93 Hey everyone, welc  
funny because now I 'm actually  
happy that my parents decided t  
fun, because they didn't kn  
fun it would be to do what th  
messing around with photography, trying  
fun. Thanks for watching guy  
fun, so I'm going to be doi  
happy. And my sister, who I l  
happy memories to be honest. T  
happy memory I have and that wa  
happy, very many happy memorie  
happy memories of school is bas

Caroline made it so much but never mind, we had talk so much in class and ately I'd made Caroline lying which wasn't very and Caroline had a lot of nes from movies and just ly? Is that it? It was ock. But after a lot of er a lot of laughing and int, which you probably . Because it was really d me and Graham are just travel like mad. It's hink it just makes me so that. And, and I mean, . So you can imagine how st if you, if you're not so yeah, that wasn't a and Caroline almost died ed to take a vacation to were just going to have at one point we'd just down. Oh no! That was to die like this. I can of nearly wetting myself r really if she found it this video now, it was egle videos and about 60 or just meeting up for a enny. I got to do Dutch

fun. We used to, I mean, it fun. We used to, it was str laugh at everything and I used laugh in an assembly we had and fun, but and I suppose me an laughs. We used to record littl have a laugh. We even wrote our own b hilarious. She just said, I reall laughing and joking about it, eve joking about it, eventually cam laugh at because I'm not, I d funny, in the makeup classes e happy as ever and we 've got ou fun. Actually, speaking abo happy reading them. Its unbeli happiness equals YouTube. That 's happy I was. I think it was ju happy, change the circumstance fun experience for me. We no laughing! So, me and Caroline deci celebrate both of us turning 21, a fun. So, let me set the scene laugh and then crying. Oh my g fun! We didn't really walk laugh now but, youknow, at the ti laughing but I did get her out eve funny. Well Caroline, if you funny, right? Her face. But fun, fluffy videos like this o fun, fabulous day of shoppin Comic Con and Dutch Christmas C

Con and Dutch Christmas  
t me and Graham actually  
sister! We were one big  
inally got it! I was so  
point in my life, I was  
quiet and I used to get  
. Everyone used to just  
his time. I had so much  
gh school, you will get  
. All Fs. I am not even  
as great. I had so much  
again in my life, I was  
ead a ton of books about  
I was never going to be  
on views! I was so, so  
00 a day. I was so, so  
ving doing it. I was so  
I was so happy guys. So  
ne month guys. I was so  
one of the boys started  
ng at me. I knew he was  
f the kids there started  
fun of me or would poke  
ry day, kids would poke  
n at my channel and made  
ecause I just wanted the  
nd try making each other  
e gay. That was hell of  
asthma isn't that much  
erent classes. Everyone  
and high school, yeah!

Comic Con, and that was an ama  
celebrated our tenth anniversary rec  
happy family guys and believe i  
happy playing Mario and Donkey  
happy. But during my childhood  
made fun of on a daily basis. Everyo  
laugh at me, and it just made me  
fun with girls and my friends  
made fun of so much and that's exact  
joking, guys. And because of the  
fun, and finally, once agai  
happy. After a while of being  
happiness, success, and I actuall  
happy working for somebody else  
happy. Before this point, I h  
happy. My dream was finally co  
happy, guys. So happy that I we  
happy that I went back to Costc  
happy until YouTube said Nope,  
laughing at me. I knew he was lau  
laughing at me for hiding behind m  
making fun of me or would poke fun at m  
fun at my channel. At first  
fun at my channel and made jo  
jokes about it, so I got embar  
jokes to stop. Also, I kind o  
laugh. Now around this time,  
fun. Basically did nothing t  
fun. But I was doing alright  
happy, yay! So my main bully go  
Fun fact: I moved housing la

this house. Here is the  
ow. I thought was quite  
r a lot and I was really  
, adored and thought was  
weeks before that I was  
now, they were here for  
ne. Thank you so much.  
that made me very, very  
h the whole bullying and  
ther and he is amazing.  
sister it was just a big  
kid and make friends and  
ese guys are amazing and  
journey 21 years in, to  
about this now sheds an  
dad said that he had to  
ost intense and the most  
e the summer of 2012, I  
make sure that you have  
reach out. I am always

**fun** fact: not so much later  
funny. Yay, someone else I me  
happy for him, but for me, no  
**funny** or made them mad, everyt  
celebrating that my channel had hit 1  
**funny** videos and not anything r  
**Fun** fact: I did this, this  
happy. Well we ended up moving  
**teasing** thing. I'm not sure why  
Hilarious. And it was awesome beca  
happy family. But luckily  
have a good time. So, I ended up going t  
hilarious, and you do see them in so  
celebrate reaching 2,000 subscriber  
amusing light on the situation.  
**smile** and hold his scepticism.  
enjoyable part so far. The friends  
celebrated 100 subscribers. Obvious  
**fun**. Life is far too short t  
happy to hear from you guys, a

### **Females: Sad**

time and obviously I still  
d put my face in when I was  
ng together. It was really  
in with everyone else, so  
yone else, so sad Jenna is  
ested which used to make me  
st laid in my dorm room and  
y dorm room and cried, and  
, and sad Jenna was really

suffer with anxiety and panic attac  
sad and my mum's been with her  
sad in seventh grade, because I  
sad Jenna is sad. I also really  
sad. I also really liked this b  
cry, but I did keep some notes  
cried, and sad Jenna was really s  
sad Jenna was really sad, but i  
sad, but it didn't last for to

ob in my field and I was so  
d to be his assistant and I  
d then I was back to really  
onths ago and it was really  
, it won't. But now I'm  
e quiet, but I would never  
n, their words were really  
people, and honestly, it  
nths, I fell into a severe  
aring a huge sign that said  
I often relapsed back into  
al to take all the pains of  
n lie there and tremble and  
impact positively when I'm  
love, yeah, sure, I will  
re, I will cry. I will be  
move on to the part where I  
ood, or the reason someone  
lse's brain while they're  
e. And I'm not ashamed or  
g. I hope that wasn't too  
pe that wasn't too sad and  
ver forget seeing my mother  
. I will never forget her.  
missing. My mother was so  
, and I was devastated. I  
o as much. Man, you would  
hool, and this is me being  
don't think I actually was  
ams, and there's me being  
y spent a lot of time being

sad and confused, and then one  
**cried** because I was so excited, a  
sad Jenna. No job, no directio  
sad. And it's been really hard  
sad Jana again, and I don't kn  
**cry**. I was a pretty tough cooki  
hurtful, but I kept my head up and  
broke my heart to delete that video  
depression. I lost my appetite and my  
depressed. I suddenly felt uncomforta  
depression. I eventually learned to ta  
depression and transform those pains in  
cry. But my body would simply n  
upset. And that's why when somet  
cry. I will be heartbroken but  
heartbroken but ultimately, I will make  
embarrass myself on the Internet. Whi  
**upset** smiles, then all my efforts  
**depressed**. Now wouldn't that be awes  
**embarrassed** regardless of what anyone sa  
**sad** and depressing to listen to  
**depressing** to listen to because it's n  
**cry**. I realised at a very early  
Sadly, it didn't last long. My  
**heartbroken**. I didn't know why my fath  
cried so much because it was my fi  
**cry** too because it is so good.  
sad but I don't think I actuall  
**sad** about it - I'm not really s  
sad because I wasn't actually g  
depressed in first year because I hate

s not art. So, I was really  
born. And that is a really  
that stuff. I was a little  
entire universe. It's so  
I sound like I'm about to  
ents for the first time, I  
wasn't my grades that were  
was a baby, so I probably  
I probably cried a lot and  
urly afro and she'd always  
e next day so yeah, I just  
pes now, and they're really  
tic seizure because she was  
started playing Minecraft.  
s it did, but I was really  
onship with so I was really  
f hunter. Because I was so  
iversity and I had a really  
would wake up mortified and  
d, I was probably the most  
or me. So, this is always a  
faced! Whenever I used to  
Whenever I used to sulk and  
and I actually used to feel  
n really sick and it really  
erneath his covers and just  
so a lot of nights I would  
ly test. So that's pretty  
ing, but I chose not to be  
ly about to come true, but  
ty sunk in, I was really

upset and I was not happy at all i  
**sad** computer sushi baby as it wa  
depressed at times because my program  
embarrassing still. It's literally mort  
**burst into tears** at any second. rlike  
cried. I wanted my grandfather to  
**suffering**: it was my social skills.  
**cried** a lot and crying lots - anno  
**crying** lots - annoying. So me  
**cry**. She would not stop crying  
cried, I said "Mum, stupid kid.  
embarrassing. So, growing up, I always  
**suffering** from withdrawal symptoms fro  
Sadly, around this time, the cat  
sad. My cat was something that  
sad, but my friend Oli started  
upset by the recent rejection, I  
miserable time. I didn't really like  
cry because I would think crap,  
desperate one, so I was always trying  
sad memory for me but everybody  
sulk and cry, my grandad would a  
cry, my grandad would always be  
embarrassed actually, because I thought  
broke my heart because when I went to  
cry because I missed him so much  
cry myself to bed. One day I fi  
embarrassing. But I did love to draw, I  
**sad** and more thankful that he wa  
sadly, the car turned and went so  
upset. It felt like my dreams wer

elt like my dreams were all  
room. So yeah, I was very  
re! Sometimes I get really  
e moving, and I was really  
Use your real voice! And I  
nt want this story to be so  
in place, so I was really  
that I'm older, it really  
icom broke. We were really  
er home. I was excited and  
down at the restaurant less  
restaurant became the most  
n views at the time, and I  
d tears of joy, but I also  
, but I also cried tears of  
. Although we were all very  
alled us a joke, and it's  
right to our rooms and just  
iends just cuddled together  
It was just really, really  
and it was really, really  
was so excited I started to  
dvantage of this fact which  
had to abandon the server,  
ause she'd probably be too  
et again. That's means me  
eans me crying. Hunter was  
this other girl were really  
at was the first time I got  
r to eight I was completely  
gns for theatre. Nothing I

shattered, and I did not get to live  
sad. Just when I was about to g  
homesick and I wish my parents were n  
sad, and they put a for sale si  
cried, because I guess my voice h  
sad though. There were some goo  
sad that I had to end my soccer  
breaks my heart. When I was about 22  
sad. Four years later, our dad  
sad at the same time. Moving ho  
miserable. We would watch tons and to  
depressing point in my life, because e  
cried tears of joy, but I also cr  
cried tears of sadness because the  
sadness because the video was taken  
sad, it was also exciting becau  
hurtful. So meanwhile that was happ  
cry together, feeling so lonely  
crying, holding on to each other,  
sad. So then later in the year  
sad because I missed her a lot,  
cry. I remember getting it, br  
sadly led to some bullying and I g  
sad to say. Then, in January 2  
embarrassed. That's us together and ye  
crying. Hunter was sad too, and t  
sad too, and that's me lying o  
sad because we thought maybe we  
heartbroken. My best friend and I would  
miserable at this prep school, but as  
took too seriously, but it's worth



fan art I had drawn of the Grim Adventures of Billy and Mand  
at I call the post-Ringling depression. It's a real thing that I  
d send me into a spiralling depression, but surprisingly it wasn't  
the ultimate excuse to feel sad and no one was going to judg  
e was going to judge me for bursting into tears and saying how  
g into tears and saying how devastated and heartbroken and scared I  
d saying how devastated and heartbroken and scared I was, because e  
d and teased and I was just upset and I cried a lot, and it w  
and I was just upset and I cried a lot, and it wasn't, it  
cked and then I was kind of sad and then I'd just cry at the  
ind of sad and then I'd just cry at the end because I didn't  
nd she came out and she was crying and that's always a good si  
ly long before and I was so upset that I had to cut my hair th  
not working out. I was so sad and I just kind of fell into  
of fell into this slump of sadness and I didn't really know wh  
after, my sister came home crying. She wasn't a crier, so I  
ons. So being very angry, jealous and bitter was a tool I kept  
empathy, so please don't take it seriously or at least try not  
. I attempted to combat my depression with SSRIs or antidepressant  
onventional fixes failed me miserably, and more importantly, I c  
tantly, I couldn't let my depression grow any more intense. I ha  
looking at her that she was depressed. She was beautiful and she  
, I started youtubing. My depression was completely under control  
ogether and made me laugh, cry and feel truly grateful. On  
l. Once I felt the deepest sorrow, seeing beauty in the munda  
ould make me laugh if I was heartbroken. We both loved art created  
nd he would just get really upset. I feel so mean. Anyway,  
r being so scared and I was crying and I was clinging on to my  
e heck? And then I started crying and I said to him, I'm goi  
ng wrong because I was just crying, so I was, rlike, thinki  
to myself, is it wrong to cry? But anyway, primary schoo

we never talked after that, older than Michael and I and man year, something really going to make it. I was so arted with a B, it made me made me cry. I was really how to edit, so that's a o Illinois, which was very , Oh. I, rrlike, was really ock. And it really made me me a lot and it was really really sad and I got really t found out. It was really obably would just be really aight hair that I was super time, which made me really y, I went home, I started t, and I was just a really girl, and I was basically ving, and just very, very . I remember feeling really and me and Winnie would se problems, I always felt s live in fear and we would d cry almost every day. We ! I got him - he likes me! girlfriend and I was super Growing up, I was a pretty and my mum fell into a deep ay on a gurney and being so to make friends but failed

sadly. And then finally high scho sad story: Michael my twin almo sad happened. Lacey was bit by sad until one day a miracle happ cry. I was really upset because upset because I had never even tal sad face because I'm not a real depressing because I did not want to do sad about it but my dad actually sad because Brian was kind of th sad and I got really depressed w depressed when he killed himself, and sad and my heart was broken, sad rrlike stripping or whatever jealous of. So now, my sister Wend depressed and also the fact that, rig crying and crying, and I started a depressed girl, and I was basically d depressed for my entire high school fo depressing, very suicidal state of min embarrassed because we were holding bags cry in our beds watching them, sad. Me my older sister would a cry almost every day. We cried a lot. Because my mum was c Sadly, I found out that Wah actua jealous at this point because I thou depressed kid. I think it was du depression and started to become very d sad I couldn't help her. Fourt miserably. I became the gross kid tha

ated. She fell back into a depression and medication addiction and seemed like she was always upset at me and it was never good time, I started getting so sad and depressed that things we started getting so sad and depressed that things weren't going t n I had before, causing my depression to spiral deeper and deeper d pulled herself out of her depression and started getting better. over there and I was super sad because I had to leave but I pools, but I left my very sad friend, best Amy, my frien everything, but I was a bit sad. So when we got to Spain, here I was on my own, so I cried all my first day because I d osh, so I was still pretty sad living in Spain. I had made Ireland, and I was pretty sad, rlike, a lot of the time my parents that I was super sad, I was nine years old, and ot weird, but a little bit sad. So, when I was 13 years old that's, sometimes you get sad but then sometimes you're h She would always get super upset whenever I beat her and, rr cry, so a lot of the times I wo t her and, rlike, almost sad and really confused without y dad. This left me really depressed. I knew that I didn't real me. I got really, really sad. And my dad never really st ust made me really, really upset and really, I didn't know myself, I was just really sad. I ended up with a family t ly uncomfortable and really sad about it. When I get sad, 's home, and I got really sad, everything snowballs into y sad about it. When I get sad. And I was really alone and igger issues and I get more sad, I was on the brink of tear st to myself, I was really unhappy at the foster home, and it because of that. I was so sad because I, I loved Tucker a nd I started to get kind of sad. I didn't like working ret ife. I got really, really cry. Tucker knew that I was rea just wanted to go home and sad, and I started crying a lot friends, and I got really

really sad, and I started  
ain. I got really, really  
nd I'm going to, rlike,  
ld. I was just a baby, so  
I was proud that I didn't  
ect it can have. I used to  
but at the same time really  
and my brother. Part of me  
grandma had passed away. I  
ther and sister were rlike  
know, dad left and we were  
rlike niquath and it was so  
I just remember feeling so  
the family, and we were so  
myself in my room and just  
s in my own, and we was so  
-distance thing, which was  
ally missed home. I was so  
people around us that were  
youknow, and, I mean, it was  
e we doing so wrong that's  
t experience for me. I was  
gel, and that was the most  
w months at that school was  
my boyfriend found out. He  
gosh, those videos were so  
t was horrible. It made me  
aker by the minute. It was  
nded up getting into a deep  
time my papa hears my kids  
f me, no matter how much I

crying a lot again. I got really,  
depressed, and honestly, I can't th  
cry happy tears of joy because I  
sadly, I don't remember them at  
cry at the hospital at all, eve  
cry myself to sleep at night thi  
sad to leave all my good friends  
regrets moving and I would go back i  
burst into tears and my boyfriend's  
jealous of me because obviously I to  
upset at first but we knew it was  
embarrassing. I would just sit in my  
sad and I was just so scared for  
desperate to, rlike, get those numb  
crying. And back at school, my gr  
miserable and after that, we just com  
sad and I missed him so much. B  
homesick and when it was time to go b  
upset with this relationship that  
upsetting. It was like, what are we  
upsetting you? But after a while, we  
depressed up in there. My mum continu  
embarrassing moment of my life. After  
depressing. No one tried to make frien  
cried and broke up with me. I am  
embarrassing. I made lots of friends at  
embarrassed of doing YouTube but I carri  
heartbreaking for us all, but we  
depression. Life wasn't the same with  
cry, he says it's payback for  
cried. My papa worked long hours

honestly say that I don't regret anything that's ever happen  
have to leave me, I would cry and she would have to leave  
into a really, really bad depression and I really didn't feel li  
, because it would usually upset my boyfriend, that my new p  
t led me to becoming pretty depressed. I never really experienced  
I never really experienced depression before until now and it was  
ng. Obviously, it wasn't traumatic for me at the time, but as  
doing it too, much to her chagrin. I didn't have much confid  
w that, so that was really sad. We knew it was coming, bu  
t fun and I became a little depressed. I wouldn't really get out  
ted it because it was super embarrassing. So, in January actually  
ght never succeed in life. Sad face. So, my mum said, You  
re 18 years old. Ah, very upset. So then, youknow, it  
hat explains everything. I cried a lot. I had a bump on my h  
d you before I die. And we cried and I haven't seen her in s  
reen Actors Guild, but no regrets. I am really happy and I in  
s older than me, came home crying because someone was bullying  
. And I found myself pretty depressed and unsure whether I was doi  
93. And I actually did not cry as a baby. I had, you know  
in my throat, so I didn't cry, but I just like to say tha  
gel. That's why I didn't cry. And my parents are still h  
s kind of terrifying, so I cried a lot, and my dad rushed me  
emory. But enough with the sadness - let 's get on to - my litt  
as a boy, so I was kind of sad, but I was also excited to  
later, but the reason I'm unhappy here is I actually had a boy  
ing up with me that made me upset. It was breaking up in a te  
I was not happy but I never cried when he broke up with me. I  
e. I was never rlike real depressed or anything - I actually gai  
et to come which was really sad. But, going to Disneyworld  
finally left my family. I suffered of behavioural problems and  
of behavioural problems and depression in school and I was diagnose

ed to work with kids who'd suffered with the same kind of problem, all this changed when I suffered with an illness which forced using reading to escape my misery as a child to now being able understood why. I was very upset about it and eventually my mind, that kind of thing really upsets you a lot. When I think back as having anxiety attacks, depression, and I was just really upset all the time. So, because I ion, and I was just really sad and not really happy in her st always, rlike, really sad and I can't even imagine. apparently. My mum was so crying at night and, rlike, she used to remember my mum sad because my dad had left. But she knew that my mum was embarrassing, just because no kids I kind of felt rlike it was depression and just not feeling good and led me up to, rlike, my regret doing that, because I can't must to feel something and I depression lasted for a while but then to happen to them. So that sad that she left and I feel like close to me. It was really sad. I know my life was not the orry this video was kind of cried for two days straight until nd out about my channel, I depressed. I stayed in my room, I was . At this point, I became depressed and humiliated. By the end d my eyes out. I was still embarrassing to be my friend at the be it's because it was too depression worse because at this point at the time. This made my depression got worse, I began to do ba eekends, no one. Since my crying so hard that I couldn't breathe in the middle of the night depression. On those nights when I would nd. He helped me during my depression, drowning in my own tears, nights when I would wake up crying, depression washed away. I was happy. y trust my best friend, my embarrassed to be my friend. He is the e supports me and he isn't regret it. I've learned so many things been so crazy but I don't and through my journey with depression and had high school drama. Danlos Syndrome, and I was suffering from Type 3, also known as

with emotional issues like heartbreak, grief, failure, loneliness, family issues like heartbreak, grief, failure, loneliness, family, doesn't mean they aren't suffering or enduring pain on the inside through some kind of private suffering before. So just when I thought parents are going to be so upset. I called my parents, and parents, and they were really upset that I would joke about some things on all the shows. I get depressed sometimes. You know, I'll cry in the car for no reason. I've lived my life. Even when I'm depressed and I can't get up off the couch, but I do remember some upsetting things like the time an adult as a child, mum found me sobbing and upon checking my face diagnosed me, I developed anxiety and depression. I remember spending nights crying myself to sleep supplicating for help, I couldn't shake the emptiness in my heart. I didn't know the weeks rolled on, that emptiness in me began to fade as I read on the street and started crying because the house, rlike, falling apart and became more unhappy together. Although of course a huge sense of relief - the suffering and waiting was over. Although sadness and pain, I believe that it was caused me a great deal of cried. Our next adventure together in life. I was so happy that I sadness, they've all led me down a path of life that bring me extreme jealous of me. When I would go to my home and here's why: she was so sad Christmas we had one year. missing in this trailer was the Graves' disease. I was put on some medicine. And then that triggered my depression. I went through a long emotional long emotional battle with depression until I found this little woman born in the United States in a state called Texas. So, how did it amount of time, my mum was so heartbroken. She'd cried herself to sleep every night was so heartbroken. She'd cried herself to sleep every night But I never smiled, never cried, showed no emotions - no affection with my dad and sister as we cried and prayed for her healing.

ll remember that we were so sad and so terrified. But it wa  
rched eyebrows. Man, do I regret that. I'm still to this da  
me. My self-esteem really suffered during my high school years  
was always really angry and **miserable** and I never understood why.  
reated a lot of anxiety and sadness for the rest of the family.  
was struggling with severe **depression** and he was self-medicating w  
ing symptoms of existential depression and anxiety. My first memor  
the rain and I felt really sad for no reason. It was reall  
ferent. The symptoms of my depression got worse through elementary  
daydreaming to cope with my depression. I would never pay attentio  
I felt isolated and I had a desperate need to belong. Thankfully  
experienced extreme fits of **despair** and expressed his feelings t  
trical or visual arts and, sadly, I wasn't accepted on my f  
we were very secretive and embarrassed about it. We started a stor  
t her. I sank back into my depression very quickly. During my fre  
my artwork and they started **taking me seriously**. I became a full-  
years to get over him. The depression came back in full swing. I  
ull swing. I dealt with my sorrow in the only way I knew how -  
offense. But I was really unhappy during this time. I could n  
e. I couldn't get over my heartache and low self-worth. To make  
p and it was enhanced by my depression. This prevented me from cre  
in and couldn't talk. And I cried and I told him that I loved  
sed away. All the pain and sorrow and despair that I had felt  
All the pain and sorrow and despair that I had felt through my l  
deeper in my black hole of depression than I ever was before, and  
ed on the fact that dad had **suffered** severely from depression and  
had suffered severely from **depression** and used alcohol to cope. B  
ause my siblings and I also suffered from depression, we made a  
gs and I also suffered from depression, we made a pact to steer cl  
whole life being angry and **depressed**. They say that artists are  
understatement. I used to howl all day long and my name was



to date and still my friend **sadly**. So, I was really shy, so  
eight, so that was kind of sad. So high school came around  
dance troupe and it's really embarrassing now, but it was fun at the  
out and up to then she just **cried** all the time. She was sick  
tive, that caused a lot of embarrassment. I had to explain it a  
sides every time. I was so embarrassed and I couldn't speak to peo  
into university, but I was desperate to leave my family and the t  
clothes. My mum was there **crying**, doing her usual poor me,  
her usual poor me, you're **upsetting** me routine, and my dad was  
idea what I was doing and I cried myself to sleep that night i  
tured artist type. We were tragically poor, but managed to rent a  
I found life with him quite depressing. I was excited for a new st  
rted dating. Nam had had a **tragic** upbringing. Having left the  
gular panic attacks and was depressed and completely distracted at  
evere PTSD. I didn't feel **sad** about it at all at that time  
n YouTube. She said it was **sad** and I must be missing someth  
times too and we attracted heartache into our lives and ultimatel  
ng to do. We were all sad, the children included. Th  
. And I have to say that as sad as it all was and how hard i  
t so that no one ever feels **embarrassed** to talk about their love for  
was really cool and really embarrassing. The first time someone  
is during lunch. I was so embarrassed and so caught off guard that  
y life was over, I quickly regretted every test I didn't study f  
ne. I've only seen my dad **cry** three times - when his mum d  
e tears because I knew if I **cried** it'd make things that much  
. Safe to say I was pretty heartbroken and to this day, I still am  
ure shock for me. I was so sad to leave my friends behind a  
cowl on my face. My grades **suffered** and I was even guilty of bei  
years had been hard; I was sad to leave Hong Kong. It's g  
't want me anymore and I'd regretted that decision instantly. I  
alone at this point and so miserable. My parents had to move bac

om The Jungle Book, but he broke my heart into a million pieces  
er me. Cue another year of crying myself to sleep and eating m  
t night, I grit my teeth, cringe into my pillow and hope for  
As a way to help me with my grief, I started my YouTube chann  
n the world. I barely ever **cried** and, I just, I was very,  
get really just incredibly unhappy and I isolated myself from t  
lth and they would be these sad, sad videos, but then I re  
d they would be these sad, sad videos, but then I realised  
he tone doesn't have to be **sad** for it to be impactful. I b  
ee weeks. Having that much heartbreak in three weeks. It was insa  
didn't know my body could cry so much. After that happene  
ter I went through all that heartbreak, and she was just an incred  
elf a lot and I've stopped crying every day, and I've starte  
I had growing up when I was sad and insecure. Idontknow, I  
off and it caused me to be in a very high state of anxiety. This  
uld just stay in my bed and cry. I couldn't really go to s  
t can cause major anxiety, depression, and that just made a lot o  
that story and it makes me cry. I 'm the youngest of five  
. Kind of popular, kind of desperate. Bullied and bully. But I  
iod, I couldn't listen to sad songs anymore. High school  
explain. I could listen to **sad** songs again and I remembered  
the dog and Pauly and I was crying because I could tell that th  
ear, I found myself pretty sad a lot when I first got to sc  
ud prayers, and I would be crying, and, rrlike, my mum was  
died, and that really broke my heart, and I didn't get  
yeah, I was kind of sad and I was down on Jalan Jaks  
end took him in. But I was depressed thinking about the weight of  
crying and in a deep, deep depression and I wasn't doing a  
e. And I had a really sad time. But eventually, some  
couver. I was still really sad by the time we moved into ou  
of school was terrible. I cried a lot and again hated my par

was proud but also kind of  
goodbye and well, we both  
ther a lot and I often felt  
ell into a deep, crippling  
ent together. I still felt  
I was doing. I was kind of  
s, and this made me really  
muscles, and it was really  
ut what was quite a large,  
an anyone else's. I've had  
in weird ways somehow  
drinking heavily and became  
in his car. Maybe it was a  
ible, and any suicide is a  
with Matt, but I knew I'd  
between us. It was such a  
e anxiety was immense and I  
my escape. I never really  
out me, youknow, the more  
this part, how deep in  
I just, I was just so  
just so sad. I was so  
ly, really bad, so I went  
. My grandparents were very  
ucked a lot and I wanted to  
. Actually, I probably did  
repared to maybe, possibly  
y tongue, so it was pretty  
oobs. It was my very first  
break and I was very, very  
d I was very, very sad. I

embarrassed. After that, a few of the  
cried a lot. I flew to Turkey in  
sad that he wasn't there. It w  
depression. I was too ashamed to seek  
depressed, but the changes definitely  
embarrassed about it actually, but then  
sad because I didn't really und  
sad because she had to stay in b  
sad chunk of my life out of this  
sad times in my life and amazing  
sad that he didn't want to see  
depressed about what he'd done to Cha  
cry for help, I don't know, b  
tragic waste of life, but I felt a  
regret it forever if things didn't  
sad goodbye, but off I went. A  
cried the entire time. Our friend  
grieved, I never really dealt with  
sad I felt. I remember checking  
depression I got. I would, was in a b  
sad. I was so sad and I di  
sad and I didn't know how to as  
crying into my classroom and I told  
sad. I think they wanted us to  
cry. Actually, I probably did  
cry all the time. There was thi  
cry. I don't know. I'm just  
embarrassing. A couple weeks later he sa  
heartbreak and I was very, very sad.  
sad. I cried basically for days  
cried basically for days. That Ch

heart was broken. I was so  
t. I remember that night I  
mber that night I cried and  
ge clumps and it was really  
I was existing. I used to  
many, but I was basically  
lur for me because I was so  
start fresh. I was really  
in my room all the time and  
y all I did. I was so, so  
e. I remember him being so  
the whole class. It was so  
e 11th, and this is really  
We had no air. Phoenix was  
- he was, rlike, always  
he end of the world! I was  
chool. My grannies were so  
always been here with me.  
dly for my weight. I would  
oung. The bullying made me  
love to this day, although  
, something that I totally  
're not good at dancing. I  
of arguing, and I remember  
myself in my bedroom and  
I didn't even have time to  
I just felt so unloved and  
e only way. Sorry this got  
y during this time. I just  
arents which made me really  
on the floor and I started

upset. I remember that night I cr  
cried and cried, and I just did n  
cried, and I just didn't underst  
sad to see her go through that b  
cry myself to sleep all the time  
crying the entire, rlike, that w  
upset. And I just felt so alone,  
depressed at the time. I ended up gai  
cried myself to sleep and listened  
depressed. At school, my grades star  
upset when I got my report card.  
embarrassing. Everyone laughed at me. I  
embarrassing, guys, because Jay  
miserable - he was, rlike, always c  
crying. I was, rlike, super-dup  
crying my ass off louder than the t  
upset and they weren't able to ea  
Sadly, I only came to realise tha  
cry because I couldn't get a pa  
sad and in response, I would sn  
sadly, we're not in contact with  
regret looking back. I used to thi  
cried so much when I decided to qu  
crying so much. A lot of times, I  
cry, only I didn't even have t  
cry because I had so much studyi  
unhappy. My parents took me to a bu  
sad - I'm such a happy person,  
cried a lot. I continued running  
upset. The night before my AP Eng  
sobbing because I realised I wanted

This is an emergency and I cry about it sometimes because I  
g my calling to help people suffering in poverty along with being  
e behind and we were really sad. But we're still connected  
n today. And it was really sad. I had to leave my best fri  
I was starting high school in a new state with people I'd never  
y friends and it was really sad, and when I ended up going  
g really soon. I am really sad that I have to go and I have  
way I looked. I was really depressed and I would spend all my tim  
ks of school. I was pretty devastated. I was so mad with Arturo t  
ion, I was really, really depressed, because I moved back in wi  
to, so I'm still kind of depressed. And my life honestly reall  
lly a six-hour round trip. Sadly, my internship came to an e  
unzel hair and I was really jealous and it was crazy long and sh  
enile but it made me really sad, and then I couldn't go ba  
tons of coffee. But I was unhappy, I was, rlike, angry. A  
uhu, you're cute and I'm embarrassed". And we ended up dating!  
". And he didn't. And I cried. And I still cry sometimes  
. And I cried. And I still cry sometimes, cause it's sad  
cry sometimes, cause it's sad. And so, I got on the firs  
or me - thanks Sean. And I cried the whole way there with my  
, don't look at me - I'm sad. And I had to go to the fun  
lly alone and it was really sad and all of my friends and fa  
hung with my mum as we cried and it was really sad. It '  
we cried and it was really sad. It's hard to lose a paren  
and I said "Yes", and I cried like a baby. And then, we  
e said I hardly ever really cried. At just the age of 1, we  
dad much and we were pretty sad. We didn't have any friend  
ve a lot and we were pretty sad; we still were close to the  
my grandma and she was crying on the phone and she was tel  
partment and it was just so depressing. We were just all stuck in  
heartbeat. My mum was very upset because she didn't want me

-low because I was a little embarrassed and I hated being put  
 really happy baby. I never **cried** and everyone thought I was a  
 g back at it now, I really regret it because the next day we g  
 sed away. Seeing my mother **cry** almost every day literally b  
 almost every day literally broke my heart and was probably one of  
 ith breast cancer and I was sad. I couldn't really compreh  
 ways obviously, so it was sad but this became really good  
 s the time when I was still depressed and eating my feelings and s  
 her and then it was really sad because LeeAnn had to move t  
 him now, and I was pretty jealous and sad. And I'm pretty su  
 nd I was pretty jealous and sad. And I 'm pretty sure I cri  
 ad. And I'm pretty sure I cried a lot that summer, but  
 Tube. But then it was sad because she moved up to a di  
 e got a lot of hair, and I **cried** a lot. I was a colicky baby  
 they never let it go that I **cried** a lot. Oh, and then his jo  
 uitar looks like, which is **sad** because I play. My roommate  
 s down my throat, and I'm **crying** and I'm choking, and they  
 n't get to see him, which is sad. I forgot to mention that f  
 to hospital. It was really sad and I felt so bad and I thin  
 on his arm and I was really upset. I didn't mean to hurt him  
 er everything and it was so sad, and she was, she wasn't  
 oodbye to her. It was very sad, and yeah, never did reall  
 ind of broke up, which was sad. I got a B in English, C  
 to go home. It was really sad, because I loved it and I w  
 ever the same anymore, so sadly, we broke up, but somehow  
 roke up, which was kind of sad but, yeah, it's what it i  
 s like that, it's kind of embarrassing in this day and age, but  
 school, and it was really sad. I didn't see my family as  
 . Mum of course was really **sad** that I was leaving home but  
 rly and he was very visibly **upset**, and my parents were just b  
 them and it made me really sad because I was never super cl

But it was actually really sad, because Jasmine had to mov  
so we were all very, very sad and she still wishes that sh  
ou could say, I was pretty sad and pretty confused and I re  
d my brother were literally crying ourselves to sleep every sin  
ber feeling really, really sad all the time and really upse  
sad all the time and really upset and just depressed about eve  
e and really upset and just depressed about everything and I just  
out how I literally used to cry myself to sleep and just pra  
. I love you guys! #95 Ah **alas** - another somewhat depressin  
Ah, alas - another somewhat **depressing** and not too uplifting draw m  
orn. I wasn't even really **crying**, lol. So, I went to alter  
just really hurt and really sad. And middle school really w  
o I hid in the bathroom and cried by myself. I'll live senior  
k of college was absolutely miserable, but then I made a friend -  
lute hell. I became really depressed and I developed extreme anxi  
in my closet and finally I'd cry and cry and cry. I stopped  
oset and finally I'd cry and cry and cry. I stopped eating,  
finally I'd cry and cry and cry. I stopped eating, I stopp  
e. I just kind of silently suffered with absolutely no friends i  
om doing YouTube videos. I suffered acne for one year. March 20  
ly friendly and after a big cry, I let my parents go home.  
ents go home. I was really homesick for the first week and nearl  
ake. I was so drunk that I **cried** with happiness. So many coo  
re. I can't remember if I **cried** or not, but at least now I  
d a tail. And I was really sad and all the girls I was frie  
middle finger and I was so sad, and all the boys in my sch  
and it just made me really sad again but thanks to emotiona  
it just, it made me really sad again. To take my mind off  
take my mind off of feeling sad, I had saved up all my wait  
rible and it made me really sad again, until one day, I wa  
as a tail and that makes me sad because it reminds me of my

Yeah, bye. But I'm still  
it's that I'm, I'm really  
I 'm really sad, and I'm  
and I'm depressed and I'm  
like really, really shy and  
nose and it's just really  
st laugh. He said, Don't  
e a man. Be a man! Don't  
and I don't think she was  
as actually really, really  
the hospital, and I was so  
t home with her. I used to  
t the other side was really  
her side was really sad and  
t really, really empty and  
, really empty and sad and  
n the inside, I was really  
pressed and really, really  
I'd want her back and I'd  
andma, rlike, it wasn't

sad, remember? So, this is now  
sad, and I'm depressed and I'  
depressed and I'm sad, and I'll nev  
sad, and I'll never be fully h  
upset. I thought, "Why am I so di  
sad. So while I was in kin  
cry, be a man. Be a man! Do n  
cry or I'm not going to play wi  
embarrassed to hang out with me this tim  
sad and lonely and I really miss  
sad and I just wanted to be at h  
cry every single day. My friend  
sad and depressed and lonely and  
depressed and lonely and angry and I j  
sad and depressed and just felt  
depressed and just felt like I lost my  
depressed and really, really sad and  
sad and brokenhearted and I fel  
cry and I'd ask God, like, wh  
sad or angry that she was gone.

### **Males: Sad**

always happy, I rarely  
ild, quite a lot. Very  
It didn't just make me  
pletely stressed out and  
etter. It's okay to be  
and your actions. Being  
ns. Being depressed and  
I am today without him.  
ame. And we were pretty

cried and my favourite word at  
sad. I was also very short a  
sad, it made me very unconfi  
unhappy. So after about two year  
sad and angry now and then.  
depressed and feeling sorry for you  
feeling sorry for yourself is easy. I  
Sadly, it wasn't all happy ti  
sad, but we were more sad to s



ttly sad but we were more again, and were kind of of confused. I was very ted to get to me. I was to me. I was sadder and s or how I overcame some chool friends were super so let's move on to the nothing! And things got doesn't really make me ved them but I was quite y which made me a little o that made me even more y, doesn't it make you things got a little bit my dad was gone, I was act that I was also very doing nothing and being hing is worse than being en though they were very ual thing - there was no Canada and it was a very ting and it made us both erstood. They were very I've ever been to and I s. At first this really ized that they were just ing out. I legit almost story and it's kind of job which made him very but she was always very

sad to see our Dad just kind unhappy drifting through life, s upset because my mum got so mad sadder and sadder than I was bef sadder than I was before and I j **tragic** situation but rather a st **upset** that they hadn't thought depressing stuff. But first! Colle desperate in a hurry, for nearly t **sad** because I don't want to sad because my brothers and s sad bunny cause all I wanted sad. I was always thinking a **sad** that all your siblings ar depressing for my family and I. My d depressed, I wanted to keep my min depressed. I didn't know what I w miserable all the time, because no miserable. You have one life and y **sad** that I was moving out and **hard** feelings. It was just more of a g sad time because this was the sad and I didn't know what t **sad** I was moving away but the cried like a little baby and I upset me, and it was hard to dea **jealous** and that was their way of **cried** - it was a dream come tru sad but I'd like to do that **sad** and my mother was a teach sad and not only she's sad b

sad and not only she's **sad** but she was quite angry a  
with my crazy, angry, **depressed** family which really kind  
e with my mother who was **sad** all the time and sometime  
that's really, really sad. Then my poor mother who  
er who was already quite **sad** and already quite angry g  
ady quite angry got even **sadder** and got even angrier and  
made me really, really sad. I didn't really have a  
ars. I was always quite sad and people were always qu  
better because I wasn't sad all the time. It made me  
to be. So, I was really sad for a while and I flunked  
see, I was still pretty sad and I was still pretty me  
and being fatter made me sadder and I get more depressed  
me sadder and I get more depressed and more fat till eventua  
e my mum really, really **sad** and really angry and then  
this misfortune made me sadder and angrier than I had ev  
period of time I was so sad and so depressed, it bec  
time I was so sad and so depressed, it became very difficul  
died, and this made me sadder than I had ever, ever be  
ideos and she was really **sad** too because she had just  
hat would make me really sad and maybe I'd go crazy I  
given me everything that sad little boy ever wanted an  
nd was denied. I was so heartbroken, but I ended up going to t  
tate school and I was so miserable. I became very lonely an  
very lonely and the most depressed I think I've ever been i  
p again and people still **cried** about Mama Luigi which ma  
all I felt was pain and suffering even though I had a girlf  
very, very rare. I was upset and scared because I did  
life even though he was **suffering** with cancer and even thou  
they were given so much **suffering**. He told me how God is g  
someone who just looked **sad** and looked like they did  
where he didn't have to **suffer** anymore, and this killed m

anted to marry me and he  
the movie we watched and  
stops and it gets really  
just give me a moment to  
ringe and be filled with  
and sometimes incredibly  
d felt so bad about it I  
s what's important. No  
but seriously, my only  
to waste any time being  
through rugby so I never  
chools and it was a very  
hily overweight and very  
30 pounds, I was still  
t of my life and I never  
I packed to the brim, I cried  
as born on May 30th, 1977  
c to them. I was always  
ive kid so I was kind of  
s a week. It made me so  
ething that I could ever  
ds the end of 1992, but  
g good at them too, but  
eft me with a completely  
tle black hatch and I'm  
ath which made my sister  
er upset and she ran out  
I was always the kid who  
n't know why but I'd just  
want. And there we go,  
ly I swapped some of the

cried so lol, too bad. I have m  
cried for two hours before bein  
sad and I explain that someti  
cringe and be filled with regret  
regret. Thankfully I got over t  
embarrassing moments with these guys i  
cried. I actually had a girlfr  
regrets. If I ended this video b  
regrets are that moment when I do  
unhappy. Don't care what other  
regret it. After school I decid  
sad time for me because Micha  
unhappy about it and so I took ma  
unhappy. Luckily, throughout my  
regretted it for a second. In high  
while driving alone down  
in a little state called Texas. Both of  
embarrassed by my condition and any t  
sad. Over the next couple of  
sad. I didn't want Owen to  
regret. So back in December of  
sadly, because of the virus livi  
sadly, my family moved into an a  
shattered heart. Took me a while b  
crying. Now I don't know why t  
upset and she ran out crying.  
crying. When I was born, my fa  
cries. There was me at the fro  
cry the whole way through all  
crying. It was awful. Anyway,  
sadness for funny memories we had

he rest of my life being  
. I remember coming home  
dinner that I'm really  
ttle too much. Oh, and a  
o do this so I basically  
g up I was always really  
I'd get to my dad's, I'd  
d go back to my mum, I'd  
a painfully shy kid – I'd  
ention. Yeah, that's me  
me crying again. I also  
me mum. Literally. She  
cannot achieve and as I  
and draw my life with no  
think of any times I was  
me being me, went home  
uld ever do and I was so  
so my grades definitely  
ended and it was really  
en have small talk, she  
r had moved away, and  
ll into her face and how  
store; it was scary and  
re going through lots of  
lot of things that I now  
e would be a little less  
broom sweeper. Wow, was I  
ould because I was quite  
d for weeks. I think it  
but I began to be really  
he'll die and I'll be

sad. He also made me realise  
crying after a boy called Joshua  
embarrassed about. By mistake, I tr  
sad story - sometime around thi  
cried. I also qualified my sen  
jealous of all the kids who got t  
cry to see my mum. And when  
cry to see my dad. I apparen  
cry whenever I got any kind o  
crying again. I also suffered f  
suffered from night terrors, whic  
suffers from a form of anxiety so  
wept and sat in the front row  
regrets, I smile because I know  
sad or angry, but I was always  
sad and doubting myself and d  
upset with my parents making me  
suffered and I got in a lot of tro  
sad. Now, during those five y  
burst into tears and said Josh, I love  
depression hit me. I haven't playe  
embarrassed she was. Luckily, she s  
depressing. I was in a bad mindset  
embarrassing changes, both physically  
regret, many of which you guys  
embarrassing. I did stop being sick -  
upset! My chance for fame was  
embarrassed because it was pretty unu  
upset her when I jumped on the  
unhappy and I was mostly house bo  
sad, ultimately, I'll have 1

m program. I was pretty  
don't remember if I was  
rkansas which was really  
allway floor on my knees  
ife and it was extremely  
elf was rapidly becoming  
Stephanie. I knew I was  
but I never realised how  
ery, very, very, very  
call and I was a little  
ingle day. Now I don't  
as hard. Alright, last  
s boyfriend, he started  
arious, until I started  
y sick because my family  
ly hard and I was really  
w? When I would be  
ere I went from happy to  
, I was just constantly  
ust constantly upset and  
ly upset and unhappy and  
hillie away and I was so  
ally, really physically  
other kid would do: I  
d would do: I cried,  
door would win. Pretty  
ng spoon-fed water. How  
. This meant that I was  
as on the floor probably  
again. I was incredibly  
e to do this but saw how

sad, because film was all I  
crying or not. I probably was n  
sad. I didn't have her comp  
in tears. I remember the teacher  
sad to witness the decline of  
miserable. By the beginning of my  
unhappy, but I never realised how  
sad I really was until that m  
upset. I have been a troll sin  
heartbroken over that at first, but  
regret playing so many video gam  
sad thing. It was just this  
crying while watching Tarzan. O  
crying too. I had no idea what  
suffers from migraines and someti  
upset that I'd lost my new frien  
sad, I would go down there a  
sad. I just absolutely loved  
upset and unhappy and depressed  
unhappy and depressed and along w  
depressed and along with that was a  
upset and, youknow, my family  
upset by this, and eventually  
cried, cried a lot. To this d  
cried a lot. To this day, she  
embarrassing story is when we were in  
embarrassing is that? And ever since  
crying and moody and getting on  
crying. When my dad picked me u  
miserable and not enjoying it what's  
unhappy I was and luckily, at th

ion for just being a bit  
ger actors, I was super  
I could do that myself.  
son, but that marriage  
, a son and a daughter.  
ing back, it's kind of  
ler coaster for me, but  
- maybe even borderline  
people tell me they're  
, which is a little  
going to start with the  
o start with the sad and  
I was cool. I got a tad  
k! Not going to lie, I  
gs and left. My mum was  
g person. I fell into a  
. My parents were really  
videos. Not that I was  
my life is not meant to  
nd my father grew really  
was livid. I grew very  
iology, but I grew more  
I grew more sad and more  
of college and grew more  
y because not only did I  
did I suffer – everyone  
eo to make you guys feel  
she said, No and then I  
watched him go. It was  
ed him go. It was sad.  
pretty soon I was out of

homesick. I stayed and I made som  
jealous and always wanted to be j  
Sadly, not everyone was for th  
sadly ended in divorce. His so  
Sadly, that marriage ended bec  
sad. Inevitably, I ended up  
sadly, you can't keep going up  
**depressed**, although he would never  
**depressed**, they feel like a waste  
sad to me but at the time, I  
sad and depressing stuff and  
depressing stuff and the fun will co  
depressed after sixth grade because  
cried a little bit on the way h  
**crying**, and I still miss her ju  
depression but used League of Legend  
**upset** with me, grounding me an  
**embarrassed** to make Minecraft videos  
**depress** you. It is meant to prov  
**jealous** and he accused her of che  
depressed and to get away from the  
sad and more depressed and pl  
depressed and played more games wit  
depressed. I didn't know how to f  
suffer - everyone suffered. Bot  
**suffered**. Both family and victims  
**sad** or sorry for me. I made  
burst into tears because she joked  
sad. Alas, this made me hat  
Alas, this made me hate my mi  
despair because me and my brother

nship I got invited to, probably one of my biggest resting with and was so so little all the time: learned it's hereditary here's various cases of s cases of depression or people that I deal with nt people to know I have ook at me differently or ommon misconception with nd, but the thing about re that easy. Due to my found ways to combat the g through something like to do with myself and so for people going through f stuff, something like t of people that, that that that suffer from 's plenty of time to be bout and we talked about ession and a big part of that it made me a really ell as confused. I felt out he had been terribly r, 2014, I became very some weeks when I was so ll found myself lost and pretty soon afterward I I was making two groups

regrettably, I didn't attend because regrets to the day. I didn't mi upset with myself about was why depression. It was a word I wasn't depression and had to come to terms depression or sad spells that people sad spells that people encoun depression because, much like seven depression and to look at me differe pity me. I just wanted to try depression that it's all in somebod depression is it's physical. My body depression, like I mentioned previo sadness, the best I can and look o depression, just letting them know depression had continued to get the depression or a number of other thin depression, there's a lot of taboo suffer from sadness like to use sadness like to use comedy and la sad, so I like to try and focu depression and a big part of depress depression is when people don't hav sad kid, as well as confused sad for a long time after tha depressed and nobody knew about it depressed and isolated. In fact, depressed, I couldn't even bring unhappy, so I decided that I nee regretted the decision because he s sad. Either my mum would be

. Either my mum would be sad and my dad would be sad and my dad would be sad and my grandparents would be sad. I hated making that choice this time I dreamed and cried every night, most nights have been pretty, desperate to find friends for herself years. Whenever I felt heartbroken or just down, sometimes than I ever did alone. Tragedy has been a common theme for student so despite the tragedy, some good at least did I went into a very deep depression, one that still resonates ly with a 3.93 GPA, but alas, the only place that cal on't laugh, I'm quite embarrassed. . Anyhow, I made really that I read nothing but sad books. Seriously: English books. They're basically miserable. They're all about the depressed as a result. Fortunately dent and pretty freaking depressed hermit that thought I'd be the NBA and then I was a hard feelings though, it doesn't affect was out of it. No, no jealous when they heard the story . All my friends were so sad pretty often. I would walk cop anymore. My mum was crying. I didn't understand exactly room and find them both misery, pain, stress, sadness et behind that word lies sadness, as well as every other misery, pain, stress, sad stuff, but it's kind of rry to get into the more sad stuff, okay? Fast-forward d, but enough about the depressed because I had no direction d I had a job, but I grew sad because my little brother ol in California. I was upset, and that's me running ng an e or she gets very broke my heart. But that's okay, a ne he cheated on me and she broke my heart. I started to really hav in she cheated on me and sad and that guy she was with around and she was very break her heart his girl. I'm going to because that's what I see be married one day, but alas, we broke up because

and my dad would be sad a  
and my grandparents would  
sad. I hated making that cho  
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crying. I didn't understand exa  
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sadness, as well as every other  
sad stuff, but it's kind of  
sad stuff, okay? Fast-forwa  
depressed because I had no directio  
sad because my little brother  
upset, and that's me running  
broke my heart. But that's okay, a ne  
broke my heart. I started to really hav  
sad and that guy she was with  
break her heart because that's what I se  
alas, we broke up because



se I kept finding myself  
ill like to say mean and  
n I learned the news, I cried  
ld them I danced. I was  
ss was more popular. It  
ything! pf I, I didn't  
, which I didn't mind.  
idn't have any plans. I cried  
now what? I'm excited to  
l the responses from the  
ime. I used to make her  
mber not even be able to  
pe. I slipped into this  
hum them and when I was  
be popular. And I, it's  
get me wrong, I wasn't  
Things so bad I was just  
ed to make the naysayers  
that creates relentless  
school being lonely and  
became really seriously  
e overall. However, my  
in the library and just  
out YouTube? I hear you  
life was it a little bit  
h. I felt so stupid and  
d I was almost instantly  
r feel those feelings of  
, we broke up and I was  
eople... how could I be  
d? But I was. I was so

sad. I still had no confiden  
hurtful things, but for every me  
for literally 48 hours.  
embarrassed. After a few classes tho  
broke my heart. To make matters worse,  
**cry** or anything but for some  
Sadly, that gave my bullies an  
and questioned my move mo  
**suffer** again. Growth will never  
depression video I put out last week  
cry and I was, I was a horri  
cry. I was just numb, but t  
depression and I had this phobia whe  
sad, I did all that and it m  
sad that people have to do th  
**depressed**. I've always had parent  
embarrassed to show anyone. Reading  
**regret** the day they lifted a fin  
unhappiness. So, I found as the chann  
unhappy. I read a bunch of my ol  
unhappy. I don't think people r  
depression was starting to get out o  
crying, sometimes for over an h  
**cry**. When I applied to Oxfor  
depressing, but I kept myself busy  
embarrassed and hurt and I made a vow  
miserable. My work consisted of sp  
sadness or rejection again and I  
sadder than I've ever been, wh  
sad? But I was. I was so up  
upset that I couldn't sleep at

hat she gave me was that but to look inward so I o I grieved. I flat out crazy, nothing horribly d on top of that, I was t. rrlike it's kind of ell to ring. That's It wasn't very fun. I ecame, youknow, really un of me. It was really ignored her but I was so this time, and I still any moments when I would ing so good. I remember So, I went from this very e myself with no fear of was so much yelling and en. He was one of those ou're all going to have ut where I was. But the t us, chased us, and I ed. I'll be honest, I e on her face after that per. Hopefully I don't they cheered me on. The of elementary school, I ry that this was kind of ressing, but my life is e, so, it was quite and I don't think I've uch of my life and I was

sadness, because it forced me to grieved. I flat out cried for th cried for the first time in a l **tragic** or ridiculously, youknow homesick for the first few days wh embarrassing to admit, but during lun sad. Anyway, after graduati cried all the way home. I just depressed and, youknow, lonely. sad. There were even times a sad. I just kept on wonderin suffered from a little bit of ecze cry myself to sleep because I crying to my parents because I w depressing struggling gay kid to thi embarrassment or shyness. After two ye sadness in our lives. It got so **embarrassingly** proud dads. He supported **traumatic** experiences in your life sad reality was with the spid cried. I'll be honest, I cri **cried**. And there was this one tragic accident. I got a job at **regret** that too much. This is o sad part is that I couldn't cried a lot too. For first gra depressing, but my life is depressi depressing. I can't help it. All sad, but it doesn't matter cried more than I did when I wa crying, and I said, "You". She

at I was gay. I've never ended up getting really e'd just laugh and then fter all that, all that just made me very, very d this made me extremely n my life, I felt super oint, I was very, very d I became more and more ut of control. I was so y dream. I became super e day, I was still very at I hated, and forever sing my dream. I was so ne. I actually rrlike, real guys. I literally o much that I got really ately I ran to my seat, probably because he was ack him up. The teacher okes about it, so I got ng videos because of how driving away and my mum hool once told me he was f changed. I got really ntally. Whenever we got to kill me. I was just the only thing I did was ized that I sound really pity I sound really pity and ed, rrlike, I actually

cried so much again in my life upset and locking myself in the crying. Oh my god, I think at trauma, we, oh god, sorry I c sad, but eventually, everyt sad. My life became this wei depressed and trapped. It was horr sad. But I did eventually fi unhappy. I wasn't quite sure wh heartbroken. I began drinking every unhappy. I worked at Costco for sad. At this point in my lif unhappy. So, I decided to sneak i devastated, guys. It was insane. I cried. For real guys. I liter cried. It was so, so bad. So embarrassed and just asked if I could embarrassed, and looked straight dow jealous of me. I remember Blake sadly believed him even though embarrassed and deleted my channel be embarrassed I was, so I started play crying in the kitchen. My broth jealous of me having a mum and a depressed and I didn't really want sad about all the stuff that crying all the time, just, the crying, and one thing that was and sad, but it was grea sad, but it was great. Life cried a few times. I mean rrlik

manly cries, but I did  
e of Mount Kilimanjaro.  
tell you how things got  
about, otherwise you'll

cry and I always remember thi  
Alas, my mum's time here was  
sad and how mean people were  
**regret** it when they're no longer

### **Females: Worry**

out with him?", to which I  
. I felt quite lost and my  
appy. And by this point my  
viously I still suffer with  
it and I was so excited and  
enly felt uncomfortable and  
year, but seriously, don't  
e years that I conquered my  
ilding my confidence around  
I live by when coping with  
ally eat it. My family was  
ed. Even the teachers were  
. Because I was so shy and  
ted with a degree I didn't  
video on YouTube. I was so  
red. I'd always been a very  
my own skin and I no longer  
st day of school, I was so  
I didn't really have much  
and everything, so don't  
w my life. I've been very  
ttle just because they were  
controller, but we didn't  
making new friends, I was  
ar went by, I just didn't

nervously played with my quill and sai  
anxiety also meant that I could n't  
anxiety made things like working a l  
anxiety and panic attacks at times b  
nervous. And he gave me my own webs  
nervous whenever people were around  
**worry**. These awards all stop in h  
anxiety. I wasn't sure if I wanted  
anxiety every single day. The phras  
anxiety, and to be honest, I could  
**worried** that I'd be malnourished,  
**worried** about how shy I was. They t  
insecure, I realised everything I co  
**care** about. At that time, it wa  
nervous and awkward and scared but i  
insecure, self-conscious girl, so h  
**cared** what other people thought of  
nervous and scared because I had suc  
**trouble** making friends. Since they  
**worry**. Oh, and the first day I w  
nervous to share my story with you a  
**worried** they wouldn't have enough f  
**care**. We loved it so much that w  
nervous and awkward, so all the kid  
**care** what they thought about me a

internet to hear? I was so nervous and against her opinion. Sh  
so Gabi and I were a little nervous and sceptical, but we were  
ife. Now, I've been very nervous about doing this because I h  
, to yours, and to who you **care** about, thank you guys. Tha  
I auditioned for vocals and anxiously awaited my letter. I rememb  
m a good kid again, don't **worry!** And then I decided I wante  
y something that adds to my stress right now is that I'm actua  
, and I was really, really insecure about a lot of things. And  
ng, a lot of endurance, I **racked up** a lot of medals in the sp  
e them, youknow, I don't **care** where you came from. It doe  
ay this enough and I don't **care**, no matter what the circums  
guys. I've been a little nervous about this, but hey. I thi  
e too scared. I got really insecure after that and I started wea  
loped major self-esteem and anxiety problems. I was bullied a l  
or a long time, but don't **worry** guys - I eventually won that  
ly it was probably the most anxious and stressful time of my ent  
obably the most anxious and stressful time of my entire life. Bec  
disappointing someone. My anxiety was really getting the bette  
d strangers have always had **trouble** pronouncing my name, so I j  
blems that caused even more anxiety for me. People had all sort  
take care of myself. I was troubled inside, and my sister had sim  
nstantly ill, fatigued and insecure. I attempted to combat my d  
nded my parents, who were **worried** sick about me. I remember s  
r what to do. I was always worried about her. Since I was spen  
t emotional and existential stress. I miss her so much. Some  
put on to stop people from **worrying** about her. She once told me  
under an immense amount of stress. My heart is heavy, but lo  
dark. She hated to see us worry, so she put on a front and  
ames, but I didn't really **care** because all I cared about wa  
really care, because all I **cared** about was eating, so I just  
Honestly, I didn't really **care** about what they said. I was

o that, so I don't really **care** anymore, but basically univ  
sels, because I was always nervous about people finding out tha  
ink a lot and I do have bad anxiety, so maybe that plays a fact  
place of escape for me from stress because university and life  
ity and life basically just stressed me out. I would think about  
spiratory problems. He had **trouble** breathing and it was really  
that was not good. Don't **worry** guys, I had no idea. It wa  
is guy. He, rlike, took **care** me when I got I got my boobi  
to our financial issues and **stress**, my parents fought almost e  
to my little brothers, the **stress** of everything had become too  
I just gave up. I stopped **caring** about my grades and started  
h and for a moment, all my troubles and worries would go away.  
oment, all my troubles and worries would go away. When I would  
first day of school, I was nervous, to say the least. I was a l  
Cert over here, and I was stressed out loads, and then when I was  
ere's people that actually **care**. And I got really into Rune  
ey were there and that they **cared** about me. So finally, in m  
we would get in really big **trouble** and get disciplined if the h  
a home and I was constantly worried all my stuff was getting sto  
stolen. I was just always worried that I was going to get my a  
my ass kicked again. I was worried that they were messing with  
essing with my food. I was worried all the time. It was really  
is is when I started to get anxiety. I started to get panic att  
now I was 17. I had severe anxiety issues, I was all alone, I  
mes. And I got in a lot of **trouble** for it, but I guess you ca  
at I really really, really **cared** about. And it was all gone  
ally, and I don't have to **worry** about not having enough time  
probably meant they didn't **care**. The only person I kind of  
t but I went anyway. I was worried about my grandma and my mum  
pped eating and that really **concerned** the doctors. So, they came t  
s really tired from all the stress at home and all the responsi

rrlike, excited but I was nervous at the same time. But then while, we said, "Why do we care what these people think?" Because I would always get into trouble. One day, I was visiting my Rayshawn, I don't even care, Rayshawn. Hopefully this how to drive. It was very stressful but some of the best years of my life and I'm a little nervous to do so, but you guys have of a tomboy and not really caring so much about my appearance. I remember not being too worried about it at the time, because I remember not being too cared about him, I learned that I constantly felt stressed and anxious that one of my guy friends was as a job. I was extremely anxious if I would be able to come up on my birthday, I was having trouble sleeping, so my mum was up and I was probably where my anxiety problems began. When I was six. I don't remember it bothering me too much, but my parents had migraines and had a ton of anxiety problems, even at that age and I was at home or at school. My anxiety got really, really bad when I went to a boarding school for troubled teens very far away, so soon we had some peace. My anxiety actually almost completely went away at I do, I have people who care about me. YouTube has brought my mum, and they started to worry because we were just not having fun and getting into a lot of trouble, constantly having detention. I did. However, I was so nervous. I soon developed a love of insecurity because all of the boys in my class were insecure. I started to get really hurt about at the time. I'd been told not to care about it anymore and everyone was telling me to stop worrying about what anyone else thought. I used to be very, very insecure about me, and they kind of used to be very, very insecure about Elizabeth? And this kind of means to be happy, carefree, calm, and peaceful. And I used to stress out over things that I know better

that I know better than to stress out about. Life so far has been  
 ol experience, I developed anxiety and depression. I remember  
 paying off - even my social anxiety had begun to subside because  
 l clothes and much to their **dismay**, yes, they had to trave  
 nto things, always causing **trouble** and mischief, and my mum fo  
 t anything because I was so nervous. I mean, here I am, a 17 y  
 th, to show them that they **cared**, that they were important-  
 them that someone out there **cared**, but to me it wasn't just  
 e and I moved up together, nervous and excited about what the n  
 aying shot kerplunk and not **caring** about going to the supermark  
 a time where everything was **carefree**. During my second year at u  
 im after work and he was so **nervous**. I was only going to stay f  
 hough. After realising how stressful planning a wedding was, we  
 by the sea. I had a little **niggling** feeling that I needed to do  
 y. Naturally, we are very nervous about what's around the cor  
 orn on the Bayou and don't **worry**. It - wasn't in an actual Ba  
 my mum and she was getting **worried** because I was laying at the  
 e, and I'm not sure why I **cared** because I wasn't planning o  
 d Frisky. I really didn't **care** about what my parents were a  
 t me by telling me, "Don't **worry**, this is an adventure and f  
 and I would be filled with anxiety while I was at their house.  
 nd my first recollection of anxiety hit me, and it hit me hard  
 so freaked out that I could **care** less. The teacher had no id  
 cipal's office feeling the anxiety start to subside. My mum ca  
 . We were too poor to even **care**. One night, I woke up and  
 uggle with to this day. My anxiety came back full force. I wou  
 Hi my loves! I'm a little nervous today because I guess you ca  
 hing to you guys - I was so nervous filming this video that I dr  
 excited, the pressure and stress all of a sudden started to b  
 when it got really, really stressful. As you're interning and a  
 d why. It created a lot of anxiety and sadness for the rest of



existential depression and anxiety. My first memory was in pre  
 . By this time, my social anxiety had completely taken over my  
 The hospice had been there **cares** for my father during the wee  
 d and alone before. Don't **worry** - the story has a happy endi  
 rn, he was pinching me and troubling me. He's just so annoying  
 ights and get into a lot of **trouble**. So, that was kind of fun  
 and still got into a lot of **trouble**. So, but in the end I studie  
 ommon in China. This never **bothered** me because I was so introver  
 ainkillers and I was always anxious about making plans because I  
 went to just told me it was stress. So, I convinced myself that  
 nced myself that it must be stress because I did have a busy li  
 back unevenly and my health anxiety caused me to lose a lot of w  
 es of the people I love and **care for**. So many of you over th  
 y paralysed. I wasn't too **concerned** for my looks at that age but  
 hink about her, but don't **worry**, she grew up to be extremel  
 I so that my dad would stop **worrying**. I had no idea what I was d  
 hild minder, but I didn't **care** about that. I was a proud y  
 h and we had our moments of stress just like everyone, but we  
 enough passed out from the **anxiety** of it all, but us girls has  
 d I was, I became the most stressed and worn out I 'd ever been  
 fect Christmas with minimum **stress**. I was aware that it wasn'  
 mber that year was the most stressful day of my entire life. My m  
 o me. I found you all! My anxiety was sky-high and I would wak  
 courage to get help for my anxiety and was diagnosed with sever  
 thing and to put all of the stress behind us. Finally, it was  
 little things, some pretty worrying, but no one dared assume th  
 f was reported and, don't **worry**, I am safe now, but it was  
 all was an escape from the stress for me, and thank goodness  
 uch. There'd been so many stressful events in my life and we had  
 eep and he loves me to draw **on his back**, so I do that for him  
 ut you know what? I don't **care** about that stuff one bit. T

ore outgoing and started to **care** less what people thought about years were super happy and **carefree**. My mum, my dad and my big London. Although they were **worried** about leaving me behind, I remember vaguely looking super nervous while talking to Elijah Wood only bring Ka. But don't **worry**, the rest of my animals are , my beginnings with social anxiety and being diagnosed with that ended up making my social anxiety even worse. I definitely have. I definitely had social anxiety a lot. When I was little, watched Pokemon. I was that insecure. My brother and I definitely everything. I was incredibly insecure to an insane extent. I even g into my old just socially anxious tendencies, I had finally state, and I remember I was so nervous to talk about. And I remember t everything from my social anxiety to how I really, you know, os is that I've always had anxiety. I've always had social anxiety. I've always had social anxiety, but I never had generalized but I never had generalized **anxiety**. It was only from social situations that I got forms of anxiety, but then, when I moved to work or etc., they didn't **care** and I wanted them to care more t care and I wanted them to **care** more. Anyway, you guys might life, I formed generalized anxiety and I didn't realise anxiety and I didn't realise the anxiety at the time. And then I got and she told me a lot of my anxiety was formed from social isolation owing up when I was sad and insecure. I don't know, I just love my if you're super lonely or **insecure** or shy or anxious or you're onely or insecure or shy or **anxious** or you're not comfortable with d, I mean, I don't really **care** for the cold or the snow, but started to feel very socially anxious, and that's when things started too. I was really, really anxious. The social anxiety had skyrocketed. If someone really anxious. The social anxiety had skyrocketed. If someone yself to a new city and the anxiety was so bad at the time that and rush home. The social anxiety had gotten so bad, everything

ll dealing with some social anxiety, so the thought of doing gr  
 ealized that the people who **care** don't matter and the people  
 he people who matter don't **care**. And he also kind of forced  
 lped me overcome the social anxiety a bit. And I also started w  
 ting to fall in place. The anxiety was going away, my skin was  
 ich is just another form of anxiety. And basically, I woke up  
 be in a very high state of anxiety. This was by far the most d  
 k about in my how to reduce **anxiety** and relax naturally video,  
 And very, very slowly, my anxiety started to get better, and  
 the root cause was for the anxiety and the OCD, because I thin  
 otoxin - it can cause major **anxiety**, depression, and that just  
 atly affects our mood, our **anxiety** levels and just our overall  
 ed a big difference with my anxiety when I eliminate gluten and  
 really not because I don't **care**. It's because I only want  
 through that was extremely stressful and took a lot out of me. B  
 my face covered in acne and trouble with anxieties, I may have  
 ed in acne and trouble with anxieties, I may have never made this  
 o. We called ourselves the **trouble** trio, and shut up, it's a  
 omething that you genuinely **care** about and makes you feel lik  
 it to London. I was super nervous but I was super excited but  
 I was super excited but the nervous side was winning out until I  
 with my dad is still pretty tense, but it's better than it w  
 she was starting to really **worry** about me. But she was  
 d be me. Why don't people **care** about others, and how come  
 ing about the weight of the world on my shoulders and I spent about  
 ld to have my mum around to **care** for my sister and I full-tim  
 my childhood as being very **carefree** and spending a lot of time o  
 leave without me for all I **cared**. It was an awful period of  
 eriorated because they were **worried** about my academics. Our rel  
 ve a phone, but we didn't **care**. We were happy. Meanwhile  
 my programme and I was worried about the future. Where wou

ight. I just felt sick and  
 et really, really, really  
 I was diagnosed with health  
 particular but mainly I was  
 on performing arts. And as  
 tarted to feel a lot of the  
 most. My parents were most  
 f and battling exhaustion,  
 somehow developed. Don't  
 s reasons, I'd always had  
 zing time. We were young,  
 hood. I began experiencing  
 door to the salon, but the  
 job to raise three honest,  
 n I got to college, nobody  
 ith people who just didn't  
 youknow, I just been this  
 pee because I did not even  
 ne things, and I was super  
 cally a complete, rlike,  
 , we were all waiting super  
 of just, I didn't really  
 was so stressed. I was so  
 se laughed because I was so  
 your bits, you were, rlike,  
 dancing classes because of  
 ys straightforward, and my  
 ly, but they were a little  
 is when I started actually  
 t of it was me being really  
 elf-medicate. I was really

anxious and scared every single day  
 concerned about me and they didn't kn  
 anxiety, which basically meant I wa  
 worried about being ill or dying, a  
 nervous and scared as I was about st  
 anxious feelings creeping back over  
 concerned about my education. I was t  
 stress and this little addiction to  
 worry, I'm fine now. I graduate  
 trouble trusting men, but with Matt  
 carefree, and falling in love more a  
 anxiety and panic attacks, especial  
 anxiety was immense, and I cried the  
 caring, and respectful men, rathe  
 cared about what we were really go  
 care about me, youknow, the mor  
 insecure person, and I couldn't und  
 care. I loved him so much. One  
 stressed out because I thought, oh my  
 ordeal to go to the doctors because  
 nervously for her to get out of surger  
 care anymore and my dad was reall  
 nervous. I stayed up all night that  
 nervous and I thought he was so funn  
 nervous that people were going to sp  
 stress. At this point, I had lost  
 anxiety does get the better of me mo  
 nervous when I had to have an oxygen  
 caring about how I looked. On the  
 stressed out because of the end of the  
 nervous about self-medicating. At a

, being stealth was pretty stressful and, in a way, felt kind of stressful and I really didn't get a lot of because the trip was really stressful and I really didn't get a lot of nervous. And then I had my first feeling a lot cos I was really nervous. And then I had my first feeling of trouble for wanting to use the boys at reschool and I got a lot of trouble for wanting to use the boys at school and I got a lot of stress stressed out at such a young age and it was e very angry at him. I was care - we were just glad to start we were happy. We didn't care? I was just going to borrow her and besides, what did I worries about her and feels really bothered her very often and she just stressful. I couldn't afford a car because ie - it was really, really stressful. I couldn't afford a car because I ended up being really shy and nervous and I thought that maybe all of e, Idontknow, I would get nervous for everything - even speaking to pe you like it, not that I care, rlike, it's a life, rlike I studies at that school. It's tense, like why my accent is so stressful. Actually though, my mum doesn't east, and I got in tons of trouble. Actually though, my mum doesn't care are her. So, I was really nervous about that, and then of course him because bad boys equal trouble. From year 7 to year 9, my e so weird, but we didn't care. So, there was Kdramas, which cause my mum used to always worry about me being too cold and family, there was a lot less stress on us all because he was back anyone was wondering. I was worried that people would be mean to f into trying and I wasn't worried about people teasing me or a , rlike, I didn't really care about designers and all that parents were getting super worried about it and everything and ell. But dance soon became stressful for me and I just decided to ugs and I got in really big trouble for knowing and he was drinking use they didn't want me to worry, and suddenly I had all of of took offense to, but who cares? It's just because we were sed and I developed extreme anxiety problems and OCD tendencies I had, I grew up to be an insecure kid. So then, I unconsciously ught I was just a different insecure kid but I didn't know it was the time and we'd get into trouble in the playground. We had a

start university. I was so nervous and I didn't know one single me to do it. Rich was very nervous about the decision and no one, and I had so much social anxiety that some days, I couldn't breathe whose name might have trouble spelling sometimes. And I thought. Take that, the man that cares about that. In addition to the four started, I had some trouble breathing through my nose, way. But I didn't really care, because I actually found it whatever. I didn't really care though because I had my new talking to and everyone to worry, but really on the inside, had no ambition. I didn't care about the future. Just, then nothing. I didn't really care. Then three years later, I

### **Males: Worry**

ative. It caused a lot of trouble for me but despite all of it 'm not going to lie, that bothered me for a long time. It didn't make me sad, it made me very unconfident. It was devastating to me a lot because I was completely stressed out and unhappy. So after the relationship, and the care, but it's all that I knew stress started to get to me. I was e me happy. I didn't even care that I didn't have that man was constantly getting into trouble and given detention almost every day. I was extremely nervous. I was 18 years old and was You see, companies don't care about your string of perfect Theory was born out of this desperation. Recognizing that my theatre which made her very, very worrisome but of course my mum and dad or a week and I was just so nervous. I was so scared, I was terrible class clown, always causing trouble, making jokes and I couldn't calls me fat but we don't care because he's an asshole and hundreds of fans that loved and cared about me. I just didn't see so happy that so many people cared about me but now that I had time being unhappy. Don't care what other people think - yo

to bouncers. I was always worried they would think I look about  
 nestly felt like I had more trouble in the latter. First off,  
 how to handle it at first. Stress built up and yes to all you  
 scourage my art, they were **worried** about my well-being and job  
 had to be something that I **cared** about and something that was  
 to push "subscribe", who **care** enough to tune in to see all  
 my life. I've been pretty nervous about this because I can't  
 in the hospital. I was so stressed out by the SATs and college  
 m job and I was excited and anxious and scared all at the same t  
 breaking something, school **trouble**, teacher trouble. I rememb  
 , school trouble, teacher **trouble**. I remember vividly this co  
 ember vividly this constant anxiety I felt for most of my early  
 ears. There was a constant tension that my parents, our teache  
 to find out about whatever **trouble** I was up to. Getting in tro  
 thing, my mum became **concerned** that it would impact my acad  
 . Sure, things were and are stressful every so often but everythin  
 asonably he had always been **uneasy** about the idea of moving acr  
 ore serious. My mum, very **nervous** about opening up about her i  
 ecause of that, he didn't **care** about what sickness or illne  
 in the bath and here was me looking a bit worried because I  
 n't in my house so don't **worry**, but yeah me and my family  
 last year, so I was a bit worried, but it ended up that I beat  
 t everything else, so don't **worry**. When I got to Dublin, I met  
 y, I couldn't have really **cared** less. If I would have liste  
 th. My parents were really **worried** about me traveling across th  
 She suffers from a form of **anxiety** so intense she hasn't really  
 caused me to have even more anxiety, because what if my anxiety  
 nxiety, because what if my anxiety ruined this career that I ha  
 eing introverted and having anxiety - I mean, who doesn't someti  
 s crazy. To keep us out of **trouble**, my mumma put us in any free  
 Donating my time to inspire **troubled** youth - tell them never go m

oo small to play. I had no **worries** at all and I can hardly thin  
xiety attacks and was super stressed out about everything. I  
ed out about everything. I worried all the time about fitting i  
new it. Although I didn't **care** that my brother was gay, ev  
know my dad still loves and **cares** about me, I've always been  
it just really made me not **care** what people think. I starte  
new hobby to escape all the stress and now I've completely fal  
o be who you are and don't **care** what other people think beca  
ent - Jeremy never got into **trouble**; he did everything perfectl  
fered and I got in a lot of **trouble** because of my grades. Alrig  
a lot of things. We still **cared** about each other deeply but  
lot of things. But don't **worry**, it gets better. very soon  
videos, I felt no one else **cared** about it. It was hard to ma  
s rain now though, so don't **worry**. Anyway, the family became  
ealized that my cat didn't **care** about religion or heaven or  
. I do know though that he **cares** about me and even though som  
s life to loving people and **caring** for the outcasts of society  
been the new kid. I was so nervous. I met a girl named Katie w  
and took a little bit of my apprehension away. When I got to the  
, learning things I didn't **care** about, merely memorizing th  
doing. I honestly didn't **care**. The positive always overru  
nd yeah, I kind of stopped **caring** about a lot of stuff. So th  
e honest I've learned that **caring** about stuff is the most poin  
of the stuff that I didn't **care** about. I remember spraying  
I rebel I was and I stopped **caring** about a lot of things, I ju  
best dad ever, but don't **worry** - our crazy snapchat adventu  
f shit for it but I didn't **care**. I really just wanted to pl  
ighting and my dad got into **trouble**. He did not pay his bills,  
t youknow, it was a lot of **stress** for my parents and they did  
9/11, which was a terrible **ordeal** for many Americans to face,  
but it was also a terrible **ordeal** for many of the visible mino





ondoms. One of the biggest stresses and pains in my life started  
t word lies misery, pain, stress, sadness, as well as every  
in reality, it was pretty stressful. I lived in fear of the day  
mentum going, but I didn't care so much because I loved crea  
sk for. They were loving, caring and would always be playing  
Tube, but I didn't really care at the time because for the  
this because when the whole ordeal started, I assumed the wors  
hing I did really seemed to bother her, but I think that's ki  
se I wasn't a whole lot of trouble. I was very quiet, and I was  
pid. They're, you don't worry about them, just come hang  
ut I told myself, I don't care if I'm falling out with thi  
n the play structures I was nervous. Well, with the help of yo  
d. I tried not to let that bother me. I fell in love with thi  
etting better. I still had trouble finding my crowd though. On  
ing new. I've never been so nervous but eventually, I was chose  
more than anything. Out of desperation, I messaged this one person  
or else I'd run into legal trouble. So, I returned home to Cana  
n me because they were just worried and ultimately, that's becau  
ould actually relate to the stresses I was feeling. To put it an  
d was the one that I really cared about. A big influence on m  
or told me that she didn't care and she would take me to the  
sured me and meant I had no qualms at all about accepting my of  
this job but I never really cared or even understood why as I  
motorbike show. But don't worry, Ralph, I haven't put any  
with me and kind of led to trouble later in my life, but I'll  
And she said that I was so nervous around her that I could bare  
that I just really didn't care about. Every morning when I  
sed learning about things I cared about, and I missed my best  
t in it. We didn't really care about parkour and we were ha  
ith my finances dwindling, desperation finally kicked in and I just  
oney doing something that I cared about and even better, ther

n't do something. In that this day no motivation like n, Ching Chong, no, don't s by the way. Oh Sam, you iced the rashes and she was came really independent but camera and I don't really ays my brother getting into ind of stuff. We'd always 't have any friends. I was nts started having a lot of headed to Yokosuka. I was . Social situations gave me just said, I really don't s is, why? Why would that up. I was getting such bad me reason I kept getting so t it. We weren't going to rrier? and Caroline seemed n than that day. Oh, don't idering rlike I have a big e I have a big trouble with I was already in a bunch of cer and I became a lot less oved it, but it was pretty er girls. She was a little it's set in the exotic and out of this photo. Don't r RPG game. For anyone who etting one. My age didn't ake time for the people you

desperation, I realised that I needed a desperation, I guess. We spent the nex worry. And I had a best friend an dog, the crowd loved it. Anywa concerned. She said, Do your parents unconfident in myself. During high scho care what people think anymore, trouble and they would accidentally anxiously await for our dad to come ho nervous I was going to get beaten up trouble, so they decided to split u nervous joining the band in my new m anxiety, so I spent a lot of time by care. I love you - it's fine. bother me? And I, just, tha anxiety whenever I got asked to a ph nervous whenever I was asked to do o worry about stuff like that. We w uneasy but on board. I mean we did worry, I mean, I did help her event trouble with anxiety, so I thought anxiety, so I thought I would rrik trouble. I might as well just try t anxious. I do have some unforgettab stressful because it was really hard t insecure, actually pretty a lot, no troubled country of Tanzania, and I worry, she eventually liked me. cares, I was a level 82 and my we concern me or my lack of knowledge a care about, otherwise

## Females: Fear/Shock

ked at my dad, and it really end to that one because of my ame around and it was quite a it, please give it a crazy, lay video games, and was too ly, people did. I was super l who had big dreams, and as hat translated into some very y scary thoughts on some very nd was racing with thoughts, acing with thoughts, fears, member feeling a huge wave of naming me after something so riends because not only was I each other. My mother was a e's me being really, really lah. And this was actually a hing so I was really, really d this was actually seriously rsity and this was absolutely seen, right? rlike, I'm versity flew by. It actually xt few months are going to be push my boundaries. I'm 49% literally sound like the most d like the most terrified and ssing still. It's literally but I've always been really wn on a white board is pretty chool because I was painfully

**scared** him. Eighteen months creepy introduction. As you can shock to the system, like a small **scary**, weird thumbs up. I can not scared to actually play because I shy and it felt so weird to talk **scary as it sounds**, I can scary thoughts on some very scary scary nights. I also developed fears, scary images, recalling scary images, recalling every panic because couldn't get my arms **terrifying**. Hi, my name is shy, but I was always the new gir **bombshell**. It didn't take her scared to do my speech because I terrifying moment in my life but scared by this and I said, Oh my terrifying as you can see my terrifying, and my university was **freaking** adorable. Okay, just **scares** me to think about how fast scary for me, but I once heard a scared and 51% excited but I know terrified and timid child in the timid child in the entire mortifying. I know you're going daunted by this task because, to scary, but I 'm going to try my shy. I didn't know at the time,

achers were worried about how  
ng on you. I do get a little  
ears, but it was very, very  
ited to play. It was kind of  
and that would always really  
school, I was always really  
y, so that was always really  
ol, and they were equally as  
tting hurt. And I think they  
relationship with them really  
n my crotch. I would wake up  
characters. Because I was so  
me because I guess they were  
nd also my height, and I was  
wanted to quit but I was too  
as so nervous and awkward and  
t soon, so it was just a big  
around and I was starting to  
school, I was so nervous and  
town and I had to go to this  
ound 6 months, so my mum was  
s me in elementary - a pretty  
have confidence and don't be  
discovered by you. I was in  
al, really sick, and it was  
sed because everyone was in a  
channel, and Gabi and I were  
t didn't know - we were just  
Stevie convinced me to buy a  
My dad tells me that he's  
d be a diver. It was just so

shy I was. They told my dad durin  
**creepy**. Oh, and during my final  
scary. By luck or by fate, I  
scary, and I had other favourite  
scare us because we thought it was  
shy and I would hardly ever bring  
scary and I got a bit of paranoia  
scary as her falling over drunk  
**scared** her too because then she  
freaked me out and I just was not  
mortified and cry because I  
shy and insecure, I realised ever  
**scared**. I can't blame them, but I  
scared wherever I went until I  
scared. I was hoping that in time  
**scared** but in a good way, and I  
shock. Reuben and I had a lot of  
freak out, because this was not  
scared because I had such a heavy  
creepy hospital and I just wanted  
**scared**. She took me to the  
shy kid with just a few friends.  
**afraid** to speak up for yourself.  
**shock** and excitement. In my head,  
frightening because she had cancer  
**panic**, not knowing what was going  
scared because we didn't know  
scared and we felt like the whole  
**freaking** snowman when he was  
**shocked** that the windows didn't  
scary, you know, I remember the

I blue, and, it's just so anything because we were too shamelessly creative kid to a Powerpuff Girls, Courage the time I ever experienced culture m. So once again, I was the m and called my mum in a mild evastated and heartbroken and the world doesn't seem as ort amount of time, and just eel about it at first. I was pregnant, and it was a ad to keep the baby. We were Anyway, it was it was ittle girl, but I was really U for three months. That was u, it's difficult and it's overwhelming, and it's just imagine, I was, rlike ther bit her arm, and my mum were twins and we were really ere split up, and we were so p, and we were so scared and n't a crier, so I was super experience was confusing and ally and I just stood there, self-esteem went down and my My aggression was based on I'm not perfect but I fight save your life, so don't be came and I remember being so

intimidating. My very last dive scared. I got really insecure shy, socially awkward, overly em **Cowardly** Dog and Samurai Jack. shock. I went from a shy, socially awkward weirdo with panic telling her I could not scared I was, because everybody **scary** anymore, and you're always a **shy** of 2 months later, on the nig shocked and then I was kind of shocker. We had so many scared and what were we going to scary and I, I went on to YouTube scared. I didn't know what to horrifying but we were strong and scary and it's overwhelming, and horrifying. It's not easy and I **freaking out** when I had ten subs **freaked out**, but we laugh about shy, we only talked to each other scared and shy and we had a rea shy and we had a really hard time alarmed about it. I asked her w horrifying. He humiliated me one dumbfounded. The racist fear of people went up. I started fear. The people who bully you fear every day with positivity. I **afraid** and if people have scared and I was crying and I was

and that honestly would just  
ng and it was really, really  
parents told me it was really  
t I was used to and it was so  
t was so scary, and I was so  
the ocean  
the role of Emily, which was  
f actually and it was quite a  
n, youknow, HIV/AIDS, some  
ries like the Llorona, which  
his cowboy boots and they're  
e curly hair and rlike super  
e is so fearless. She is not  
ight we stayed at this really  
a, which was really, really  
nce. We were really, really  
ly, I became rlike a really  
led grenade, which is pretty  
r sister would always live in  
e in the stalls because I was  
at we would have done. I was  
one there for me and I was so  
nonites and I mean, that was an  
me and it was really, really  
s really cool, so in typical  
I remember I started to get  
him, but I was just way too  
ld always climb it and it was  
a divorce. It didn't really  
each other's tents and watch  
l in Medicine Hat which I was

scare the heck out of me because I  
scary. I don't really remember a  
**frightening** and if he hadn't  
scary, and I was so intimidated  
intimidated by all the older kids and see the bottom of  
scared the crap out of me.  
nerve-wracking and also super  
shock. And it really made me sad  
scary shit out there, you know,  
scared the crappy Jesus out of me  
**freaking** awesome and he has a  
**freaking** hairy until I learned  
**scared** of anything. She is rlike  
creepy, ugly hotel that had fleas  
scary, but I remember it clear as  
scared and we would also do a lot  
shy girl and I was hanging around  
scary. So also, for those of you  
**fear** and we would cry almost  
afraid of hanging out in the  
afraid my parents were going to  
scared and it didn't seem like it  
**eye-opener**. One place I ended up  
scary, because I had no idea what  
**creepy** girl fashion, I found his  
scared. I was going to have to  
shy, and I couldn't get the word  
scary and fun. We would ride our  
**shock** me at all, since they would  
**scary** movies late at night.  
dreading. I was actually

with another vehicle. I was  
car was smashed. We were so  
t so awkward. rlike, I was  
ean that was hands down, the  
ling so sad and I was just so  
s of seizures, and it was so  
r seven, I was quiet, I was  
and dad. Growing up, I was  
ers sleep in my bed. Are you  
tle. I guess my parents were  
then jump off like a G. I was  
draw my life. I've been so  
as pregnant. This was a huge  
I was pregnant. I was really  
I said, yep, he was pretty  
be honest, I was pretty dang  
the situation. We were both  
too. And we were absolutely  
in this family, I was really  
ime. The twins just turned a  
't know anything different, so scary  
manager and something really  
, and it was one of the most  
eally young and it was really  
personality and I was really  
eo games instead of facing my  
omething that I do. Then the  
a thumbs up because I worked  
would tell stories about the  
and the dog and the cat would  
ame more and more intense and

freaking out the whole time and  
shaken up. I remember standing on  
shy and I kind of looked like a  
scariest day of my life. My dad  
scared for her, but they found  
scary, rlike, at a young age  
shy, but as soon as I found some  
scared of the dark, so I 'd make  
**afraid** of the dark? When we  
**scared** that I would get pregnant  
scared shitless you all, but I  
scared of making this but I think  
**shock** to everyone and it came at  
scared to tell my mum because we  
**shocked** because he was thought I  
terrified, but when I told Drake  
scared, but we both knew that we  
shocked because there are no  
scared to be honest, because I  
**freaking** year old and Lilia, I  
change, and I had to move to  
scary happened. I actually got  
terrifying experiences of my  
scary . So, when I was 18, I gradu  
scared about not succeeding at  
fears and my problems. And this is  
dreaded sock story - when Beta  
**freaking** hard on it! And, yeah,  
**quake**. It was like hearing about  
**cower** under the furniture praying  
scary, and even though she never



my sister and Scribble and my  
im a lot too, but it kind of  
en though that can be kind of  
o even though sometimes I get  
o do a solo because I was too  
the exact date because I was  
t winning at all. Then I was  
nnel it's basically me being  
ty bad little kid. I wasn't  
and, yeah, that was kind of  
ool, but I was completely  
faded and I lived in constant  
my imagination to escape the  
idence, I was able to defeat  
s born. Everyone was kind of  
why, but I was always a very  
I think, because I was so  
it just made me even more  
ea and it was really, really  
glasses and I was, rlike,  
say, on top of all of the  
did not make the team. But,  
stayed in my room, I was too  
to go to school and I was too  
to be honest, it completely  
bought the soundtrack. I was  
but the nurses looked really  
further than most people in a  
ling milk onto myself. Mum,  
y felt humiliated, alone and  
e rushing in. Yeah, kind of

fear of natural disasters, I  
scared me. We were total  
scary, it's also kind of exciting  
scared still, above all else, I  
scared but I ended up doing them  
dreading that date. So me and  
terrified. I said, I don't want  
terrified playing video games  
**afraid** of fighting any of the  
terrifying, so I cried a lot, and  
**in shock**. Senior year was  
fear of him. He made my life a  
fear, lose myself in stories. Alt  
fears that held me back in my  
**shocked**. When I was really young,  
shy person and I still am. Everyo  
shy and making it really easy  
shy and even less able to go out  
scary. I kind of refused to do  
mortified of the fact that I was  
angst of being in high school, I  
**fear** not, God had other plans for  
afraid to go to school and I was  
scared to even face my computer  
shocked me, but at the same time,  
freaking devastated to find out  
**shocked**. I didn't think anything  
**creepy**, kind of broken looking  
**shocked** in that moment, watching  
dreaded the moment we were told  
**freaked** my dad out a little bit

big goal or a lofty dream to  
ons, but I learned not to be  
g the animators at Disney was  
n intensive care, absolutely  
as positive. We were in such  
and here is the swamp and the  
- he looks kind of cute, not  
nto the water and it was very  
he woods, that sounds really  
family who had lived in that  
always talk about how it looked  
oing strong. And this is the  
er a thousand views and I was  
of drunken rage. It was very  
I would have to leave out of  
me out and they had all those  
-haired kids and I think that  
ormally just one of these big  
d breathing heavy. Then this  
me, but honestly, I was so  
ife video. For some reason,  
was nothing there. It was so  
ed until we moved out of that  
ack full force. I would have  
urite YouTubers when I felt a  
d gaining subscribers. I was  
er that we were so sad and so  
very aggressive and I kind of  
ng else to say. And I was in  
was a shadow compared to the  
to the same fate. Though the

**scare** you where you don't try for  
**scared** of hard work. Going and  
frightening and exciting all at  
terrified and not knowing what  
**shock** and over the moon. We flew  
**scary** little alligator - he looks  
**scary** - and then the crawfish, he  
scary for me, but luckily my dad  
**creepy** but it wasn't, it was fun.  
scary house and we'd always talk  
scary and haunted, and we had long  
**creepy** tree he drew for me on his  
**shocked** because a new channel, no  
scary for foetus Breeland. Mum  
fear for our lives. I remember  
creepy white-haired kids and I  
freaked me out more than the  
scary hairy things. Well that was  
terror came over me. I jumped up  
freaked out that I could care  
creepy things would happen on  
spooky but we didn't really think  
creepy trailer. Another thing I  
panic attacks all day, every day  
panic attack coming on. The only  
shocked. Then people started  
terrified. But it was her second  
feared for my safety. Generally,  
shock seeing him like this, and  
horror of watching my dad die. I  
horrors of mental illness and

met Stephanie. We were both our parents let us play in a end sadly. So, I was really months. So now I was really illness a lot because she just I and my teens, I was really d my dad was disappointed and and there was me. Absolutely didn't do it - I was way too t time, but I was always too but all the other stuff just me on but I was, again, too all, because she just looked ties. I'll never forget how ed my life, which was really ds with a lawyer who tried to he past that they'd be quite Hong Kong. It was a total culture bean. Talk about a culture s that I had because I was so scream queen, doing lots of doing lots of horror movies. ople in the film world really 016, I had a little bit of a tely didn't feel ready and I g distance but although I was he foundations, but I'm not ee people. It's essentially was just insanely, insanely especially because I was so at made me individual, I was

shy and didn't talk much, but th freaking waterfall? And we were shy, soft spoken and I won the be freaked out and I went back to the terrified me. Thankfully she left shy and I was really well-behaved **scared** but proud of his crazy, terrified but pretending to be in scared. There were so many scared to do anything about them. terrified me. A big US label scared to pursue it. I just terrified and then I had a terrifying the phone call was but scary. She also called my close intimidate me at a community **spooked** stepping out of the shock for me. I was so sad to shock! Adjusting to a new country scared that they were going to **horror** movies. Horror movies are **Horror** movies are so much fun to freaked me out and turned me off shock. Danny and I were surprised panicked because we've a long scared, Danny was so supportive **afraid**. If I've made it through shyness to a new level, to the shy. Definitely born with it from shy, and I think I resorted to th scared to communicate with the

ng I kept very secret. I was picture camera and I was too tar on stage which was really 7 by myself, which is really lly scary because I was super ve right to LA was incredibly ed with because she was super e super lonely or insecure or you. Ah, I'm so soft and o my body. I was also a very draw because I was absolutely en going to the grocery store ht of doing group work really performing. Even though I was lationship. And I was really omething that struck a lot of its perks too. I used to be that night there was a really go back to school. I usually ade when my parents dropped a is foreign place and I was so here so much. I was honestly school, so I wasn't really ust felt sick and anxious and e I couldn't breathe. I was explain to them that I was so etrified to eat because I was which basically meant I was ing arts. And as nervous and ke us home, which was pretty his happened, and I remember

scared they would judge me for shy to tell them that I wanted to scary for me. I never even played scary because I was super shy and shy and also super attached to my scary and honestly, I definitely shy and so focused on improving shy or anxious or you're not comf shy in this intro and outro. Jess shy and sensitive girl and I had terrified to interact with the terrified me because I knew that freaked me out, and I was also shy, I just felt like it was a gr scared to be without makeup in fear at me. Since I was 13, a par terrified of the dark and my dad scary loud fight and I just dread it, and I want to go back. A bombshell and my sister and I - scared. I learned that my sister gobsmacked by how amazing it was scared because high school was scared every single day being scared, alone, I felt like a petrified to eat because I was scared that something was going scared of things in particular scared as I was about starting - terrifying. I was five years old panicking about getting into the

workers. I remember being so  
as, and I just went to bed,  
as still in the neighbourhood  
est. It was like living in a  
n't know the right word - my  
the right word - my fear, my  
d I screamed and I was really  
'm on your bed. And it would  
that doll to this day and it  
ith them anymore. I was very  
ing else in the world. I was  
elieve it? I was very, very  
it came to the summer, I was  
n with people, because it's  
the new kid and I was really  
was transgendered. And to my  
ed, and we were confused and  
etter school. To everyone's  
the video. I've always been  
s something I've always been  
ways yourself and you're not  
overwhelmed and I was so, so  
e and I ended up being really  
ready in a coma which totally  
I was always really  
hand but I, because I was so  
t out of a movie. Like I was  
dship is better than ever. I  
was obviously true. I was so  
my interview and I was really  
uth, and I was super, super

scared that I 'd often throw up  
scared and confused. The next  
scared me so much. What would he  
horror movie, but the movie only  
fear, my fear for spiders. Yes,  
fear for spiders. Yes, that's wh  
scared and I ran inside the house  
scare me so, so much. Then my dad  
scares me even now. When I turned  
shy back at school, something tha  
scared to start my drama class  
shocked. James had his open-head  
panicking about what I wanted to  
scary, but also mega refreshing  
scared. I didn't think I was  
shock, he was completely  
scared. And then, I checked out  
shock, I took Commerce, even  
afraid of making one of these  
afraid of telling people because  
afraid of what anyone thinks of  
scared that I wasn't going to  
shy and nervous and I thought  
freaked me out because I had no idea.  
scared of doctors when I was a  
scared, I stayed outside and  
freaking Eloise at the Plaza or  
freaking love her. I rekindled  
shocked, so we went to visit her  
psyched and really excited and  
shy. I'd had my one best friend

d of got over it. I got less  
ch was very exciting but also  
it was and it was just really  
hen I grow up and I said, No  
d everything and I was really  
I dance teacher that I was so  
he would get really, really  
ith our pictures. We were so  
se I knew we were both really  
ust didn't want him to be as  
uthern California, and I was  
like treasure to us. I was a  
call me Farah, and I was so  
but school was a major culture  
because I was really, really  
s just rlike really, really  
d my mum and everyone kind of  
showering, rlike, I was so  
ds and it was really, really  
So, I was really, really  
was actually really, really  
in New York was gone. I was  
d I was still really, really

### **Males: Fear/Shock**

ark, but honestly, I was too  
st video I made I was even too  
thinks love is, but I was too  
ove is, but I was too shy and  
son this time was particularly  
arly scary and I was painfully

shy, I managed to settle in to th  
scary. I got accepted into the  
scary. But in the end, it turned  
**freaking** way, but I 'm definitely  
scared because I had no idea what  
afraid of that I never wanted to  
**scared**. I remember always trying  
scared of getting taken away so  
scared and I just didn't want him  
scared as I was. On July 12th  
terrified. My first week of  
shy girl but not with my friends.  
scared that they would sell me  
shock because we were rlike the  
shy and I talked in a whisper and  
shy and upset. I thought, "Why am  
**freaked** out. My aunt and uncle  
scared to shower so I actually  
scary because all I remember is  
shy and I didn't really have that  
shy so after I graduated, I did n  
shy, I had no ambition, no futur  
shy and you can see that I wasnt

scared to ride on them anyway. I  
shy to speak, but thanks to my  
shy and scared to say anything to  
scared to say anything to her  
scary and I was painfully shy and  
shy and straight up missed my

to make friends when I was so  
r and helped me to get over my  
my video making ability. The  
honesty, this was one of the  
my secure job was very, very  
up entire rooms but I was just  
g, (that's my brother there,  
y I 'm going to draw my life.  
t went to school, I was super  
so I couldn't, and I was so  
brother, Russell. I was just  
in America. I remember I was  
er being extremely, extremely  
y explains why I get quiet and  
nd see her and it was a really  
because 1 million people is a  
e proud of him but it was very  
thought, "This is so cool! I  
was just so nervous. I was so  
vous. I was so scared, I was  
didn't know what to do except  
to take pictures with me or be  
3rd floor to audition. It was  
mber getting the call and just  
cracked open, right? No, it  
g deal because the doctors are  
ould make all these cool Mario  
very rare. I was upset and  
ers, so basically, I was the  
huge bone in the woods and me  
chool on Sundays, much to the

shy but eventually met a small  
shyness a little bit by playing  
shy boy from before was starting  
scariest moments of my life and I  
scary and was a big risk that I'm  
flabbergasted that it could do  
shocked) but this is a good thing  
Psych! I'm going to animate my  
shy, and I always hated it. I alw  
shy to tell anyone. So, I just ev  
freaked out. I said, "How do you  
horrified the first time I got  
shy. Mainly because I got so used  
shy sometimes. But it took me a  
scary experience because I had  
staggering amount. It's a huge  
scary; we had no idea where he  
freaking love Minecraft and I met  
scared, I was terrified. I  
terrified. I remember the moment  
freak out. The companies became  
freaking out. Sometimes though  
intimidating and nerve-wracking.  
freaking out. I legit almost  
freaking hurt. At 12 years old,  
freaking out. They said, get an  
freak out videos and I thought it  
scared because I didn't know what  
freaking sun from the Teletubbies  
freaking out and doing a lot of  
horror of my Christian grandma. I

th a girl to the cinema who is studying for an exam and just I remember being absolutely of pupils. This was a massive in the water at all and I was en years old, so I was always is whole experience was a real ngee jump and that's blooming ime I'd flown on my own. I was and obviously he's one of the e scariest there is, so I was London, which was very, very y life anyway. And that is my e always been that introverted, deo getting 100 views and that I was excited and anxious and Boston. Then something really m said that she was watching a artist. A friend of a friend that may actually be where my uld never actually overcome my ort of irrational self-imposed rsity, so as a result of that oughts to myself because I was nnel, it was still a bit of a baby, I will kill you. Being decision. Do what you want to e one I went to. It was big, nt to. It was big, scary and ities I was getting instead of rst live show was probably the

**scared** by the movie we watched freaked out. I thought, I hate terrified. My mum had to grab me **shock** to the system. I loved every petrified to swim near anyone petrified to hand my ID to **eye-opener** and I feel like it scary. After three months away, terrified. I was actually scariest there is, so I was terrified but he was actually a scary. I'm from a very, very **shock** in the corner. To top it all shy kid who didn't open up to freaked me out because I said, "I scared all at the same time and scary happened. I flew from Boston **horror** movie when she went into **freaked out** after the World Trade fear of pushing myself too far in fear of injury, so, oh well. On t fear that if I took anything less fear I worked my ass off in afraid of disappointing my scary thought at 19 years old to **scared** out of his mind from this **freaking** do, if you get me. scary and intimidating and had intimidating and had loads of shying away from them, like I scariest thing I've ever done but



y loving it. So yeah now that ages which worked. I was also d elephant, but it was really But middle school is just a ool because I was busy filming ved crying. I was a painfully n. I also suffered from night - they were absolutely fucking p in front of the camera - the nowhere I became overcome with in that I couldn't shut. I was s completely overcome with the to have panic attacks was the ipper and an escort. It was a ngry but I was always horribly get into gymnastics but I was cally gone due to me being too 's called puberty. Yeah, it his is not right for me. I 'm I finally went, I was pretty job at the drugstore; it was r starters, I had a crippling hing figured out, this really l the more for it. Had I been f hundred more. I was just so roughout college and I wasn't I faced and overcame so many millions of views and we were weird, but I'd never been a ame after eighth grade. I was to kiss a girl, but I was so

shy weird kid from school is now afraid how would my dad be my dad scary. By this time, I wasn't creepy time for everyone I think fright movies for TV and doing shy kid – I'd cry whenever I got terrors, which is basically being terrifying. My mum is a stay at shy kid who just loved to sit in fear - my entire body went numb. terrified my mum's agoraphobia fear of having a panic attack, I fear of having a panic attack. scary time for me because I was a afraid of the dark and slept in afraid the kids at school were scared of hurting myself. Also at freaking sucks. I hated puberty. terrified. This is a massive shy and never really talked to scary and depressing. I was in a fear of balloons just because I scared me. Before we went travel scared of their reactions, I shocked that people enjoyed what afraid to tell them about it fears on this trip: I did rock shocked. We didn't know what we shy kid. I met a lot of new afraid to be myself. I entered scared so I just hugged there and

c school and that was actually  
In high school, I was kind of  
was insane. I was absolutely  
I convinced my sisters to play  
ble and of course a little bit  
instream school. It was quite  
in secondary school were quite  
's great. "Listen, do draw my  
here it is - draw my  
parents got a divorce.  
ame around I had absolutely no  
ures as a kid and it's pretty  
ert my personality I'm really  
n the videos. Okay, that's just  
amazing! Secondary school was  
scary at first as I was hugely  
met in person before. It was  
es. In 2006, my full-on teen  
ne like me. I was also really  
act style is at the expense of  
ways wanted because it kind of  
I'm most productive when I'm  
ever doing anything because I'm  
just my way of coping with the  
ing little online store called  
ed a guest appearance from the  
onestly that's a thought that  
This may sound a little bit  
quickly that it was kind of a  
ce where comics are born. The  
t to get it into your head how

terrifying to me. Thinking back  
shy at first but as I got older,  
freaking out when this happened.  
Fear Factor. One of the  
intimidating. About four years  
frightening for me going back into  
scary and I didn't really have any  
freaking life", and I said  
freaking life, the JusReign  
Psych! Ain't  
freaking idea on what to do with  
scary, but I'm healthy now and  
shy when I meet new people. Takes  
creepy. I also had a big head and  
scary at first as I was hugely  
shy, but I soon made friends and  
scary and weird putting faces to  
angst years had me rebelling  
intimidated by the fact that he  
scaring a few of you. I'm not  
scares me and I'm most productive  
scared, and I hate to say it, but  
afraid of letting people down.  
fear that I'll let them down  
Creepy Pastas. I made two videos,  
Creepy Dark, so I thought, Hey,  
scares me. I often get messages  
creepy till you hear the full  
shock. I'm so grateful for all  
intimidation, I really hope I  
scared to death I was. I walked

hile I'd like to say that the  
osh, shut the hell up! And I  
I can't? I was reclusive and  
possible and doing things that  
of toys and such. My mum was  
lot of my childhood, and the  
y dad, one of my grandparents  
a little bit today. Her death  
ouse and the kitchen caught on  
that stupid white people do in  
I what I made, and I 'd be so  
asses and realising that every  
eally low-confident and pretty  
here, where we both were flat  
I and my hand fell through the  
ory that I remember, which is  
struggle and I'm pretty sure,  
pretty stressful. I lived in  
s. I definitely felt a lot of  
ry quiet and I was very, very  
st day of kindergarten. I was  
she went off to work and I was  
he kids and it was very, very  
then, I noticed I really was  
ed it, but I was still really  
nd she was screaming and I was  
idn't know what to do. I was  
day of school I became totally  
I've always had a strong  
admit, I still have a slight  
get a job. It was a bit of a

**shock** is worn off, it really  
**freaked** the fuck out for a solid  
shy, I would just hold my head  
**scare** you, because growth lies  
**afraid** I was going to become a  
fear of losing any of them one  
scared me to death. I didn't  
shook up my life like none other  
**freaking** fire. Fortunately for us  
**horror** movies when they try to  
**freaking** honoured! Teachers of  
**freaking** person in the building  
**freaking** depressed as a result.  
**freaking** broke. I had a buttload  
**freaking** wall. We went up  
scary looking back now, but at  
**fear**. She was able to help us  
fear of the day that I got pulled  
culture shock at first. One time,  
shy but then came the very first  
terrified. My mum dropped me off  
afraid because I didn't know what  
scary but the school had this  
shy. I had a hard time talking to  
shy. But my very first girlfriend  
terrified and it was all worth  
terrified. I didn't know what  
**in awe** of school buses and had  
fear of heights. As a kid, even  
fear of heights but it no longer  
shock but thankfully a good friend

ately said "No thanks!" out of wrong. Honestly, I was more a is a dream come true. I was nd improve. And I guess that's with anymore, and that might this depression and I had this d I had this phobia when I was ah, I survived, but that was n size and I was honestly just erview at Jesus was one of the , though also one of the most at was going on. It seriously s. Even though it was kind of nversation with him, I was so people noticed me for being so erson I've ever met." I was t something that I loved which was facing the prospect of the ed at the view counter, I was 'd run from ever since I was a like there was this background s and now I'm just not really It's like a New Orleans-style t's exciting, it's a little over and while I'd always been yone knew about, I mean, it's hat, I became really, really aused me to be really, really d videos to do it but my outer that I could be myself with no th no fear of embarrassment or

fear. All of a sudden, I was scared that people would see **freaking out!** It would be my scary to me. So, this video, **shock** some of you, or maybe some phobia when I was afraid to afraid to become fat, but I still scary looking back. Moving **in awe**. I went in overdrive. I scariest things I've ever done. **stunned**. In a sense, it was a shook me up. I genuinely felt scary living away from home at shy. I would have these year-long shy which is ironic, I know, and **stunned**. I told her that, "No, terrified me. Failing at parkour, dreaded suit if I didn't do **shocked**. It had 100,000 views shy introvert getting rejected fear of being alone that got **afraid** of it. I've more embraced **funk** band and it, was really terrifying to have that many shy, I think now I'd become guard **freaking** YouTube, come on, and I shy and quiet. A couple of years shy and I became really shyness started to go away and my **fear** of embarrassment or shyness. **shyness**. After two years of

that this was happening and it  
the cowpats and all the bugs and  
It wasn't until Layers of  
I met me yet, I'm actually a  
to know me, I am still a bit  
first class because I was too  
hid in the bathroom. Hashtag  
th us, my family learned some  
lfriends and I was starting to  
just, that just complete  
look like Dr. Frank from Rocky  
end of day, I'm just really  
you to go ahead, you start to  
we were kind of trapped, then  
as proper, it was, it was pure  
horror. I've never seen such  
illion. It's a super, super  
and eventually, I just became  
lone and I was really, really  
ally, really shy. If you're  
d me up at gunpoint, so I was  
views a video. I was honestly  
y first day of school was very  
, but what could I say? I was  
to a new house. Immediately I  
ribers. My brother and I were  
end Amber first. I was really  
first met everyone. I was so  
llorca. Disney because it was  
ge height not that sporty semi  
erson at university was pretty

scared me a little bit. At this  
creepy crawlies which, you know,  
**Fear**, Her Story and Fran Bow all  
shy and awkward person at first,  
shy and awkward but you get to  
scared to be left on my own, and  
shy boy problems. Yep, as I'm su  
terrifying news. My mum had been  
panic and I thought I've got to  
**shock**. But after a lot of  
**Horror**, and I thought yeah, I  
shy, that's just what come up. I wa  
freak out a little bit.  
panic started to set in,  
**horror**. I've never seen such fear  
**fear** in someone's eyes before,  
scary thought so I try not to  
shy, quiet and I used to get made  
shy. If you're shy in high school  
**shy** in high school, you will get  
scared, so I gave it to them,  
panicking at this point. I had no  
scary to me. I remember I would  
scared. It was my first time  
freaked out. I asked him what  
**freaking out**. We never thought  
shy when I first met her, but she  
shy, but after a while we just  
**freaking** Disney and I was seven  
shy kid who was unaware of school  
**staggering**, though I'm not sure

## Females: Violent/Angry

id a backflip off a dock and I  
hool, people found it easy to  
g influence to me. I was that  
shins and legs from the board  
named Life and he is going to  
is going to knock you out. He  
t way possible, I'm about to  
es falling from the sky. Ow, I  
e names. Man, kids can be so  
e of the girls in my prom limo  
, third, fourth and fifth. I  
. I hit 5,000 subscribers, I  
t I was wrong! Our DIY family  
awesome. Guys, I don't have  
or fighting games like King of  
cried a lot and crying lots -  
y and poor, and I told him I'd  
I'd beat him up. I kind of had  
nights. Sometimes my mum even  
chool. There wasn't a lot of  
e ugly in school, I was never  
. She started falling over and  
I didn't really expect it to  
lly alone. So, I was basically  
y final two years, it finally  
s every day. I was absolutely  
ing mean to me or they were  
o as you guys imagined, I got  
acher was rlike no mercy. He  
ght now. So, I went home and I

**hit** my face on a ladder and then th  
pick on me. I would always laugh it  
annoying little sister that wanted  
**hitting** them. I'll never forget the  
**knock** you out. He knocked me out  
knocked me out cold a few years ago  
**hit** 700,000 subscribers. I just fe  
hit my hand! Anyway, as of right  
cruel, but it's okay. I found some  
**punched** her boyfriend in the face  
**hit** 5,000 subscribers, I hit 10,00  
**hit** 10,000, 50,000 and I thought t  
**hit** 1 million and today, four year  
**winged** eyeliner on and I'm feeling  
**Fighters**. Do you guys remember Geo  
annoying. So, me and my mum and  
beat him up. I kind of had anger  
anger issues when I was a kid,  
**threatened** to run away from home  
**bullying** even though I was kind of  
**bullied** for it. Throughout my years  
**hitting** herself more often, but she  
**hit** me as hard as it did, but I wa  
teased because my skin colour and  
**hit** me I remembered what I'm in sc  
**smitten** with YouTube and I would  
teasing me, Reuben would step up  
beat up a lot. I probably got beat  
beat us up with pipe on our behind  
**slapped** all this blue eyeshadow

n tenth grade, my dog Mac got story with you all, but after d to whistle through them. It would be arguments, tears and . I let these mean catty girls I remember one of our parodies e Nintendo. I always remember s fact which sadly led to some name. And the second thing: d, sweat and tears, a lot of mpetition and I was actually a was really easy for me to get them even called me fat. They ly. I didn't even need to be ld walk to and from and even a m and anxiety problems. I was well, my mentally unstable, event regarding my emotionally was set up, it meant I was ter and I started relentlessly flying out to VidCon 2017, I good time for me because I was r me because I was bullied and ing thing sitting next to me, kicking me, and then I would ould kick it and then it would it would punch me and I would one day I was getting my butt r and she was getting her butt , I thought, "Why are you guys ng, so we never got our butts

hit by a car. And that was terribl hitting 1 million subscribers on my annoyed my siblings so much, but I anger. The biggest problem was debt bully me into silence, and if I hitting 1 million views at the bugging him to play it because it bullying and I guess because of hit the subscribe button. I have b smacks on the water, a lot of force to be reckoned with, but when bullied because people would say bullied us but we would never say pinched or anything. I just came bully kid that lived up the street. bullied a lot and the adults who vindictive theatre teacher. abusive theatre teacher happened kicked out of the computer bugging the first YouTuber I ever hit 100,000. And that was only the bullied and teased and I was just teased and I was just upset and I kicking me, and then I would kick kick it and then it would punch me punch me and I would punch it back, punch it back, and that went on for slapped and then the alien thing slapped, I thought, "Why are you slapping our butts?" And the doctor slapped again, at least by our

an old lady went to go, rrluke,  
ed and said your daughters are  
ne day on the school bus a boy  
ementary school after the 9/11  
waiting. The boys all laughed  
went up. I started combating  
tarted combating bullying with  
ullying with bullying, and my  
ing situations. So being very  
il the end of high school. My  
based on fear. The people who  
My sister was also recklessly  
Ashley switched schools due to  
nts, which in my case made me  
. A year later, my sister got  
ater, my sister got hit by an  
n, because for me, they were  
ed to spread influence and not  
that I would always, rrluke,  
ldn't leave me, but no, she  
ay. No, she actually didn't  
as a bit chubby, so I did get  
s eating, so I just thought,  
ll directly at his head and it  
r me. I had some difficulties  
exciting but I was also pretty  
and I unfortunately was in the  
like I did n't fit in. I got  
let's speed it along. I got  
ot happy about. He was really  
eally angry about, that's an

pinch our cheeks or something and  
kicked out of school for a year  
poked his head out from the seat in  
attacks a boy made a habit of  
hysterically and I just stood  
bullying with bullying, and my  
bullying, and my aggression got me  
aggression got me out of a lot of  
angry, jealous and bitter was a  
aggression was based on fear. The  
bully you are doing so because they  
teased, but we stuck together. She  
bullying and my family encountered  
irritable, spontaneous and  
hit by an aggressive, unapologetic  
aggressive, unapologetic drunk  
poison. She trusted in her health  
force. I met an amazing guy named  
bully my brother and I would steal  
kicked me out of the way. No, she  
kick me but she just, rrluke, left  
teased a lot, rrluke, they would  
tease all you want. I have food, yo  
hit him so hard. rrluke it bounced  
hitting the ball, catching the  
bummed out that I couldn't attend  
smack dab middle of it. I was  
bullied and ate my lunch in the  
teased, blah blah blah. My brother  
angry about, that's an angry face.  
angry face. And so, he said "Okay,



r whatever because I was still  
een Zone, and we actually got  
ident that happened was we got  
shoot it correctly because it  
stressed, I grew up in a very  
ome from work and she would be  
ork and she would be angry and  
t on our knees while she would  
at the sticks and hangers she'd  
ty cool guy and he would never  
out that I liked her man, she  
I think it was due to all the  
be physically and emotionally  
ard. I was an easy target for  
s time, I wasn't going to be  
nships. My mum was constantly  
was constantly threatening to  
or the billionth time, things  
d we had a dog. Of course, I  
st a little adorable bundle of  
many fistfights. I got my ass  
I got my ass kicked as well as  
that I was going to get my ass  
anyone to back me up and I got  
een some of the girls that had  
dge of the table and trying to  
ces and we say, "Man, shit's  
ugh I was bawling when I first  
was extremely lucky I didn't  
order where your immune system  
because no one at school would

angry at him. I called him, he  
attacked a few times, but the  
attacked by an RPG and the person  
hit about two feet from my truck in  
abusive environment with my older  
angry and take it out on my older  
take it out on my older sister and  
hit us with anything she can get he  
hit us with would all break. My da  
hit us but while my mum did, he wo  
threatened to beat my ass with a  
bullying and all the fighting in  
abusive towards me and my older  
bullying. I tried so hard to make  
picked on or thrown into the boys  
threatening to kick me out of the  
kick me out of the house and my  
hit me. I hated myself and my life  
hit a million subs as well, which  
annoying joy. One thing that I  
kicked as well as kicked some ass.  
kicked some ass. It wasn't a ho  
kicked again. I was worried that  
bullied every day because I was  
beat me up at the girl's home, and  
fight back tears and then all of a  
whack!" and the government says,  
hit my head. The stitches were rig  
hit my eye when I fell. I still ha  
attacks healthy pigment cells which  
tease me about it. The only time

he car went around a curve and  
recked the lawn. The truck we  
I could walk up to cancer and  
go to New York. I'm going to  
! After I was born, my daddy  
ghting. My sister and I loved  
oked like farmland. I was so  
always stick pencils up dudes'  
y best friend Chanel, my side  
huge shock to everyone and it  
hool - some of them would even  
me that I've ever experienced  
month later, in May 2017, I  
t for you guys to celebrate me  
e and my life, why don't you  
m, the Northridge earthquake  
rible giant monster that could  
ularly physically and verbally  
reached middle school. I got  
As I got older, my sister's  
or I got her way at all, she'd  
l, shed threaten us both with  
bit of attacking and biting me  
ing me viciously. Between the  
ing them. In fact, one video  
n plushies. My mum was pretty  
we were too cute for her to be  
ded I couldn't live with this  
and I just found them kind of  
ome crying because someone was  
so I ran outside, I found the

**hit** some ice, and we skidded out o  
**hit** only had a scratch but the back  
punch it in the face. That same  
**kick** New York's ass and become a Vi  
**hit** the road, no, for real, he d  
beating up my brothers, mwahaha. My  
angry. I thought we would have to  
butts, and we thought it was the  
**kick**, my dog-eat-dog, that girl ha  
came at the worst time. How was I  
bully me and call me names for  
bullying and it was horrible. It  
**hit** 1 million subscribers. My life  
**hitting** 25,000 subscribers. Well  
**hit** the subscribe button? Also, mak  
**hit**. We were pretty lucky that our  
**attack** unexpectedly again in any  
abuse me, not just about Pokemon.  
teased a lot in school too because  
abusive behaviour only got worse.  
threaten us both with violence. Our  
violence. Our house became a war  
viciously. Between the bullies and  
bullies and my sister and Scribble  
**hit** a million views and at that tim  
**miffed** that I had tricked her like  
**angry**. I was totally over the moon  
abuse anymore and I told the school  
annoying, rlike, the things they  
**bullying** him, so I ran outside, I  
**bully** and I just smacked him in the

, I found the bully and I just felt this horrible, horrible but he didn't listen, and he happened, but basically, he ot sound, that was a horrible with high school - I was never ood, I was a victim of severe I reached high school, I was ries. After years of terrible accomplishment. So, I've now easy target for other girls to ctually accepted me and didn't friends and fit in again. As ird, and one day in class she . Life was really good until I ng my life. This video always rinking and used to get really d to start school with him and came me in 1989. Just, just on, I received hate and death s, I was still haunted by the haunted by the torment and the girls exposing me, the cyber m talked to me about the cyber g my driver's licence. I was against my collarbone and then and said that the driver that all over crappy. I was really at this happened to me. I was g to the physio clinic. I was I was angry I had a permanent

smacked him in the face. I also **pinch**. rlike, it felt like hit me in the forehead, and this i smacked me in the forehead and I smack. And it didn't record me **bullied**, I never had a problem not abuse. My happiness faded and I bullied by all of my classmates. I abuse, I managed to stand up to the **hit** 1 million subscribers and I wan bully me, and because I was so **tease** me about everything. And soon angry as I was, I still loved my stabbed my hand with a pen and I **hit** intermediate and my best friend **intimidated** me but I just decided **violent** with my mum, so my mum was **bug** him and all that stuff. So, mid **hit** that eighties babies! I almost threats from people I didn't know, torment and the bullying. Because bullying. Because of everything I bullying and the two friends who bullies, sharing their personal **hit** by a drunk driver when I was st **hitting** the back of my headrest **hit** me was indeed super-duper drunk angry that this happened to me. I angry I had to spend time after angry I had a permanent pinched **pinched** nerve in my back which

and neck to be on fire. I was  
I was angry I had a permanent  
e on fire. I just felt really  
it was important for me to get  
2-hour drive to Los Angeles,  
the red fingerprints of a hard  
and this resulted in my being  
was going through. Though the  
d locked her in the bathroom,  
g of loneliness came back full  
our phone to talk to us! So, I  
e-sac called Rolly Road with a  
family homes and I felt really  
ut drinking and even visited a  
but luckily I'm not near any  
the country, and the country  
them to Myspace. I was a big  
to kind of go downhill when I  
dad would get really mean and  
her throat in a fit of drunken  
chance after chance but always  
ould watch the clock and if it  
e movie itself. We would also  
s extremely drunk. My mum was  
e if she did it could make him  
ld yell and slam doors and get  
r. He allowed her to mentally  
first recollection of anxiety  
closed off, like it had been  
the street. Eventually we got  
or very little. Our cups were

angry I had a permanent pinched  
pinched nerve in my back, which  
angry and felt like it was so  
**hit** by this drunk driver. What if  
**hitting** open mics and doing shows  
slap that another distant family  
bullied. What hurt the most were  
bullying eventually eased up, I was  
**tormenting** her with scratches on  
**force**. Though I slowly came to love  
**run over** to the other phone, picked  
**grumpy** cat Sadie who scratched me  
angry at everybody for not  
**torture** museum. In the summer I  
**poisonous** spiders that I know of.  
**biting** back, literally, we decided  
**hit** because I had over a hundred th  
**hit** around the age of six years old  
**violent** when he drank. When my mum  
**rage**. It was very scary for foetus  
**threatened** to leave. Eventually my  
**hit** 8 p.m., we would have to pack  
**hit** up the motel 6 a few nights a w  
**furious** but she knew she couldn't  
**angry** and he would snap as always,  
violent. She would cuss at me and  
abuse me. After my mum found out  
**hit** me, and it hit me hard. I was  
**pinched** closed or something. I  
**kicked** out of the trailer, so my  
**running over**. When I turned 22, I

ull-force. I would have panic  
YouTubers when I felt a panic  
riends and family but it was a  
extremely excited but a little  
ife. My dad was always really  
y, I was filled with a lot of  
the other artists became very  
at I spent my whole life being  
ours after I was born, he was  
d troubling me. He's just so  
t shut up about it. He was so  
I used to sit with this jolly  
cross it. And she is still as  
reet Play for a while - it was  
inside me and I started to get  
too. One in particular would  
s done, we'd move to another  
me. Being the new kid, I got  
ish and ungrateful. I was the  
f the Sacre-Coeur listening to  
ongwriter. He was the moody,  
est of homes with a physically  
en days a week and I was a big  
I fell off her car bonnet and  
n is one of the worst kinds of  
self. If it wasn't for being  
de the call, they went on the  
so well. However, the mother  
so called my close friends and  
d threatened various levels of  
like ASMR. It was such a big

attacks all day, every day for  
attack coming on. The only YouTuber  
hit. YouTube viewers besides my fa  
bummed out because there was no  
angry and miserable and I never  
anger from my breakup and it was  
aggressive and I kind of feared  
angry and depressed. They say that  
pinching me and troubling me. He's  
annoying and, I mean, look at him -  
annoying, and I was quite the cry-  
annoying girl, Khyati, who used to  
annoying to date and still my  
brutal. The directors were so mean  
angry at social media. I hated the  
hit me when I used to use a pen wit  
beaten up old house and start all  
bullied a lot by a group of girls.  
troublemaker in my family. I felt  
Rage Against the Machine on my  
tortured artist type. We were  
abusive stepfather. He was living  
hit with the African girls who alwa  
hit my head on the side of the road  
bullying to endure, especially when  
run over by a car and everything  
attack. They tried everything they  
threatened my life, which was  
threatened various levels of  
violence towards me. The father  
kick in the teeth for me and I was

nd dressed pretty goth and got some of the girls were really blame them for that one. The tough and mean. I was always ipulation and realising what a me. After a bit of a dramatic e months, and this was slowly itive boy and people wanted to m for that reason. And he was rowing up, didn't experience ven if it meant he was getting hen my brother was so severely els. It took me six months to the kids at school were quite quite vicious, and they would lly really thankful that I was popular, kind of desperate. ind of desperate. Bullied and my dad was, and a lot of his they trashed his place, they n my class began to constantly nter, they chased me down and y academics. Our relationship hit toma multiforme, an extremely a half. I felt like I'd been ng to me entirely and I was so ecause I will be talking about ee my grandma and grandpa. My from our mum, my father would , the worst thing wasn't the medical evidence of the sexual

bullied for it. So, we started cruel with their remarks. There was bullying and the taunting got to me grumpy and I wore a scowl on my toxic person L was, I finally ended showdown at the zoo, by a twist of poisoning me and making me very pick on him for that reason. And he bullied to an insane extent. I bullying but that's because I picked on, because it definitely bullied, he had to move to a very hit 200 subscribers At that point, vicious, and they would bully me. I bully me. I was sort of a nerdy bullied because I feel like it made Bullied and bully. But I also made bully. But I also made my oldest anger and frustration with my mum beat him up pretty bad, broke his pick on me. They called me names pelted me with snowballs. No one rock bottom shortly before my g aggressive malignant brain tumour. run over by a truck. My dad had irritated until I realised that he abuse and suicide. So, this video i abusive, alcoholic father had abuse me and my sister in every way abuse, it was being kidnapped. This abuse, the authorities finally inter

when we found them, he would  
accused my stepdad of sexually  
he tried to commit suicide by  
se damn leggings before my mum  
ss Finch anyway so that was my  
Everyone laughed at me. I was  
uite funny but we were kind of  
nt room. So, I was basically  
right now, skin a bit loose,  
ong until two girls decided to  
about eight, I started to get  
hen I was still so young. The  
ich led to some childish cyber  
il he started to show signs of  
mutual friends and we met and  
her. I think she got a little  
. And at first, I was really  
ed me that I hate factory farm  
was a blur though prom, grad  
with me everywhere and I would  
warrior princess and I used to  
r in this video is that when I  
out with a guy that was really  
boys said, "We're going to  
was unhappy, I was, rlike,  
beautiful - a big realization  
together. They just were too  
sister, and this left me very  
him. And honestly, I was so  
ught it was funny to hear them  
. I hated the nuke tubes and I

hit us with them. Yeah, I guess h  
**abusing** her. He'd never done  
**gassing** himself in his car. Maybe  
**kicks** my butt! So, I said, Miss  
revenge. Yeah. Moving on.  
teased. I got called saddlebags and  
annoyed at the time. Eventually  
annoyed with my landlord, but it's  
**butt** a bit saggy, no property, no  
pick on me. They would get me to do  
bullied badly for my weight. I  
bullying made me sad and in  
bullying on MSN. Do you remember  
**anger**. He was very controlling and  
**hit** things off straightaway. We've  
**annoyed** by how much I copied her.  
annoyed but it ended up being a  
torture and I do not want to be a  
**bash** at Universal, AP exams, gradu  
**annoy** my friends by practicing my  
**hit** the trees with a stick that I f  
**hit** puberty, I started to develop  
abusive, and I ended up cutting off  
**kick** your butts!" We said, "Ha h  
angry. And I remember I had my best  
**hit me** soon that I was a small-town  
**toxic** for each other. They just  
angry at him. I was stressed out at  
angry at him and I resented him so,  
**rage** and get mad because I would  
raged even at that point. I thought

ck her away, because that was her city. Through all of this, I just have a lot of pent-up leaving my aunt's house. They before, I had a lot of pent-up I ended up dropping all of my do what he could, and alcohol ran the red light and ended up so excited that I have finally teeth a load. So, it really an? She said, "Well, she got ard! and usually I would just I wasn't worried about people use most people find it really ne, because I always got very rents argue and always getting h, even though I had a lot of ontinued the cycle of domestic she's okay now, but I was so ld do without my mum and I was s I considered my best friends ng me. I'd never experienced iends and new people but I was would call me names and would as my first experience of real ce of real bullying, not just myself hard enough, and gave We call ourselves the wildcat I ourselves the wildcat attack just stand there and he'd take I said, "Go away, you're so

abuse. So, this was when I decided commotion, moving didn't really anger towards her and the whole clashed too much and argued with anger towards my dad because of his anger towards my dad because David abuse isn't easy. My grandma, actu hitting us in the intersection and hit 100,000 subscribers, but bugged me, and they also used to run over". I said, "What?" And she wing it, which was really bad. teasing me or anything, so those annoying. So Tye and I were friends angry at them if they didn't do it hit by my stepdad and everything ju anger for him was really, really violence and drugs and alcohol in angry and hurt just because I furious, and from that point on, my bullying me. I'd never experienced bullying before or mean girls, so I bullied a lot. My classmates would pick on me because of how I looked bullying, not just teasing. But I teasing. But I admired Gemma's brutal critiques. It was hard, but attack force and to this day, we're force and to this day, we're all st slap shots at me and he would just annoying and obnoxious", and I



and I just I thought he was so  
I still thought he was pretty  
d and depressed and lonely and  
st, rrlike it felt like I was  
t my whole life. I was really  
a, rrlike, it wasn't sad or

annoying, but I couldn't stop  
annoying. So, we actually continued  
angry and I just wanted to go home  
**stabbed** with a knife in my heart.  
angry at myself for moving to New  
**angry** that she was gone. I was

### **Males: Violent/Angry**

ed a lot, but once puberty  
his can relate. So, I got  
mean could be so popular by  
ally found a way to end the  
ed that the reason Dick was  
at least I wasn't getting  
to wrestling, thanks to my  
sorry for me because I was  
. It's okay to be sad and  
out of your control like a  
r control like a bully that  
ivorce. At the time, this  
the summer months and we  
ay, where this channel has  
and the teacher got really  
site. We were never really  
eo was made to celebrate us  
that today the channel has  
n that coffin. I went full  
could say it didn't really  
his video. If you liked it,  
Rumour has it that I tried  
posted on Vine talking that

**hit**, I became quieter and more  
bullied a lot. Youknow, nothing re  
picking on me. Even got to the point w  
bullying on my own terms. I noticed  
bullying me was to make people laugh  
**bullied** anymore but from that point  
bullies, thanks to not only the goo  
bullied when I was younger or whatev  
angry now and then. There are som  
bully that picks on you or a boy o  
picks on you or a boy or girl that re  
**hit** me really hard as I go from  
**hit** the huge number of about 500  
**hit** 1 million subscribers, a nu  
angry at me. The memory immediate  
**bullied** or anything, we just kind o  
**hitting** 500,000 subscribers. I can  
**hit** 1 million subscribers. 1 mi  
**force** at YouTube since then. I gu  
**come at** a great time though. I was  
**punch** that like button in the face  
**punching** my doctor in the face when I  
smack talk. The videos just made

e. They would talk so much smack and tweet me the nastiest th  
ost kids were still talking smack and a teacher even asked me  
of YouTube? Boogie2988 coming at you live once again through  
ter Francis who gets really angry all the time and breaks stuf  
he's sad but she was quite angry about her life and everythin  
he age of 9 with my crazy, angry, depressed family which rea  
sometimes she'd get really angry and she'd scream at me and  
ry day and sometimes she'd hit me and that happened every d  
quite sad and already quite angry got even sadder and got even  
ting all the time, she was angry and I was angry and we were  
e, she was angry and I was angry and we were both hurt and we  
lly, really sad and really angry and then we got some more ba  
and it gave me a lead paint poisoning which ended up causing me to  
ut this ended up getting me teased a lot by my cousins and they  
video games and we would annoy the crap out of people on Ca  
ears old, my brother Lance hit me in the head with a baseba  
'm not just saying a little hit - he knocked me out. There  
st saying a little hit - he knocked me out. There was blood all over  
fractured my skull. He had hit me so hard that he actually  
or retarded, I, but he did hit me so hard I think I forgot  
videos with my little Mario winged plush doll and I would revie  
y video views went up and I hit a thousand subscribers. I t  
Luigi, which made me really angry. So, my YouTube was back on  
a feeding tube and it would poke out of my shirt it would mak  
that much and I kind of got bullied a lot but that changed when  
m just a stupid person so I kicked it into high gear. I made u  
be career is blowing up. I hit a hundred thousand subscribe  
and subscribers in 2013. I hit a hundred million video view  
hed. The thing was, I never retaliated to anything which when I loo  
rk and drinking until you're violently ill, which is a exactly wha  
after, my YouTube channel hit 1 million subscribers which

awful but oh well. Please **hit** the like button if you enjoy  
school and potentially get **beaten up** for wearing the wrong school  
r day. Oh Joe, you little **tease!** Thanks so much for watchin  
was stopped obviously, and **run over** and ask for selfies and then  
stains my board. It really annoyed me, really annoyed me. The  
really annoyed me, really annoyed me. Then I remember one day  
era cut out which is really annoying, so I drew a really, reall  
he got me first and then I **retaliated** and it has been going back a  
d we created Joe and Caspar **Hit** the Road which is basically  
. And then the Fire Nation **attacked!** I mean, and then we had to  
king up. It hadn't really **hit** me yet until I reached one m  
were setting off my asthma **attacks** except for cats, and I'm s  
year I had my final asthma **attack**, which landed me in the hospi  
y the time the second plane **hit** I was on my bike trying to g  
fter the World Trade Center **attacks** and left the city. I took o  
d a half later I got really pissed off and made a video about their  
ft way behind by the time I **hit** high school and despite the  
focusing on my channel full **force**, it was actually doing very w  
object that turned out to be **Revenge**. So, Revenge went up at the  
med out to be Revenge. So, **Revenge** went up at the end of summer  
early 90s was way more of a **threat** than it is today. Only one  
rs are fucking cunts. Just picking on me. Look, out of everyone  
king, teacher would always pick on me and say something like th  
Joseph get the fuck out, you mug. Legitimately. Anyway, as  
k out, so yeah, I did get bullied slightly for that. Called a  
video came from: how to be **fighter** man, where me and my friend  
cool. No. In fact, if I **hit** 100K subscribers, I'll sho  
e about the divorce. I was angry. I always thought my parent  
forward a few months and I **hit** five million subscribers on  
d up to make a movie called **Hit** the Road with BBC Worldwide  
, by which I mean one girl **poked** my penis in a movie theatre

auses your immune system to **attack** its own red blood vessels,  
n all-time low. And as all toxic relationships go, I didn't  
one more time I'm going to whip your punk ass. He took me u  
ass kids. It was a lot of **violence** in the hood. People was get  
ch walls. Baltimore got so **violent**, my mama wanted me to have so  
rough so I wind up going to Bully State University. Didn't m  
t. I look back and I guess kicking your sister in the vagina wh  
ister Taylor, I was always angry because she never got punish  
k of any times I was sad or angry, but I was always horribly af  
o the point that kids would slap rubber bands me and step on  
other kids who had already **hit** puberty, and of course me d  
does because even though he annoys me sometimes, I still love  
r lives whether you're the **bully** or the one being bullied. W  
the bully or the one being **bullied**. We all feel awkward during  
he broke things off. I was angry for a couple of weeks but th  
her and I didn't know what **hit** us. Our "brother" had mov  
moved away, and depression **hit** me. I haven't played baske  
laying soccer, and someone **kicked** the ball into her face and h  
. My brother was a hero and **punched** a kid named Hugh in the face  
named Hugh in the face for picking on me. That in itself is prett  
we got home reality really **hit** for me and I realised that n  
of when I had a bad asthma **attack**. I was hospitalized for sev  
yed. I then started to get picked on quite a bit and called some  
e me a little bit of verbal **abuse**, but I just took it light-h  
d on my YouTube channel - I **hit** 1 million subscribers! I co  
s a million subscribers, I **hit** a hundred million video view  
k of bathing habits. I got bullied a bit and I didn't have any  
the carpet and I get really annoyed at him, I love him and even  
teenage friends who'd been **kicked out** of home, Nathaniel and  
or ridiculed. I was never **teased**, we all knew each other or  
ntually learned I was being bullied and gave me the best advice

ice blocks and taking bong **hits** from a balcony. Andrea peed  
pid thing ever. I remember **running over** a car, tripping over the sp  
t like it so he kind of got aggressive, pushed me out the way and  
at never happened. He just threatened me, and I walked off and then  
and not long ago we **hit** it. We hit our goal, and n  
not long ago we hit it. We **hit** our goal, and now we have b  
is, it's basically fruit **punch** and vodka in one big giant t  
enario out but the door got **kicked in** and we got breathalysed and  
My parents were absolutely **furious** that I'd quit school and I  
the time. In early 2013 I **hit** a huge milestone. My channe  
milestone. My channel had **hit** 1 million beauties and I 'll  
. Thank you. You can also **hit** me on Twitter, Instagram or  
I kind of just was a little **riot**. I ran around to all the ti  
her, came up behind me and slapped the ball out of my hand whil  
nd without even looking and punched him right in the face. That  
fought. I remember after I punched him, my punishment was to s  
ously. I started to switch **hit**, which a lot of catchers do  
players. I think they were **threatened** by me because I really wante  
rome is basically just, it **attacks** your body. He didn't have  
like me. She thought I was **annoying**, my behaviour was inappropri  
ng us and he sometimes also kicked us. One day my mum was drun  
. It was like someone would **hit** a hobo in the face then put  
at I liked school and I got angry when they told me that, bec  
school every day and being picked on and people were calling me  
frustrated with me and more angry with me and my parents, tha  
, so and I also got my ass kicked lots of times because there  
d and we chased these dudes **butt** naked across town with peopl  
to practice or I'm going to smack you upside the face with thi  
turban. And that's when I **hit** a bit of a rough patch in my  
at time had to go through: bullying, name-calling, I got throw  
ere and, as promised, for **hitting** 1 million subscribers I 'm g

what I can only describe as bully cannon fodder. School was r  
was when I occasionally got bullied in school for being the whit  
thought it would be fun to pick on the weird pale kid. From an  
ll-round fours. My friends annoyed one of the student council m  
Sanity Not Included, which piqued my interest in amateur voice  
reak shotting and trying to hit clips and spending hours and  
got 900,000 and we finally hit the huge milestone which I w  
appen if I fell over or got run over by a bus? What was going to  
e me a massive motivational kick because it was always my dre  
on opening the door, I was attacked with a hug by a stranger. O  
rred: debt, foreclosure, angry rich people, angry poor peo  
osure, angry rich people, angry poor people, eviction, run  
sucks for everyone. I was bullied a ton but by eighth grade I  
was skinny, athletic and a bully, and I was very popular for  
One time during dodgeball I kicked this ball in reaction with b  
d rrlike, right away I was picked on from all the other kids and  
's worse is the kids that I picked on in elementary school were le  
ry overweight. See, I was angry. I was keeping a secret. I  
n my phone, I just kind of winged it. One day as I was leavin  
out. I had so much pent-up anger from, from the betrayal of  
was somebody that I played brawl with a lot and actually the  
doubted me wrong because revenge is a dish best served cold a  
If you're watching this, hit me up! God, I'm a loser!  
ifferent. My father was an abusive, cheating, drug-addicted m  
ownfalls were caused by his anger towards how he was raised an  
nd he loved to reflect this anger onto his loved ones, includ  
was verbally and physically abused daily my whole life by him.  
me and she would divert his anger towards her instead. If I d  
mething wrong, I would get hit. I remember when I was six  
wanted to live with. I was angry and I felt abandoned by my m  
ill verbally and physically abusive. Then he met my stepmother

d to charge me rent. I was livid. I grew very depressed and . Despite all the continued abuse, I graduated with an AS in d more games with continued abuse. Then I started uploading v degree and that's where I hit up Losada on Facebook. She side of the family was very angry. They started to throw out , report it, question it, nip it in the bud immediately be I said, yes girl, you is fierce and then she looked at it li g high school. And then to punch it all off, my mum kicked m what I did there? Punch, kick, get it? Because football th this every day. Nothing irks me more than hearing someone m until one fateful day, I hit the front page of the Destin ful that I was never really bullied. I mean, I was picked on, lly bullied. I mean, I was picked on, but never beat up or anyth I was picked on, but never beat up or anything like that. I ha ittle bit, I wouldn't say abusive, but violent is the word an wouldn't say abusive, but violent is the word and punched hole but violent is the word and punched holes in walls. And unfortu eds and thought he had food poisoning. The next day my mum picked d a wedding date set. That hit me pretty hard. It took me learnt that from my dad's angry driving. He has come up wit I was basically a loner and bullied until grade 5, when I start years ago, North Korea was threatening South Korea with a sea of fi my teachers were incredibly annoyed by it but here's the thing I did stop doing it once I hit 1000 subscribers. And from e a scene from Fast and the Furious, just with a lot less stero er than I was a very, very angry child. Once, my dad told m alked up to him one day and punched him square in the nuts for n it. Eventually we all got kicked out of the apartment we were e US in the 1600s to escape persecution from the British. However, including listening to the attack on Pearl Harbour happening l rs playing Sonic 3, Primal Rage, Desert Strike and tons of

a very long dragged out and **brutal** divorce. I moved in with my  
If you did, let me know by **hitting** the thumbs up button and if  
not already a subscriber, **hit** the subscribe button to get  
command lines and he had to **hit** command prompts to make the  
out the 80s here - I was an **annoying** little brother and almost an  
elling me, "Go away, you're **annoying!**" And she's trying to play  
re became a time when I was bullied. I was called stupid, I wa  
od time and I wasn't being **bullied** so much. But one day, Nath  
ocks being thrown and being bullied every single day of my life  
other kid who's ever been **bullied**. I pretended to be sick but  
ashamed that you are being **bullied** and you 're not sticking up  
still allowed myself to be bullied. And I remember once I told  
ce I told my dad about this bully and his advice to me was Def  
at this point I became very angry and I saw red and I remember  
r just losing control and I punched this kid square in the face  
t enough. I've never been **bullied** a day in my life since that  
sting people because of the bullying and the girls making fun of  
the freeway and a big truck **hit** me from behind doing 60 mile  
is when I realised I had hit rock bottom, because it too  
entire life that sat there picking on me. And when I was fat, an  
as an adult, I had adults picking on me, so I never had an oppor  
nd payment from people that annoy you. It was considered an a  
It was considered an act of bullying, and my mum took my Xbox aw  
esson. I'm just less of a bully now. When high school came  
me material left for when I **hit** a million subs! So, here's  
know was if they could play **Angry** Birds on it. Seriously? So  
nd was different. So, I got bullied verbally and physically. Du  
y close, so close, people teased me about making it Facebook  
mind. Sadly, that gave my bullies another reason to mock me,  
noticed I wasn't physically **bullied** anymore. So, I guess things  
. So gradually, I became a bully. A guy joked about me once



ng: "Say that again and I'll beat you up!" He almost teared up. I th  
e through my fake image and fight back. Ironically, instead of ma  
ught defined me, well, my bullies ridiculed. I didn't know ho  
people I found more quiet, bullied or rejected. Unexpectedly,  
for my own things. It was annoying but I admired her for being  
ber some of the people that bullied me? I got in touch with sev  
500,000 subscribers that we hit today - a number that I 'll  
uys, this channel has just hit 200 thousand subscribers and  
hat guy. But as soon as we hit high school, things started  
it was at this point that I hit an all-time low. Not too lo  
ever and not too long after hitting 35,000 subscribers, somethi  
. It wasn't long before we hit 100,000 subscribers and ever  
. In 2016, Mrwhosetheboss hit 200,000 subscribers and to c  
ting better that started to drive me a bit crazy. I wasn't just  
draw my life before YouTube hit me full force. And each per  
before YouTube hit me full force. And each person has their  
ound way easier. I did get bullied a fair bit for being the kee  
out that she was absolutely furious about this and made a formal  
pped up one by one. When I hit a hundred views, I was so h  
ppy. I thought I'd really hit it big. So, I decided to mak  
deo gaming and sometimes in beating up my sister when she wouldn't  
e'd give me missions to go beat up my siblings which I'm prett  
s wild. But the real world hit and soon after school, I go  
dling, desperation finally kicked in and I just started. Because  
d on the team, so I got picked on quite a bit for that and the  
ay. I mean the channel just hit 44 again, times a thousand  
ny friends and I had to get picked on. I had to get bullied on.  
et picked on. I had to get bullied on. A girl, I remember a g  
girl didn't like me. She picked on me all the time on the bus,  
always the outgoing and fun troublemaker while I was a very quiet, t  
children getting away from abusive dads, but my dad wasn't ab

e dads, but my dad wasn't abusive at all, so my mum decided to  
from this motel so we were kicked onto the street with all of  
w us and offered us a super beat-up car he had for free. A lite  
ngs for middle school I was bullied a lot. I didn't have any f  
nervous I was going to get beaten up every day. I was a quiet,  
got a lot of attention. It hit a million views really quick  
rew Chris down a cliff. He knocked himself out on a rock at the  
I made over 300 videos. I hit my goal of a hundred thousan  
ody! Youknow, my god, we hit 50,000 subscribers! Holy cr  
ouTube, I thought maybe I'd hit a thousand subscribers if I  
g really happened. I wasn't bullied as hard, but high school is  
e everything to me. I love piquing their curiosities with all o  
Boomerang. I also started hitting the fantasy science fiction  
I was the ideal target for bullies. I was slow, chubby and ne  
riences, like once she got punched in the nose by this one girl  
e, a lot of the kids would pick on me because of that and they  
idn't. I dealt with being bullied my junior year, but I 'm no  
rities that came from being bullied, but I picked up my first H  
was some awful kids, just bullies mainly, and I was bullied r  
bullies mainly, and I was bullied really badly. You can imagi  
es that I got and I did get beaten up quite a lot, but I can supp  
really aside from some more bullying which wasn't very fun, but  
en I finished school - more bullies and more mean kids and its h  
was amazing. I didn't let bullies or anyone like that hold me  
out my growing up and being bullied at school which was awful,  
but I remember being really annoyed that I was being woken up rr  
aling with rlike the awful bullies at school and just generally  
the 13th 2014, my channel hit 1 million subscribers which  
n December the 1st 2016, I hit 2 million subscribers. I mea  
jump into the deep end and force myself to do these things in  
probably can get little bit annoying for some people, sorry! An

't happen. And I would get bullied over and over and over and o  
. The kids at school would beat me up, they would call me names a  
om people on that bus would pick on me and call me names as well  
f going to school, getting picked on, beat up, spit on, going  
chool, getting picked on, beat up, spit on, going home on th  
. It had all sorts of bad, violent people that did a lot of bad  
ool, I didn't want to get bullied or picked on at all anymore  
n't want to get bullied or picked on at all anymore in my life,  
t the bar. I was seriously angry all the time and eventually  
r 90 days. I had literally hit rock bottom in my life. Thi  
total jerk. That kid would bully a lot of people there, exce  
re, except he would mostly bully me for some reason. A lot o  
d making fun of me or would poke fun at my channel. At first  
but every day, kids would poke fun at my channel and made j  
reat. I remember the day I hit a hundred thousand subscribe  
eryone. I always wanted to hit a million subscribers, but I  
milk though. I was really annoying drama, drama, drama - so t  
e. It was okay, but I was bullied a lot. It's because I was  
at guy or the guy you could pick on easily and get offended easi  
s. Yep, that was me. The bullying and me exploding, it was th  
just lost it. I got really angry, trying to handle it on a  
f like that. One day I was bullied and no one was listening. N  
yone happy yay! So, my main bully got placed in a different cl  
still being a kid that was bullied a lot. Basically, life hit  
. Oh and by the way, this anger management bullshit, no. I  
haviour, something with my anger, and this did actually work  
ade me who I am. I mean, the bullying was bad, even to a point wh  
ill sometimes got an asthma attack though, so dead. So around  
st at this time. I think I hit 23 thousand subscribers four  
days and at a certain point hit 1 million views. It's real  
brating that my channel had hit 1 million views in total. I

like a lot of people, I was bullied and I was called names and I really help with the whole bullying and teasing thing. I 'm not with braces and I still got teased and nothing changed. The on t was to the point of being irritating, but the daredevil and mum e lots of kids who liked to pick on people like me. Also, I did apon of choice was a byssal whip paired with a poisoned drago a byssal whip paired with a poisoned dragon dagger. Amongst its

## Manual Annotation of Emotion Displays

**PC1:** Feeling happy, excited, liking/loving something or someone

**PC2:** Feeling proud, confident, brave, determined

**PC3:** Feeling calm, comforted, supported, accepted, relieved

**NC1:** Feeling scared, nervous, anxious, stressed, guilty, pressured, panicked

**NC2:** Feeling shy, embarrassed, awkward

**NC3:** Feeling sad, depressed, apathetic, lost

**NC4:** Feeling angry, frustrated, jealous and disliking/hating something or someone

## Female YouTubers

### FDML #1

Hello everyone! So, after so many of you asked me to do a draw my life video, I decided to pop out and buy a whiteboard and **give it my best shot**.

So, it all started on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 1990, when I was born. **Yay!** Apparently, I was quite a small baby and I weighed six pounds something. My mum probably said, "Ouch!" and my dad probably said, "Oh my god!" The second my head decided to rear, which does look like a giant spider right now, but I promise you it's not, it's something far, far worse, the second my head popped out, before the rest of my body had even made an appearance, I opened my eyes and I blinked at my dad, and it really scared him. Eighteen months later, my brother Joseph was born, and my dad actually refused to be down the headend to that one because of my creepy introduction. As you can see, I had crazy curly hair.

We used to go on quite a few family holidays and I think I was around two or three years old. I've drawn us looking a lot older here, but I promise you I was a lot younger than I have drawn myself. We decided to go on a family holiday to Cornwall, which is **all well and good**. I **made a new friend** on the beach called Charlotte, I believe, and I actually pooped in my swimming costume, and **I now feel very, very bad for her** as she had to hang out with **the smelly kid** that had pooped herself. Never saw her after that, can't think why!

We grew up in a really small village right next to a couple of really tiny towns, and **I actually really enjoyed primary school**. We did things like hopscotch and knitting, which is so very exciting. Spent most of the time with **my best friend Alex**. She and I used to spend every day together doing the most mundane things that **felt like the most exciting adventures ever**. We'd pretend we were American tourists, get banned from AOL chat for misuse of language and sit and watch rats swimming in the river, rollerblading, and prank calling the sex advice line from the local phone box saying things like "my willy's fallen off!", **thinking it was so hilarious**. This was before speedy Wi-Fi, people. It's the best we had. I used to persuade Alex to film music videos and random silliness on one of my dad's old camcorders, which, looking back, she probably absolutely hated me for it, but you have to admit Alex, **they are pretty hilarious** but when you watch them back now.

At the age of 10, I was cast to be an extra in Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. **It was literally one of the most exciting things ever**. I got to meet a lot of the cast and whilst filming a scene in snakes potion class, I was sat next to Devon Murray who plays Seamus Finnigan and the guy who plays Dean Thomas asked if I fancied Devon, to which I replied, "No, I don't" and he said, "Would you go out with him?", to which **I nervously played** with my quill and said, "No". He then turned to Devon and said, "It's a hard life, Seamus". **I kind of wanted to die**.

Secondary school came around and **it was quite a shock to the system**, like a small fish in a huge pond, but **I did make lots of new friends and even had a few boyfriends**, and actually, looking back, **I really did enjoy school life**, even though sometimes my school friends and I would skip lessons and hang out in the loos. This is naughty, unhygienic and unproductive. It does not make you cool - do not do it.

After school is **where things got a lot more tricky**. A lot of my friends disappeared off to uni, and I was left wondering what on earth I was going to do with my life. I'd done Art, Photography and Textiles at A-level and passed with high A grades, but I just didn't know what I wanted to do. **I felt quite lost** and my anxiety also meant that **I couldn't join in with things like clubs and pubs**, **so I became quite alienated**. I started working in various different jobs, one involving

interior design and another involving a retail store, and although I learnt many things, I knew that none of the jobs I did was fulfilling or what I really wanted to do, and they also didn't really make me that happy. And by this point my anxiety made things like working a lot more difficult for me.

In order to distract myself from all things pooppy in life related, I decided to set up a blog called Zoella, which then also led me onto YouTube and doing a few videos every now and then. In 2010, after I'd been blogging for a short while, a girl called Louise emailed me asking if she could send me a card, because she enjoyed reading my blog so much, which made me so super happy and I replied, "Obviously, I would really like you send me a card and also does this mean we can now be BFFs forever and ever and ever?" Since emailing in 2010, there's not been a day that we've not spoken, and she is the best friend I could ever ask for.

Last year, things got a lot more tricky for me. I ended a really horrible turbulent relationship with a big arse, which is the nicest words I could think of, and my parents decided to divorce which made things in life slightly more difficult and it also meant that I had a lot more panic attacks than normal. I soon decided that enough was enough and I wanted to come out of my shell and do more by saying yes to more things, which also meant that I spent a lot more time on YouTube, which also led me to meeting some amazing people through doing this. I'm so glad that I stepped out of my comfort zone and did things that I found extremely difficult at the time that led me to doing all these things and meeting all these amazing new friends. More recently, I stepped on a dodgy, not looking, there we go, plane for the first time in seven years and got to meet lots of you in Florida. This was a huge deal for me, and I spent the week with friends new and old and had so much fun. I apologize Tyler and Joey, you look really kind of odd there on the end. I think I feel more me now than I have done in a really, really long time and obviously I still suffer with anxiety and panic attacks at times but I don't want it to ever stop me doing things, and if there's one thing that life taught me so far, it's that everything happens for a reason and you just have to have the confidence to push yourself into doing more things, as it opens up a whole new world.

I cannot believe I am nearing 1 million subscribers! I still log onto YouTube and think, is this real life? I love and appreciate all of you guys. Thank you all so much for watching my videos. I hope that you continue to enjoy them as much as I enjoy making them. So, there you go guys - that is my life. It's not all that interesting, but I hope you enjoyed it anyway. Thank you so much for watching. It really does mean the world to me. If you did enjoy it, please give it a crazy, scary, weird thumbs up. I cannot draw thumbs apparently, and I love you all lots and I'll see you soon. Bye!

1332

## FDML #2

My name is xxx and I'm going to draw my life. I was born in upstate New York and my parents had my brother, but he is really tall. He's, like, six five, so that's him, and then they had me two years later. And my dad loves Subarus and he's also a chemist. He has lots of really cool patents for things like polymers that I don't even understand. My mum worked in lots of different things but mostly is just a badass. When we were little, my parents got divorced but that worked out alright because my dad remarried and his wife has big boobies that I would put my face in when I was sad and my mum's been with her boyfriend for, like, ever, so everyone wound up pretty happy. So, where are my siblings?

And when I was little, I used to like to do gymnastics, dance and I played the clarinet and the piano, and I wanted to work with animals or play soccer, even though I didn't know how to play soccer. And I had love for the animals, the furry things, I loved them so much and every birthday I had, I used to blow out the candles and wish for a puppy or kitty, but I couldn't have one because my mum was really allergic to them, but my dad got us a cat and his name was Benny and he absolutely hated us and he would scratch up our faces and that sucked. But I also loved to play baseball and my dad with his awesome moustache was our coach and he taught me everything except one year, he was like "Maybe you should play softball". I was like "Why? Like, I love baseball!" He was like, "Well, you're distracting the boys." It's valid.

One of my favourite memories from growing up, we're at our lake house and we would go swimming and fishing, canoeing and one time we were sitting around the fire pit and a snake came out my dad killed it with a knife, and we were like, "Whoa dad, you're such the man!" and then another time I did a backflip off a dock and I hit my face on a ladder and then that's why I broke my nose and I have that weird t-shaped scar on my face, so stop making fun of me.

And growing up, I also had a best friend and her name was Brittany and we did everything together. It was really sad in seventh grade, because I realised that everyone in my school was really smart and that made you cool, and I was sort of just regular, and I took regular classes and sort of felt like I didn't fit in with everyone else, so sad xxx is sad. I also really liked this boy who didn't like me back, and I would go wait outside of his locker every morning before homeroom and in one quarter, where there's 60 days, I had 52 tardies because I was just waiting for him at his locker, and he also used to call me flat-chested which used to make me cry, but I did keep some notes and stuff and other people, everything that's ever mattered to me, in a little shoebox, because I'm sentimental like that.

Then when I got to high school, my best friend dropped out. I was really lonely, but the ninth grade I met this boy named Willy in gym class. And we wound up dating each other for four years. We eventually broke up to go to school but that was really nice. And all my regular people classes and regular things decided to pay off, because I went to college! And all I wanted to do was go to big city, so I didn't know what I was going to do, but I just wanted to get out, so I went to Boston at 17. I didn't know what I wanted to study, I didn't know anyone, had no friends and on my 18th birthday, I just laid in my dorm room and cried, and sad xxx was really sad, but it didn't last for too long because I played softball and so I got lots of friends, and for the first time in my entire life, I felt comfortable being exactly who I was and being weird, and it was the greatest feeling ever. I also got a MacBook computer and I taught myself how to edit with iMovie and I used to make these funny videos for myself, but I didn't think anyone else would ever think they were funny.

Then I went to grad school, then I got a master's degree and I was 22 and I thought my life was, like, starting. I was so excited. Me and my friend were going to move to Texas and then she bailed on me last minute and I thought my whole life was over, like, you ruined everything, and now all my weird part-time jobs like go-go dancing and bartending and working a tanning salon were my full-time jobs and I had no job in my field and I was so sad and confused, and then one day, I was locked out of my apartment and this boy was moving in upstairs and I was like, "I've never seen you here before", and he was like, "I've never seen you here before". Oh my god, that's because you're moving. All right, whatever, you're weird, I got to go, and so I jumped in through my window and he just stood there and watched me, but I guess that was endearing, because we dated and we even started a little dog family together and moved in and had a family, and then my whole life changed because I got a job at barstoolsports.com. The owner, Dave Portenoi, asked me if I wanted to be his assistant and I cried because I was so excited, and he taught me everything about the internet, like how to be funny and how to blog and how everything worked, and one day on my way up from the office I got the idea of the how to trick people into thinking you're good-looking video, and so I made it, and Dave even put it on the website, and more people saw it and I was so excited and nervous. And he gave me my own website to write, so I did that for like six months, except I realised that it wasn't really making me happy and I wanted to make videos, and he sort of knew that too, but we could never see eye to eye, and sort of ended badly, but, and then I was back to really sad xxx. No job, no direction, don't know what I'm doing, so I just decided to make videos again after six months of not doing it, because that's all I liked doing. And then I found the YouTube community - this cool, amazing group of people that had these awesome videos except they all lived in Los Angeles and I lived in Boston, so I went to visit and I loved it, and then a year later I saved up enough money and asked Max to go with me. And he did. And so, we moved to sunshine land, but as you guys know, Max and I broke up about four months ago and it was really sad. And it's been really hard, because I don't really know anyone here. But life is complicated, and you never know what's going to happen, but if it's meant to be, it'll be, and if it's not, it won't.

But now I'm sad xxx again, and I don't know what I'm doing and I think if I had it all figured out, I would be doing something wrong because I think it makes it so that you can't grow, and you have to be confused in life, or else you won't grow. But all I know is that YouTube makes me really happy. And all of you make me really happy, and without your love and support, I would be lost. And I always thought that if you have someone you love or something you love, then life would be easy, but it's not. And I still have no idea what I want to do with my life. I'm more confused now than I've ever been, but your love and support has changed my entire life, and just seeing your comments, I realise all I ever want to do is make people happy. And so now, for my future, I have no idea what's going to happen. Even if YouTube or anything doesn't work out, I have big plans of getting a farm, filling it with animals and then laying in the middle of the farm, just being covered in puppies and kitties and sheep all day, every day, and I wish this video had a happier ending, but all I do know is thank you for teaching me who I am. I love you.

1526

### FDML #3

Hey everyone! My name is I Has Cupquake, and today I'm going to draw my life. It all started with my mum and dad. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1988, they had me, Tiffany Michelle Garcia. I was the baby in the family and had a brother that was 2 years older than me, and his name was Anthony. When my mum had us, she decided she wanted to stay home and take care of us. My dad used to work as a press man and bring home the bacon. Mmm, bacon. I always loved the way he smelt when he came home, like a newly printed book or poster. He would work nights, so in the daytime we would always have to be quiet because he was sleeping. That was a problem for me because I was a really loud little girl. I wasn't trying to be loud - it was just my personality. My parents would call me "Vavoom" and say I could knock down walls with my voice. Sometimes, my dad would wake up and yell at me to be quiet, but I would never cry. I was a pretty tough cookie as a child.

My mum wanted to keep me active, so she got me into modelling. I loved all the lights and the shoots we did. I loved the camera. I would have to leave school early sometimes and miss out on field trips since I was busy modelling, and I didn't like that, so I told my mum I wanted to be with my friends, and after that I stopped modelling. Instead, she put me in all types of sports: figure skating, ballet, swimming, soccer, softball, I loved it. I used to always look forward to a mini Olympics event my elementary school had because I was a really fast runner. I remember one time doing a race,

a girl named Chanel pushed me into a pole because she wanted to beat me. I fell and couldn't finish the race. This was a point in my life where I realised that there are some really hateful people out there, and I didn't want to be like them. I was raised to be nice to everyone, since you don't know what they're going through in their life, and I still live up to that to this day.

My parents sent me to private school after that. Throughout school, people found it easy to pick on me. I would always laugh it off and act like it wouldn't bother me. I always kept a smile on my face because honestly, smiling tricked me into being happy. Deep down, their words were really hurtful, but I kept my head up and grew stronger from my experiences. My brother was a really big influence to me. I was that annoying little sister that wanted to do everything he did. I would just sit and watch and play video games and was too scared to actually play because I didn't want to mess up in front of him. I also picked up skateboarding because I would see him skating outside with his friends every day and used to practice every single day for hours, trying to land a kickflip. I had these really huge potato-looking shoes and a ton of bruises on my shins and legs from the board hitting them. I'll never forget the day I landed the kickflip on the grass. We used to always carry a camera with us to try and make films of us skateboarding. We'd plan on submitting them to skate companies to get sponsored, but that never happened.

We started going to Lans because they had super-fast computers and we could play games with each other, and that's when I picked up my first FPS, which was Counter Strike. From there, a whole new world was introduced to me: PC games. I also found a love for drawing. My brother and I used to play this game where we would draw a squiggly line and the opposite person would have to draw something out of it, and I think it was really awesome because we could just be so creative and draw the weirdest things. I continued to draw throughout high school and made tons of friends because I was in all sorts of sports and I was so active in school. I was a social butterfly, and I didn't confine myself to one group of friends because I wanted to be friends with everyone. This was great because I knew tons of people, but it was really bad in the end because once I was done with high school, none of us really kept in touch.

But I wasn't alone. During my junior year, I started talking to this boy I met on MySpace. We had a lot in common and became boyfriend and girlfriend. His name is Mario. Mario and I stuck together throughout the rest of my high school years and all the way through college. In college, I had a part-time job as a lifeguard. It was a really boring job, just sitting on a tower, all day, watching, waiting for something to happen. It was really boring, and out of the six years that I was a lifeguard, I only had to rescue someone twice, but it was a pretty awesome feeling to make a difference in someone's life. I knew I didn't want to be a lifeguard for the rest of my life, so I decided to try to get an internship. I still wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my schooling, so I interned at Cartoon Network for one semester. Although I loved cartoons, I realised that an office job just wasn't for me, and I had no idea what I was going to do now.

Then, I was introduced to YouTube. One of my old friends asked me if I would be interested in making videos for a company's YouTube channel called Machinima Realm. I had no idea what I was getting into, but I wanted to give it a try. I felt like I wasn't that interesting and that no one would want to watch me. Surprisingly, people did. I was super shy, and it felt so weird to talk into a mic, but with all of your love and support, I became more comfortable and let my true personality shine through.

I graduated college with a Bachelor in Fine Arts and after I graduated, I decided to continue YouTube till I found a job. My parents and Mario were really supportive and after seven years of being together, Mario asked me to marry him. Finally! A year later, we were married and had a kitty family. No babies though. No, we're not planning on having babies anytime soon.

I never really looked for a job because making videos made me so happy. My love for making videos grew immensely, and I've made so many new friends all over the world and I've learned so much about myself and who I am. I never realised that I can make a difference in so many people's lives, but I wanted you all to know that you have all made a difference in my life. Although we may never meet or never speak, you have made a difference and are a permanent part of my life. I'm so thankful and happy, and I don't know where this will take me, but we are here now, together, helping each other grow. Thank you so much for watching. I will see you all later. Bye!

1269

#### FDML #4

Okay, let's try this again. What up everyone? It's your girl Superwoman and over the past few weeks, a top comment on almost all of my videos has been, "Do a draw my life video!" and I'm here to tell you that I've already done one. Say what? Yup, I've done it, but you can't see it because I deleted it the very next day. Why, you ask? Well, because it included stories about my life that involved other people, and honestly, it broke my heart to delete that video because I was so proud of it, and you know what? I still am, but instead of being bitter, in my unicorn fashion, I've decided to give it another go, and this time, I'm the only author, the only illustrator and the only main character.

So hi, my name is Lilly, and this is my life. On one glorious day called September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1988, my parents gave birth to me. It was my mum, my dad, my older sister, my Nana G and me. I grew up in Scarborough, which is considered kind



of a rough ghetto area, you know what I mean? And I absolutely loved it. Quick facts about me growing up: I was a Girl Guide, believe it or not. Yep, I sold cookies and everything! I was valedictorian in elementary school, majorly obsessed with the Backstreet Boys, Spice Girls and the Rock and it was when I was a kid that I bought the same Superwoman ring I wear every day now. I used to call myself Superwoman because I felt like the name gave me strength. Pretending there was an S on my chest really helped me through a lot of hard times growing up.

As a kid, I was a really big tomboy. I wore baggy clothes, loved wrestling and didn't appreciate anything girly. My mum always used to say it was because she secretly wanted a boy. Oh, thanks mum. Throughout elementary school and high school, I was convinced that I was destined to be someone great. I always imagined that I would become a superstar rapper or actress, although admittedly, yeah, I probably didn't have a talent in either. From a young age, I knew that sitting behind a desk in a nine-to-five job was never something I wanted to do. I always had big dreams, but a lot changed once I entered University.

As most rollercoasters do, my life took a plunge in the third year of my undergrad. I ran into issues with a few of my friends that really affected me. A whole bunch of emotional stuff I carried with me from my childhood continued to haunt me, and I honestly felt as if my entire life collapsed. Over the next few months, I fell into a severe depression. I lost my appetite and my desire to wake up in the morning. I wouldn't answer my phone and I lost a lot of friends. I had no goals, no aspirations and no motivation. I was no longer that colourful girl who had big dreams, and as scary as it sounds, I can honestly say that I lost my desire to live. And that translated into some very scary thoughts on some very scary nights. I also developed irrational thoughts of people staring at me. Whenever I was in public, I felt like I was wearing a huge sign that said "depressed". I suddenly felt uncomfortable and nervous whenever people were around me, and this lasted for roughly a year.

And I can't say what exactly changed my brain or what caused something in my brain to switch, but all I know is that one morning I woke up and decided I didn't want to be this person anymore, so over the next year I forced myself to get my life back together. It wasn't easy at all and I often relapsed back into depression. I eventually learned to talk about my feelings, create healthy relationships and most importantly, to love myself. It became my goal to take all the pains of depression and transform those pains into lessons and tools I could use to better my life.

I specifically remember one night, when I was an absolute mess. Now up until this night, I thought that the mind and body were two separate things that functioned completely separate from each other. I learned the hard way that this in fact is not true. That night, my mind was racing with thoughts, fears, scary images, recalling every terrible thing to ever happen to me and just flooding with negativity. So, I decided to call a friend, get up, do something, anything other than lie there and tremble and cry. But my body would simply not respond. I remember feeling a huge wave of panic because I couldn't get my arms, my legs or my hands to move. I was finding it difficult to breathe and I was completely paralysed for those few minutes because my mind was controlling me and not vice-versa. So, during my recovery, I kept that night in mind and in fact, I will never forget it because today, I apply that same concept but in the opposite way. If my mind can negatively impact me in such a way, then it can have the same impact positively when I'm upset. And that's why when something terrible happens, something as terrible as losing someone you really, really love, yeah, sure, I will cry. I will be heartbroken but ultimately, I will make that decision to let my mind fill with the positives. And I can assure you, no matter what your name is and what your life draws out to be, there are always positives.

But let's move on to the part where I embarrass myself on the Internet. While vacationing with my family in Dominican Republic, I took a few moments to myself and sat by the beach alone. It was at this point that I was in the final steps of healing myself, but I wasn't quite there. It's at that moment that I decided I wanted to do this YouTube thing seriously. I had a few videos out at the time, but nothing significant. On that night I told myself that if my video could be the reason someone's bad day turns good, or the reason someone upset smiles, then all my efforts will be worth it, and who knows? Maybe my video will be the cause for that switch to flick in someone else's brain while they're depressed. Now, wouldn't that be awesome sauce? So, I came back home, and since then, I've been on this YouTube journey. I'm constantly working on projects, doing what I love and meeting amazing people, and here's the truth: I didn't make this video because you kept requesting it and I didn't make it because I don't have any other ideas, and I definitely did not make it so I could cover up for deleting my last one. I made it to tell you this: you're in a boxing ring with a 10-foot giant named Life and he is going to knock you out. He knocked me out cold a few years ago and every part of me wanted to stay down. That terrible night could have gone either way, and I am so thankful every single day that I chose to get back up for another round. So, for those of you who feel like you want to give up the fight and there is no hope, this video is your hope because I am telling you that every dream you have can come true. In the most modest way possible, I'm about to hit 700,000 subscribers. I just featured in my first film. I'm booked for London and Australia next month. Paris Jackson told me she loves my videos, MIA follows me on Twitter and Kunal, aka Raj from Big Bang Theory, is now my close friend. None of that could have happened if I was at the bottom of some bridge. This is not a fictional story. This is not a commercial. This is my real life. And I'm not ashamed or embarrassed regardless of what anyone says. This is how I became who I am, and I promise you, this video will never get taken down. If you are looking for a reason to keep fighting, this is it. If I can do it, so can you.

And that's basically the story of how I, Lilly, aka Superwoman, defeated my biggest villain: aka myself. Thank you so much for joining me on my journey and being part of my life. It's nice to finally feel good about myself, even though so many people are staring. I hope that wasn't too sad and depressing to listen to because it's not. Let's, okay, let's talk about happy stuff, okay? Ready? Okay, rainbows, unicorns, glitter, sparkle, candy, colours, umm wicked awesomeness, explosions of happiness and cupcakes falling from the sky. Ow, I hit my hand! Anyways, as of right now, I have no idea what my future has in store but that's my life thus far. Oh, that's a wrap. One love. Superwoman and zoop! As per usual, you can click here to watch my last video. You can also click the subscribe button right here for new videos every Monday and Thursday. Also check me out on Twitter and Facebook in the meantime. I don't know if you notice it - I'm actually a really good drawer. I don't know, it's just like since birth, artistic skills, I know, I don't like to brag about it, but I'm just going to take this time to draw a self-portrait of myself. So, I'm just going to do that.

1631

## FDML #5

Here it is! Draw my life. I had a tough time making this because, well, I have to tell my entire life story under 20 minutes. I can barely remember what I did yesterday, so this will be a very brief summary of my life. I would love to get more in depth, but we can save that for another time. So, let's get drawing!

There are seven billion people in this world meaning there are 7 billion stories to be told, but today, I'm going to tell you one story from someone who was born in this tiny town in Massachusetts called Boston or Bahston, aka Beantown. January 1987. It was snowing and my mother and father were driving. At this time, my mother was 6 months pregnant and she asked my father what my name should be. And they both decided on Michelle. However, my mum looked over at him and asked "Well, what about her Vietnamese name?" He looked out the window and saw this beautiful snowflake and he said "tuet bang", which means "avalanche". Thanks, dad, for naming me after something so terrifying. Hi, my name is Avalanche and I could potentially kill you. Nice to meet you. So, that's me, an avalanche.

Four months later, I was born. Year of the rabbit. My welcome party was lovely. My mother told me that when she brought me home and placed me in my crib, my brother thought I was a toy, so he literally jumped and slammed himself on top of me. Apparently, I stopped breathing and my mother thought I had died. Anyways, that's how I first met my amazing brother Steve. A few years later, we all packed up and moved to California. Now if you don't know this landmark, this is the Golden Gate Bridge, and it's located in San Francisco. This is where we moved.

All right, so I'm going to draw my family portrait. This is my mum. Her name is Hing, which means "gentle one" in Vietnamese, myself, Michelle, or Avalanche, my brother Steve and of course, my wonderful father. We were a very loving family. While living in San Francisco, we moved several different times. At least over six times in one year. I remember packing and moving, and at first, I thought it was fun but later I found out it was because my father had a gambling addiction. He was a very loving father, but his weakness was playing poker. It was so bad that he would gamble all our rent money and we would get evicted. That's why we kept moving. It broke my mother's heart. I'll never forget seeing my mother cry. I realised at a very early age that I couldn't wait to grow up so I could help her.

Because we moved so often, I ended up going to several different schools in one year, so it was hard for me to make friends because not only was I shy, but I was always the new girl. Luckily, I had an imagination, and I drew a lot. Disney princesses were one of my favourite things to draw. I wanted to be just like them. Oakland, California. This is where I made my first friend. I finally felt like I belonged. It was a wonderful feeling, and I remember I had so much fun. You never forget the first friend you make. I will never forget her. Sadly, it didn't last long. My father told us that we had to move again, and I never saw her again. But it's okay. You guys are now my friends.

So, we were on the road again. We packed all our things in a van and drove out to Florida. He said we would be moving next to Disney World and we could see Mickey. Later we found out that, well, that's Orlando, that's where Disney World is at, and we are right there, Tampa. Womp womp! Not really close to Orlando, but, my first day at school was really hard. I never felt so different in my life. There wasn't a lot of Asian people in my school and my classmates, they made fun of me, calling me names. Man, kids can be so cruel, but it's okay. I found something else that made me smile. It was drawing. I'd draw superheroes all day in class. I even created a superhero version of myself. I seriously thought that when I grew up, I would have superpowers.

One morning, I woke up and I noticed that my father was missing. My mother was so heartbroken. I didn't know why my father left, but every night I would wait for him to come back. He never did. However, we carried on. My mother is a strong woman and she found a way to take care of us. We were happy. We didn't have much, but we had each other. My mother was a bombshell. It didn't take her long to finally remarry, and we were so excited because now, we had a stepdad. We were so happy to finally have a father again. A year later my little sister was born. Steve and I were overjoyed to have a little sister, and I was excited to be a big sister, and her name is Christine. And I loved her so much.

I was never happy when I was home. Turns out my stepdad wasn't the father I dreamt of. This is something I'd rather not talk about, but my mother was the best. She loved me so much and one Christmas I'll never forget. I got the very

thing I've always wanted: A Sailor Moon doll. It was everything to me. The second thing I wanted was this Barbie Dreamhouse, but my family couldn't afford it, which was totally fine because I made my own dream house out of cardboard box. I had cut out a door, a window, and every day after school I couldn't wait to come home to play with my dolls. It's funny how the best things in life are the most simple.

In middle school, I played the trumpet. Oh man, my mum, she nagged at me all the time. She wished that I could play the flute or a violin - something that was less loud than a trumpet! High school, I grew out of playing dolls. Instead, I played games. When my parents were arguing, I would either save the world or become the world's greatest warrior. I even picked up on manga art and wrote and drew a lot of my own stories. It was my only escape from reality. See, we didn't have the internet, so you guys today lucked out. Gosh, teenage years, always still awkward. I wanted to wear makeup so badly, but my mother, she wouldn't let me, but little by little, she allowed me to wear a little bit of eyeliner and then mascara, and afterwards, she let me wear coloured lip gloss! It's a pretty big deal for me. I loved makeup so much because to me, it was like drawing. It was on my own face. Senior year of high school, I couldn't take the hurt anymore. My stepdad left a lot of scars that I'm still trying to heal from. The heart can only take so much. My mother said enough was enough, and we all left him. We packed up our things and went to find a new home. It was just us again, but it felt right. Just like old times. We didn't know what was going to happen, but we knew that we were going to walk together.

It wasn't easy. We had to move a few times and at one point, we could only afford to rent a bedroom from a family. We all shared a bed and my brother would sleep on the floor. My brother and I had to work to help out my mother. It was tough but we made it through together as a family. We were unbreakable. A miracle happened: I was able to attend college. That meant I had to move an hour away from them, and I was devastated. I cried so much because it was my first time away from home, and it also meant that I couldn't have my mum's pho as much. Man, you would cry too because it is so good.

My college gave out laptops to all the students. I always dreamt up having my own laptop, but I never thought I'd have one! Well, guess what? This was a laptop where I filmed my very first makeup tutorial. I just wanted to show every girl out there how beautiful she was and how makeup can be their own superhero costume. Batman, Superman, Spiderman, without their costumes, they're still powerful, but it's their costume that tells the world that they're superheroes. Anyways, I'd love to go more into details about how everything happened, but this video would be two hours long, so I'm just going to fast forward to today.

I now live in two cities: one being New York, also known as the Big Apple, and Los Angeles. I got my family at home where they're safe and happy. My mother is as beautiful as ever and hasn't aged a day. My little sister grew up so fast. She's now a beautiful young lady. As for my brother, being the awesome guy that he is, found someone really special. He married a beautiful woman - you might know her as Promise. So, everyone is happy and healthy. As for me, well, well let's just say I met someone very special in Paris. This is another story that deserves to be told, but I'll save that for another time. But that's basically a brief summary of my story. Even when times were tough, my childlike spirit never died. I found that very thing that takes me to a happy place. It was art. And to others, it could be music, writing, video games - whatever it is, finding that special thing will help move you forward. Kind of like a lotus flower finding sunlight in muddy water. When all odds are against it, it will still rise up to bloom. We all have a story to tell, and we are all part of something beautiful. To the world, you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world. Every great dream begins with a dreamer. And every dreamer has a story, so don't settle for a happy ending, because "to be continued" is way more fun! And I'm wishing you the best on your story. Good luck on the next chapter in your life.

1792

## FDML #6

Hey guys. Okay, so today I am going to be doing a draw my life video. So, I was born on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1993, so that makes me 19 years old. And there's me as like a little sushi baby, and I am an only child, so there are my cute little parents. And we lived in the same house, I still live in the same house, and it is basically a little doll house if any of my friends, you know, it actually is a doll basically. And I was born normal-sized but I ended up being extremely fat. My parents called me Buddha baby, so on the left we have a normal-sized baby and there's me thinking about food on the right, because I love food. My first word was actually "pizza".

So, next step in my life was to go to school, and this is me being sad, but I don't think I actually was sad about it - I'm not really sure. So, my first year in kindergarten, my parents actually enrolled me in a private school. There's me a little bit skinnier but still a little fat. And in the school, we did really intense stuff like learn French, so there are some, like, basic French words that we learned, and I learned how to write in cursive. This is in kindergarten - this is really intense. But after that one year, I don't remember why, my parents decided to enrol me in a normal public school from grades 1 to 6. And I'm sorry for the really, really preliminary drawings but there is 1 to 6, and there's me with my little backpack. And I remember elementary school being a really good time for me because I was one of the more athletic kids, so I was involved in a lot of sports. So, there's a really bad soccer ball and a failed attempt of a basketball and

here comes a really bad baseball bat. And I also stood out in running, cross country and track, so that was kind of like my passion in elementary school and kind of what I stood out for at school. And here comes a really failed attempt at a volleyball net and ball. And I played on all the teams, and there's me being sad because I wasn't actually good at volleyball, but I played on the team anyway. And so, I guess this made me kind of cool because in elementary school, being good at sports basically meant that you were cool.

So, grade six rolled around and here's me wearing a dress, but I was actually a huge tomboy, so I probably should have drawn myself in shorts and a t-shirt. But in grade six, I actually won the French award and the female athlete award, so that was pretty cool. But of course, grade six had to come to an end, and because my school only went up to grade six, we had a middle school that was really only grade seven and eight, so I had to make my way over to this school. And here's me literally sitting on the arrow to go to grade seven and eight, and again here we go fixing my actual, what I looked like from a dress to soccer shorts and a t-shirt, because that was what I wore basically every single day. And in grade seven and eight, I actually did a program called French immersion, where you take all of your classes in French. So, it was a good learning experience, but to be honest, right now my French basically sucks. But once grade seven rolled around, I actually met my best friend, who is still my best friend today. Her name is Haley and here's her in a dress and here's me in soccer shorts again and there's us saying "Want to be my BFF?", and because we were both in our grade-seven prime weirdness, we got along really, really well. And like I said before, me and Haley are still best friends today. I don't see her as much as I would like to, but we do live in the same city, which is nice. After high school we both moved to Toronto. Sorry to expose your location, Haley! And to this day, we're still basically just as weird as we were in grade seven together. And that's why we're best friends!

So, going back to grade seven and eight, once those years were done at my middle school, and there's me with my French moustache because I'm in French immersion, and my soccer shorts that were a daily thing, I actually won valedictorian for the French immersion program, so here's me in my disgustingly ugly grad dress. And there's me being really, really scared to do my speech because I had to do it in front of a ton of people and I hate public speaking. So, there's my speech, blah blah blah, motivational words, blah blah blah. And this was actually a terrifying moment in my life but it's something that I'll definitely never forget. And even though it was still grade eight, I mean, I was really really proud about it.

So after grade seven and eight, we moved on to high school, and it was actually really comforting because all of the Frenchies, which is what we were called in middle school, we all went to the same high school to continue on the French immersion program, so that was really comforting knowing that I would already know people in high school. And there's me saying, "What's shopping?" because I still had terrible style. So, at this point, I still lived in my super cute little doll house and I still live in it today. So, there are my parents staying next to the house and my dad decided to grow his moustache into a goatee. Definitely a good choice, Greg. And there's my mum with her super voluptuous hair which is always like that, and there's me with my little ponytail. And at this point of my life, I had amazing opportunities to travel with my parents because they actually, like, somewhat liked me, and brought me on their friendly vacations. And that is not a dolphin and that is a really terrible plane and I'm really sorry about that. So, I've been extremely blessed in where I've been able to travel to, and that is the Eiffel Tower and a really, really bad London Eye and here comes an even worse version of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. That was definitely my favourite trip. But my parents have blessed me for sure in where I've been able to travel to and we've been to a lot of, like, warm places, like there's a sombrero for Mexico. So, thank you for that, parental unit, if you are watching.

So moving on to high school, I don't know why we had to go 3d high school instead of the 2d, but anyway, here is my high school and here is me with kind of like, my core group of best friends in high school who basically stayed the same throughout the four years. And it was a pretty good group. There's a really, really bad thumbs up, and of course we went through a ton of high school drama like any group of friends in high school does, but we always ended up alive and okay after all these fights. But in high school, I wasn't really the athletic kid that I was in elementary or even in middle school. But I did coxy rowing cruise for two years in grade 9 and 10 so there's me being like "row bitches!" and I guess I kind of got lazy because I mean the coxy really doesn't do anything but sit in the boat and although I did do the workouts with them, I'm just really content sitting in the boat steering it.

So, here comes high school and this is my guidance counsellor with crazy, crazy hair, and she was like "What do you want to do the rest of your life?" and mind you, this was in grade 11. I still didn't even know what I liked. I had, like, no passions or anything so I was really, really scared by this and I was like, "Oh my god, I do not know what I want to do!", so my mum ended up making me take all the hard math and all the hard sciences, so I took chem and bio and functions and data and all that stuff. Okay, data was not that hard, but I still took all of them. There's a pig that I had to dissect in bio and there's me being really disgusted by the whole thing.

So at this point in my life, I had to start thinking about university and what I wanted to do with my life, and this was actually seriously terrifying as you can see my really, really straight mouth, I don't really know what's going on there. But I had to think about University, and I did not know what I wanted to do. And also, this is my high school boyfriend who was really nice, but we really didn't have that much in common, and we broke up. But not long after that, I met Sebastian. I wasn't even planning to date anyone before I left for university because I knew that I was going to be

leaving the city, and there's him with his little snack bag. So, after our first date, which is a really, really long first date, like 12 hours or something ridiculous, we were inseparable and there's me being like "What kind of a name Bas, that's really weird!" So anyway, we fell in love and we are still dating today, which is amazing. And my whole boyfriend thing was in grade 12. Sorry, I forgot to mention that.

So, here is me packing up our big truck and moving to Toronto from my hometown to go to university and this was absolutely terrifying, and my university was really not that close. It's about an hour and a half away so it was really not that literal and there's a really, really bad CN Tower. I'm so sorry for that. And here's me being like, "Oh my god, I'm going to university, what the hell is going on?" And I ended up choosing kind of like my safety program. I knew had good jobs at the end. And it's called Graphic Communications Management. I have a video that goes more into detail about that if you are wondering, but basically I hated it and in first semester I was always like, "Mum, can you come get me? This sucks; the university sucks", and I lived in residence with a group of amazing girls and they were all so nice and I'm still in contact with them today, in second year. But I always just felt like I didn't quite fit in and I was happy but, I just, I just didn't quite fit in.

So, I actually spent a lot of time being depressed in first year because I hated my program. I just felt different and I was learning about printing and it was really weird. I didn't expect that. So, there is a CMYK which is used for printing and I'm like, "What the hell is going on?" I wanted to do art, and this is not art. So, I was really upset, and I was not happy at all in first year, so this is what inspired me to start a website. So, I did a lot of research before I started it and learned how to host a website and how to set one up and all that stuff, and that is how "Desire and Inspire" was born.

And that is a really sad computer sushi baby as it was born. So, I really just started off my website with DIY tutorials with pictures and just, like, big descriptions on how to do stuff, and I loved doing it, I really did. It was a great start to, has become what I do now. But I then realised that, oh my god, I should just video what I'm doing because people would so much rather probably see it happen in an interactive type of way than look at pictures. So, I got myself in front of my camera and there's me saying "really, really, really, really", because I know that I have a really bad habit of that, and that is how my YouTube was born.

So, I posted my first video and I called myself LaurDIY, again, I have no idea where that came from, and everyone was so nice to me. I got amazing feedback. And it was really, really nice. So that's what basically got me through the second semester of first year, and so back to today. At present time, I had a new apartment this year, because we can only stay in student residence for one year, and I have basically finished my second year. And in second year, this is when me and my closest group of friends got really, really tight and these friends are going to be lifelong friends that I think that I will always be in contact with, no matter what. And these are the people that honestly have got me through the program, because without them, I think I probably would have dropped out. So, there's Bas, even though he's not on my program, and this is me being really happy with all my friends, and I also still have all my amazing friends from home from my core group from high school and also other people who I met in high school, who are still great friends today, and there's uni, and I'm saying, "You suck uni, because you actually still do suck", and for those of you who are wondering and asking why just didn't drop it when I didn't like the program, it's because there are opportunities at the end of this program that I may like and make it into, like, magazine editing and stuff like that, and there is me saying, "Whatevs man" to the degree that I am going to get.

So basically, just to summarize everything that's going on right now in my life is that I'm really happy and university, yeah like it still sucks, but, I mean, I'm almost done, well, halfway done I guess, but there's a big thumbs down for university because it's not what I thought it would be. And I have YouTube, which is amazing. It's an amazing creative outlet for me and there's my really close group of friends who have been so supportive in the past year, especially with what I've been doing, so thank you guys for that. I love you so much. And here are my super cute parents - my mum with her voluptuous hair and my dad with his goatee, and to this day we're still a really closely-knit family which is awesome. And overall, I'm just really, really happy with where I'm at right now.

And as for the future, I have no idea what it holds for me and there's a really questionable mouth being like, "Oh my god, what is going on?" So anyway, here is my questionable future because I don't know what's going to happen. I don't know what's going to happen with YouTube, could be something possibly that will carry on throughout my entire life or I could end up working a really pooppy desk job from out of my program or I could end up working at an amazing magazine like Nylon or something like that - who knows. But all in all, I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who has supported me because this year has been honestly so amazing and that's honestly a lot because of YouTube and it means the world to me and has definitely changed me for the better. So, thank you again to all my friends and family and of course, you guys who have made YouTube an amazing place for me, and I just wanted to say thank you.

2736

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So, this is me, the cutest baby you've ever seen, right? Like, I'm freaking adorable. Okay, just kidding. I totally know I'm a huge alien and a little cross-eyed in this picture. Anyways, my full name is Lauren Kobayashi Riihimaki, and I

was born on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1993, making me 22 right now. I was born into the loving family of Gayle and Gregory Maki, aka mum DIY and dad DIY, my parental unit who are the bomb. Like seriously, my parents are the best. I feel like a lot of kids can't say that, but I truly can. They even know how to snapchat, like, come on - those are some cool parents.

I truly had an amazing childhood. I was an only child, so my parents could focus a hundred percent of their time on putting me into giant snow suits and pink sleds and making sure I didn't lose my mittens in the leaves. I spent my entire first 18 years of my life growing up in St. Catharine's, Ontario, Canada. And as I went through old albums looking for pictures that describe my life, I found so many that were like hidden signs of the LaurDIY that was within me at an early age. I think it was probably too young to cut this box by myself, so dad DIY did it for me, but this was totally my idea. And in like 50% of my childhood pictures, I'm covered in paint. I was also a really active kid growing up. I took swim lessons, skating, piano and then later guitar lessons and played a ton of sports. I always found I was a little above average but never really excelled at any particular sport, except for running. I was good at running but that got old after I barfed from nerves before a race one day. And I'm sorry, that was probably TMI.

Alright, here comes the good stuff - the real awkward stages. Middle school. It seems like middle schoolers now wear Brandy Melville and can do their makeup better than me now, but I was the true awkward middle schooler. But I grew up with a great group of friends: this is Claire Ally, Liz, Megan and Sarah, my childhood best friends. My first school was a public school that only went up to grade six. So, here's me with some really questionable purple hair and equally, if not more questionable, outfit for grade 6 graduation. I won the French award and the female athlete award, pretty cool, but NBD because like, grade six. And seriously, my most valuable lesson learned was that I looked so terrible with box dyed purple hair.

My next school was a public school that was only seventh and eighth graders, and there is nothing more unfortunate than me in grade seven and actually also grade eight. I feel like everyone has a time where they have bangs and hate their bangs and this was my time. This was also my time to challenge myself in school because I was a pretty smart kid and did well, so I decided to do the French immersion program where all my classes would be in French. These two years flew by and I graduated with another unfortunate haircut and equally unfortunate outfit from grade eight. And I was valedictorian for the French immersion program and also female athlete of the year, but seriously, don't worry. These awards all stop in high school.

And high school was no different for me that I'm sure it is for you, except we had Razor cell phones instead of iPhones. I had a main group of friends but like any high schooler, I hated school, was always drowning in homework and had mean girls in my grade. Basically, dying to escape into the real world. And yes, I totally still have my high school Razor phone because it may have taken me a little longer to text on this keypad, but come on, like, look at it, it's so cool! And I went to semi-formal. This is my first high school boyfriend who was nice but had a psycho dog and this is me at prom with my next boyfriend Bas, who you guys know. And prom was okay - it was kind of overrated, but I finally learned to do my hair and pick an outfit by this time. One of the girls in my prom limo punched her boyfriend in the face by the end of the night and we all just kind of decided to just go home after that. Totally overrated.

When grade 12 graduation finally rolled around, I was excited to get out of my hometown and move into a new city for a fresh start. I decided on Ryerson University, a university about an hour away from my hometown of St. Catherine's. This is my nana, my grandpa, my parents and my old boyfriend, Bas. My grandpa never got to see me graduate university and I miss him every day. And I forgot to mention this, but during these last 12 years I got to do a ton of traveling with my family, and I'd grown to love seeing new places and exploring new parts of the world. So, I packed up my stuff and moved to Toronto, where I started studying Graphic Communications Management, which I totally hated, but we'll get to that. I moved into the student residence and had a lot of fun that year with the girls on my floor and did fresh week and all that stuff. I was a little depressed at times because my program sucked and felt creatively drained, but all in all, that year led to where I am now, and it's so funny looking back and thinking about how much DIY ruled my life even before YouTube. This is a picture of my residence room that I totally decked out, because I couldn't stand how prison-like it was. It was definitely still a prison after it got the LaurDIY makeover. But definitely less prison-like. Anyways, my hate for the program and lack of creativity in my life led me to start googling how to start a website. I wanted to create and I was going to learn how to create and share it with the world. This is where my first website "Desire and Inspire" was born. Four years ago, I had no idea that I had just made the best decision of my life. This blog was my creative freedom, my liberation from the driest schoolwork I could ever describe to you. It was my passion, my favourite hobby and gave me a reason to wake up every day. This blog turned into a YouTube channel and I uploaded my first video, my second, third, fourth and fifth. I hit 5,000 subscribers, I hit 10,000, 50,000 and I thought to myself that there was no way in this universe that 500,000 people have made the conscious decision to subscribe to my DIY videos. But I was wrong! Our DIY family hit 1 million and today, four years later, we're over 3 million pretty little laurs strong and I could not even describe to you how much this family means to me. You truly give me purpose and I cannot thank you enough.

University, all actual schoolwork aside, was a really good time. I was constantly overworked and stressed trying to hand in assignments on time and upload videos every week, but I made some lifelong friends that I'll never forget and got to experience living in Toronto for four amazing years. I also lived in four different apartments in this time and had

the best luck with some awesome roommates. I made a lifelong friend in the process - this is Sarah, she's my favourite person and I still crack up thinking about some of the good times we had in **this crappy apartment**. We didn't want to move out of our apartment, but we also **didn't enjoy the cockroaches** that had moved into our unit over this summer. We were devastated and also slightly scarred by the cockroaches. My next apartment was the condo you guys have grown to know and love and was my first time ever living alone. **I learned a lot about myself** and also my tendency to binge watch terrible shows on Netflix when I have no one around to judge me. Seriously, like so much Bachelor and Real World was watched in this time. These four years in university flew by. **It actually scares me** to think about how fast this part of my life went. So many all-nighters finishing papers, cramming for exams and **banging my head against my desk** because I will never understand accounting or the print industry, but graduation. **I finally made it**. **These are some of the people that got me through my program and made it bearable**. There were so many times I wanted to drop out but **I'm glad I stuck to it and now I have a Bachelor of Technology with my name on it**, but like, expensive piece of paper though man, like dang!

And with graduation came full-time YouTube. I could finally find enough hours in the day to sleep seven hours, eat three meals and make a video every week. **This was such an insane milestone for me, and transitional point in my life, and with all this free time, I could finally say yes to the opportunities that were knocking on my door**. I made my first trip to LA the summer before and **I was dying to go back**. I went on stage at Fan Fest Toronto in front of like 10,000 people, and also **met two new friends**, Alex Wassabi and Fousey, aka Fouseytube. The day I graduated university, I can't even describe to you how much things changed. The year between then and now, I went back and forth to LA to work with some of my dream brands and do collabs with YouTubers I had admired for years. **I was addicted to the YouTube community and it truly ignited a new level of passion behind making videos and being around these creators who were equally driven and doing amazing things**. This year was also the year of travel. **I had an epic adventure in Vancouver, BC, with my high school friend Tyler**. I went to New York, to LA a handful of times and the most unreal trip to Tokyo to film with Disney.

These past years were also the years that **conquered my anxiety**. I wasn't sure if I wanted to include this in the video because everything has been pretty sunshines and rainbows so far, but **when I first moved to Toronto, I was diagnosed with a general anxiety disorder and it literally paralysed my life to the point where I couldn't leave my room**. I found the right help and the right medication to get myself back in control of my mind within the following years and **have been building my confidence around anxiety every single day**. The phrase "take one day at a time" is truly something **I live by when coping with anxiety**, and to be honest, **I couldn't have done any of this or be where I am without you guys and the support of my friends and family**. I owe everything I have to you. This is Angela, Sarah and Hayley. **These girls have been my anchors for everything, and I wouldn't be who I am today without their influence**.

And a weird thing about sharing your life online is that everyone knows about your love life too. Bas and I broke up about a year ago and **are still friends and I never believed in being friends with exes, but we truly are on great terms**. We chat from time to time just to check in. **Alex and I started dating in November and the adventures have not stopped**. **We both love to travel** and in this short six months, have seen Washington DC, New York, Niagara Falls, Miami and Hawaii together. **He makes me laugh in a way no one has before, and I can't wait to go on our next adventure**.

And as for what's next, these next few years are going to be a new chapter of my life and **a new adventure that I'm so excited to take you guys on**. The LaurDIY headquarters is going to officially be half in LA. If you guys have been part of the family for a while, you know how much of a city girl I am. **The hustle and bustle of Toronto will always be home for me**, but **you'll also know how happy I am** when I'm in the sun and by the beach and also near the YouTube community. These next coming years I've decided that **I need both in my life to be happy**, so this month I'm packing my bags and settling half of my life into a new home in LA, **something I never dreamed would ever be possible for me**. **I'm excited** to be closer to the community of people who share the same love for what I do and for the collabs and opportunities that are to come. **The best part of this next chapter** is that I found a way to have homes in both Toronto and LA, so I can split my time and be where I need to be when I want to be there. These next few months are **going to be scary** for me, but I once heard a quote: life begins at the end of your comfort zone. And **I'm ready to push my boundaries**. I'm 49% scared and 51% excited, but **I know I'll always have the pretty little laurs fam to fall back on for support** and I can't wait to start this next chapter of my life with you guys.

So, **I hope you guys enjoy** this new updated draw my life. I figured a lot has changed since I uploaded my last draw my life which was, like, in 2012 or 2013, either way it was a long time ago and please do me a solid and do not watch that video. Do not, hard pass, do not watch that video. I literally sound like the most **terrified** and **timid** child in the entire universe. **It's so embarrassing** still. **It's literally mortifying**. I know you're going to watch it now that I said that. I can't stop you but just know I do not know why I sound like I'm about to burst into tears at any second. Like seriously, you're going to watch this video and go back to that video and be like "girl!" **A lot has changed since then**.

Anyway, **I am so excited to start this new chapter of my life**. I have a really good feeling about this year, like this going to be our year! And **I'm so glad** that you guys are going to be along the entire way for the ride and the journey of for what is to come. **All the positivity from the pretty little laur fam, it's always just so overwhelming**. And I know you guys are going to be super excited for what's to come, and I promise you, I have big things coming this year just with

all these new options and new opportunities for filming and collabbing and just, like, a new atmosphere. I'm so, so, so excited for this year and I'm also so excited I can finally let you guys in on this secret. It's literally been like, like, like, I hate keeping things from you guys. I want to explode - it literally kills me inside. So I finally get to tell you and I'm excited. I'm sure you guys are excited. I'm super happy and this year is going to be awesome. Guys, I don't have winged eyeliner on and I'm feeling not like LauraDIY today. Kind of weird. So anyways, I hope you guys enjoyed this draw my life. I had so much fun putting it together. I know it's a little bit different than how a lot of people did their draw my lives, and even compared to my old draw my life that I did on a whiteboard. This was a little more LaurDIY, I feel like. I had so much fun putting together for you guys. So, I hope you enjoyed it and I will see you next Sunday for another DIY!

2767

#### FDML #7

Hey guys, it's Wengie here. I've been requested to do a draw my life for so long, but I've always been really daunted by this task because, to put my whole life down on a white board is pretty scary, but I'm going to try my best. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1986, a little girl by the name of Wengie popped out. I obviously don't remember being a baby, but apparently, I was impossible to feed and would take a spoonful of rice and suck on it for hours just to get the flavour out. But never actually eat it. My family was worried that I'd be malnourished, but I got by. I did enjoy ice cream and would negotiate with my grandfather to buy one for me every Sunday when I saw him, using apparently very mature negotiation tactics.

Both my parents left for Australia when I was really little, and I was looked after by my nanny and my grandparents till I was four. I remember taking the plane ride to Australia. It was a huge adventure, and I swear that during the flight, I opened the windows and played with the clouds. It must have been such a vivid dream because the next time I hopped on a plane, I tried to open the windows and was really frustrated when they wouldn't open. When I landed in Melbourne, it was cold and dreary, and I remember my grandfather tried to cheer me up by buying me a packet of Smarties. They tasted magical. When I saw my parents for the first time, I cried. I wanted my grandfather to take me back to China. I didn't know who these two strangers were, and he was telling me they were my parents. I didn't know it at the time, but my family was pretty poor because we were just trying to settle down in a new country, so I grew up with a lot of DIY toys, like I'd made a princess doll out of a tennis ball and a Lee Kum Kee jar or costumes out of paper, so I could pretend I was a voltron pilot. I was obsessed with robots, animes, Transformers and Ninja turtles. Yes, I was a massive tomboy growing up. My parents tried to save as much money as they could, so even the vacuum cleaner we had for about 12 years was something someone threw out during garbage collection day and my dad fixed it up. And my parents wouldn't even buy a new vacuum cleaner even though we could afford it, until this one broke.

My parents got new jobs when I was seven and we ended up moving to a nicer place in Sydney. I didn't make many friends in my new school because I was painfully shy. I didn't know at the time, but I was just extremely introverted. Even the teachers were worried about how shy I was. They told my dad during parent-teacher interviews to take me out to meet more people. It wasn't my grades that were suffering: it was my social skills. So, my dad tried his very best to take me outside to play with other kids. I think I developed a complex about this, so during high school I ended up trying very hard to make a lot of friends and have an active social life.

During my early high school years was when the internet came out. This was back when an MP3 would take an hour to download and I would spend my time after school on the internet chatting to random strangers on Microsoft comic chat. By the way, don't talk to strangers, guys. It's not a good idea. And I even created my own websites where I would showcase my anime drawings and my love for fighting games like King of Fighters. Do you guys remember Geo Cities? That was the bomb! Also in high school I remember having a huge crush on a guy with hair like Nick Carter from the Backstreet boys because he was so cute and when he told me his favourite song, I ended up downloading it and yep, I waited an hour for this and listening to it a hundred and twelve times that night. Yes, you don't want me to be crushing on you. I do get a little creepy. Oh, and during my final years of high school something surprising happened. I'd been telling my mum to stop eating because I thought she was getting a little too, you know, round, but turned out her belly contained another little human, later to be known as my brother Jim. Hi Jim. You definitely cheered me on during my final exams in high school. You have an amazing set of lungs. Needless to say, I spent a lot of time studying in the library. During my final years of high school, when we were all deciding our fate of our future, my parents encouraged me to apply for a co-op accounting scholarship. They told me very early on they weren't going to be paying for my uni fees, so they thought the extra money would help me out.

I had always thought I'd be a fashion designer. I used to make all my own clothes, and I used to be inseparable from the sewing machine. A graphics designer or maybe even do psychology. Accounting wasn't really something I wanted to do, but I knew it would help my family tremendously financially, so I tried very hard to make all the requirements, and I couldn't believe it, but I actually got the scholarship. My next three years of university was a blur of summer school, night classes and full-time work, and my limited social life consisted of meeting various people on dota servers



since that's all I kind of did outside of my crazy schedule. In fact, I developed such a strong work ethic, actually, some of you may call it being a workaholic, to this day I don't know whether it's a talent or a flaw.

Like any good Asian daughter, I got a job in a big company doing accounting straight after uni. My brother was growing up and needed his own room, and because our home was kind of small it ended up being my room that he needed, so I moved out when I was 24. I guess my mum was preparing me for this day for a very long time.

Four years into being an accountant, my boss came to tell me about my poor performance, and I didn't blame him. My heart just wasn't in it. It wasn't that I absolutely hated what I was doing, but I didn't have a chance to express myself creatively and that had always been a huge part of who I was. And yes, creative accounting is illegal, so it wasn't really an option to incorporate creativity into my job. So, at that point, I decided to resign, and it was the first time in my life that I really had to make my own decisions, and that I wasn't doing things for other people. It only took me 25 years, but it was very, very scary. By luck or by fate, I ended up becoming a social media consultant. It was a fairly new position and not something anyone ever really studied in university, so my new boss gave me three books to read and with absolutely no experience, I got my first major client. Soon, I had 12 clients and headed up the department. It meant late nights and sometimes I would be getting pitches ready at 12:00 midnight. And being available 24 hours a day was kind of a requirement since social media didn't really switch off. That being said, I enjoyed it tremendously. So much, that I decided to start my own blog about fashion and beauty, since I figured it was a way to practice my skills while talking about something I absolutely loved.

Few years after I started my blog, I remember I got asked to work on my first real project with a shopping centre in Singapore. It felt unreal to be travelling to another country to do a campaign for my blog, even though I had to pay for all the flights and accommodation myself, but it was the first taste to what my life could be like.

To getting more requests to share my makeup looks, I decided to officially launch my channel on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013. In fact, at this time, I actually wasn't on YouTube a lot other than just watching random viral videos, or just cats till 2am in the morning, so I actually had no idea what I was doing and I was just uploading videos that my blog readers requested and I used YouTube to kind of embed it into my blog posts. So now I was making videos and still posting twice a week on my blog. It was really tough on me. I would come home from work and then film or edit videos till I slept. I used every single lunch break to edit or work on my blog, and my workmates were just so used to me telling them that I couldn't even join them for lunch that they stopped asking. I had no social life to speak of and my home didn't even resemble a home anymore. It literally just looked like a studio. The situation got so bad, I ended up on national television as a hoarder and had my whole apartment de-cluttered and renovated while everyone watched what a mess I got myself into.

Even though it was tiring to juggle both a full-time job and making videos, I was motivated to keep going by all your love and support. Every single comment and words of encouragement gave me extra energy to try harder. Even when my long-term relationship fell apart, I continued to make videos, and it was such a great distraction from it. And looking back on what happened, even horrible things happen for a reason. And if it wasn't for what happened to me, I would never have had the opportunity to open my heart to Max, the most loving and supportive person in my life.

With the encouragement of you guys and Max, I had the courage to quit my job which I decided to do in August 2014. I got engaged to Max at Yosemite National Park in August 2015. Since that day, I have made over 300 videos on my channel and started to daily vlog on my vlogging channel. My family has grown to over a million beautiful people and every morning I wake up to spend time with you guys because you all enriched my life in so many ways I can't even begin to describe. And even if I never get to see all of you face to face, I think about you guys every day and vlog my life for you for better or worse. Thank you so much for being here for me every time you click on one of my videos. I hope to grow old with you and share with you everything I learn about this funny thing called life. I love you guys so much like you cannot even believe. In fact, saying all this is kind of making me tear up now, so I'm going to sign off with this and I hope you enjoyed my draw my life. Wengie.

1924

## FDML #8

Hey guys! What's up? Today I'm doing a draw my life video where I draw my life.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1992, I was born. And this is me and my mum in a hospital in England, and I was a baby, so I probably cried a lot and crying lots - annoying. So me and my mum and my dad live in an apartment in England and my dad looks pregnant. And that's my mum. And that is me - the curly-headed one, the little one. And a year later, my brother was born, that's him, and then my baby brother - he's a baby.

So, after that, our apartment got really crammed with all of us living in it, so we packed up our stuff and moved to America from England. Yeah, that's water. When I was 8, my dad got me and my brother our first console which was a PlayStation One, so we were super excited. It actually happened after we fought. Me and my brother fought, and he

was like “OK, OK, stop fighting. Let me get you a PlayStation. Hopefully that’ll make you stop fighting”. So, my first favourite game was Metal Gear Solid, and it still is **one of my favourite games** and it was so badass for a seven-year-old like me. **I was just so excited to play.** **It was kind of scary,** and I had other favourite games too, like Digimon, Pokemon, Spyro, Crash Bandicoot, Contras, you know, Saga, **just so many favourite games.** And that’s Spyro. Yeah and now I’m going to crash. Now I’m colouring. Yeah, I just basically had **so many favourite PlayStation 1 games.** **PlayStation is still, like, amazing.** I wish I could just play right now. **Best console ever.**

And me and my, my brother would always play when we were little. I would always be player 1 because I was older and better, and he’d be player 2 and you know the crappy controllers that you get, like third-party controllers that weren’t made by Sony? They were just really ugly ones, and I remember my brother would play with them because I was older, and **I was better than him and he’d suck. Why you mad?**

So, in school, **I kind of really didn’t get along with anybody.** I mean, **I had a couple friends** but not like super best friends. I was probably one of the only people without any best friends. And **the girls didn’t like the same things as me** and **the boys were just assholes,** so I’d just bring my Pikachu plushie to school every day. Who needs people when you got Pokémon? And it really didn’t bother me that much because **I would just go home to the best mum ever** and play video games and watch Anime, especially Toon Army on Cartoon Network. **I liked stuff like** Pokémon, Digimon, Run Attention, and there was just so much stuff and read Manga. Look, Pikachu on TV. I kind of forgot Pikachu’s cheeks in this video.

Okay, so when I was eight my little sister was born and me and my brothers always just made fun of her because she had curly hair and it was like a curly afro and she’d always cry. She would not stop crying.

Okay, so one day at school, **this kid made fun of me, called me ugly and poor,** and I told him I’d beat him up. **I kind of had anger issues when I was a kid, like I get mad at everyone, everything.** My parents would always ground me and then I got in trouble and he didn’t get in trouble, **which was stupid.** And then I told my mum and she let me stay home the next day so yeah, **I just cried, I said “Mum, stupid kid. I hate the stupid kids at school!”**, and then we went out and she got me a PlayStation 2 and King of Hearts so **I was super happy and excited because it was one of my favourite games ever and it still is one of my favourite games ever.** Oh my god. PS2 and PS1 just had so many good games. Basically, my whole childhood.

So, in middle school, I started my own business. I bought several action figures for like \$1 from Best Buy and I sold them on eBay and actually made a profit off of it. My parents were really impressed with what I was doing. My, my dad, and, didn’t take me an advantage of it and wanted me to make, wanted me to help him pay bills, so he was like, **“All the money you make, it goes to me – you’re going to help pay bills, because you’re making money”** and I was just like **“Whatever”.**

So, my first year of high school **kind of sucked.** Every guy I had a crush on didn’t like me back. **I just thought I was weird or ugly, or I don’t even know.** Like, **why wouldn’t you like me?** And **I also got into a fight in the bathroom with some crazy person.** Some really, really crazy person for getting in front of the mirror from her. It was really weird. Then I ended up transferring schools. The second school was **so much better.** **I made some friends at the school and my two best friends are still my best friends today, which is awesome,** and **I hope they’re watching this video.** I don’t think they watch my videos, **which is good because I don’t like it** when people that I know in real life watch my videos, so yeah, my friends and me. **My friends look better than me.**

But anyways, I ended up graduating high school early so I could start college early and **it was a lot of, a lot of, a lot of work,** and **I did not like all the homework and stuff.** But **at least I got a head start on everything since I graduated early.** So, my mum wanted me to become a pharmacist and I wanted to be a nurse, but I was stuck and I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do, so I kind of took classes for both and just didn’t end up doing either of them. And when I was 18, I ended up saving money so I could get a car and I got a car! And guess what happened when I got a car? **My dad put the car in his name when we went to go buy it and he took it from me and now it’s his car,** and I took the bus to school and work for over a year since I didn’t have a car. And then I got a job at Hollister where I folded clothes and **the manager was an asshole, so I was just like f- you. I’m going to quit because this job sucks** and you pay me minimum wage and you’re going to yell at me and complain to me for every little thing I do if I don’t fold this shirt right, you’re going to yell, so I was like **“Bye, asshole! I’m quitting”.**

So in early 2013, I decided to start making videos on YouTube, and **I was already obsessed with gaming** and **I was pretty good at Call of Duty,** so I just ended up starting recording my gameplay and then uploading it to YouTube, and SSSniper Wolf was born. That’s a sniper, that’s like two Ss, I can’t even say my name. But anyways, a couple months later, this guy messaged me on YouTube saying he liked my videos and that he’s a huge Metal Gear fan too and we talked for a while and **I liked him,** and we actually ended up meeting a couple months later at Comic Con. We both dressed up as Metal Gear characters and then **ended up dating.** He is also known as Mr. Sausage now. He dressed up as Kaz, I dressed up as Big Boss, both from Peace Walker.

Months later, I dropped out of school and started to work on my business more and focused on making YouTube videos and I got a dog, and he's fluffy, and his name is Kaz. And I was finally happy doing what I wanted, but then I found out my mum was sick and then she had to quit her job, and this was like the worst news I've ever heard in my life because mum is everything to me. I love my mum - she's the bestest. And then me and Mr. Sausage ended up getting a house and we moved in with Kaz and Kaz finally gets his own backyard to frolic in and poop in and it's just so much better because we can both work from home and we're like a big happy family now. He's so fluffy.

And I still live really close to my mum and I visit her almost every day, and I got her a car so she can come see me. So yeah, I like this picture, because it actually looks like me and her. It's so cute – yeah! Me and my mum. So right now, I'm just doing whatever makes me happy. It's really the best way to go and that's all for today, I guess. If you enjoyed this video don't forget to give it a thumbs up if you enjoyed. Thanks for watching. Bye guys!

1578

## FDML #9

Hey guys! What's up? LDSHADOWLADY here. I don't really talk about my life much in my videos, but after reaching 1 million subscribers, the support from you all was overwhelming and it finally gave me the confidence to share my story. So, I put together a collection of significant moments from my life that I think have made me into the person that I am today and created a draw my life video. Once again, thank you for all the support throughout the past few years of my life and I hope you enjoy this video.

So, it all started with two human beings: my mum and my dad. My dad was a doctor and my mum was a nurse and they fell in love. They got married and a few years later, my mum thought she had the flu because she was feeling really ill, but it turns out, she was actually pregnant with me, and they gave birth to a little baby girl, and they called her Elizabeth. And they actually nicknamed me Beth, and that's still a name that my family uses for me even though now most people know me as Lizzy. They also decided to have another little baby and when that came into the world, it turned out to be a girl and it was my little sister Maddy. Maddy is just over a year younger than me, so we've always been pretty close in age and therefore we were quite close growing up and we were really good friends and we always did stuff together.

Between being born and until the age of about eight or nine, I don't really remember much, but we did get a cat somewhere along the way. So, like most people, I went to school, and in the UK, the first school that you go to is called primary school and you go there until you're about 11 years old. I didn't really like school much, so I used to pretend to be ill a lot of the time and sometimes people would actually believe me, and I would get to stay home and stay in bed and watch TV all day. I made some really great friends when I was younger called Emma, Sophie and Jade. And Jade was really, really tall. And of course I hung out a lot with my sister Maddy as well, and we were all one big group of friends, and we always had sleepovers, but instead of pillow fights and talking about boys, we used to play video games and make movies together and I still have some of them on video tapes now, and they're really embarrassing.

So, growing up, I always knew that my mum was a little bit weird. She was always really eccentric and her behaviour was a little bit unusual but that was something that I loved about her. However, my parents used to argue a lot. There would be shouting and crying and screaming, and this happened a couple of times a week and really late into the night, so it would keep my sister and I awake all through the night on school nights. Sometimes my mum even threatened to run away from home and that would always really scare us because we thought it was true. At the time we were too young to really understand and we didn't know what it meant, but the reason for her behaviour was because she was an alcoholic but I didn't really know what it was like to have a mum that wasn't an alcoholic, so it was kind of just normal to me and I thought everyone had a family that was like this, so life went on.

So, when I was about 11, I took an exam called the 11 plus, and that test did whether I was smart enough to go to a grammar school. And at first I really didn't actually want to go to the grammar school because none of my friends from primary school were going and they had a really dorky uniform compared to all the other schools, but looking back, I'm really glad that my dad encouraged me to go there, because I got really good grades and it was a really nice school. There wasn't a lot of bullying. Even though I was kind of a late bloomer and I always considered myself to be ugly in school, I was never bullied for it. Throughout my years in school, I was always really shy, and I would hardly ever bring friends home because my house was such a mess. There would be plates piled up in the kitchen and mess all over the floor and it was really, really disgusting. So my mum would just usually drink a lot throughout the day and then sleep, so most of the time she was always asleep and my dad was always at work, so my sister and I would just kind of left alone to do whatever we wanted to do, but we were also kind of sensible about it and I think that's one of the reasons why I'm so independent, is because I always have been.

But since there wasn't much to do and my life kind of sucked, I used to escape from reality by playing video games and going on the Internet. Back then, I used to play a lot of Call of Duty 2, The Sims, Rollercoaster Tycoon and I used to play on a website called Gaia Online where you create a character and you earn money and you post on forums, and I just loved being part of the online community.

So, about halfway through high school, my dad moved out from our family home into a smaller home on his own, shortly followed by my sister who moved in with him, which left me alone with my mum. I didn't mind because I wanted to stay home and look after my mum because she wasn't really able to look after herself anymore. She didn't cook and clean up after herself, so I had to do that for her. And she would have a lot of accidents because of her drinking. She would often fall over a lot at home, and sometimes she would go out in public and she would hurt herself there, and quite a few times she had to have an ambulance called for her because she hurt herself quite badly, so that was always really scary and I got a bit of paranoia about her leaving the house all the time. I always thought that she would hurt herself and not come back. I finished high school when I completed my GCSEs and I did pretty well. I got some A stars, As and Bs, which was pretty good considering that I spent most of my revision time playing Call of Duty 4.

But I decided to go to a new college where I didn't really know anyone, and it turned out to be great. I made a load of new friends and it was a completely different world from the grammar school that I'd been to. During this time, I kind of came out of my shell and I became a little more confident because I got braces which sorted out my teeth which I was really self-conscious about, and I found my style - how I wanted to dress and how I wanted to style my hair. My new friends were really into partying, so I actually went through a party phase and I used to go out almost every week with my friends to a house party, but after a while I got a little bit bored of all the partying and I settled back down into playing games on my Friday and Saturday nights instead. I also decided to get a job at Toys R Us. My dad told me that I didn't need to get a job because he was a doctor, so he could give me money instead, but I just wanted to get one anyway because I wanted to earn my own money and get some work experience, and I enjoyed it. So, I'm glad I did it.

Meanwhile, at home, my mum would have good days and bad days. She started falling over and hitting herself more often, but she ended up trying to get help and going to rehab a couple of times, which always got my hopes up that she might stop drinking, but it was also really bad for her because she would have withdrawal seizures, which meant that she would have an epileptic seizure because she was suffering from withdrawal symptoms from the lack of alcohol, and they were equally as scary as her falling over drunk and getting hurt. And I think they scared her too because then she would just start drinking again.

Now, you might have noticed that I haven't really mentioned romance at all up until this point. And that is because I did not really like the idea of a relationship. There were a couple of guys I liked in college but the idea of intimacy and actually being in a relationship with them really freaked me out and I just was not ready for it.

During college, I started off my YouTube channel and I played a lot of Call of Duty, did some vlogs and I started playing Minecraft. Sadly, around this time, the cat that I'd had since I was really young went missing and he never came back. I didn't really expect it to hit me as hard as it did, but I was really sad. My cat was something that was always there and always consistent every single day, even with all the changes that were going on around my life with my dad moving out and me changing as a person, my cat was always still there, always the same, and I found that really reassuring, and when he was gone, I felt like I lost a big part of me. And it took a long time to get over it, but time heals all, and I'm now at peace with his passing, and I'm just happy that I had him in my life for as long as I did.

So, when I finished college, I didn't really know what to do with my life. I'd heard about this summer program at Disneyland where you basically go and work there for a year in between college and university. So that was what I wanted to do, however, I did not get the job, so now I had a year before starting University and I didn't really know what to do, so I just continued with my hobby which was my YouTube channel. As my YouTube channel started to grow and I made my friends in the YouTube community, I decided to go to a convention called Game Fest with some of them, and there was a huge group of YouTubers there. Some of them I knew and some of them I didn't, and one of the YouTubers that was there that I didn't already know was called Smallish Beans. I was drawn to him and I decided to spend the whole day with him, and we went round the entire convention trying to collect as many free things as we could from the different stalls. I thought that he was cute, funny, kind and he had the same interests as me. However, he was not single. His heart belonged to another, but he was really cool, and he seemed like someone that I wanted to be friends with anyway, so we exchanged contact info and we both went home to our separate lives. But basically, as soon as we both got home, we started talking to each other on Skype and we would talk every night until the early hours of the morning about anything and everything. And we'd have all these inside jokes and we became really, really, really, really, really, really good friends.

So, since I was on my gap year, I actually decided to spend some of my time traveling, so I flew to America to live in Alexandria, Virginia, with my aunt and uncle and their children and it was actually kind of lonely, because I didn't have any friends there, so I talked a lot to my online friends that I had been making YouTube videos with, and I also talked a lot to Joel, who was back in England. Again, even with the time differences, we used to stay awake all night talking to each other and after a while, I started to develop feelings for him and I really, really liked him. I felt like if I didn't tell him sooner rather than later, then I would never have my chance with him ever again, and I just had to try it and see what happened, but unfortunately he rejected me because he didn't want to mess up the relationship that he already had with his current girlfriend. Now, obviously, I was devastated by this. He was the only guy that I'd ever liked, that I really wanted to have a relationship with so I was really sad, but my friend Oli started to teach me how to

play World of Warcraft which is an MMO RPG game, and I became a blood elf hunter. Because I was so upset by the recent rejection, I got really immersed into the game and I played it a lot, and I brought that obsession back home with me to the UK.

I still remained friends with Joel all this time and a few weeks after I got home back to England, Joel's girlfriend dumped him, and he became a single pringle. But he told me that he actually liked me, and we decided to try dating. And it went well. Whilst I was away, my sister had been living with my mum to take care of her, so when I came back, the three of us all lived together. My mum was still really difficult to live with, but at least this time I had my sister to help me through it and I also had the help of YouTube which was my hobby at the time, and it was very rewarding to have people appreciate the videos that I made. And that really helped to cheer me up. And I also had Joel to keep me happy and cheer me up.

After a while, my dad decided to move back into the big family home with me and my sister, and my mum moved out to a smaller bungalow on her own. But very shortly after, my sister and I both went off to university for three years. I went to go study Computer Animation and Visualisation in Liverpool. I actually really disliked University and I had a really miserable time. I didn't really like the course that I was on and I hated living with flatmates who kept the kitchen really dirty. I wasn't really interested in a lot of the partying that my classmates were doing, so instead, I focused my time on my hobby of doing YouTube. And I made more videos, more often. By the end of my time at university, I had almost a million subscribers and I graduated with an upper second-class degree.

I'm really happy with where my life is at the moment and I even fulfilled my life goal of getting a cat, but even though quite a few bad things have happened to me in the past, I think that they have played a big part in making me who I am today. I just hope that if any of you guys are going through a tough time in your own life, then my story will help you to see that you can overcome it and become a stronger person at the end because of it, and I hope that you will get the happy ending that you deserve.

2688

#### FDML #10

So, it all started when I shot out of my mummy's area. Apparently, my mum is a natural when it comes to giving birth, so I like to imagine me shooting out almost like from a log flume ride. This is me and I'm like weee, hello world! So, throughout my childhood, I had this wok head, and I call it wok head because it really does resemble a frying wok - a truly ugly hairstyle that most Chinese kids were cursed with. Even thinking about it hurts. Apparently, my mum actually wanted to name me Dona. Dona! Could you imagine? But in the end, she settled for Lindy. I think it suits me more anyway. Want to know who else was cursed with a wok head? My big sister! Now her name's actually called Claire, but the family has always called her "Dai bi", and it actually it means "big baby". And as you can guess, I was known as "Si bi" which in translation English, that meant "small baby".

In our family, there was mum, dad, granny, grandad, wait for it, there's more - mum and dad were trying for a boy. Their child was - boom - a girl. Cut to wok head, and as April was born, I wasn't called "Si bi" anymore. My big sister on the other hand turned 30 this year as she's still known as "Dai bi". On the fourth try, my little brother was born and since then, a prince was born. Counting all family members, there was eight of us under one roof. We were one massive family.

All three of my siblings are born in the month of April. I am the only one that's actually born in December, so I always kind of felt left out. Because I was such a gullible kid, my sister would prank me by waiting till I would fall asleep at night-time. She'd come and trickle warm water on my crotch. I would wake up mortified and cry because I would think crap, I just pissed myself, and then she would blackmail me for it in months to come. Apparently, she even talked me into drinking water from a toilet before. I have no recollection - maybe I've been trying to blank it out. Who knows?

As for my little brother and little sister, they actually tried to adopt me as their child, and this kept going for a very, very, very a long time and I was known as Megan. So, because I was a middle child, I was probably the most desperate one, so I was always trying to cling onto my mum. The only memory I have playing with mum is when she would play hide and seek with me and I would go hide and she took the opportunity to sneak out of the house and that's her car going, and I'd be there in my hiding spot just waiting and waiting and waiting and in the end I got it - she's not coming back for me. So, this is always a sad memory for me, but everybody tends to laugh at this, so I ended up finding it funny.

As I got older, I was allowed to join my mum for shopping, so she would do the exact same thing for my little brother and sister, except they'd catch on and as we reversed, I would drive away and we'd see their little faces and they're crying their eyes out. I'd see them and I'd be like "finally!" I feel really bad admitting this but back then as a child, this was really how I felt and like taste of my own medicine!

Another strong childhood memory I had was leading my little brother and just drawing pictures on my mum's car using rocks. And I remember seeing mummy and being all "Hey mum! Look what we did for you!" So, we didn't get beaten, so I think she appreciated our intention.

Because our parents had to work all the time, we were basically brought up by our grandparents. My granny was this hardcore little lady. She doesn't speak English, but she knows all the swear words. My granny would go to Hong Kong and she would always come back with a fresh batch of bamboo stick and you know what that's for. So we would accidentally try to get rid of them by throwing it in the bin but it was useless because she could basically turn anything into a weapon and her favourite weapon is her slipper and no matter where you are, it always gets to you and what do you get? Slipper faced!

Whenever I used to sulk and cry, my grandad would always be the one that would come cheer me up, and whenever it used to rain, my grandad would come collect me in a big giant umbrella that could easily fit like seven people underneath and I actually used to feel embarrassed actually, because I thought, why can't our umbrella be normal sized? But then I think looking back I would do anything to have my grandad collect me in the rain again.

From what I can remember, I've always been little. I mean, normal kids were always this height. Me? I was this height. Plus, academically, I wasn't really too smart. I never really liked studying. I had this cousin called Laura. She was straight-A student. She did ballet, she could play piano, she was the bee's knees, and I was always compared to her, so I always felt very little. I was obsessed with writing my own comic books as a kid. In fact, I was actually one of the main characters. Because I was so shy and insecure, I realised everything I couldn't be in reality, I lived through my storybooks.

When I was 12 years old, my grandad was suddenly submitted into hospital. He had gotten really sick and it really broke my heart because when I went to visit him, he couldn't even recognize who I was from all medication. And he was only in hospital for two weeks before he passed away. So, I didn't even get to say goodbye to my grandad, and I miss him so much. I would go to his bedroom and crawl underneath his covers and just cry because I missed him so much, and I would even get helium balloons and write messages on it and release it from his bedroom window, and I hoped that he would receive my message and know just how much I love and miss him.

So, moving on, my first year in high school wasn't too great. I guess the school I went to was pretty rough, so I had these kids throwing their food at me: chips, carton of drinks, crisp packets, you name it. And my friends didn't really stick up for me because I guess they were scared. I can't blame them, but I felt humiliated, and I felt really alone. So I was basically teased because my skin colour and also my height, and I was scared wherever I went until I met these bunch of cooler kids and I actually felt protected with them except they got in trouble quite a lot and they were actually quite mean to other people. They even kind of kind of encouraged me to smoke and I was actually lured into it. Peer pressure. I took my first puff of cigarette, ran home, brushed my teeth five times and ever since I've never ever touched a cigarette.

Since in my final two years, it finally hit me I remembered what I'm in school for: I'm here to do my thing, and I was fine and I studied very hard and I only had one good friend: she was called Sarah and we were really happy. Moving on to something more interesting, when I was 16 years old, I met a guy called Timmy. Timmy was different from all the guys I ever liked. He was small, nerdy but he was really kind. In fact, the first time we hung out, he was actually 15 minutes late, so he gave me this sorry card. I mean, who does that? Until today, he is still never ever on time. We actually never really asked each other out. We just slowly became more than friends. I guess we just clicked.

I had always had low self-confidence. I wear glasses, had braces, severe acne, but he really made me feel beautiful. He saw my heart and I saw his. So then I studied really hard for my A levels and I did pretty well, and I could have gone to a better university but because I always tended to underestimate myself, I enrolled myself into a university with lower standards and then decided to do a packaging and design course. I really don't know why I did it. I hated it. I wanted to quit but I was too scared. I was hoping that in time I'd learn to enjoy it, and then before I knew it, I graduated with a degree I didn't care about.

At that time, it was economy crisis. I couldn't find a job at all and also moved back to Northern Ireland so I was away from my friends and my boyfriend, so Tim and I were long distancing so a lot of nights I would cry myself to bed. One day I finally picked up the courage to film and upload my first video on YouTube. I was so nervous and awkward and scared but in a good way, and I started to meet these bunch of people around the world who shared the same interests as I did, and these people are you guys. I really leaned on you guys for support more than you can ever, ever imagine. You guys really feel like friends that I didn't know in real life, you give me encouragement and taught me new things every day. I was absolutely smitten with YouTube and I would spend late nights just sitting with my laptop, just tapping away my keyboard, answering your messages, answering your emails. My confidence soared. I'd always been a very insecure, self-conscious girl, so here I was, finally being able to reach other people around the world, telling them they are capable of greatness and can make a difference. I was finally able to be comfortable in my own skin and I no longer cared what other people thought of me.

One day, YouTube invited me to become partner and I thought cool. I get a banner and also some pocket money to buy makeup. With that pocket money, I kept saving and I saved enough to buy a heat press for 300 pounds. I thought, why not put my design career into use? So, I designed and pressed my own t-shirts and that was fine, but my hands would get red and bloody and I wasn't sleeping until 5 a.m. every night and we thought this couldn't do, so with not much money we travelled halfway across the world into Hong Kong. Sorry if I situated Hong Kong wrong. I have bad geography. So, we found a manufacturer that took us in, and with that bunch of money we saved, we invested into makeup brushes, and with our own line of makeup brushes, we were able to save money for our very first property in Hong Kong. Not the whole block, just this floor.

All of this came from an idea and involved me to step out of my comfort zone and try something new. When people were trying to put me down, tell me what I did was silly, I said no. Oh, that's right, seven months ago, Tim finally popped the question after 10 years being together, and as you can imagine, I said yes. I still can't believe there's only five months to go, and there really isn't a reason for me not to smile every day.

My philosophy has always been to plant where you were grown. I would not be who I am or where I am without you guys watering me without your encouragement and love, and I promise I will give back my floating seeds of inspiration, love, beauty and happiness, and together, we will help each other grow and bloom. So finally, that's my life, so far. I hope you guys enjoyed my life story and drawings, and of course, don't forget to like and subscribe. Mwah.

2096

## FDML #11

Hi everyone! So today I'm here to do the highly requested draw my life tag video, and my life's a little crazy, so I don't know how I'm going to do this, but let's see how it goes! So, it all started when a stork brought me to this small tiny Asian country called Nepal, which is sandwiched by China and India. Usually when I tell people I'm from Nepal, they don't know much about Nepal, so the first thing I tell them is that the world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest, is located in Nepal and it's also home to the legendary Bigfoot. We have countless stories of mountain climbers encountering the Bigfoot, which is kind of cool and I think I'm secretly related to the Bigfoot, especially when I look at my legs after I haven't shaved them for about a week - I'm like yeah, that might be true.

Now, I'm drawing my little family. So, first there's my dad, and then there's my mum, and finally, there's little me. I was the first child, very loved and spoiled. Both of my parents were missionaries, so they would travel a lot from one village to another. I wasn't going to be the only child in the family for too long because one day when my parents were walking by one of the villages, they saw a house and on the patio, there was a one year old boy who was really badly malnourished and he was just crying his eyes out, so my parents wondered where his family were and then they went to over to the neighbour's and asked him if, if anyone was watching after the boy, and the neighbour basically said that his mum recently passed away with typhoid and his dad was an alcoholic, so there wasn't really anyone who was watching after him. After hearing that, my parents didn't have the heart to leave the boy behind, so they just waited until the night-time, and then the father came home and after the father came home, they just had a really long talk and my parents just asked him if they could take care of the boy until he had sobered up and had his life together. The boy's father agreed and realised that was probably the best thing to do, so now I had a little brother and his name was Reuben.

When Reuben and I were little, we had our own little buckets where we used to shower and that was kind of like our little swimming pool. We would play in there for hours and there's also this one funny story, a family story, where Reuben and I were sleeping in a little cradle and Reuben kind of pooped on his diaper and it kind of came out and it was all over the place and I was all, you know, dreaming, I had no idea. And Reuben didn't want to be in trouble, he's the smarter one, so he basically just wiped all the poo on me, so my parents would think that I was the one who did it, so yeah.

Beside that incident, Reuben was always a good brother to me. When we're at the age to go to school, we went to the same school and if any of the boys were being mean to me or they were teasing me, Reuben would step up and show them who was boss, and even though he was my little brother, he protected me like he was my bigger brother. Another funny thing is my parents told me that I had no hair in my head till I was five. All I had was a little bit of fuzz and when I did have hair, my parents couldn't afford to take me to the salon, so my mum would cut my hair by herself and she would always ruin my bangs, so growing up, I always had terrible bangs.

Besides terrible bangs, I also had terrible grades growing up. In fact, my parents said the only time I was first in my whole class was in kindergarten in a monthly test. So that's pretty embarrassing. But I did love to draw, I would doodle all over my notebooks, and I loved dancing. Also, I've always been a huge animal lover, so when I was little, I'd pick up any abandoned little baby rats, mice, moles, even a baby squirrel once, and I'd try to nurture them. In fact, my whole family loves animals, so growing up, I had a lot of cool pets. My parents are pretty awesome, but when it comes to studies, they're like every other Asian parents. They expect you to either have A or B. My dad never got a chance to go school and have a good education, so he really stressed that we, Reuben and I, do really well in school.

Since I was only good at dancing, drawing and other activities, instead of encouraging me, my teachers would try to put me down all the time and they would say that I was worthless, and I didn't have a bright future ahead of me. When I was 10 years old and Reuben was 9, my dad received a phone call from Reuben's father and he just told my dad that he was remarried, he had his life together, and he would like to visit Reuben and hopefully take him back home to the village with him. So, when my parents heard that, they were devastated and I wasn't ready to say goodbye to Reuben that soon, so it was just a big shock. Reuben and I had a lot of good memories, so saying goodbye was definitely the hardest thing, but I chose not to be sad and more thankful that he was able to share 9 years of his life being my brother.

As time went by, my family started expanding again, and one day my parents told me that I was going to have a little baby sister soon. Then, a stork brought in my baby sister, and my parents decided to name her Pratcha, which is very similar to my real name which is Pratchya. When Pratcha was around 2 or 3, my parents told me that they had something really exciting to tell me. I thought they were going to have another baby, but it was something else, and they said we were going to America. And I was really excited because when I thought of America, I thought of good-smelling people and skyscraper buildings like New York City. I thought America was filled with tall buildings like that, and I wanted to live in one of those buildings. So off we went.

My dad had a good friend in Colorado, so that's where we were going, and also if you guys have been to the Denver Airport, you guys know that the airport is really cool-looking. I think it's supposed to be shaped like the Rocky Mountains, but for some reason, it kind of reminds me of popcorns. So then, the car picked us up and we were driving. The Denver Airport is out in the middle of nowhere, so there was just like dry lands all around and I was starting to freak out, because this was not the America I had pictured in my head. Just when I was about to give up hope, I saw tall buildings in a distance and I got so excited, I almost peed my pants. My dreams were finally about to come true, but sadly, the car turned and went somewhere else. That was actually the Denver downtown and we were going to live in a one-bedroom apartment somewhere out in the suburbs. When reality sank in, I was really upset. It felt like my dreams were all shattered, and I did not get to live in a tall building and ride on an elevator, but life went on and my parents soon enrolled me in an elementary school really close by our place. The first day of school, I was so nervous and scared because I had such a heavy accent and I couldn't really speak English that well.

And just as I thought, I had a really hard time fitting in and making friends. There was especially this one boy in my class who was really mean. He would laugh at everything I say, and his friends would laugh along with him. I tried everything to fit in. I even started wearing different type of clothes to see if they would accept me, but it didn't work. So elementary school was not fun at all. Now, middle school was a lot of fun. I went to a big middle school, so I got to make quite a bit of friends and my friends also taught me how to wear makeup, so that's when I started wearing makeup. I thought I did a pretty good job back then, but now I think about it, I was probably a huge mess.

And just around that time, my third sister was born, and my parents decided not to go with a crazy name, so they named her Rosie. Just when I was about to go on ninth grade, my parents decided to return to Nepal, and this is going to be a huge change for me because Nepali schools are really strict, and I was already adjusting to the freedom in American schools. Looking at the bright side, I didn't really have much trouble making friends. Since they knew that I was coming from America, they were all curious to get to know me. Nepali school rules are crazy. Every morning we would have to line up like in boot camp and the teachers would go through the line and make sure that you followed all of the rules, which means no bangs in your face, braided hair, black hair, white flowery fluffy ribbons, you have to have your school shirt on, school badge, school tie, school belt, school skirt, your nails should all be trimmed, no nail polishes. Oh my gosh - I can keep on going: no earrings, your socks have to be higher than your knees, your skirt has to be lower than your knees, and if you fail to do one of those things, there was severe punishments. So, as you guys imagined, I got beat up a lot. I probably got beat worse than a piñata. And there was also this one time when the boys in my class, they did something wrong. I don't remember exactly what they did but they had to carry their chair and their tables and run across the school track. Also, there was this one time when my friends, we got in trouble, and we had to stay in a push-up position for an hour, and our arms were hurting, our legs were hurting, and the teacher was like no mercy. He beat us up with pipe on our behind so there was a lot of sore bums that day. Since Nepali school was getting too tough for me, my parents decided to send me back to America to finish my high school. So, I went to a really small private high school. High school was no bueno. It was not good at all. A lot of the students in the classroom had grown up together since they were little, so when I came into the picture, I felt like I was an uninvited. I was very lonely. I ate to lunch by myself in the girls' locker room. So yeah, I was very sad. Just when I was about to graduate high school, my parents told me that there was another baby on the way and my dad was really hoping that the last baby would be a son, but it was a little girl! So, there's my dad, my mum, me, my two sisters, Pratcha and Rosie, and finally a last sister who is Angelina. After high school, I went to Bible College and Bible College was probably one of the best things that has ever happened to me. I got to meet kids from all over America, all over the world. It was six months long, so everyone felt like they were family and I also went to Colombia for a missions trip, and everyone in Colombia were so warm, so kind, the food was amazing, so that's when I found my newfound love of travelling.

After Bible College I worked in an office and that was around the time when Michael Jackson had passed away. So, Michael Jackson was such an inspiration. I loved his dance. I loved his music. So I would go on YouTube to watch his music videos and to just remember him and that's how one day I came across a makeup tutorial and I was like "That's



so awesome, that people do makeup tutorials on YouTube!”, so I was hooked. One afternoon, my cousins call me up and they were like, “Hey Promise, we’re going to go see this really cool movie that just came out and its name is Avatar”, and I was like “Ah, the name sounds kind of weird. I don’t know if I want to go see it”, but they’re like, “No, I heard it’s really good!”, so I went with them and when I saw the movie, I was mind blown. It was such a good movie and I wanted to look like a Navi. I wanted to live in Pandora, like, right now. So, I went home, and I slapped all this blue eyeshadow that I had on my face. Tried to make myself look like Neytiri and I took a picture of myself and posted it on my Facebook. When my friends saw my Avatar look on my Facebook, they said I did a really good job, but I thought they were just being really nice. Later, they helped me share the picture and all of a sudden, I had hundreds and thousands of friend requests and ridiculous amount of feedbacks, so I could not believe my eyes. Also, I got tons of messages from people asking me to do a tutorial on that avatar look, so I filmed a tutorial, put it up, worst editing job ever, but the feedback was wonderful. All of my viewers were so kind and so thankful. I was inspired to do more tutorials for all my viewers.

My dad has always been really strict with dating. His rule is none of his daughters can date until they’re 21, and sometimes he raises it up to 23, so I was kind of around that age, and I was looking around. I had some really nice guys that I was talking to at the moment but there was this one guy that really stood out to me, and his name was Steve, which is my husband right now. So, he was just really so kind, and we just had this instant connection. He loved animals like I did, he loved the same music, we love the same food, he was really family-oriented and just everything was perfect. So, we dated, and we decided to get married. It’s going to be our three-year wedding anniversary this coming July, and we also got a little dog, a miniature American Eskimo called Nimbus that you guys have probably seen him on my videos, Facebook, Instagram, everywhere!

Sometimes I get really homesick and I wish my parents weren’t in the other corner of the world from me and I feel like I miss out on watching my sisters grow up, but I know that they’re doing really good things back in Nepal. They currently have an orphanage with three kids and they’re planning to expand it with six more kids soon, so that’s really exciting.

Actually, there’s couple more, I mean a million more people, who are part of my life now, and that’s you guys. So, I just want to take this time to thank you guys for loving me, encouraging me and supporting me to do what I love. Even when my teachers and people around me said I wasn’t good enough, you guys helped me prove that they were wrong. And even though I had a really hard time making a handful of friends growing up, you guys have been my friends, so you guys are literally my umbrella on a rainy day, and my shoe on my bare feet, and peanut butter to my bread. Those are some really bad examples, but I just wanted to let you guys know that you guys are really special and thank you for making my life so much more beautiful by being a part of it. So, before I leave, I just want to give you all a big virtual hug!

2821

## FDML #12

Hello! So, I see a lot of people who do these drawing life videos, and some people have been asking me to do one and I’m going to do one, but definitely not that good at drawing. I’m probably going to forget stuff to tell you and whatever, but in case you want to know more things about me, hopefully you will enjoy this video, and if you don’t want to know anything else about me, then you should stop watching right now. Stop! It’s okay, you should watch. Okay, bye.

Okay, here we go, draw my life. I guess I should have written my name or something here. I was born on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1991, that’s the same day JFK was shot, but not same year obviously. I was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, home of The Office, or where they pretend to film The Office. I have a mum and a dad, and I love them. They’re pretty great. My mum is like the nicest lady ever and I have an older brother who’s married to a really sweet gal. There’s us.

While I lived in Pennsylvania, I was a super happy kid and I had lots of friends and I just loved living there and then all of a sudden, my parents told me we were moving, and I was really sad, and they put a “for sale” sign on the house and I couldn’t take it down because I was too short. Anyways, we moved to Atlanta, Georgia, peace up, A-town down as my dude Usher would say. Just kidding, I’m an idiot. In my new school in Georgia my second grade teacher yelled at me in front of the whole class and said, “Use your real voice!” and I cried, because I guess my voice has always been a little higher than everyone else’s, but now I get paid just to talk so don’t let anyone insult you for just the way that you were made. It’s actually a good thing to be different. Third grade was a lot better. I had a really nice teacher and at recess we played dodgeball and I was really good, so my teacher told me I should start playing soccer and I did, and I loved it. Not to brag, but I was really good, and I thought I was going to play soccer for the rest of my life, honestly. But god had a different plan, and that’s okay.

Fourth grade was pretty pointless, so skip to fifth grade, which was really eventful. I got really sick with a stupid thing called reactive airway disease and that sucked, and also my nana passed away that year, so not so fun things happened. Oh, that reminds me - I should explain my initials to guys. MWMM stands for Megan Walsh Matlin McCarthy. So

now you know! One really awesome thing that happened though in fifth grade, I got my first dog ever and his name was Mac and he was this adorable little Maltese and he was like the smartest dog I've ever known, and I miss him.

Then came middle school, where I started to shave my legs for the first time and also wore way too much eyeliner. And in seventh grade, I got my first kiss. And it was, like, really kind of weird and I didn't kiss back because I didn't know what I was doing, it was weird, and also in seventh grade I got Paris, who many of you know that is, and I am obsessed with her. Also in middle school, I had a best guy friend, and I thought we were going to be best friends forever and we were, like, throughout high school and everything, but we ended up going to different colleges and just kind of stopped talking. But I hope you're doing well.

Let's talk about high school. 9<sup>th</sup> grade was awesome because my brother was a senior, so I was friends with, like, all the seniors and I think it made people think I was cool but, you know, I'm not. 10<sup>th</sup> grade was another super eventful year. I had this boyfriend that I really liked at the time but he ended up cheating on me with this girl that kind of looked like an Umpalumpa if we're being honest here. And then also in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, my dog Mac got hit by a car. And that was terrible. I don't want this story to be so sad though. There were some good things happened in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. I got another dog. She was another Maltese, and her name was Bindi, and I met Robert Downey Jr. I ended up being a featured extra in this movie called Due Date and I got to work right next to him and he asked my name and he talked to me and he was, like, so nice and I was so happy. But then something crappy happened again and my friends convinced me I play softball, and I ended up getting hit in the face with one and it broke my nose and my cheekbone and my orbital bone and I couldn't see out of my left eye for a while and my parents were out of town and I had to go to this creepy hospital and I just wanted my mummy the whole time. And then the doctor told me I wasn't allowed to play soccer for a really long time because I needed to get plastic surgery and a new orbital bone to put my nose back in place, so I was really sad that I had to end my soccer career, but on the plus side it gave me time to focus on acting. I loved improv and named the school improv show The Carving of the Cheese and it won the improv award and everyone in the audience laughed and I was so happy, and I realised that I was okay as not playing soccer if I could do acting because all I want to do is make people laugh because that makes me happier than anything in the world.

When I graduated high school, I went to Auburn University and when I'd talk in my core classes a lot of people would stare because of my voice and they weren't very nice about it, so I just kind of stopped talking in class, but something cool happened my junior year. A friend introduced me to Vine in April 2013. Then that summer I decided to actually try to make some good videos and I did a boo impression for Monsters Inc and I got a thousand followers from it in September 2013, and I thought that was, like, the craziest thing that's ever happened. But now, it's one and a half million, and because of that, there are a lot of people who know me and then I get the mean comments from pathetic people but it's okay because there are all you sweet people out there who I love doing this for and I'm never going to stop.

And because of Vine, I made so many cool friends and I also happened to meet this one really cute guy, I don't know if you've heard of him or not, but he's name is Joey Ahern and he has this adorable husky named Steele and we're all together all the time and we're just really happy. Life is pretty awesome. Oh, and guess what else? We're all moving to Hollywood. I plan on being an actor for the rest of my life, so that's why I'm here, but I'm going to continue using YouTube and Vine, voiceovers and everything, so don't worry. Oh, and the first day I was here, I ended up being on TV, which is just, like, crazy.

I just want to be happy and I want to make you all happy too. Well, I guess that's the end for now. Make sure to subscribe because I'm going to be putting out videos every Monday from now on. Okay. I love you guys. Bye!

1355

### FDML #13

Hey, everyone. My name is Funneh and this is my draw my life. I've been very nervous to share my story with you all, but after hitting 1 million subscribers on my channel, I thought I should create something super special: my story will explain how I became the person I am today and with the help of you guys, who've changed my life. So, let's begin.

My story begins in Canada. I was a cute little bubbly baby who was born on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1995. This is also the day my two older sisters missed trick-or-treating. My dad came to Canada on a boat. No, not that kind of boat. This kind. Soon after that, he met my mum and two years later, my oldest sister was born. Anyways, this is my family. We lived in a small bungalow. It had two floors. The basement was always rented out, so we could never go play in the basement. We basically lived on one floor, but to me, it was gigantic. This is my dad, mum, sister, sister, me, little sis and little bro. That's right - my parents had five kids and as you can imagine, it must have been super hectic for them. But they loved us all equally. My parents wanted five kids because they didn't want us to be lonely.

My dad was a chef and my mum washed dishes at a local restaurant. On some nights, my parents would eat very little just because they were worried they wouldn't have enough food to feed us. And yes, we were very broke at the time. When I was a kid, I didn't really know how much they sacrificed for us, but knowing this now that I'm older, it really

breaks my heart. When I was about 22 months old, that's almost 2 years old, I had not grown in any baby teeth. Babies usually get their teeth around 6 months, so my mum was scared. She took me to the doctor's, and the doctor said that if my teeth didn't come out by 2 years old, they were going to have to bring me to a specialist, and maybe manually pull out my teeth. I probably pooped my pants. I don't remember anything, but apparently after that conversation, my teeth popped right out. See that? That's how my teeth grew in! I had a big space between my two front teeth, and I loved to whistle through them. It annoyed my siblings so much, but I thought it was so funny.

Since there is five of us, you can obviously guess that we tend to get ourselves into mischief. I remember one time my siblings and I thought it was a smart idea to microwave a gummy pizza to see if it would expand. We popped it in the microwave for one whole minute, and boom! it exploded all over the microwave. We did get in trouble for it, but hey, it was a cool experiment to see something explode!

One day, my dad bought home a used Nintendo console that his humble boss gave him from work. Because he felt bad for my dad. He told my dad that his daughter didn't want it anymore, and maybe we would enjoy playing with it. It was called the Famicom. I know it sounds silly, but this was the best thing ever. My siblings and I would play Super Mario Brothers and other games all day long. We would sit there for hours and hours just playing video games.

Moving on, this is me in elementary - a pretty shy kid with just a few friends. I was also a mini artist. I would carry my doodle book everywhere, drawing things that I thought were fascinating. One day at art time, my teacher saw me drawing in my book and thought it was really nice, so she asked if I could share it with the class. I didn't want to, but she convinced me anyways. After this, all the kids complimented my work, and I felt really happy. My smile was unbreakable. I remember in second grade our teacher made us do an assignment on what we wanted to be when we grew up. In my head at the time, I wanted to be an artist. I loved drawing and expressing my ideas on a canvas. That's what I could see myself doing in the future. One day, the Famicom broke. We were really sad. Four years later, our dad saved up enough money to get us a new console. It was called the Nintendo Gamecube. The console only came with one controller, but we didn't care. We loved it so much that we would spend all day taking turns playing on the Gamecube.

In 2005, my family and I moved houses. They wanted more space for us growing up because our house was starting to get cramped, so we moved into another home. I was excited and sad at the same time. Moving houses meant we were moving school and moving schools meant saying goodbye to my friends. Here I am at the new school with brand new faces. I was really quiet at school. When I tried making new friends, I was nervous and awkward, so all the kids thought I was weird. In those two years, I built myself a self-image of being a quiet, weird girl who didn't talk to anyone. But being alone wasn't that bad. After the first year went by, I just didn't care what they thought about me anymore.

During these years, my parents gave me an old digital camera. I would record funny skits with this and show videos to my family and cousins. Everyone laughed and really enjoyed it. I was also known as the little comedian in my family. Being able to see my family laugh meant the world to me because growing up with not a lot and seeing my parents come home from work exhausted and stressed, I knew that with my videos I can make their day a little better with laughter. As the year went on, I continued to make these funny video skits. They were never posted on YouTube though. Thank God. I think this is the time where I realised I really wanted to pursue a job into creative filmmaking.

In 2008, my parents bought a restaurant downtown, hoping that the business could make more income to support the family. It wasn't the nicest part of downtown. The windows would always get broken and, you know, all of that stuff. I would work here on the weekends and sometimes weekdays bussing tables. As the year went on, we spent more and more time at the restaurant. The business wasn't very successful, so my parents couldn't hire anyone. So, we had to help our parents. We would be at school in the daytime and after school we would bus down to the restaurant and work there until 10:30p.m. at night. When the business was slow, my siblings and I would watch YouTube videos on our laptop. It made working down at the restaurant less miserable. We would watch tons and tons of videos from different creators. It was awesome and made our day a little better. As months went on, this family restaurant became the most depressing point in my life, because each night, when my family came home around 11:00p.m. at night, there would be arguments, tears and anger. The biggest problem was debt. We were in a lot of debt because the restaurant was losing a lot of money and business was slow.

I finally made some new friends in middle school. These girls and I didn't have the same common interest, but we still talked anyways. One day, they started making rumours about me and at lunchtime, these girls got a bunch of other girls to tell me they didn't want to be friends with me anymore. I let these mean catty girls bully me into silence, and if I could go back in time, I wish I could tell my younger self to have confidence and don't be afraid to speak up for yourself. But at the end of the day, there was a couple of things that made me smile, which was video games, my dog and YouTube. Every single night, I would play video games for hours and watch YouTube videos with my dog. I was happy.

After three years, my parents sold the restaurant because we were growing up and, you know, we couldn't work there forever. It felt like the chains finally broke off until my parents bought another business, of course, but hey, this one did better than the last one. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, I created my first YouTube channel. Which is the channel you are

watching right now. The first video I ever created on my channel was called Black Ops Ranger Match, but that's a private video now. At this time, Minecraft was a very popular game, and **we were so obsessed with it**, so I said, "Hey, we should make some videos". My siblings and I got to work. We created Minecraft machinimas and Minecraft parodies. I remember one of our parodies hitting 1 million views at the time, and **I cried tears of joy**, but **I also cried tears of sadness** because the video was taken down due to a copyright strike. After this, we just worked on Minecraft machinimas and slowly, as the months came by, I became very busy with school and work. I told myself once we finished the last episode of the Minecraft Love series, I was going to quit YouTube because I couldn't keep up with posting these videos. So, I stopped.

**High school was pretty chill** for me. I was quiet, and I got decent grades. I also skipped class a lot because **I didn't really like school**. My mum would always call in sick for me. Isn't she the best? No, I'm joking - don't do that guys. Don't do that. Anyways, whenever I skipped school or classes, I had to go work at my parents' shop, where there was a computer, and on that computer, I played a Minecraft and watched YouTube videos, so **it wasn't all that bad**. On the days when I did go to school, I mostly spent my time writing scripts at lunch secretly in the library. They were for YouTube. It was just a bunch of ideas that I never got the chance to make videos of. I know, I know, this sounds pretty weird, but I was a weird kid, okay?

I graduated high school in 2013 and **wanted to pursue my dream job** in digital media. One day, when I came home from school, my older sister, you guys might see her in a lot of my videos, said, "Hey, we should start posting on your channel again except we should play Minecraft and commentate this time instead of making silent machinimas". Me? Commentate? **I can't even talk to people in real life**, so what made her think that I could talk in a mic for random people for, for the internet to hear? I was so nervous and **against her opinion**. She convinced me, and we posted our first Minecraft Let's Play ever. It was a Minecraft School video. I am pretty sure you guys know what it is. I remember this day so clearly and vivid, because after recording the video for two hours, **I wanted to trash it**, but my sister said we should post it anyways. So, we did. After a couple of weeks, the video blew up. Our channel was discovered by you. **I was in shock and excitement**. In my head I thought, **why would these people want to watch me?** And **you guys always left the nicest comments on my videos to help me continue and post more**.

And now, here we are today with 1 million subscribers! **Something I would only dream of**. **I feel blessed to have you guys in my life and to have found what I love to do**. **I like making people smile and being able to make one person's day better with laughter means the world to me**. **You have changed my life forever**, and I would like to say thank you. **Thank you so much for watching my videos every day and leaving your amazing comments**. **I really do appreciate each and every one of you, and I can't say how much I love you guys**. This is my life up until now. **I hope my story inspires you** and without these ups and downs in my life, I wouldn't be the person I am today. Life isn't perfect, and that's what makes it awesome. You're the only one who can write your own story and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. **Thank you so much for watching my draw my life video**. **I love you all so much** and **I can't wait to see where this takes us next**. If you did enjoy it, make sure to leave a like and I will see you guys all in the next one!

2204

#### FDML #14

So, everything all began on **a beautiful spring evening in May at a very nice hospital** called St. Luke's hospital. It was on Cinco de Mayo and that is when Gabi and I were born. So, Gabi and I were very small babies. We were premature and I'm going to draw little bows on us just to be cute. And I was born at 5.54p.m. and Gaby was born at 6p.m., and I was baby A and she was baby B. So, I was the skinnier baby. I was four pounds and my full name was Nicola Teresa DiMartino because we're Italian and Cuban and it's a big fancy name to fit the ethnicity, and Gabi, her full name was Gabriela Nelida DiMartino and both of us got the middle names of each grandma, and yeah, I messed up there. So, we were born into a very working hard family and my both parents were dentists and, as you see, I drew a heart and a tooth and yeah, they were dentists. And they worked very hard. And my siblings, I had an older sister named Alex, my twin sister Gabi and my little brother who's four years younger named Anthony. And Alex is only 18 months older, so because of the close age gap, **all three of us were very close growing up, and we all loved to sing and act and dance**. We would always put on little performances for our families on Christmas, on Easter, on every holiday, we'd come up with an excuse just to perform for our family. And yeah, **I tried drawing Anthony crawling but he kind of looked like a dog, so I had to erase that**. So yeah, **we always imagined we were on big stage with big lights and a big audience** and **our family did a good job at trying to give us that experience**. They would sit through every show and we'd perform for them.

So, school started, and all three of us attended Catholic school, and **we were all so excited to make friends** and to start a whole new chapter of going to school. And we would always dress alike, and my mum would get the same backpack in three different colours all the time, so, and then little Anthony is just on side. So we went to three schools: we first went to St. Anne's, and that was from kindergarten to second grade, and then from third grade to seventh grade we went to Moravian Academy, which is a private school in our area, and then we left for many reasons to go to St. Jane's,

which is a Catholic school in our area as well, but before all that, we'll start with kindergarten through second grade at St. Anne's.

Gaby and I were so excited to start kindergarten, so much different than preschool and you got more responsibilities and more freedom, and you made all these friends and it was just awesome, and then one day, my mum told us when we were going into third grade, that we were changing schools. Although we were all very sad, it was also exciting because we got to start over and it's always nice to start with a fresh slate, so Gabi and I were a little nervous and sceptical, but we were still a little excited and at least we had each other to start the whole experience. So at Moravian, we made our first best friend and it was so exciting because we never knew what it was like to have a true best friend, and we did everything together and yeah, I wrote best friends and yay, drawing little hearts just to show how happy we were that we had a best friend, and so, we were the three amigas. We did everything together. It was always Gabi, me and our best friend, and we even formed a little girl group called Pink Ice, and we would make up songs on Garage Band and write lyrics and we had sleepovers. We did everything together.

And then middle school came, and middle school is always a transition for people. Sixth grade came and we were still Pink Ice and we still had our little girl group and we were still the tres amigas and then we had all these little friends on the side, but unfortunately, cliques started forming and one day, we were just not cool anymore. We were called losers, people laughed at our girl group name, they called us a joke, and it's hurtful. So meanwhile that was happening, we unfortunately distanced a lot from our best friend, and she found a new group of friends that she got really close with, and then it was just basically Gabi and I, and we were all each other had. And we felt so lonely and down all the time and, on top of losing our best friend, we still had all those people at school mocking us, laughing at us and always making fun of us, calling us ugly, dumb, losers, no friends and it basically felt like the world against us, and we just had to hold on to each other. Because of everything that was happening at school, it kind of rubbed off on our feelings and our behaviour at home and the way we were acting, and our parents knew something was up. We would come home from school, go right to our rooms and just cry together, feeling so lonely and so dumb and like losers, like we had no meaning, and our parents didn't know what to do. So, Gabi and I knew that the only option we had was just to stick together because it was just us and we were all each other had.

So then one day during Christmas break, my mum just took us out to have a regular lunch date at Panera Bread, and we were all just casually talking about our lives, and my mum wanted to check up on us and see how we were feeling and she had the idea of taking us to a new school, and we were so excited about it, because we never thought once maybe we should transfer, and so Gabby and I finally came to our senses and said we need to get out of here, so, peace out, bye! So, my mum takes us to a school called St. Jane's, and it is near our house, and we were excited just to start a new chapter and start with a fresh start and just be Niki and Gabi and make friends. And we did. We made two very great best friends, and they had the same interests as us and liked us for who we were, and we were so happy to have best friends. We did everything together and during the summer, we had a tradition of going to the beach and taking lots of pictures and doing girly things and just having fun, and we were so grateful for that. And then slowly at school, everyone started picking again, and this time they were calling us brats, materialistic, spoiled, and dumb. And it hurt that they were calling us these names because our parents were very successful in their careers. And it wasn't fair to us, but at least we had our best friends to say, "It's okay".

So then high school came, and high school, the beginning of high school, was awesome. We had our two best friends from St. Jane's, who came to the same high school with us and then we met Kimmie, who was one of our best friends, and then we met our other friend Alex and just other friends, and we had a big group of girlfriends that all were like us and we all did the stupidest and craziest stuff together and it was just awesome. And then one night, freshman year, it was a Thursday night, Gabi and I got a phone call from our one friend saying that Kimmie was in the hospital, really sick, and it was frightening because she had cancer and we didn't know how she was going to be. So, we all brought flowers, gave her gifts, wrote her letters got her get well stuff, and we were just keeping in our prayers that she would be okay. Until one day Gabi and I showed up to school extremely confused because everyone was in a panic, not knowing what was going on, and everyone was, seemed different and the vibe of the school was just different and then we got the news on November 6<sup>th</sup> 2009 that our best friend had passed away. They announced it over the loudspeaker and my whole group of girlfriends just cuddled together crying, holding on to each other, and we would just visit her grave. It was just really, really sad.

So then later in the year, Gabi and I and our two best friends from St. Jane's continued to stick together and then because we were so close, our group just kind of divided and we were left out again. So, Gabi and I found interest in YouTube, and we would always watch beauty videos and remakes and singing and everything we loved, and we decided to start making our own for fun, but we just didn't have a channel to upload them to. So then on the last day of summer, going into our sophomore year of high school, Gabi and I and our two best friends were so bored, we didn't know what to do and we had the idea that maybe we should make a YouTube video. So, we remade the theme song for Pretty Little Liars because we're obsessed with that show, and we made it and we uploaded it to 00 Remake Girls, and we got really good feedback. People were telling us to make more and that we were talented, and we loved that.

And then all of a sudden boys got in the way and me and my best friend from St. Jane's just stopped being friends and it was really, really sad because I missed her a lot, and she was there for me during all my tough times and helped me be happy again but anyway, we still had our best, our other best friend, and we were closer than ever during that time and we all helped each other because we all were together in that situation, and then junior year came and we felt like hot shots. We were upperclassmen and everybody got along. Everyone partied together. Everyone had fun and junior year was just pretty awesome, and then all of a sudden, everyone in the school started finding out about our YouTube channel, and Gabi and I were scared because we didn't know what to do. We didn't know what people would think. We, we didn't know if everyone would think we were losers like Gab Mehrabian and we just didn't know - we were just scared and we felt like the whole world knew, so everyone would just watch us and, and, we knew they were talking about us and we knew people would watch our videos and probably make fun of them, but Gabi and I and our best friend, we thought, oh well.

So then before we even knew it, senior year rolled around the corner and we were so close to our best friend and then we became best friends with our other best friend and it was basically everybody, and then it was just Gabi and I and our two best friends, and we were all each other had once again. And we felt very excluded, and we think it was that way because we were just so girly and so out there, and we just loved to have fun and go shopping and, and enjoy everything and, and we were just typical girls, and everybody was really athletic and really academic and had different humour and just different, and so Gabi and I released our inner girliness on the beauty channel that year, because we needed something to do in our time since we only had our two best friends. So, we made our beauty channel and then we were so happy to see that our viewers and subscribers were growing and growing, and we finally felt like we had meaning, and we were happy that you guys looked up to us. And then I met my boyfriend, and things just started rolling around in the good way and people would still laugh and say, "Ew" and say I have no friends, and, but nothing mattered because I had him, and all I needed was these people: I needed my best friend Alex, my best friend Andrea, my boyfriend Gerry and my twin sister Gabi, and they made me happy, just having them in my life.

So, because I was having little issues at school again, I really, really got into dancing and I've always been dancing, but I opened up to my best friend Lauren and we became best friends and so then my best friends grew, and not only did I have Alex, Andrea, Gabi and Jerry, but I had Lauren and they all made me happy. So then, after all these years, I finally got that diploma. On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, and boy was I relieved and so happy just to get done with middle school, high school and get on with my life and do what I want with my life. And I'm happy, and I couldn't ask for anyone else to be by my side throughout the whole thing. Not only do I have Gabi but now we have YouTube, beauty, singing, acting and we can do what we love, and we can be happy. And now we have college this year and Gabi and I have been through so much together, we just couldn't separate, so we're going to the same college. We're not dorming together, but we're still going to continue beauty and remaking videos and we're still going to continue with what makes us happy, and I couldn't be more happier about that. And we only hope for the best in our future. We have big dreams and big plans and hopefully we can live up to that and you guys truly helped us, and we love you. And thank you for everything. And that's the end.

2422

#### FDML #15

Hey guys! My name is Jessica, but if you've been a regular on my channel, you'll know me by my online alias Aphmau or just by looking at my channel name, you can tell that. This is my draw my life. Now, I've been very nervous about doing this because I have a few things about me that a lot of you guys don't really know about, plus, I'm not the best at drawing but I'm going to give it my best shot. So here it goes.

My story begins in Houston, Texas. I was born on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1989, which makes me 25 years old to this day. I was born to a wonderful mum and dad and a half-brother, but I just call him my brother because he's that cool. For the first couple of years of my life, my mum and dad were married, but after a lot of differences, they decided to separate. Looking back on it, it was probably for the best.

My mum then moved in with my grandparents. Her sister also lived there too at the time, so I lived in a house with a bunch of cousins and my brother. My mum and dad shared custody of me, so every other weekend I would go to live with my dad which was nice because I got to get away from a hectic house every now and then. My brother and I were 13 years apart, so we didn't really play a lot together growing up. He was going through his teen years, and it's kind of hard for a toddler to understand that. But the one thing he did have was this awesome Nintendo. I always remember bugging him to play it because it was the coolest thing to me. Of course, he would often tell me no, but my mum would let me sneak into his room to play it when he was out. If my brother's watching this, mm, sorry! Of course, the best times with him or when he invited me to play and we'd play together and try to see who could beat Super Mario first. Eventually, my other cousins in the house all got gaming consoles and I was so interested. Of course, being the smaller one and the only young girl in the house, they weren't so keen on sharing their new toys, which eventually they did, but I never got to finish any game I played because someone was always saving over my file.

Eventually, my mum moved back in with my dad for a period of time, and during that time was when I got my first ever gaming console. I remember the day so vividly too - my parents took me to Best Buy and they didn't tell me why we were there. They just said they needed to get something and then my dad suddenly covered my eyes and said, "Your mum and I have a surprise for you, daughter". They walked me a bit and when my dad removed his hands from my eyes, I was standing in front of a Nintendo64 case that had so many Nintendo 64s inside of it. I was so excited I started to cry. I remember getting it, bringing it home and my parents hilariously arguing over how to install AVI cables and then my mum doing a dance when she got lucky by mistake and figured it out. I'll never forget that day.

Gaming makes a huge part of who I am. In elementary school, I made a lot of friends, and a lot of them were made by talking about video games. A lot of people would say I was too nice back then. In fact, I would give people my lunch money if they forgot theirs and a lot of kids noticed this. They kind of took advantage of this fact which sadly led to some bullying and I guess because of that, I became introverted over time. But that didn't last too long, as I kept making friends.

In middle school, I became really introverted because around the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, my dad pulled me out of school in order to be home-schooled, which was really kind of fun but actually very lonely. Eventually, I went back into public school after a year, and around the time I was leaving middle school for high school, I got into online gaming. In fact, the first game I played online was on the PlayStation 2 and it was called Frequency. It was really just a glorified chat room where you could beat battle people if you wanted. Imagine Guitar Hero but online and with a PlayStation 2 controller. It was fun and I played more games over time, but the one game that changed my life forever was Final Fantasy 11 online. I started playing in 2004. In Final Fantasy 11 I had so many adventures and met so many amazing people. The world was just immersive and just everything about that game to me was perfect. One day, I had joined a party to get the Summoner job and during that party I met this warrior whose name I would later find out was Jason. He was really cool, so we started talking and we talked basically every day. Eventually our relationship went past Final Fantasy 11 and into the real world. We became boyfriend and girlfriend, talked on the phone every day and would make these crazy trips and he lived in New Jersey and I lived in Texas.

When I turned 18, I finally moved out to be with Jason. Then we got a sweet little kitten - you guys know him as Johnny, the little tuxedo cat that we have. Some years later, we got a little apartment together and then I started to attend college. Of course, our gaming habit never changed. We both enjoyed video games and always played every new game that came out together, or if one of us didn't like the game but the other did, we would watch the other play while the other one played Final Fantasy online. Yes, we've both been playing Final Fantasy online forever. During this time, we were very much into YouTube and watching other YouTubers such as the Yogscast, Jesse Cox, Totalbiscuit and a few others.

Then in 2012, I had found out we were pregnant with a baby - the exact same year Jason was planning to propose to me. Jason and I decided to get married sooner than expected and it was the best wedding ever. It was at Disney World and they really make sure it's magical. Anyway, we decided to move from our apartment into a new house that we had been saving for. It was awesome. At the same time we were waiting for the baby, in our off time, we would watch YouTube. We thought it was super cool how people could make a career off their favourite hobby and we thought it would be something really fun to look into. Since I was planning on being a stay-at-home mum, I could do a lot of the busy work and personal side of YouTube and Jason could do the tech side. It was a really cool idea that we thought we could do and enjoy together.

Then in July, I gave birth to our son via c-section. Originally, I wanted to have our son all-natural, no meds, but because of a medical issue I had no choice which I really didn't mind, since I didn't have my heart set on anything. I was more so of a go with the flow kind of gal. Anyway, we were adjusting to being new parents and boy, it was really hectic and difficult, but eventually we got the hang of it and we're still kind of learning, but it's a work in progress. Then Jason and I decided to pursue YouTube. It would serve as something we could do together for fun and maybe if we were lucky, it could turn to something bigger. We started our channel with a few friends but because of personal real-life issues, they had to leave and now it's just me and Jason, but I remember the first YouTube video I did. I was still recovering from being c-sectioned, so every time I laughed, it hurt so bad. But I still recorded, and it was incredibly fun. I could ignore the pain.

Then, around the time we had launched the series Iron and Coal, we had also made an Iron and Coal server. Then we found out I was pregnant again. It's really hard trying to keep up with a YouTube channel being a full-time parent and a server as well, so we had to abandon the server, sad to say. Then, in January 2014, I gave birth to our baby girl, again, c-sectioned, which means I was recording videos in utter pain for quite a while, but you didn't know that.

But YouTube is a major part of who I am - who Jason and I are today, and we wouldn't be here without you guys. You are all a very, very special part of our lives, and even though we may not be able to see each other or talk very often, I want you guys to know you are all so special to me, to us, which is why I feel comfortable drawing my life for you. I hope you guys enjoyed this and I hope we're together for many years to come. From my family to you, to yours, and to who you care about, thank you guys. Thank you all for everything. I hope you enjoyed this.

## FDML #16

Hey guys. So, I know I'm a little behind on this video, but I decided to do a draw my life video anyway. My life has been so fortunate, and as much as I have dwelled on little struggles, I really have learned, especially through this video, to appreciate things more, so I really hope you enjoy it.

It all started on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1995, when I was born not alone, with my twin sister Ashley. We were born in Canada in a pretty small town and we grew up in Canada and we were raised by my mum and my dad. That's my dad, and that's my mum. She's really smart. She's a mechanical engineer and he was a chemical engineer and now he works in manufacturing. When we were born, they announced my birth to my Grammie, which is my mum's mum, and her mum, Gigi mama, and Nonna, my dad's mum, and my aunts and uncles. Those are them.

Just a few months later, my mum went to a library where she met two other mums who also had twins, and we became best friends. Courtney and Nicole, who are identical twins, Ross and Hailey, who are boy-girl twins, and then there was me and Ashley. We were a group of six twins, and we grew up together. It was awesome. We all first lived in the same town and then one set of twins moved away and us and Ross and Hailey stayed in that town. We had a good little group of friends, but it was elementary school so to be honest I don't remember that much, but I know everyone was nice and me and Ashley got along well with the other kids. We didn't hang out so much together.

Then, just a couple months before Ashley and I's eighth birthday, we got some news. We would be moving all the way across the world to Germany. I didn't really know what to do. I didn't really want to leave, and I liked living in Canada, but my parents said we were going no matter what. And my sister seemed to be okay with it, but I really had no idea what to expect. When we first got there, I didn't really talk to anyone and I didn't want to be a part of it. I kind of just lived in my own little world and let my sister do the socializing. But some good things came out of Germany as well. Fortunately, I got really into musical theatre. I started doing plays with the theatre group and learned a lot. It was also kind of like drama school and that's what I learned I love to perform. Another good thing to come out of Germany was that I was actually able to travel the world. Germany is a pretty central country to Europe and also some places in Africa, like Egypt, so that's what we did. When I was 10, I visited Egypt and lots of other places, but Egypt was definitely memorable. And I also visited England. I think I was in about sixth grade at that point, but it was really fun, and I wasn't the biggest traveller at first, but I got used to it, and I started to learn how to do things properly. That's the Nile. We got to go to lots of Medieval castles all over Europe. They have them everywhere. I could even see a castle from my bedroom window. And then Ross and Hailey, the boy-girl twins, came and visited us and we travelled all around to different places nearby. It was definitely memorable and really fun and so great to see them again. That's us.

At the end of sixth grade or towards the middle, I went through a phase where I only wore platform shoes and my hair in a bun. I was super, super short for my age, even though it doesn't look like that in the drawing, and I guess that's how I expressed it and dealt with it. And then finally, at the end of sixth grade, my parents said we could move back to Canada. That's me being really, really happy. I had only wanted to do that for the past five years and was so happy when we finally got to move back. At the beginning of seventh grade, I went back to the same group of friends, but it was a little different. I don't think I expected it to be the same, but it was definitely like I had been gone for a while. In seventh grade, my best friend's name was Mona, but we were only best friends for a year and we never really talk anymore.

And then in eighth grade everything changed. I had already had a trampoline for a really long time but that's when I realised I loved cheerleading. A girl called Britt did a speech on cheerleading and it made me want to do it more than ever, so I started. That's the blue floor. I started flipping at the corner and ended all the way at the other corners because that's what you do in cheerleading. And I also learned how to stunt. That's me up there. Britt and I became cheer best friends. We even did a duo together and won national champions with our team in 2010. Cheerleading taught me so much, and I'm so glad I started. At this point, if I remember correctly, I was on a level 4 senior team and was kind of still just learning about cheerleading. It was only my second season. And throughout this whole time, I hadn't stopped singing and doing musical theatre either, so I was doing both and had two hobbies that I really loved. I decided to try out for an art school called Mayfield. And I auditioned for vocals and anxiously awaited my letter. I remember it being a really big decision to try out for this art school instead of just going to my local high school, and I was overjoyed when I got the letter saying that I had been accepted, and I'm so glad that I did because I started Mayfield as a freshman in 2010 and I met Hunter, my best friend. When I first met her, she was on crutches because she had a broken foot and I'll never forget that. It was hilarious and I'll never share with you how she broke it either because she'd probably be too embarrassed. That's us together and yeah, we became best friends. I had only just started YouTube at this point, but I shared it with her, and she liked it too and she also started a channel: Pretty Committee 14.

Then, only three years of being back in Canada after moving back from Germany, two years of middle school and my first year of high school, my parents told me they needed to talk to me and told me I would be moving to Germany yet again. That's means me crying. Hunter was sad too, and that's me lying on the floor in the heat. I did not want to go back. As soon as I got there, I kind of did the same thing with school and just dismissed everyone and lived in my own



little world, but I did get to experience co-ed cheer for the first time, which was amazing, and I'm so glad I had that opportunity. Germany also had its benefits, like the drinking age, which was really young, and I got into parties when I was about 15 or 16, and it kind of ran its course for like half a year. And now I'm a good kid again, don't worry!

And then I decided I wanted a six-pack, so I tried really, really hard and worked out and I did not end up getting a six-pack - I just ended up getting skinnier. With my German cheer team, I got to go to Worlds twice, which is a huge cheerleading competition and I'm actually going to leave again tomorrow morning as I film this voiceover. Worlds was so cool, and although we didn't win, we did win a competition later on in the year which was Nationals, and then we went on to win Europeans the following year. And all in the next two weeks, I have to somehow take 10 IB exams compete at cheerleading Worlds and do college cheer try-outs, and unfortunately something that adds to my stress right now is that I'm actually slightly injured and have not been able to practice for try-outs as much as I would have loved to, so I decided to go to the gym and at least get some muscles that didn't include me pounding my feet against the ground like tumbling would have. And, that is where I leave you. I'm getting on a flight tomorrow morning and the next two weeks are going to be absolutely insane, but I'm kind of excited. So, I really hope you enjoyed this video and I'm so thankful for the 180,000 subscribers that I have. You guys are amazing, and I'm going to try and keep making videos forever, or at least I'll try. Having YouTube has been such an amazing part of my life and I don't think I'll ever be able to imagine my life without it.

1571

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Hey guys! What's up? It's Meg and I had a special guest I forgot to tell you guys about. Nameless snowman in the back. Stevie convinced me to buy a freaking snowman when he was visiting, and I was trying so hard to be a responsible adult in Target but yeah, anyway, now I have snowman. I'm not going to lie. I'm actually kind of fond of him now but he needs a name and that is definitely something only you guys can do, so please tell me what it, he, she should be called. He/she - did I just say he/she?

Yeah, okay, so today I asked you guys what videos you wanted to see and one that I actually was surprised about - a lot of you guys were saying, "Do an updated draw my life video", and I remember doing that four years ago, guys. It's been four years since I did a draw my life video. A lot has happened since then, a lot of it involving you guys, and I also am going to come back after the video and do some talking, because I have some things I want to share with you guys and things that I think I maybe should have said a long time ago, so before we get into this, there's two things that I need you - that's four - there's two things that I need you guys to do. One: comment a name for the snowman. He, the poor guy needs a name. And the second thing: hit the subscribe button. I have been told by a little bird, actually it wasn't a little bird, it was like, a lot of other YouTubers, that there's something with the subscribing thing, where it might have unsubscribed you to my channel. Check if you're still subscribed and subscribe if you, if it unsubscribed you. I don't know, I don't know what's up with YouTube's back system but apparently it was unsubscribing people. So, let's get into this.

Alright guys, so starting where I left off in 2013 was right after I had tried out for UCF. I ended up making the team, which is crazy. If you don't know what I'm talking about, I wanted to be a college cheerleader basically all of high school, and I actually made the team for UCF, University of Central Florida, which is so crazy because I never thought it would actually happen and the people and the team were so, so amazing. I only ended up going to the University for six weeks for a summer semester because I actually realised cheerleading wasn't something I wanted to do much longer and it's crazy, because the team was so inviting and welcoming and amazing and to be surrounded by so many hard-working people was just such a cool environment to be in, but at the end of the day, my heart wasn't with cheerleading and once I realised that, I had to make a change.

At this point I had already been doing YouTube a lot of years and a lot of my friends lived in LA and made YouTube videos, and there were so many amazing opportunities there to connect with people actually in real life instead of through the internet that I decided to move from Florida where I was living to LA. And I could not have done this without my grammy. That is her house on the left. I tried to draw it but kind of failed. She helped me move all my stuff from my dorm room to her house and I got to chill there and hang out with her for a while before I took of all that stuff again and then moved to Los Angeles. So, what you see me drawing there are the first apartment buildings I lived in in LA. They were not pastel and white and marble like I made them look right there. They were just orange, but I thought that was boring, so if we zoom in on that window there, that is me and my two first roommates in LA. I lived with two guys when I first moved to LA and thinking back, I honestly wouldn't have done it any other way. Although I knew in long term, I'd probably end up moving in with a girl or alone, we had some pretty fun adventures. And that is me in my bedroom.

For the first few months when I moved to Los Angeles, I just basically worked non-stop on YouTube videos. For the first time in my life, I was in a situation where I was surrounded by people doing a similar thing to me whereas anywhere else I lived, YouTube was like such a weird thing. No one did it. I felt so at home and comfortable right away. It was amazing, and on top of that, I finally had time to really focus on YouTube. If you go back to that time on my channel -

I think it was about October 2013 - you will see a bunch of random different videos, because at that point, I was just trying stuff out. I wanted to see what type of video I liked making most. I made singing videos, I made routine videos, I just was having so much fun with being creative with little things, like I got excited about video transitions or the lighting in a room, and soon after that, I started working with Awesomeness TV which is a YouTube channel you guys know, which was very, very exciting for me because it meant hanging out with other people and doing projects that are more collaborative, and that's definitely fun for me. I'm forever grateful and I still do stuff with them to this day. I just kept working on stuff and for the first time of my life, I got to go to stuff like events or red carpets. I made YouTube friends. That's all of us at the end there. So basically, the days just flew by because I would just work on my videos non-stop. I had so many ideas that I had been wanting to do forever but just hadn't had the time to do before.

So, after I kind of got into my groove there, I started working on projects that were a little bit bigger and a little bit different. That is actually me reading for Royal Crush for the role of Desi which I got in the end which is insane, so I don't know what kind of audition room it is that I just drew right there, but that was that and then that is us on the boat filming season 1, on the ship. There's just something about creating something with other people that's so powerful and knowing that you guys were going to watch it, like, since then there's been four seasons. I can't even believe it and every time we do it, I'm so excited because I'm just picturing what you guys are going to comment and thinking about like what scenes you're going to like best or what scenes are going to leave you wondering. And doing that show, definitely, it gave me the acting bug. I have done other roles since then, like something huge that I'm so proud of and I really hope you enjoyed was Dance Camp. I played Cheyenne. She was a dancer with purple hair and she wasn't the nicest, hence the little frown face, but being able to play that role was so fun because I got to kind of bring out my mean side and if I was like mean to anyone on set, I'm like, "Oh, it's just Cheyenne."

And finally my Pottery Barn collection was the last big project I worked on for you guys, so I'm going to cheat a little bit here because I'm really proud of the collection and I want you guys to see it in its best light and if I draw it, I'm not doing that. But basically I got to collab with Pottery Barn and help design things for you guys, so just picturing like what you would want in your rooms was such a weird but cool process and like, I got to ask you what you thought on Twitter and what type of things you would want and in the end of the day, I'm really, really proud of it and I love it and I really hope you guys like it too. It made me realise that I never ever want to stop creating things. I have so many ideas and so many dreams that I'm so excited to get started on. I don't know, I'm just saying, 2017 bring it on because I feel like we should take on the world this year.

Okay, so this last part of my draw my life I've decided to tell you instead of drawing you, because I'm not even really sure how it would draw it but I owe you guys an update so I've been, blah, blah, I'm going to give you one. So, let me start off by saying seven and a half years - that is how long I've been doing YouTube videos for - but it'll be eight years in April, which is insane. And even though a lot of you guys have commented things like, "Oh she quit YouTube" or "She's not going to do it anymore". I don't have any plans of stopping YouTube ever so don't get that in your brains, because this is something I enjoy and love so much, but I think it just, there came a point where after seven years, I needed things to change, because I am a person and I am changing. For so long, I was living in a bubble. I would do the same exact thing every day: I would like wake up, film my YouTube video, like hang out with someone, then just go to sleep and then do that over and over again and I've decided to leave that bubble the past year and it's been so weird because, like, I feel different but it's been amazing. I've completely broke a routine that, you know, technically was working for me. Everyone was like, "Good, keep doing your thing. You've got things together. Keep going girl!" and I was like, "Yeah, this is great" and most of it was, but there was definitely a bit missing. It was - it was - like calculated. Although a lot of people were probably like, "Well, why change things if everything was working perfectly?" After years of doing that, it isn't the same. Like the most exciting things in my life instead of, like, putting up a video and having it do well was getting to meet you guys or travel or even just see you guys in public. That was what made me really, really happy. All of those experiences became so fun and interesting to me and I started to learn so much more from them than I was from just making YouTube videos, and so I've been trying to just be really brave and do so many things that I never would do before, so just different experiences and adventures and I've just been, like, living in a way that I've never lived before. Very in the moment and I'm so inspired and have so many experiences and stories that I now want to share with you guys. And I know now it seems like, ugh, this YouTuber hasn't uploaded and she sucks, but really, I'm working so hard on things that are happening down the line, and it's a little hard for me too because I really like to have an idea and just do it right away and give it you guys, but I just can't always be like that. Finding ways to connect with you guys and create things with you is something that I'm so passionate about and will probably always be the thing I am most passionate about, so as long as I can keep doing that, I am happy. And I know that you guys probably will be like, "Can't she just keep things simple and make DIYs and stop going too deep in every video?" but I can't. I tried. It just happens. It just comes out, so anyway, that's all. Bye.

2079

FDML #17

Hey guys, it's Gigi, and today I'm going to be doing a video drawing my life. And I really hope you guys enjoy it.

It all started one glorious Sunday morning, you know, on Easter, when my mum busted me out of her stomach on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1992. Now let's get right down to my DNA, shall we? I have an abundance of international backgrounds, starting with French. This is the flag of Quebec which is a province in Canada where I was born and what I just wrote says Je m'appelle which means my "My name is Gigi" and no, I cannot read or speak in French, I just know a little bit. That is the flag of Lebanon up top, because I am part Lebanese and not as obviously, Italian, ciao bello. I have two brothers. This is my older brother Adam, who's two years older than me and this is my younger brother Cory, who's two years younger than me. **I'm sitting pretty in the middle honey, clicking my heels, just being the most flamboyant** as always. **I love being in the middle.** Everybody asks me, do I hate it? **I love it.**

When I was growing up, animated Disney movies were so popular, and I just wanted to share the first one that I ever saw as a baby. It was actually the Lion King. That's supposed to be the monkey holding Simba up on Pride Rock, but when I got older and I started coming into my own interests and things like that, **I started identifying with the Little Mermaid, and I absolutely loved. That movie was my favourite. I was just so obsessed with her long gorgeous red hair, the way she looked when she was swimming, her beautiful shape to her. I was just seriously obsessed, and I identified a lot with that movie.** Speaking of 90s movies, **I was also really into 90s music.** Another random memory I have from when I was little is my mum driving in the front seat of the car and me still in the back in my training seat and Whitney Houston's "I will always love you" came on the radio and that was **one of my favourite songs.** It was actually released in 1992 if I'm not mistaken. Let me know in the comments if I'm wrong, but she said all you would hear out of my mouth from the backseat was "I, you". **I just think that's so funny; I laugh every time I think about it.**

I realised that I was a little bit different than a lot of the other kids at school when we'd be watching Sesame Street or they'd be bringing their Big Bird dolls into school or whatever and **all I would really want to do to that Big Bird doll is shoot it and have it die and never come back, because I hated Sesame Street.** Someone that I look up to looks like this. Strong, independent, doesn't let a man hold her down, fights crime, and does it all with a smile on her face. **This is my girl Sailor Moon and I loved that show. I wanted to be talking about them all the time. I wanted to own all the dolls. I wanted to be Sailor Moon - she's a gay icon.**

I remember every single day after kindergarten I would get off the school bus. I'd be dropped off for the end of the day, and the bus driver would go "Bye, Gigi!" and I'd be like "Bye, bish!" **and my grandma would be waiting for me. We would walk back to her house and talk about what I learned at school that day, if I had a good or a bad day. She was really, really great and she was a really amazing support system when I was younger.** We would go back to her house and she would always make me a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. That is the sandwich I drew. I have no idea how I came up with that - it's like a burger or something. She made me a peanut butter and jelly and I would be waiting by the couch and she would bring it to me and I would watch Sailor Moon and **I just really, really loved those days and I really appreciated my grandma for always being there for me.**

**My father surprised me one day when I was little and this is probably a surprise I will never forget, probably the best of my life.** He came randomly to me with this big box and he wouldn't tell me what was in it. He was trying to make me guess. I was thinking, I don't even know what I was saying I was saying, Furby or something because that's what I wanted at the time, but what do I find in the bottom of that box, you ask? I found Spice Girls World Tour tickets, and **I was so excited! I started screaming and crying. My dad tells me that he's shocked that the windows didn't break that day because I was screaming so loud. It was just like the best day ever and I was, like, really, really happy.**

I went through a really confusing stage in my life, I would call it. My older brother was playing football and being really manly and out there, and just playing all these sports and had all these guy friends, and my younger brother was also playing karate and being really manly also, and **I just didn't, I felt like I didn't fit in anywhere,** you know, all of them were having so much fun and then **I was just kind of left in the corner, you know?** And I had to keep all of this in because I didn't want to make it seem like I felt left out because, you know, I was thinking about things like heels and lipstick and **I just didn't have anywhere to fit in at the time, and I was really, really insecure about a lot of things.**

And that's when I found the sport of diving. **I was always really interested in gymnastics** and things, but **I never really thought that I could be a diver.** It was just so scary, you know? I remember the first time I ever walked into the diving pool. I saw someone jump off the tallest platform, which was ten meters tall and he ripped the dive. No splash whatsoever and I just kept thinking, **will I ever be as good as him? Because I want to be. I want to train. I want to be the best. So, I took on the challenge full force of becoming a professional diver. And, you know, with a lot of blood, sweat and tears, a lot of smacks on the water, a lot of bruises, a lot of crying, a lot of endurance, I racked up a lot of medals in the sport, actually.** I went from competition to competition and I was actually a force to be reckoned with, but when Nationals came around that year, which is when you compete against everyone else in the country, I just thought to myself, **am I going to be good enough?**

Flash-forward three years later, I am standing on the 10-metre platform staring into all of the audience and it is Nationals. I'm competing against everyone from my country and you can always tell where the judges are sitting in the audience because they're wearing all blue, and **it's just so intimidating.** My very last dive of my eight dive routine list was an inward three and a half, which means you're standing backwards on the tower but you flip forward so you're

going towards the tower but you miss it by like an inch and then you do three and a half flips and you hopefully land on your head. So, I go and I do the dive and I rip it, thank God, and I get all tens except for one 9.5, and I ended up taking home first place for Nationals which was so exciting and such an amazing point in my life. I was number one in my country and the other second and third people don't really matter. It's all about me! Woo! I actually shed a tear that day right there standing there on the podium. It was just really loud, everybody's applause, you know, obviously because I did win nationals. It's a huge accomplishment. But also, because I felt like I fought a lot of my demons, you know, I was in a very vulnerable place before and I came out on top, I felt. And made something really positive out of something that was really negative, which is, I think, what you always want to strive for. And I made the front page of the newspaper the very next day. I thought I was just going to get an article or something, but for them to put me on the front is just so amazing. Just another accomplishment, and you know, I love my country for supporting me.

But still, every single night, my thoughts just had such a strong hold on me. Why was I thinking these things? Why did I want to dress up? Why did I like makeup? It's just something that I had to explore. I fell out of love with diving, you know. I walked away from it on top and I'd had so much fun and all the people I met I appreciate so much. They put me in an amazing spot, but I just had to ask myself: what's next for me? One thing that was sure to stay the same: school. I felt like I was not participating. I was not finding that many things interesting about it, and the only thing I really did in school was socialize. You know, I got work done, but I always got told "You talk too much," which I don't think is an issue.

One night I was just messing around on my computer and I found this website called YouTube and I was just exposed to so much amazing stuff that I was not exposed to before, and all these random personalities and crazy skits and I just really knew at that time that I wanted to perform. I wanted to be in front of the camera, so I started making YouTube videos and that's me: "Hey guys, it's Gigi!"

My numbers slowly started to grow and more and more of you guys just really became my friends, and I really appreciate you guys so much for that. I actually took my YouTube to my high school. At the end of every day I would hold castings because I was doing this online kind of reality show called The Campus, if some of you guys remember back then. And it helped me find my passion, you know. I love directing, I love performing, and we actually made these two people from my school who had, were in both relationships, and we made them kiss for the show, which was a really funny point, I think. It just goes to show you, you can literally turn your frown upside down. Life is what you make of it. Situations are how you perceive them, you know, I don't care where you came from. It doesn't matter if you come from a good family, a bad family, if you want to do something, you have to go out and change it. I've made myself so happy over the years just listening to myself and what my brain is telling me and what my heart desires. And that was supposed to be my transformation, but you guys get the picture.

I just want to take this time in this video right now to say I love you. I don't say this enough and I don't care, no matter what the circumstances you guys have, you need to love you because that is the most important thing at the end of the day. Because outside this little cloud of you, this little comfortable bubble you have, is so many amazing experiences and so many amazing talents that you don't know about yourself yet. So, I want you guys to take chances and do what your heart really desires, because I know you guys are all amazing. This has been my draw my life video, now draw yours. Leave it as a video response and stay gorgeous! Mwah.

2106

#### FDML #18

Hi, my name is Alex and today, I'm going to share my story with you guys. I've been a little nervous about this, but hey. I think it'd be really cool if you guys knew me a little better.

It all started in a small town in Mississippi. It seems like everybody there knew each other. I had my mum, my dad and a little brother who was much younger than me. I lived in a trailer park which for some reason people thought was something to be ashamed of, but I loved it. We had a forest in front of us and in the mornings, deer would play in the field. We had a creek where I would always do my homework. It was perfect to me, but other people would make fun of me for it. My first language was Spanish. I didn't know much English and it was really tough when I first got into school. And none of the kids could understand what I was saying, and I couldn't understand what they were saying, so it was really hard to communicate.

I remember my first day of school. I met these girls. They seemed to be really nice, so I hung out with them. In the morning school would have devotion, where all of the kids would get together and say a prayer before school started. When we went into the building, the three girls were whispering to each other, and they called me out and they started saying this word that I couldn't understand what they were saying. But they were whispering this word to each other and trying to get me to say it. I didn't know what this word meant because I didn't know any English. Little did I know that they were trying to teach me a bad word. So, I gave in. I said the word that they wanted me to say and they started laughing, so for some reason, I thought maybe it was something funny like a joke. Then they pointed to a teacher and

kind of signalled me to say the word to her, so I did. That's when I found out that the word I was saying was a pretty bad word and I ended up getting in trouble. My first day of school!

School got tougher for me. When I was in third grade, the teacher would hand all the students their work, and she would hand me colouring sheets. She would treat me kind of like a kindergartner, and I felt left out. I wanted to learn what they were learning, too. My mum decided to sign me up to take some English classes so I could learn to speak English and I could learn to communicate with people around me. Since there was a language barrier, I didn't really have any friends, so I was by myself most of the time. When I would get on the bus, I would always sit by myself. But one time, when I was coming home, I looked out the window and I saw that my mum had something. When I came to see what it was, she was holding a video camera! I was really excited when I saw my mum with the video camera because when I was little, I had a dream that I wanted to be an actress. I wanted to be in movies and so I would ask my mum to let me borrow her video camera every now and then, and my little brother and I would make these home films. My brother and I had a lot of fun making these films and after we were done, we would have my mum and dad sit down in the living room and we would play the movies that we made, and they would laugh. And it just made me really happy. That day was the day that I realised that the only thing I ever wanted was to make movies and make people laugh.

I really didn't like coming to school when I was in elementary. Even though I was learning English, my English wasn't perfect, and people would make fun of me even though I tried my best. It was really easy for me to get bullied because people would say stuff to me, and I couldn't say anything back to defend myself. In middle school, I met my first best friend. I remember we were all outside before school started and the teachers started handing out a lot of girls these papers, and I didn't know what they were getting because me and a few other girls didn't get them. Then this other girl came up to me, and she was like, "Did you get one of those papers?" and I was like, "No". Later we found out that these girls who got these papers were invited to be in a beauty pageant. And then me and this other girl were really sad because we thought maybe we were too ugly to even be considered to be in the beauty pageant, but that's okay because that's when I met my best friend and we started talking after that day. I think it's a little funny to meet that way.

Around this time was where I met the guy who I first had a crush on. He was so cute! And I had a feeling that he liked me back, but his friends would tell him that I'm ugly. And then he just started avoiding me, and I guess that was the first time I got heartbroken. My best friend and I would always sit together by ourselves during break time and we felt like all the boys avoided us because we were ugly. I remember some of them even called me fat. They bullied us but we would never say anything because we were too scared. I got really insecure after that and I started wearing baggy clothes to school. And people would make fun of me and tell me that I look like a boy.

In high school, my mum suggested that I should join some clubs and try to make some friends. So, I noticed this Robotics Club, and I decided to join. Once I joined the club, I met a lot of really good friends. One time, the Robotics Club had a competition in New Orleans and all the students were going. I felt really bad because my parents didn't have a lot of money back then, but they worked really, really hard and they were able to pay my trip, and I was really happy. Once I got in New Orleans, the competition was amazing. There was so many people cheering for us, and I had the most fun I've ever had in years.

When I was 16, my mum came to the school to pick me up. I didn't understand why, because I wasn't sick or anything, but she told me there was something wrong with my dad and that he was sick, and we were going to the hospital. When we got there, we were all confused. The nurse gave my dad a room and told him to stay there. We didn't really understand what was going on or why my dad had to stay in the hospital. When the doctor came out, he told us that my dad had cancer. This was one of the most toughest times of our lives. The whole world just came shattering to us. We didn't want to lose my dad. This was around the time where I got closer to God. My family would pray together. My mum would stay with my dad while me and my brother stayed with my godmother. I remember I started hating going to the hospital because I didn't want to see my dad sick. I would sit in my room by myself, and I would pray to God and hope that everything would be okay. My dad had chemo treatment for months and eventually our prayers were answered, and my dad was back to health again. We were all really happy because we didn't want to lose my dad and thanks to God we still have my dad here. We were happy until we realised that we had a large bill to pay for all the medical expenses and we didn't know how we were going to pay for it, because we didn't have the money for it until a miracle happened and we got a notice that said that everything had already been paid for. We didn't know what was going on and to this day, we never knew who paid for my dad's treatment.

By the time I was in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, I created my own YouTube channel. I really enjoyed making funny videos, and I realised that that's all that I wanted to do. I love making people laugh. My friends would come over every now and then and we would film all these funny videos and upload them to YouTube. These videos, they didn't get a lot of views. They'd get about 20 views, 10 views, but we would do it because we loved it. One day I decided to create a shirt design for our YouTube channel. My mum and I stayed up all night ironing and printing the designs for the shirts. I came in that morning and I handed out the shirts to my friends. And we all wore the shirts in the same day because we were so proud of our YouTube. Unfortunately, people started noticing that we made YouTube videos, and they would make fun of us for it. People would tell me that I was never going to go anywhere with it. One day, I found out that one of my friends burnt the shirt I gave him, and it really hurt my feelings. The girls in my class would always talk about

how weird I am and how weird my videos were, so I just decided to stop making them and I deleted my YouTube channel.

After graduation, everyone had already planned what to do with their lives. I didn't know what to do with my future. My parents wanted me to become a doctor or a teacher, but **my heart was always in filming and acting**. That's when we all packed our things and moved to Texas. College was really expensive, and I felt like I wasn't ready, so I decided to get a job. I started working at a candy store, but during the second day at work the cash register broke on me, and the customer got really mad because it wouldn't let me give her her change and she complained about it, and I, I ended up getting fired the next day. Then, I started working in the flea market with my parents. I would sell toys and that's how I made money to buy myself a good laptop and a good camera.

That's when I decided to start doing YouTube again. I started making silly makeup videos where I would transform myself into a zombie a clown or even Spiderman. **It was really fun** to do but I started running out of ideas and I didn't upload it for a while. **I was really into video games** back then, so I decided to make a new gaming channel. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, I created Inquisitor Master. For a couple of years, I uploaded videos just because **I enjoyed it. It was really fun to do**, and I had a lot of free time. **It was the most fun I've had in a while**. I would work at the flea market and come back home and work on videos, and **I really enjoyed it. I was really happy**.

One day, my camera and my laptop stopped working. On the same day. **I had a lot of dreams that someday my channel would get somewhere**, but none of my family really understood how much I wanted to be a YouTuber. I didn't have much money to buy myself a new laptop or a new camera, so I decided to sell my Star Wars collection and **it kind of hurt** because it took me years to put together, but at the end, I ended up getting the best camera, and I found an OK laptop. A few months after that, my videos started blowing up. I was getting over 30,000 views on my videos, so I decided to stop working at the flea market to work on my YouTube channel full-time. My parents weren't really happy with this and even though they didn't understand why, **they still supported me**. I think **all of the sacrifices that I've made were worth it**. **I ended up turning one of my most favourite hobbies into my job. I can't help but to thank each and every one of you who's watching this video for your support, because I wouldn't be here without you**. We reached 1 million subscribers today, and I decided to make this video to tell you that your dreams can come true, too. No matter how impossible it may seem. **Thank you, so, so much from the bottom of my heart. I love you guys so much. Thank you**. Never give up on your dreams.

2227

#### FDML #19

Hello, my geeks and peeps, my explainers and entertainers, my little oodlelallies, Rebecca Parham here and, oh my gosh, **I have to thank you all so much** for half a million subscribers! **You guys have helped make a dream I've had for the past four years a reality** and **I really cannot show my gratitude enough**, but I'm going to try by making a video that has been requested a lot. This is my official draw my life. Well, it's going to be a little bit of drawing and a little bit of animating, but we'll just call it a draw my life for simplicity. And just to clarify, this is going to be a broad look at my life without going into too much detail because I got a lot of stories that I want to make into future videos, and I wouldn't want to ruin them for you. Anyways, let's just jump on into the complicated mess that is my life. Here we go.

The year was 1987 in the city of San Antonio, Texas. Two army veterans who already had a daughter, Rachel, were expecting another baby, my mum and dad had just started a business together as partners and even had two employees to think about, but as money is often tight in the first few years of any business, my dad stayed to run the new company and my mum went out and got a real job to make ends meet. She worked with those big giant 80s computers that were the size of a room and had the mag tape drives and the big flashing buttons. Yeah, that was my mum - shoulder pads and all. Anyways, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1987, at about 2:14 p.m., I made my grand entrance into this world, very loudly. I didn't even need to be pinched or anything. I just came out screaming. So yeah, I have always been this dramatic. I was taken home to our house in what was basically typical middle-class American suburbia - neat little houses all in a row with front yards and tall wooden fences, **lots of neighbourhood kids to play with**, an elementary school I could walk to and from and even a bully kid that lived up the street. The complete American childhood experience.

For six years, it was just me and my sister. Then one day mum and dad sat us down in the living room, showed us a kids book about babies and said that we were going to get a new baby brother or sister. **Rachel and I secretly wanted a brother, and we ended up getting our wish**, because soon after my little brother David was born. And he completed the Parham five.

All throughout my childhood, **I showed an interest in the creative arts**. I'd put on plays in our living room for my parents and I would cast myself as the star, my sister as the support role and our stuffed animals as all the other parts. I would use anything and everything I could get my hands on to build sets and props and costumes and it was a really early lesson in resourcefulness and thinking outside the box. **My family also loved music and I took to singing** very early on. I'd belt out any Disney song you did or didn't want to hear, but above all, **I loved cartoons**. I grew up on Disney movies and shows on Nickelodeon and Cartoon Network. In fact, it was Nickelodeon showing the behind the scenes of their

cartoon shows during commercial breaks that gave me the initial idea that I could maybe one day be an animator - a dream that I carried in the back of my mind for the majority of my life, but it would be many years before I acted on it.

Around the time I was about to go into the fourth grade, the family business was really kicking off and my mum went back to work full-time as my dad's business partner. They were moving the family business closer to the countryside of town which meant we had to move too, and on top of all of this, my parents enrolled me and my siblings into a new private preparatory school - you know, the kind that offers better education and you wear uniforms. The school was small, and I mean small. They had grades pre-k to 12 and there were maybe 200 students in all, so that meant you stayed with this same general 15 people in your class every single year. The kids in my class, well, they didn't like me. I mean, I was this really weird, dramatic kid coming into a class that already knew each other, so I was destined to be the oddball. But with how small the school was, it basically meant I was alone, and my personality changed because of that. I went from a happy, spontaneous shamelessly creative kid to a shy, socially awkward, overly emotional weirdo, and that's a recipe for disaster when you throw puberty into the mix.

Middle school is a tough gig for anybody at that age and like many, it's when I developed major self-esteem and anxiety problems. I was bullied a lot and the adults who ran the school didn't really do much to stop it. Oh, and there was this weird social pressure created by the staff and students to not pursue the arts as a career, particularly acting. It's kind of hard to explain, but the general consensus was that actors were horrible people and wanting to be one made you horrible too - yeah, I don't know, stupid. But being the compliant child I was, I gave up all my dreams of being a Broadway star and momentarily shifted years into my marine biology phase. This was when I learned how to scuba dive. My mum got certified with me and we still love diving to this day. Steve Irwin, the Crocodile Hunter, God rest his soul, was my hero in middle school and I was also into a lot of other obscure, nerdy things like Pokémon and video games. And while my classmates were watching grown-up shows like Dawson's Creek and Buffy the Vampire Slayer, I was watching shows like Ed, Edd and Eddie, the Powerpuff Girls, Courage the Cowardly Dog and Samurai Jack. Not to mention, I was one of maybe five plus-sized kids in the whole school and I believed that my worth as a person was directly connected to how I looked and what other people thought of my body, well, it was going to be a demon that I had to fight for a long time, but don't worry guys - eventually won that war.

So, from grades four to eight I was completely miserable at this prep school, but as I was going into my freshman year of high school in 2002, I had finally had enough, and I begged my parents to let me go to the local public school. This was the first time I ever experienced culture shock. I went from a heavily sheltered school environment of 15 people per grade to a school of over 2,000 students where I was periodically offered drugs and kids got drunk at parties every other weekend. Definitely not my thing.

As hard as that first year was to adjust to, it was also the reawakening of my creativity. The school's curriculum required art credits so I chose two old loves of mine: theatre and choir and for the first time in forever, I just realised that that's what I wrote into the script - sorry - but like I said, for the first time in forever I felt that joy, that passion, that spark for performing again. But as some of you may recall, my high school theatre club was where I met my, well, my mentally unstable, vindictive theatre teacher. There'll be more on her in a later video. The theatre kids were kind of a rough group too and though I was a contributing member of the club, I still didn't get along with most of them. So once again, I was the shy, socially awkward weirdo with no friends, but still, it was better than the prep school.

It was also my sophomore year that I began drawing for the first time in years. I mostly drew cartoons I watched on TV and some bad costume designs for theatre. Nothing I took too seriously, but it's worth noting. Now by the time senior year rolled around, a certain event regarding my emotionally abusive theatre teacher happened and I finally decided that I'd had enough of her. In January 2006, I quit the club and dropped out of all of her classes. With theatre club no longer a thing, I had more time to myself and I spent a lot of it at home on the Internet where I dove headfirst into the marvellous world of fandom. And I was up for all of it; fan art, fanfiction, cosplay, roleplay forums, and this was when I really began to draw, just buried my head in a sketchbook and a copy of Photoshop Elements Six. I posted all my fan art to deviantART.com and revelled in the fun I was having. One day, while fiddling around on deviantART, I clicked on a random link that someone had posted, and it sent me to this strange new website called YouTube. After days of exploring this new wonderland, I made my first YouTube account under the username Grizabella 626, and posted mostly fan-made music videos about my favourite show at the time, Ed, Edd and Eddy. I'm pretty sure you can still find them floating around the internet.

But eventually I had to put high school behind me and look forward to college. I got accepted into a local private university and chose to major in theatre. I also joined choir for good measure. All the while I was still drawing fan art and posting it to deviantART and I was even starting to explore my own original ideas for cartoon shows. After a year in the theatre department, I came to the cold realization that theatre was probably not going to work out for me. So, I talked to my parents about doing something different and finally someone suggested it - what about animation? My mum was on board, but my dad needed a little convincing that the talent was there, so I showed him a piece of fan art I had drawn of the Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy and that convinced my dad to send me to animation school. Mum looked around online for schools and found Ringling College of Art and Design on Pixar's website, though it's not there anymore. They took down their list of schools.

We visited the campus and I showed a Ringling advisor my portfolio and, oh boy, did she rip me a new one! I learned that I was going to have to make an entirely new, much better portfolio to even have a chance of getting in, so I went back to my university, dropped out of theatre for the second time in my life and took nothing but art classes for a semester. I built up the portfolio and sent it off to Ringling. A few months later, mum and dad called me in the middle of my painting class and with tears in their eyes, told me that Ringling had called, and I was accepted. In 2008, I moved to Sarasota, Florida, and started my first year of computer animation school. I was in for a reality check because the first day of class I was sitting next to a fellow freshman animation major and she started doodling Disney quality drawings in her sketchbook and I went back to my dorm room and called my mum in a mild panic, telling her I could not compete with these kids, but she and my dad encouraged me to keep going and do my best. And I made it through that first year pretty well but the summer before my sophomore year, my grandmother died. She was basically another parent to me, having lived with our family for 12 years. It was a really bad loss for us, so I went into my sophomore year already an emotional wreck. To make matters worse, it was the first time we were working with the 3D animation software Maya and I struggled very badly to learn it. I passed the first semester of sophomore year by the skin of my teeth but the second semester I failed my computer animation class despite having given it everything I had and with the way Ringling's curriculum was set up, it meant I was kicked out of the computer animation major entirely and I had to wait half a year for a chance to get back in. This was the biggest failure I had ever faced before and I felt completely worthless, but my parents believed in me and they said I could stay enrolled and try again in half a year. So, while waiting to get back into the computer animation major, I took classes towards my business minor. The business students and faculty were incredibly uplifting and supportive. I felt so empowered and by the time that I got back into the computer animation major that spring, I was confident and ready to excel, which I did.

Now for all this time in school, I wasn't really paying attention to YouTube and how it was changing, but the summer before my senior year of school, I rediscovered the YouTube scene and practically overnight became a fangirl for many creators. Around this time, I also got into Twitter and I started relentlessly bugging the first YouTuber I ever subscribed to, Daneboe. Funny enough, we would eventually become good friends and his success on YouTube was a huge inspiration for me. So much, that I began to dream of maybe becoming a YouTuber one day as well. But no one at my school would think it was a good idea, so I kept it to myself. After all, I was supposed to be applying to the big studios like Pixar and DreamWorks, making everybody proud.

Anyway, senior year when I finished my thesis film, and in 2013 I graduated from Ringling College of Art and Design with the BFA in Computer Animation and a minor in Business of Art and Design. At that point, my plan was to go back home to Texas, rework my portfolio and resume some, apply to major studios like Disney, Nickelodeon, Blue Sky etc., and hopefully get a job and move to California or wherever the work took me. But things didn't really work out like that. My parents started encouraging me to go into business for myself, you know, exactly what they did. And don't get me wrong, I loved the idea of that but maybe later on down the line, not fresh out of animation school having never worked in a studio before. But before you can say Bob's your uncle, my sister and I had come up with the name Let Me Explain Studios, my dad helped me apply for the LLC and I was suddenly a businesswoman. I had no idea what I was doing, so with the creation of my new company, I decided to make a new YouTube channel to coincide with it, and thus, on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, this channel, Let Me Explain Studios, was born. However, I didn't upload my first video until June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, entitled BeeFwee, a Pokemon Parody. Now, you would think this would be an exciting time for me, but really it was probably the most anxious and stressful time of my entire life. Because I wasn't out there getting big studio jobs like all my friends from school, I started to succumb to what I call the post-Ringling depression. It's a real thing that I've seen in some of my friends when they feel like they're not living up to the expectations that Ringling put upon them. It's kind of like graduating from Harvard and not being able to make it as a lawyer and everyone knows it. I felt like I was being pulled in so many different directions and no matter what I decided to do with my future, I would be disappointing someone. My anxiety was really getting the better of me and I felt this darkness beginning to well up inside, like at any moment something would tip me over the edge and I would just snap. I would lose my mind.

And then November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at 9:30a.m., dad was just gone. He started having chest pains in the middle of his morning meeting with his employees and when my sister took him to the hospital, he was just gone. Died of a massive, unsurvivable heart attack. I suppose this should have been the thing to tip me over the edge and send me into a spiralling depression, but surprisingly, it wasn't. Strangely enough, I think it had the opposite effect. There were many factors at play, mostly to do with the strength and courage of my mum and sister and the kindness and love shown to me by everybody else, but what I had been given was the ultimate excuse to feel sad and no one was going to judge me for bursting into tears and saying how devastated and heartbroken and scared I was, because everybody else was feeling the exact same thing, and that — that pulling of the emotional pressure release valve in my head — was what saved me. But the biggest thing that losing dad taught me was that when you live through something that you previously thought you couldn't survive, and you make it out okay, the world doesn't seem as scary anymore, and you're always a lot stronger than you think.

I picked my life back up and I continued to run my company which was basically just me doing freelance animation and illustration work but with better tax breaks. And in my spare time, I made videos for this YouTube channel which



turned out to be the best therapy. For two and a half years, I freelanced and made YouTube videos. Freelance and YouTube, freelance and YouTube. I built up a small, very kind and loyal YouTube audience and made a fair few YouTuber friends as well. And one day in January of 2017, I got the idea of putting some of my YouTuber friends in a video. An alt satirical video idea that I'd written maybe two years prior and it was called How to Creep Out your Favorite YouTubers at Conventions. I asked TomSka Daneboe and Jaden Animations to lend me their voices. They sent me the lines, I got to work, and I finished the video just in time for Con season. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, I uploaded How to Creep Out your Favorite YouTubers at Conventions to this channel and something happened - I started getting subscribers. A lot of subscribers in a very short amount of time, and just shy of 2 months later, on the night before I was flying out to VidCon 2017, I hit 100,000. And that was only the beginning. The numbers kept climbing and climbing, and by July 19<sup>th</sup> of 2017, I emailed my last client for the final time and officially became a full-time YouTuber.

Since then, our community of explainer and entertainers has grown quite rapidly. I mean, as you can tell by the beginning, this video was supposed to be a milestone for half a million subscribers, but you guys haven't slowed down a bit. So, you know what? This video is now just one big thank you to all of you. You are the reason I get to wake up and do what I love for a living, and you're the reason that all the hard work and struggles were worth it. So, thank you - thank you for changing my life. Thank you for helping make a crazy pipe dream come true and thank you so much for tuning in, but now, I got to tune out. Bye!

3392

## FDML #20

Welcome to the drawing of my life. Yes, I'm going to draw you my life so you could see it, blah blah blah. Hello YouTube, yes, hello, this is going to get really long and interesting so you better stick around. But yep, there is me - the happy fun me you see in every video, well most videos. But yeah - let's get, let's get to it!

It all started in sunny San Francisco, California, where my parents met, and things are pretty great, you know? It was the 80s and it was great and my, my dad and my mum met and within a month they fell in love and got married. It might have not been a smart decision because they had me and things kind of changed. My mum and my dad weren't quite the same anymore and it was just, my dad got into drugs and the marriage was questionable, but my mum was so blindsided by love that whenever he'd go away for three days at a time to go do his drugs, she would stick around, but she got a clue and she moved out with me. It was really hard for her, but I think it was, like, the best decision she made. And my dad kind of just did his drugs and, you know, but he's better now. He's drug-free and that's all that matters.

Then came elementary school and I didn't like elementary school. It was, it was not a good time for me because I was bullied and teased and I was just upset and I cried a lot, and it wasn't, it wasn't the best years, but, I don't know, I guess things could, could change right? Because there's always one person who can make your day happy and that was my friend Sam. She was always there for me and we were best friends and, well, I can admit, we were, we were kind of weird. We had an imaginary friends club and we sit around and draw all of our imaginary friends and pretend we'd have a billion animals and we were just so imaginative, so don't hate, appreciate! Imagination is the best! So yeah, we were great friends but then came middle school and, you know, middle school changes things and I definitely changed. I got a little bit weirder and we're just going to keep this part short because it's kind of something I'm trying to block out, but I was weird. I was not social. I was awkward and whenever I talked, I stuttered, so yeah, and I was kind of chubby as well, so I wasn't that great looking because of all the zits I had on my face, and nobody really liked me. Everybody just kind of made fun of me and I was really offensive about it, so it was not good times, but my friend Sam, she stuck around and she was really nice and she, she stuck up for me and she even met a new girl named Marina and me and Marina became really good friends, where we still keep in contact to this day. So, so happy of that friendship. She is such a great person. She's so, so talented.

But as far as the whole 'cool' thing goes, I wanted to be so cool, so bad and you know, that's not the way to be cool. And all the boys were mean to me and they'd call me The Grudge because I was pale and had long, dark hair and that was just a huge self-esteem, like, bulldozer, so in the eighth grade, my mum said, "Well, we're going to move, we're moving to North Carolina" and I was like, "Well, where's that?" I was kind of dumb. And I looked on the map and I was like, "Holy smokes, we're moving across the country!" So we moved, and I didn't know how to feel about it at first. I was shocked and then I was kind of sad and then I'd just cry at the end because I didn't want to leave my friends. I thought I was going to make no more friends and I was just not happy, so I decided to fail the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, because, you know, we were moving anyway. Why does it matter? And I came to North Carolina, but luckily for me, North Carolina, North Carolina was really accepting. People accepted me and they were nice to me and I was really happy, because I made a whole bunch of friends and just being myself. So, I learned a lesson and I'm really proud of that, but yeah, I was just happier. I let my hair grow out. I parted my bangs. I got good grades. I lost my baby fat and my stoke, my self-esteem rose, and I was just happy. Oh, and I got my first kiss at the end of it, at the end of the eighth grade, so yeah, but I never saw the kid again and thanks, thanks kid for my first kiss. That was, that was pretty cool.

But then came high school and well, you know, high school is full of romance and teenage love, and that's what I wanted. I was that dumb high schooler and being that stupid little high school girl got me into a lot of stupid things. I was just being a teenager and I got into drugs, not too much but I did smoke here and there. I got bad grades for a while. Oh, and I lost my vCard. But I've only had sex with two people, including my boyfriend now, but this guy was a jackass. But we're not going to talk about him.

9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade, I kind of I got ok grades. I was really into boys and I was a social butterfly, you'd say that five times in a row. So yeah, I was, I was just living life and I sang and drew and texted, and I was just being a girl, you know. That's what high school is about, just be yourself. And I was kind of irresponsible, but whatever. But having almost 3 to 4 relationships, I was just, I was just not doing good in school and I wanted to change, so senior year I probably made the best decision ever and I joined RTC. It's a military class in high school and it changed me in so many ways. I got good grades. I was just drug free. I was hanging out with great people, and I was actually learning something which was really interesting to me. So, surprise! You can do that in school.

And then I met David. So we hit it off right away. We were really great friends at first. We didn't stay friends for long, because we got into a relationship. And he even gave me a promise ring, so that was really cool. I felt really dedicated and we were really in love and we were together for like nine months. All of senior year. And it was just a great, happy year. And it led me to graduation. I graduated with good grades and I was really happy, but then, a month later, I, I got a stick with two lines and a plus sign on it. And if you know what that means, it means you're pregnant, and it was a shocker. We had so many questions, like, I had to keep the baby. We were scared and what were we going to do, you know? Anyway, it was, it was scary and I went on to YouTube and I typed in "teen pregnancy" and, lo and behold, that's where YouTube started. And I love YouTube, as you can tell right now, but if being pregnant wasn't enough, around ten weeks, I went in to get an ultrasound and they told me something was wrong with the baby and after some tests, we found out that she had Turner syndrome - my daughter. And everybody, everybody told me that I needed to abort because she wasn't going to live. All the doctors, every doctor I saw said you need to have an abortion. And I didn't, I didn't really know what to, to think about it, but you know what? I, I told myself, me and my daughter, we are going to fight, and we are going to live. And that's what we did and that's what my mindset was, and we fought. And with that mindset, around 33 weeks I would say, yeah, 33 weeks pregnant, I got preeclampsia. What that is is it raises your blood pressure and it gives you a chance of getting strokes and seizures and you could possibly die from it, just by being pregnant. The only care is having the baby. So, I hung in there for a week and around 34 weeks they induced me, and I had my little girl, but I was really scared. I didn't know what to think. I didn't know if Lily was going to survive the labour, and she came out and she was crying and that's always a good sign. She was breathing on her own and she was just, she was doing so great. And David got to hold her, and it was, it was a beautiful moment but they, they did have to take her away to the NICU because she had a heart problem, and they did surgery on her when she was around, oh, six days old, but her heart is all healed and she is happy and healthy. We stayed in the NICU for three months. That was horrifying, but we were strong and we hung in there, and in April when the flowers were blooming, my little flower got to come home. Lily came home, and that's when teen parenthood started and I'll tell you, it's difficult and it's scary and it's overwhelming, and it's just horrifying. It's not easy and I will spell it out for you right now: teen mumhood, pregnancy, isn't easy, and it's not something you want to do but I love my daughter and I wouldn't give her away for anything. And you hear the sirens in the background! She's a happy, healthy one and a half-year-old, almost one-and-a-half-year-old and, and me and David, we're, we're doing great. We, oops, make myself a girl. I think we're doing a great job and we're doing okay, you know, we're trying to figure things out and every day isn't a good day but all in all we're doing okay. Oh, and YouTube, jeez can I imagine, I was like freaking out when I had ten subscribers, but now I have ten thousand subscribers and that is insane. I cannot imagine that, and I am so happy for this experience and I can't thank you guys enough, but that's my story and my camera's about die, so I love.

1837

## FDML #21

Hey, it's Andrea, welcome back to my channel. A lot of you guys wanted me to draw my life for you and so I'm going to attempt to do so. It's not that entertaining, but here it is.

So, it all started in California. I was in my mum's belly, really comfortable, except for there was this alien-looking thing sitting next to me, kicking me, and then I would kick it and then it would punch me and I would punch it back, and that went on for about nine months and then suddenly, boom, one day I was getting my butt slapped and then the alien thing came out a half an hour later and she was getting her butt slapped, I was like, "Why are you guys slapping our butts?" And the doctor said, "You guys are fraternal twins" And my mum named her Brittany and me Andrea and we would forever be twinning and my dad was jumping up and down in the delivery room and our parents did not believe in spanking, so we never got our butts slapped again, at least by our parents.

We also have an older brother - he's really funny - and he loves video games. Since we were twins, we were always matching. I usually had on pink or red. My sister usually had on purple or blue. But the exact same outfit. And my mum says that a lot of people always wanted to come up and say "hi" and stuff, because we were twins and matching, and

my brother was really protective. So, one day, an old lady went to go like pinch our cheeks or something and my brother bit her arm, and my mum freaked out, but we laugh about it now. Another fun fact - a lot of you guys don't know this unless you follow me on Instagram, but when my sister and I were little, we actually had straight hair for years. My mum thought that we would have straight hair forever, but eventually it started to grow in wavy and then later on it started to grow in curly and now, as you guys know, we have big old curly hair. What a surprise it was!

And our parents got a divorce when we were really little, so we don't really remember that because we were only like two years old. And my dad ended up remarrying to my stepmum when I was about four years old, but as far as my dad and my mum's relationship went, or friendship, there just really wasn't one. They fought a lot actually, like a lot, a lot. And they were always in court and there was always lawyers around, and they fought for years, and my brother was older so he handled all that a lot better than my sister and I did, but we did not handle it very well at all, but our parents, even though they hated each other and wanted each other to die, they were very loving towards my sister and I.

So then finally we were enrolled into school and that is where we actually discovered art - it was our favourite thing to do; we were obsessed with it: gluing the macaroni on the plate, painting, colouring. It was amazing. It was our favourite thing to do and it was cool because they always placed my sister and I in the same classroom. We had the same teachers, so we were able to sit off in the corner and do our projects together and teach each other new things and we actually became quite advanced at art. By the second grade, our teacher loved our art so much that she actually had us illustrate a story for her that she would read to the class and we felt so special, and some of the other kids were like, "Can I illustrate the next one?" and she was like, "Um, let me think about that". I'm just joking. That last part did not happen, but she did have us illustrate story books for her to read and we did feel really special. And second grade was also when my mum decided to not have us share the same teachers anymore, because she noticed that since we were twins and we were really shy, we only talked to each other and we wouldn't reach out and make friends because we had each other. And so, she decided that from then on out, we would have separate teachers and separate classrooms. This way, we learned how to socialize with other kids and not just each other.

And in third grade we were split up, and we were so scared and shy, and we had a really hard time making friends at first. So that's when I started actually taking my notebooks and with these characters that I created in my head, I would make these comic book stories and my sister would actually do the same thing in her class. Then we would get home and we would share with each other what we drew and teach each other new things and new ways to draw, and that's all we wanted to do in our free time in class. When we got home, we would fill up so many notepads that my dad had to keep buying us more notepads, like, he'd go to the grocery store and he would always come back with more notepads because we went through them so quickly.

But then one year, it was like the middle of fourth grade, and the teacher actually moved me next to this girl and she was really good at letter art. And we start talking and we got along really well, actually. And we became really good friends. She introduced me to all of her friends. I introduced them to my sister, and we were socializing, mum! Our first time with friends. What a happy day! So, we all played basketball and finished school and we were friends and we got straight As and we went to middle school - same thing, straight As, basketball, soccer. We weren't the most popular girls in school though because we weren't really allowed to do much because our parents were so strict. We couldn't, like, hang out late like a lot of the other kids and we weren't allowed to have boyfriends, so the guys weren't as interested.

Then high school was around the corner and we were so excited because all of us were going to the same high school and we got there, and freshman year was really fun. My sister and I were still art nerds, we still got straight As, but we did not keep playing basketball. We actually quit sports in high school. Things kind of started to change sophomore year because a lot of our friends stopped coming to school because either they moved or they were going through their own family issues, so a lot of our friends were gone and it was really hard to make new friends, and on top of that our family actually started going through their own issues again and at that point, my sister and I just had completely lost interest in school and our parents weren't checking our grades as much as they used to because they were going through their own things, so we really got away with it and our grades slowly started to go from As to Cs, and then pretty soon, me and my sister were like, "Hey, let's not go to school today". And so, we would go to school and we would be like, "You know what? I think I'm going to go ahead and leave during the second period today". So, our attendance, needless to say, got really bad and we missed more days than we were allowed to, and the principal called and said your daughters are kicked out of school for a year because their attendance is so bad. And we were like "Oh no!" So, we were to be home-schooled, and we had so much free time. We didn't know what to do with all the free time we had. We got really into computers. We got really into computer software, like how to create art over the computer instead of paper. We got really into beauty, makeup, the clothes we wore. Photography. We made the crappiest home videos with, like, our animals and we made our own music to go in the background. We would film each other doing stupid things and make crappy videos of us and we just had a lot of fun doing our own little projects and even though we were, like, expelled from school, our parents were still, like, really big cheerleaders for all of our artwork, so we were always really happy to show them what we did that day, and then a year was up, and we had the option to go back to school, and even though home school was awesome, I kind of decided to go back. My sister was like, "How about no?" but I went back and it didn't suck any less, but I did suck it up and I finished and I even started dating a boy that went there, and he was

really cool and popular and I didn't know why he liked me at first but for some reason he did, and we were together for two years. But after I graduated, we ended up breaking up.

But I was so happy that I was finally graduated, and I got a job working for disabled teens and adults, teaching them computers and art. I loved teaching. It was so much fun and also at that point in my life, I had basically already ditched drawing and computer art and stuff like that for makeup and hair. I mean, I was pretty heavy into beauty and my mum actually bought my sister and I new laptops for Christmas and we would use the editing software to, like, make, you know, videos and picture collages and all that stuff. And one day I decided to cut my hair because I had bleached it so many times that the ends were starting to split and so I cut my hair and I was, like, devastated because my hair was really long before and I was so upset that I had to cut my hair that I decided to start a new project and that was me documenting the quickest ways and the best ways to grow your hair back after you cut it all off because it was damaged, and the process of getting it from unhealthy to healthy. But I decided to actually upload it to YouTube, because I figured maybe I can help other people out also that are kind of going through the same thing that I'm going through. I would make these videos and sometimes they were just funny videos and I would show my sister and she would laugh and she would help me a lot and she was the only one that actually knew that I made my videos - I didn't tell anybody, but then people started finding out, because pretty soon I had like 50,000 subscribers and people would call me and they'd be like, "I saw you on YouTube" and I'm like, "Oh my god, really?" It started off like just this hobby - something that I would do in my free time. I had no idea that there was this huge beauty community and that my channel would grow and I would make partner, but it just happened, and it was awesome.

And I was really happy but then unfortunately, with my job, it ended up not working out. I was so sad and I just kind of fell into this slump of sadness and I didn't really know what to do after that. I didn't know what I wanted to do and I had some friends that moved to Los Angeles from home, and I also met some people on YouTube that lived in Los Angeles and so I actually just took a trip one day to go visit everybody, and I had so much fun and I didn't want to leave and I didn't. I just went home, got my stuff, got my dog and I left. And my parents were so mad, but they finally got over it when they understood what I meant when I said I wanted to move to LA to finish school and do videos online. And ever since I moved, I just did not look back after that. I even talked my sister into moving out here with me and getting a place with me. And she's finishing school out here and as most of you guys know, she helps me film my videos a lot and sometimes she's even in them, and honestly, these past few years have been the best years of my entire life. It's been kind of a blur, but I'm so happy and I'm able to do what I love with the people that I love, that love it when I do what I love. I'm so thankful, not only because of all of the awesome things that I've been able to do and the awesome people that I've met, but I'm thankful that I have had so much support from all of you guys and you guys have really been on this journey with me the entire time and I don't really know what I'm going to be doing months from now or years from now, but I really hope that you all are still here with me and I plan on continuing to share my life and things I learn and hobbies and everything with all of you guys. So, thank you guys all so much for watching me throughout these years and being such an awesome, positive part of my life and I hope that I can do the same for all of you for many years to come. And that's it. Thanks for watching. I love you.

2369

## FDML #22

Hello everyone, my name is Kassima, but friends, teachers and strangers have always had trouble pronouncing my name, so I just go by Kassie. I was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> of the coldest day of December, as my dad likes to say, in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. I'm a middle child and thankfully, I never felt like the unloved middle child. My parents loved my older brother, my younger sister and I equally. I was a strange kid to say the least. I liked being alone. I liked being bad, and I was always in my own strange little world, but you never realise how strange you are until other people make you aware of it. When I was very young, I spent a lot of time in Singapore, Malaysia, and one time on the way to Singapore I climbed with the wrong side of an escalator all the way to the top and I jumped before security could catch me. Amazingly, aside from a sore bum, I was perfectly fine.

The trips to Singapore were by far the happiest times of my life. Everyone embraced my weirdness and the way of life there is so much different than it is here. I stayed on a little farm in Malaysia for quite some time and the food was so simple, the way of life was so simple, and I stayed up all night just watching the fireflies, and not being aware of time or anything. When I got back to Lethbridge from Singapore, things changed. School began, the Southside McDonald's now had a play place and the pace of life got a lot faster. Every single weeknight, my dad would challenge me with philosophical puzzles. He got me to a math and reading comprehension level far beyond my years. He made sure I had a knack for learning. He even got me Scrabble instead of Twister for Christmas once. Heart-breaking, but I thank him for it now. In the first grade I spent most of my time walking around the playground with a deck of Pokémon cards over a bag of instant noodles and I spent an unreasonable amount of time daydreaming. One day on the school bus a boy poked his head out from the seat in front of me stretched his eyes across his face and said, "You're Chinese". I was new to racist tomfoolery, so I was silent and very confused. He got all of his friends to make the same face. It's amazing the things you vividly remember forever.

I'm a quarter Chinese but my physical attributes don't make it very evident. I was one of the few exotic kids around, so students always mixed up my ethnicity interchangeably. As a first grader, I never really considered the possibility of me being or looking different than everyone else, and **it was a hard thing for me to think about**. Not too long after, my sister came home crying. She wasn't a crier, so **I was super alarmed about it**. I asked her what happened, and she said that she wasn't allowed in her friend's hot tub because her friend's mother thought my sister's skin was made of dirt. **I wish I was kidding**. We were shaken and **resolved to spend more time together**. From paper dolls to church youth group to video games, **some of the best times I had were with my sister. We loved writing and filming plays and doing anything creative. My sister knew how to crack me up. One time while playing Goldeneye, she actually made me laugh so hard I peed my pants.**

Fast-forward to late elementary school. After the 9/11 attacks, a boy made a habit of cutting out pictures of Middle Eastern-looking men and putting them on my desk. As I said, I got mixed up with a lot of different ethnicities and **the whole experience was confusing and horrifying. He humiliated me one day** in front of what seemed like everyone by holding up one of the pictures and saying, "Your husband is waiting". The boys all laughed hysterically and I just stood there, dumbfounded. **The racist generalizing and stigma** made me grow to **really hate the way I looked. I was always covering my face with my coat sleeve. My self-esteem went down** and my fear of people went up. I started combating bullying with bullying, and **my aggression got me out of a lot of potentially humiliating situations. So being very angry, jealous and bitter** was a tool I kept all the way until the end of high school. **My aggression** was based on fear. The people who bully you are doing so because they have deep-seated issues - something deep and dark is blocking their empathy, so please don't take it seriously or at least try not to. It's not you, it's them.

My sister was also recklessly teased, but **we stuck together. She and her amazing group of friends were so hilarious and uplifting. Middle school was difficult**. I had one true friend, Ashley, who is **still my best friend**. We'd hide together in boot rooms and bathroom stalls during lunch period every single day. I remember school dance when no one asked us to dance, so we just hung out in the back of the gym all night and made each other laugh. Near the end of middle school, Ashley switched schools due to bullying and **my family encountered problems that caused even more anxiety** for me. People had all sorts of theories about my life that were **very painful** for me to listen to. **I didn't open up to anyone because I didn't want anyone to feel sorry for me**. People with too much time on their hands will always have theories and unsubstantiated opinions. Don't listen to them. There are so many beautiful things in this world to fill your head with. People tend to believe negative stories as soon as they hear them. Just remember that anyone can say anything. Be equally critical of all statements.

Predictably, **high school was a nightmare**. I skipped more classes than I showed up to in my final two years and **I didn't take care of myself. I was troubled inside**, and my sister had similar feelings, but she had a lot of friends and was always putting on a happy front. I later learned that **we both have something called clinical depression**. It's not seasonal or circumstantial - it's kind of always there and environmental factors can intensify it. You can't completely cure it. It's something I've had to manage and be aware of.

After taking a semester off, I went to college with my brother. It was the only school that would let me in with my high school grades and we took the same classes, talked about books all day and wore the same shoes like the weirdos we are. We both got straight As, scholarships and invites to a university. Within a few months of my first semester at university, my **unhealthy sedentary lifestyle resulted in health issues that made me constantly ill, fatigued and insecure. I attempted to combat my depression with SSRIs or antidepressants, which in my case made me irritable, spontaneous and suicidal. I had severe emotional difficulty** and withdrew from university under extenuating circumstances. I attempted a myriad of quick fixes and diets, only to worsen my problems. **I was emotionally turbulent, my acne was bad, I was constantly exhausted, I had chronic migraines and I was 30 pounds heavier than I am now. The conventional fixes failed me miserably, and more importantly, I couldn't let my depression grow any more intense. I had nothing to lose, so I took a personal risk. I abandoned my emotional and dietary habits and threw my various medications in the garbage. I developed a healthy scepticism and started doing my own research. It was a long and hard process and I ended up defying most of the health and nutritional dogma I was fed all of my life and undoing years of self-imposed emotional damage.**

My lifestyle change had such an incredible impact on my life. It also astounded my parents who were worried sick about me. I remember seeing my dad tear up upon witnessing **me be confident** in my work clothes. Something so trivial reflected a world of change in my perspective. You can't help someone who doesn't want help, and despite **the efforts of my loving friends and family. I didn't get better until I made it a personal priority.**

A year later, my sister got hit by an aggressive, unapologetic drunk driver. She was left with severe emotional damage and permanent tissue damage in her neck and back. Despite her personal pain, she was always smiling and being a complete goof like usual. She was also taking antidepressants. I repeatedly warned her to be careful with the medication, because for me, they were poison. She trusted in her health care practitioner and moved forward. A few months after I returned to university, my sister overdosed on antidepressants. The medication caused her to have seizures, but she was saved. When she woke up, I told her **it was the worst day of my life**. She smiled at the sight of us and started acting like her old self. She was kept in a psychiatric ward for two weeks and when she was finally released, she came home

and built her life again. She got a job, a car, made great new friends and was constantly smiling. I left school a second time to be with her and she was constantly surrounded by people who loved her unconditionally. You'd never know by looking at her that she was depressed. She was beautiful and she knew how to project an image of confidence. She did what she wanted, and I couldn't even tell her what to do. I was always worried about her.

Since I was spending so much time at home, I started youtubing. My depression was completely under control. I had a new perspective and felt amazing, which made me so excited to share. I had been on YouTube before, but it was a fun and shallow channel which is perfectly fine, but I lost interest. I pestered my sister endlessly about what I had learned, but aside from a few things that she liked and shared, she was often busy with life and disinterested. I remembered that no one was capable of helping me until I made it a priority to help myself. After much pleading, I figured that I didn't want to be one of those people who pushes their beliefs on others who didn't ask, so I resolved to spread influence and not force. I met an amazing guy named Terry, a friend of my older brother. My sister and I loved his knack for comedy. He was always making us laugh. Terry witnessed the impact that my lifestyle and educational pursuits had on me mentally and physically, and he supported what I did along with proving it to himself, which meant a great deal to me. Something you guys need to understand about clinical depression is that things like possessions, looks, success and even love can stand in your way of happiness. It's a feeling that's inaccessible to many and it's fruitless to pretend you know how it feels if you haven't felt it. It's incredibly hard to describe, which creates an even more intense feeling of isolation.

This past summer at 2:00 a.m. I got a phone call from my brother. His voice sounded cold and shaken. He told me to wake up my dad. We all woke up and went to the living room and that's where my brother told us that my sister had taken her own life. Upon hearing the news, I didn't know if I'd ever be happy again. We were inseparable for most of our lives and nobody understood me like she did. It has caused me great emotional and existential stress. I miss her so much. Some days after hearing the news, I reflected on what I taught myself and figured I had to spread some love and positivity. Otherwise, the gravity of the situation would be too much. So, I wrote and filmed a video called "Happiness takes effort". If it weren't for all the resilience I taught myself, I wouldn't have made it through this hard time. I used to be so fragile and guarded but I've learned that if you don't live life honestly, things fall apart slowly. Despite my sister's demons, so many people reached out and told me that she saved them from hurting themselves. One of my closest friends owes his life to my sister. She helped so many people out of their dark vices, but she never prioritized herself. She took time with others and threw quick fixes at herself. When I see her smile in photos now, I'm reminded of her fronts that she put on to stop people from worrying about her. She once told me that good people do not take popular belief in mob mentality as truth. I live by that phrase. It inspires my research and critical thinking. Good people have the responsibility to be themselves despite the consequences. I got hundreds of emails, messages and phone calls from friends, family peers and attention seekers who pretended they were good friends with my sister. I saw a different face of humanity that day. The virtual world of the internet bombarded me all at once demanding answers and acknowledgement. They unknowingly put me under an immense amount of stress.

My heart is heavy, but love and positivity pushed me forward. In my darkest moment, my true friends came together and made me laugh, cry and feel truly grateful. Once I felt the deepest sorrow, seeing beauty in the mundane revealed my immense capacity for joy. I'm not perfect but I fight fear every day with positivity. I know who I am because it wasn't easy to get here. My sister wasn't perfect either, but she loved deeply, and she was brilliant. She could make anyone smile on the worst day of their life. She could make me laugh if I was heartbroken. We both loved art created by people with pained hearts because for us, it was proof that we weren't alone. She had so much to offer and she used all of her energy to help her friends, but she left her own well-being in the dark. She hated to see us worry, so she put on a front and I'm guilty of doing the same thing. But if you want to do continuous good, you have to prioritize your own well-being first. Being completely selfless is not sustainable and no one can help you until you're willing to help yourself. Honesty hurts, but it can save your life, so don't be afraid and if people have negative things to say about your outlook, be grateful that your empathy, compassion and access to critical thinking is not so limited that you would act like a child and shamelessly hurt others. In light of the madness, it can be hard to see the positive, but I believe you can find light in some of the darkest situations. I know life is not easy or fair. I'm not entitled to anything and I have to fight for my happiness. If you're hurting right now, please fight it and don't give up on yourself. If I were there with you, I'd lend an ear, make you food and try to make you laugh. But for now, build your strength so you can endure anything. Distinguish yourself and embrace your weirdness.

2623

#### FDML #23

Hey guys! So today I'm finally going to be doing my draw my life video in celebration of a million subscribers and honestly, that is so amazing. I cannot thank you guys enough but honestly, when I reached a million subscribers, I was, like, feeling all sorts of emotions. It's honestly so crazy, so thank you.

In 1997 in a very, very sweet family including my dad, my mum and my brother, I suddenly decided to pop out like bam and I was like "Yo, what's up?" to the world. Honestly, I was a premature baby, so I had to stay in the hospital for

about two months in a cube and then when I came home, my mum basically vlogged every day, so I have heaps of childhood videos of myself. I was such a cheeky kid that I would always, like, bully my brother and I would steal all of his toys and he would just get really upset. I feel so mean.

Anyways, primary school came, and I remember being so scared and I was crying, and I was clinging on to my mum so that she wouldn't leave me, but no, she kicked me out of the way. No, she actually didn't kick me but she just, like, left me there. The first day was honestly such a disaster because I remember some kid stepping on my hand randomly and I was like, what the heck? And then I started crying and I was like to him, "I'm going to tell my mum on you" and then the teacher came over and she put both of us in detention. So, we were just both sitting in the naughty corner, like, wondering what the heck is going on. I was still confused as to why she had to include me in the detention when I didn't do anything wrong because I was just crying, so I was, like, thinking to myself, is it wrong to cry? But anyways, primary school wasn't that special. I was a bit chubby, so I did get teased a lot, like, they would call me fat and all these other names, but I didn't really care because all I cared about was eating, so I was just like tease all you want. I have food, you don't have food. Who's the winner here? Honestly, I didn't really care about what they said. I was just happy that they didn't take my food, honestly.

Moving on to my crushes in primary school, I remember I had a crush on this guy, and I think he hated me, so that's a no-no. Because I remember in high school, I tried to add him, and he declined, and I tried to add him again and then he declined again. And I was like, "Yo, we didn't even talk a lot in primary school, like, why do you hate me so much?" So, moving on to the next victim, and I feel like in primary school, I just liked any guy who was nice. I remember this guy, he let me borrow his rubber, and I was like, "Ah, you're my prince charming" but then he ended up leaving the school a year later and yeah, that sucked. Now finally for my last victim. This was in my last year of primary school and basically, we talked a lot and we would pass notes to each other in class and we would, like, make secret glances and all that stuff and, cheesy I know, but I remember there was this one time I wanted to get his attention, so I told my best friend at the time to throw a ball at him just to get his attention but instead of doing it lightly, she nearly threw the ball directly at his head and it hit him so hard. Like it bounced off his head so high in mid-air. He just looked so confused and he didn't know why it happened, and yeah, but yeah, basically we just talked until we went into high school because everyone just went in their own ways to different high schools. So yeah, we never talked after that sadly.

And then finally high school came and I made amazing friends and we stuck together until the end of high school which is honestly pretty cool and our group has never ever fought before, so I find it to be really, really lucky because I always hear about other groups getting into fights and then splitting because of trivial stuff, so I am so proud that our group just stuck together until the end of high school. Other than that, in grade 11 and 12, I basically studied my bum off to get into university, because my aim was always to become a teacher, and I've never really swayed away from that and I still do want to become a teacher so yep, but anywho, I've got into university into my course of teaching and I've already finished two years, which is honestly is so quick, because those two years literally just flew by. And university wasn't what I imagined it to be. I thought it was going to be so, so, so easy to make friends, but honestly, everyone was already in their own little groups and in my course, no one really talks to each other. So I had to basically always initiate the first move of talking and I'm already really used to that, so I don't really care anymore, but basically uni just taught me that you have to be a really, really independent person, because lecturers, they will literally just walk in, write notes and then after they're done, they will walk out and they'll leave you thinking like, okay, what the heck just happened? Did we ever learn any of this? And then basically, you will just have to self-study and then do your exams and all that stuff. So yeah, uni life can be tough!

Well besides uni, all I did was honestly just watch YouTube and also watch Asian dramas or other than that, watch dog videos 24/7, like, I could go a day just watching dramas. But then on YouTube, I came across a challenge. It's called the spicy ramen challenge, and I was like wow, I should try this as well, and since a lot of people were filming themselves eating the spicy ramen challenge, I decided that I should go for it as well, and then for some reason, that video sparked a lot of views, and I was like whoa! And then a lot of people started leaving comments down below, telling me to do more videos, and I was just so mind blown. I was like, who would even like to watch an awkward potato like me talk? And then more people started joining and I was so, so mind blown. I was like, where are all these new subscribers coming from? Like, are they sent from somewhere? I'm so confused. And I was just so amazed but it is, honestly, is so awesome.

So I started to do more videos and at that time my parents don't even know about my YouTube, and I didn't want to tell anyone at all, but when I reached over a hundred K subscribers, surprisingly the first person that found out was my cousin. Her friend was eating some Spicy Ramen and decided to watch my video and she recognized me and messaged my cousin about it, and then she found out. And at that moment I was like chisels, because I was always nervous about people finding out that I did YouTube. I honestly don't even know why. I tend to overthink a lot and I do have bad anxiety, so maybe that plays a factor in it. And then moving along the YouTube timeline, I decided to do some lyric pranks and those are still my favourite videos, and those videos got so popular and I was even featured on the Fine Bros entertainment which is the biggest honour. Like that is so amazing. You kyties made it happen. It was so mind-blowing

because I will literally watch the Fine Bros entertainment when I was in high school and in my head, I was like am I featured on the video? This is so amazing.

Honestly, YouTube was a place of escape for me from stress because uni and life basically just stressed me out. I would think about the future a lot and that honestly would just scare the heck out of me because I overthink way too much, so to get my mind off things, I have to be occupied with something to do and having YouTube and the kyutie fam really changed my life around, and it is a real blessing and I can't seem to thank you guys enough. Thank you for being here for me and thank you for walking alongside with me on this journey. I really, really appreciate every single one of you. Remember, you changed my life around. You are special and I love you. But yeah, that's basically it. Kind of boring, but I hope you guys enjoyed regardless and as always, thanks for watching and I'll see you guys next time. Bye!

1553

#### FDML #24

I was born on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1995, in Los Angeles, California, and here my sisters try and help me draw California. I, I can't draw for my life, which is ironic because I'm doing a draw my life. Okay, moving on, so, my parents. I have my mum, her name is Laurie, and my dad who has afro. Well he did, not, not, he doesn't have it anymore. His name is Steve and the first child that they had was Elizabeth. And she's my older sister. And then they had Michael and I, and we are fraternal twins, so we are not identical.

Elizabeth, or Lizzy as I like to call her, is three years older than Michael and I and sad story: Michael my twin almost died due to some respiratory problems. He had trouble breathing and it was really, really scary. I don't really remember a lot of it because I wasn't even one years old, but my parents told me it was really frightening and if he hadn't survived, I probably wouldn't even be making this video. My life would have been completely different, so I'm so thankful to the Lord that he survived and then we moved into our house. Lizzy, I apologize if you're watching this. You look like a cat.

So, on my dad's side of the family I have my aunt Kathy and my grandma Nancy and because they live in California I came to see them a lot a lot and I loved them very, very much, and on my mum's side, I have my aunt Cammie and her children and they live in Maui and then my grandpa and my grandma from my mum's side who live in Oregon. When I was little and I mean little, little, I needed floaties to swim. I couldn't swim yet. My brother and I were standing on the side of my grandma's pool and my brother had his floaties on and I did not, and we saw this bucket and I wanted to get it out of the water, so I decided to jump in without my floaties and I started to sink and I almost drowned, but my mum, fantastic woman she is, came to the rescue and saved me. So, I guess you could say I had a near-death experience.

So, I made my very first friend in preschool. Her name is Savannah and we were best friends. We did everything together and then I met two other girls in the same preschool and their names were Megan and Maddie and we all went to elementary school together. We were attached at the hip. We have a little song that went like this: Megan, Maddie and Meredith, the three m and ms, Megan Maddy Meredith, the three best friends.

We also went on a couple family trips when I was younger. We went to Maui because as I said earlier, my cousins live there, so we would go and visit them and then we also took a couple trips to Oregon to the Applegate River because my grandpa and grandma lived there. And one time we brought Lacey with us, so there she is up on that island Slash Rock, and then Lizzie, Michael and I would go into a raft and we would go down the Applegate River and there was a ton of, like, rapids and it was really fun. I have always been really athletic, so when I was younger, I participated in sports. I did swim team, I tried softball, which was really hard for me. I had some difficulties hitting the ball, catching the ball, so I just sat in outfield and picked dandelions and sang songs, so here's me going la la la. Then I discovered the world of competitive cheerleading. I joined at a very young age with my best friends Megan, Maddie and Julia, who I met at my elementary school. And I was a flyer because I was pretty tiny and they would flip me up in the air and it was so fun and they used to call Arabesque "bearabesque" because I apparently had a really good Arabesque, and so I did this with my friends and we went undefeated when we were on the team TNT, and that was such a blast. And I also took up diving. And I used to love the feeling of jumping off into the water. It was very thrilling to me.

So, in sixth grade, I stopped cheering because it became a little bit too time-consuming with schoolwork. I met one of my best friends - her name is Brianna. And I also met a guy named Nick and we were probably one of the most awkward "couples" ever. And then we entered junior high and this is when I met two of my really great friends Jordan and Michaela, and they came in just for junior high, and we were inseparable. You could not get us apart. We played all kinds of sports. we played volleyball, basketball, softball and track at our junior high and it was a lot of fun. So, the summer before I started 8<sup>th</sup> grade is when I started my YouTube channel. That was when StilaBabe09 was born. And I also ended up breaking up with Nick on his birthday. I know! Oh my god. So it was, it was not on purpose, I swear to you guys, but it's all good.

8<sup>th</sup> grade was probably the best time of my life ever until high school applications came, because I was not going to be going to the same high school as Brianna, but I did think I was going to go to the same high school as Jordan until my



family decided we needed to move because private school tuition became too expensive, so we moved to an area where we knew they had some pretty good public high schools, so my family put us there. It was me, Michael and Lizzy and Bri was also at that same high school so **that was exciting**, but **I was also pretty bummed out** that I couldn't attend the school that I was originally going to go to.

So, the first day of freshman year was **the most nerve-wracking experience** ever. The school was so big compared to what I was used to and **it was so scary**, and I was so intimidated by all the older kids and, but I found some girls that were also new to the school just like me, so **we instantly clicked** just because of that fact, and we hung out a lot. I played lacrosse with Anna and Blake, which **was so extremely fun**. I met a ton of new people and lacrosse is one of my **favourite sports** to this day. So, some boys in the grades above us decided they wanted to call this group of friends that I was in "the crew". So something my friends and I would do is we would go on adventures, and by adventures, I mean literally just going to random places around town and being weirdos, and usually **it would entail me being a third wheel**, **because all of my friends had dates and I was just awkwardly tagging along**, **just being forever alone**. My first kiss though was in ninth grade and it was with someone named, we're just going to call Guy, but it was **probably the most awkward situation ever**. This was practically a planned kiss. I mean, who, who does that? Who does that? Apparently, we did. We ended up finding out that he had a girlfriend in the grade above us, so he must have gotten in trouble. I don't know, but **that was not good**. Don't worry guys, I had no idea. It was just, it was his fault and he lied. Lying is bad.

So, my sister Lizzy worked for the newspaper in the school that we went to, the high school, and she wrote about my YouTube channel and that's when the whole school found out. **My friends supported me**, and some people thought it was cool, but obviously there were **some people that didn't think it was so cool**. Towards the end of freshman year, **something really sad happened**. Lacey was bit by a rattlesnake on a hike and we rushed her immediately to the hospital. **The doctors were almost positive that she wasn't going to make it**. I was so sad **until one day a miracle happened**. Lacey suddenly pulled through and **we were so extremely thankful and grateful to the Lord that she made it and I'm so happy till this day that she's alive**.

So, then the summer before tenth grade, **I was really into making my videos consistently and I had a lot of fun making them**, and then I also took a trip to Big Bear with my friend Brianna and Kacy. Over the summer, **some problems started to brew in the group of friends that I had made, and I unfortunately was in the smack dab middle of it**. I was basically forced to pick sides, which I could never do, so I ended up learning that some of the friends I had made were not really true friends, **but then I met an amazing group of girls** in my PE class. And their names were Kim, Annette and Serena and **I knew I could always count on them and could talk to them about everything**. And **then I got my license which was a huge deal for me**. I could drive myself everywhere and I went out to lunch and stuff and it was just a bomb diggity time. And what is, what am I drawing? Oh, oh yes, Kim is **the brilliant person that got me obsessed with One Direction**. If you're watching this Kim, **thanks a lot! Thanks a lot!**

All throughout 10th grade, **I was very happy** because **I had really good grades** and **my favourite teacher was Mr. Lively**. The first day of school he told us that he was related to Blake Lively and for about five seconds I believed him, but I don't think he is. I don't know, actually. **He teaches my favourite class, which is history**. I loved, loved his class and **I still appreciate him to this day**. Towards the end of tenth grade, something I will never forget happened. I was walking to my car at lunchtime all by myself and a group of kids from my class were driving by and as they drove past me, **they said you are an, first word started with an F second one started with a B, it made me cry**. I was really upset because I had never even talked to these people. Till this day, I still don't understand or know why they said that, but I have a feeling it was because of my YouTube channel. For the rest of sophomore year, **I really just worked hard at my grades and I kind of just ignored what people said and thought about me and I just minded my own business**.

In junior year, which is the year I'm in right now, I was in the April issue of Seventeen magazine **which was so insane**, and **it was all because of you guys**. So, we are almost to present-day, but as some of you guys may know, my family and I moved very recently. I was also recently asked to junior prom by Nick, the same Nick I talked about earlier. Oh, the irony! **Good times, good times. I guess it just goes to show you that we are still friends, and everything is good between us**. And now we are at present day. I'm finishing up finals for my junior year and, of course, making YouTube video like the one you're watching right now.

So, I'm going to try to not make the end of this video sappy and emotional, but basically, this is my life so far. **I have plans for the future like college, maybe marriage, and maybe even babies!** What, who said that? I don't know. That continent does not belong there. But **you guys mean the absolute world to me**. **will never stop making YouTube videos**. You know why? Because Damon Salvatore from The Vampire Diaries is going to come and bite my neck and turn me into a vampire and I will live forever and ever, and my YouTube videos will never stop. They're just going to keep coming and they'll be like a never-ending supply of them. Okay, I'm kidding. That probably won't happen, but I won't stop YouTube videos until the Loch Ness monster stops. But in all seriousness, **I want to thank you guys from the deepest bottom pit of my heart for always being there for me**. You're not my viewers, no, you're not. You are my friends and I love you forever and ever, and I will always be there for you guys.

**FDML #25**

My name is Shay Mitchell and this is draw my life. My birth name is Shannon. Shay is a nickname which I will get more into later. I was born in Mississauga, Ontario, to Mark and Precious Mitchell. My mum is Filipino and my dad is Irish, and I'm a little mix of both. I have one brother named Sean and he is a drummer. When I was five, **I wanted to be a dolphin trainer**. I quickly outgrew that dream, considering the thought that I couldn't see the bottom of **the ocean scared the crap out of me**. I'll stick to swimming in pools.

When I was ten years old, my family and I moved to Vancouver. **The change was difficult. The first day of school, I just got my braces put on plus some new glasses along with getting chickenpox all at the same time. Ouch, yeah, ouch.** **My best friend growing up was Joanie and she still is my best friend.**

When I entered high school, **I always felt like I didn't fit in. I got bullied and ate my lunch in the bathroom by myself to avoid the mean girls, just dreaming of the day when I could get out of that town and see the world.** Then, one day, I got an opportunity to go to Thailand and Hong Kong to model and live abroad. So, I took a plane across the world and began my journey into the unknown. Eventually, I came home to Vancouver and, as fate would have it, a job opportunity brought me back to Toronto, **which was very exciting for me** considering it was a much bigger city. Shortly after my move, I realised **I was much more interested in the acting world that I was the modelling world and I started taking classes.** I got an agent and a manager, who was still my partner in crime today: David Dean. The auditions began soon after the classes and this is where I really got to be creative and use my nickname from high school, Shay. It acted as a stage name and was definitely a topic of conversation when I would go into audition rooms as it wasn't a very common name.

After two and a half years of doing countless auditions, I got a call to audition for a pilot now known as Pretty Little Liars. I put myself on tape in Toronto and sent it to a casting director in LA. The producers flew me to LA soon after to test for the role of Emily, **which was nerve-wracking and also super exciting.** Not in a million years did I know how that audition would forever change my life. You can read more about that experience in my book Bliss. Oh yeah, **I wrote a book.**

From that point forward, nothing was ever the same. For the next seven years, I would be living in California, working on a show with a cast and crew who would become **my second family.** While **this was all amazing,** I was still trying to figure out a way to connect with my audience and I decided to start a YouTube channel, because **I wanted to share all of my experiences and travels abroad with all of my fans. This has been an amazing adventure** for me. I travel, I cook, I report, I connect and most importantly, **I learn a lot about myself.** January 2016, I had a million subscribers. **Talk about a feel-good moment!** My plans for this year are to continue living the dream while sharing my experiences along the way with all of you. **I want to thank you guys so much for being such amazing fans and being the best support system ever.** I can't wait to continue along this journey with all of you and again, I want to say thank you.

Well, **I hope you guys enjoyed that.** That was brought to you by the draw my life channel. Here's a link to their channel on screen now. Be sure to subscribe and let them know Shay sent you in the comments.

**FDML #26**

Hey guys. So today, I'm going to draw my life. And I'm doing it a little ghetto, because I don't know how to edit, so that's a sad face because I'm not a really a good editor, nor can I voiceover or speed up footage, so you're going to get this in real time.

Okay, so I was born May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1988 in, that would be California, here's the ocean, there's the sun. I was born in Riverside, California, which is like inland, like an hour away from LA. That's where I was born, that's a little baby. Yep. And I was born to two parents: my dad Frank, who did not have hair like that, he had hair like Elvis, and my hot mum Lenna, who was very skinny. So yeah, I was born, whatever, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1988. Like everybody, my parents ended up divorcing, and my mum moved us back to, I guess, Illinois. Is this how this works? I don't know. There's Illinois. **I am such a great drawer!** So, my mum moved us back to Illinois. My dad, the story goes two ways. Either my dad moved back with us to Illinois and wouldn't look for work so he moved back to California, or my dad says he moved back to Illinois, looked for a job, couldn't find it and his only work was in California. Either way, I was like three when we were here and my dad decided to stay in California, which is **where my abandonment issues I guess began.** Because why would my dad want to leave us when we were in Illinois? Why would he want to be in California? Okay, so back here in Illinois, that is Illinois, I don't know, so back in Illinois, I went to school. My mum remarried when I was five. Let's draw Trisha. My mum remarried stepdad number one when I was five. They had another little baby. Oh, I forgot to mention that I have an older brother, yeah, so it was Nick, me and now little baby Kalli who was with stepdad number one. **That's a beautiful drawing, isn't it?**

So, I went to school in this little town called Byron, Illinois, population, like, 3,000. Yeah. And it was definitely a farm town. I don't know how to draw corn. A little corn, a little stalk. Yeah. It was a farm town, bunch of hillbillies, all that jazz. Really great, really awesome. Not! I was very awkward, I had weird body proportions and I also had a little moustache, I had really thick hair that everyone used to call me a man, so they'd say I have more rolls than a bakery and then that I looked like a man. And I had really weird hair and really bushy eyebrows, so yeah, that was me growing up. It was pretty sucky. My mum worked three jobs, so I never really saw her, so she was always like, on the go. My brother looked after me and I just broke my marker. My brother looked after me and my baby sister while my mum worked. My mum ended up divorcing again, stepdad number two. And right away she found another guy. This would be, oh sorry, that was stepdad number one. This is, she's divorcing stepdad number one, she married stepdad number two, so it was like her fourth husband, but like my second stepdad, and he was really old, those are wrinkles on him because he's old. He was very old and very awkward and took his teeth out at night. Whatever, he didn't last very long, so my mum and him got divorced. Yeah, it was great.

Okay, so let's speed it along. I got teased, blah blah blah. My brother graduated early, and he was, like, my only saving grace. And he moved back out to, look at there, there's California. Yeah, he moved back to California when I was fifteen, and so at this age is when I wanted to drop out of school because without my brother, I had no saving grace in high school, so there I am, and people were really mean. Whatever, what else is new? They were super mean, and I hated school. I just wanted to be in California with my dad and be an actress and dreaming of being a star, and all this fun stuff. Is that, that's, this is great, so, I asked my mum if I could drop out of school. She said "No", but I did convince her to let me move out with my dad where my brother was going to be staying in the guest house and my mum's like "Okay, okay". So that's when I was 15. So, I packed my bags, then I moved back to California where my dad was in this little town called Murrieta. They enrolled me in another high school. This is the school right here, where the girls were super, they were sticks, this was them. They were super skinny and had super long gorgeous hair - it was like The Hills - and here's short, dumpy little Trisha and just bad hair and bushy eyebrows, and there I couldn't really handle it. I actually lasted there four days before I quit. I was like, "Nope", but of course my dad being super strict was not going to just let me quit school, but him being super Catholic said that I could enrol in online Catholic school, and if you guys ever been home-schooled, especially when I'm my own teacher, I have very low attention span, so basically I tried to teach myself school for about four days. That's the magic number right there. And then I kind of just, I quit, kind of. I told my dad that I was going to school even though I was not, and then I convinced him to actually enrol me in some acting classes. How do we do this? That's supposed to be little masks, you know, little theatre masks, but whatever, that's close enough. I had him enrol me in some acting classes in LA, but when he found out that I wasn't doing my school, he talked with my mum, and guess what? So my mum, my dad, is talking to my mum, and my mum's like, "I need more child support" because at this point my dad had sold his company and made, like, millions of dollars, and then my dad's like, "No bitch!" because they hated each other, so there was like a court battle for me, bushy eyebrows and moustache girl, right? And it was a big custody battle. Long story short, my dad didn't really want to put me in the middle which I always was, so I went back home with my mum, so my dad, I don't know. It was like a big thing. My mum ended up getting more money. My dad still hated my mum and I went back to this town, this Illinois, which looks a lot like my California, but yeah, so I went, how, to move back to Illinois, which was very depressing because I did not want to do that. It was like some legal thing. I don't know, my parents were crazy, that's for sure. Probably why I'm so crazy.

So, I move back to Illinois when I'm about 16. There's no way I was going to go back to my farm school, so I went to another school which is even more hillbilly. Yeah, I mean, this was like, cousins having sex with each other hillbilly and, like, no teeth, missing eyeballs, yeah, this population was about a thousand people. My school had about 400, so it's really small. This is inbreeding right here. That's my town, the town is called Pecatonica, and whatever. It was a different school. It wasn't Byron which was good but I would make up a lot of stories about how I came from California and I would try and impress people by saying I was an actress out there, and I isolated myself really quick by thinking I was better than everybody but whatever, got me through. I hated it. People were so mean. I mean, I still had my moustache and bushy eyebrows sort of, and like, really awkward body type that I didn't know how to dress. So I probably would have quit if it wasn't for the hunky, look at this, I'm just going to have to draw him out right here. My hunky biology teacher Mr. Dunn. What a hunk, right? Yeah, there we go. I don't know, that's a little pelvic bone, that's not a penis. He was my biology teacher, the football coach, and he had beautiful eyes. Let's just take a little more time to draw him. He was, he's very handsome and he had glasses which was very smart looking of him. And he used to lend me movies and stuff and but he doesn't look, he looks better than this. Let's just make his hair cooler. His name was Mr. Dunn and we would play, like, movie trivia and stuff in his class and, like, I'd always go to like his classroom during, like, homeroom and like, you know, flirt with him because I liked him a lot. He was really smart and just, like, really encouraged me to like that I was like better than this little farm town. That was supposed to be like a pumpkin. I don't know why, yeah, so he's the reason I stayed. Just because I was so, like, in love with him. Otherwise I would have quit.

But, let's fast-forward, I don't know how long this is going to be. Let's fast-forward to graduation. I'm 18 and I get my diploma. Yay! That's a diploma and, during my senior year, my mum had, was dating a bunch of guys, like, a bunch of guys, like, I, probably there was, see, there was Tony and Mike, I mean, there were probably like four guys

altogether that my mum was dating, so she had no time for moustache and eyebrow girl, so my mum and I really hated each other. So, the day graduation, my dad was there, moved me back to, there's California with the sun and I literally got on a plane the day of my graduation to go back to California. Okay, so now I'm in California. Of course, the summer's fun, blah blah blah, my dad wants me to go to college, which is a really big school, well not really, it was Community College, and I said, "Fine, okay".

So, I was 18 and then I got a job on TV. I was looking at Craigslist one night in the talent section and this show was looking to give people makeovers, so I wrote in myself to the Greg Behrendt show and I said I was doing it in the point of view of my brother saying that I needed a makeover, and anyways, I had to convince my brother to go on the show with me but he did and so we did this and my dad came up and it was really fun and awesome, and guess what? I was on TV. They paid me a hundred bucks and I was a star. Yes, I was a star, because they called me back actually to do a second episode on the Greg Behrendt show, and I had to miss a day of school, which my dad was not happy about. He was really angry about, that's an angry face. And so, he said, "Okay, just this one time". Well it wasn't just a one time. In fact, he had my stepmum, who I really didn't want to include in this story because she is an evil stepmum, my stepmum had to come up with me. They ended up leaving her behind when we went to, like, Hollywood. We were filming stuff on the streets and she got really mad and told my dad and my dad said, "No more TV!" And that was just not going to fly with me at all. I was just like "No", because guess what? They asked me back for a third episode to actually, like, host, like, with a mic and just actually supposed to be there. Plus, I was going to get paid good money. I joined this, that's money, okay, I joined this little union called Afterum, where you get mucho dinero for being on TV and doing nothing, so my dad said "No", and guess what I said? I said, "I quit". What else is new? Trisha is a big quitter, so I quit college. My dad took away all my money and my credit card, so, he gave me and my car and I moved out within like two days and quit school and so my mum, she sent me some money. I got a little car. Okay, there's a little bug, that's my little bug that I drove, and my dad thought it was drug money because it's a needle, yep, here, little syringe. He thought, he's like, how did you get the money for this car? And then he accused me of selling drugs, which I think he's being a little overdramatic but whatever. I moved into this little ghetto apartment, like, it literally was just like a door, like it was that and it had no doorknob. It was just this little ghetto apartment in Hollywood. I did about ten more episodes of the Greg Behrendt show before it was cancelled, which was not good because now I had no money to pay rent in this little shack.

This guy I met, his name was Brian, he was actually a personal assistant for Alice Cooper, there's Alice Cooper's makeup, I met him on MySpace. He suggested I try, yep, you guessed it, stripping. Woo, show the boobies for some dollars, and so I actually went to the strip club that night because I really needed money. I did really well my first night, and made, like, 400 bucks and that was just being an awkward dancer in general. I made 400 bucks. I got there and all these gorgeous girls were on the pole and here was, like, little dumpy Trisha trying to do it but whatever, people seemed to like my innocence and I made some good money. So it was fun, it was fine, then this really beautiful girl, she had huge boobs and just really pretty blonde hair, she got me to take my, get my eyebrows done, and she got me some push-up bras so I had huge boobs like her, and then she got me some extensions, woo, and so I was really pretty like her and she's like, "Hey, want to make some more money?" and she said it behind a curtain like this, that's why the curtain was there, was all shady. And I was like, "Yeah!" because I'm a money whore, money coming out the coochie. That's money right there. And she said, "Okay, well guess what? I have this really A list high-profile celebrity" and he, I knew him, he was great, he was a big-time movie star and actually really good-looking, had the muscles and little goatee and all that fun stuff. She said we're going to go to his house and dance. It was not dancing, it was sex, so, but basically that \$400 turned into about \$4000 a night because I was doing personal calls. I don't know why I'm writing everything because I guess I can't draw, so I was doing personal calls. Yeah, so that was that. That was exciting, and then I got really, really sick. Like, there's me on the floor, like, puking and there's pee coming out because I was like literally on my floor and I couldn't get to a bathroom. So, I rung up my father, there's a phone, father, who I hadn't spoke to now in like a year or whatever because I was still angry at him. I called him, he picked me up, took me to a hospital and yeah, I had quite a bit wrong with me. I wasn't taking care of myself and I had, oh, I had gotten some stuff. I got really sick, whatever, and while I was stripping, I was also doing like little bits on TV shows. You know, I was still doing my TV thing. I was on a show called Who Wants to be a Superhero?, which was a Stan Lee show and, yeah, and then I did, like, The Tonight Show. I did a bunch of things on TV, but ultimately, I got sick and had to move back to Marietta.

Okay, so I'm back in Marietta, done stripping. My dad says "Okay, you're going back to the big school – college". I was like "Oh". I, like, was really sad about it but my dad actually offered to pay me to go to school plus pay my classes, so I mean, I guess I was a little spoiled and I was like, "Fine, whatever". I went for a semester, did some acting, some science classes, whatever. It was fun - not really what I wanted to do, but I had no money to move back.

Then one day on Craigslist I saw the show, a pilot, and it was all about stocks and bonds and commodities, so I had my dad teach me about, you know, the stock market - go short, go long, buy, sell, trade. And that's the stocks. And my dad made a lot of money doing stocks as well. He taught me in about a week and I got picked to be on this pilot and the winner got \$10,000 cash, and guess what? I won Yay! So, I took my 10k, and once again, I quit school second time, and my mum was on my stepdad number three, like her husband number five, and guess what? They divorced, so I had my mum come from, she was living in Michigan with this guy, and her and my sister moved out to California, and we

got this apartment together. It was like a, we had a two-bedroom, so there's two bedrooms, and my mum and I actually shared a bed because my sister had to have her own room. I don't really know how that happened, but yes, me and my mum slept in the same bed for, like, two years or whatever it was, and I was making videos on the Internet at this time. I was making videos on the internet when I first started stripping, so, like, right at 18 when I was bored in my apartment, so I was still making my, you know, YouTube videos but it was more just for fun and just to, like, whatever, entertain myself. So, I loved my mum.

The 10k I had was basically paying my bills but that went fast, and around the time I was losing all my money, my friend Brian actually passed away. Well, he killed himself actually and it was quite a shock. And it really made me sad because Brian was kind of there for me, I know I'm kind of speeding this up, Brian was there for me a lot and it was really sad and I got really depressed when he killed himself, and I was running out of money and my mum and I were kind of fighting still, and my sister and I weren't really getting along, so, I ended up going back to the strip club. Yeah, I was stripping, but luckily, you know that show I did, Who Wants to be a Superhero? I got to do a lot of conventions so I went across the country, so, let's see, here's the country, so I would travel across, you know, the country back and forth all over the place and sell my autograph for, like, 20 bucks, like, on a headshot, and it was fun, you know, a lot of, like, D-list celebrities, so I was like stripping and doing this on the side which was really great, and then one of these conventions, so here was my little booth, and I'm like signing autographs for people, hey, I met this guy named, well, I probably shouldn't say his name, well his name's Michael, that's what he goes by, but he's this actor, and he was in a lot of movies in the 80s, yeah, and I kind of fell instantly in love with him. Like, this is the first person, like, I was just like, oh my gosh, I love him. So basically, we blew off the third day of this convention and just hung out together and things started getting hot and heavy really fast. We had sex right away of course, but then he started telling me he loved me right away and all this stuff and I believed him because he is a really good actor but we were together for about eight months until I found out he was cheating on me because I found out on the internet that he, like, I don't know. I just found out. It was really sad, and my heart was broken and he accused me. He's like, "Well you're a stripper and blah blah blah and you show your boobies!" and that's boobs. And it was just a really bad thing and I called him a has-been and it just ended up really, really awful, so I just kind of whatever. He motivated me to keep doing YouTube so I did.

One day on YouTube I decided to do a fast-talking thing because I saw, what was it? Mm, I saw they needed talents for The Ellen Show, so I was like, whatever, I will put this up on YouTube. Maybe they'll find me. Sure enough, they did. I got to do Ellen. My YouTube subscribers, like, shot up, so I was going from about 2k subscribers and I had about 20k, which was a huge deal for me, and it was really great and so, yeah. So, so I'm making my little YouTubes, right, this is your, like, little computer screen, I'm making YouTubes, some people are watching, whatever, still doing my acting thing and then I got this show where my love, one of my biggest celebrity crushes, his name is Howard Stern, right, I heard he was going to be doing this show called America's Got Talent. Now America's Got Talent actually had contacted me through YouTube before for my fast-talking right after Ellen. I was like, "No, I don't want to get humiliated on national TV - are you joking?" but when I heard that Howard was going to do it, I was like yes! So they basically put me on the fast track to be on stage and I did my little fast talking, but they actually made me, like, fast rap it, like, to music, which was odd, but whatever, I knew it was going to be, like, a big train wreck, but at least I'd get to see my Howard and so ended up being kind of a train wreck, but I did get to dance with him and he held me close, and it was great, and so basically, that was a big help in my YouTube, because I went from about, oh I know I keep putting the money sign, I went from about 50K subscribers to about 150K subscribers within a week. And guess what? Me and Michael, we got back together. He's very tall, yes, the suave actor and me, we reconnected after he got arrested and I reached out to him and I'm like, "Are you okay?" and he's like, "Oh, I miss you" and I was like "Oh, I miss you" and we got hot and heavy again, yeah, we were super hot and heavy and I was kind of just living off of him and doing my YouTube, and it was great and it was wonderful, but guess what? He, like, cheated again and so yeah, we broke up again and I'm still kind of like, you know, my heart is definitely like broken because I actually really loved this guy. He, like, took care of me when I got my boobies done by the way, yeah, he took care of me when I got my boobs done, like, he was a really good guy, just a really bad boyfriend, and, unfortunately I had moved right next door to him, so now I'm living, you know, by the beach which is where he lives, but we don't see each other anymore which is a good thing because he's an awful, awful boyfriend, but I live here, he lives like right here, so it's like kind of awkward, but whatever.

And now I kind of do my YouTube thing full-time, yeah. So that's kind of my life. I am currently single, but that's okay because I have a book coming out. There is a book right there. The book is called The History of my Insanity. It's available now on amazon.com. So if you want to learn more about my life, obviously I went through this all kind of quick and I skipped over some of the nitty-gritty, you know, the, like, sex stuff, I skipped over and I skipped over, you know, a few other heart breaks here and there, so if you want to check out my book called The History of my Insanity, you can totally do that and I'll link that below, and then also I have a little perfume, this is getting very complicated but I have a little perfume coming out, and it is called Trish. That's not going to be out till July and then my second book is already in the works and that is The Stripper Diaries. Yeah, The Stripper Diaries is what it's called but I don't want to write out Diaries.

So yeah, also too, if you want to know an update on my family, ah, see, so my dad right here, right, he's happy. I'm happy with him. We have a good relationship. We're just sort of, like, hey, whatever, you were kind of like not the best parent, I wasn't the best daughter, but we love each other, same thing with my mother, and we're kind of like best friends now. She was not like, you know, again, she kind of knows she wasn't like the best mother growing up, but you know, we forgive each other, and we love each other. And then my brother, you know, he was a big part of my life but he, you know, he kind of just let me be me and same thing with my sister. They both were a good part of my life but, you know, we're all good - we're all on good terms and stuff like that.

And then as of now I'm just kind of, you know, living the dream and I'm doing YouTube for, you know, over 300,000 of you guys, which is awesome. And I like to create controversy, but I also like to inspire, so I don't know, kind of an attention whore. Yeah, so a whore basically. That's what I am - I am an attention whore. I am a money whore but I'm also a love whore, meaning like I just want to be loved. You know, I kind of always have been searching for it and I feel like I'm abandoned a lot, but I'm not abandoned on the internet, probably why people think I'm quite pathetic and live my life on the internet. But, you know, the closest I had to love is from you guys, so, you know, yes, I may be a whore and I may have been a literal whore back in the day, but what it all comes down to is love, and I just want to be loved. Don't we all? So sometimes this equals love, sometimes this equals love, but, you know, what is love? I don't know. Still hoping to find it. But yeah, I guess we'll have to end this like everybody ends it - I have to thank you guys because you really saved my life, you know, like I would have continued escorting. Who knows what I would have gotten, you know, HIV/AIDS, some scary shit out there, you know, and if it wasn't for you guys, I, you know, probably would just be really sad like stripping or whatever, not being able to entertain. Because really, I'm here to entertain you, and that's all I've ever really wanted to, so thank you. And yeah, guess what? I love you. Thanks, guys, for watching!

4828

#### FDML #27

Okay guys, so my name is Dulce Candy, as most of you know. A lot of people think I'm actually lying about my name or that I just made it up or something, but my real name is Dulce Candy, and "dulce" means sweet, so my name is actually "sweet candy", so also candy in Spanish is "dulce" so it's like dulce dulce or sweet candy. My parents actually named me after a cartoon of a girl, a little cute blonde girl. Her name was Dulce Candy and my dad really loved the name Dulce and my mum Candy, so they were like hey, Dulce Candy.

So, I was born, here I am thinking, I was born August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1987, in Mexico. Exactly what you heard; I was born in Mexico. And I was born in Zacapu, Michoacán, which is towards the central part of Mexico, and I loved it. I was there for about up until the age of five, so I went to kinder, and I just have a lot of fond memories like the Llorona, which scared the crappy Jesus out of me, so there's my lovely little country, or not little, but I loved it and I'm very proud of it.

In my family, I believe that a big family is a gift from God, so I feel very, very blessed to have such an amazing father. So, there you have my daddy, and now I'm drawing my mum. Her name is Tere, my dad's name is Jaime and my dad is, like, super protective, he's such an awesome dad. Those are his cowboy boots and they're freaking awesome and he has a unibrow. My mum is super stylish, she's like one of my fashion icons, then there's my sister Cynthia, and then that's me with the big curly hair. I was like the odd one, like, everybody else was like really fair skin and then well, not fair, but I came out the darkest, which I don't mind, but I came out the darkest with like curly hair and like super freaking hairy until I learned how to shave, and then I have my little sisters Ivette and Wendy, the crazy one. My dad is the man of the house, of course. So, my sister Cynthia Lizbeth, I feel like my parents got really creative with our names, but her name is Cynthia Lizbeth, and she is the oldest one. She's like a year and a few months older than me. She's really tall, she is super smart. She's always been into school, she's a businesswoman and she's a little mean. And then we have my other sister, and her name is Ivette Paulina, Paulina. And she is my younger sister. She is 22, right, or 21 right now, and she's been my best friend all the time. We used to share rooms together, we always bonded, and she knows all of my secrets that nobody ever, ever knows, but again, here I am with curly hair, and then she had long straight hair that I was super jealous of. So now, my sister Wendy, she is the smallest one, the youngest one, the only one that was born here in the United States, and her name is obviously Wendy Teresita, you guys might know her already because she does have a YouTube channel as well, but she is the adventurous, fearless sister. I look up to her so much and, you know, she's my younger sister but she is so fearless. She is not scared of anything. She is like centre of attention kind of girl. She loves to sing and dance and do all that kind of stuff in front of everybody, so she's definitely a lot of fun to be around with, so I love taking her anywhere that I can.

Also, a lot of you don't know this, but back in 1994, my mum, my older sister Cynthia, me and my little sister Ivette, we were actually planning on coming to the United States and I remember this one night we stayed at this really creepy ugly hotel that had fleas and all that in the bed and we went up to the roof around 3:00 in the morning to see people cross the fence and get caught by La Migra, which was really, really scary, but I remember it clear as day. Now, our whole journey was really, really tough. We jumped fences like you can see here. There was a guy helping us out and

we were like just staring at the fence. We were really, really scared and we would also do a lot of walking and we actually slept a lot of nights in people's garage, like if the door was open, we would actually go in and sleep at some random garage. And, I don't know, it was just a really, really weird experience, but since I was around six years old, I still remember it clear as day. So, like I said, we used to sleep at random garages, and we would spend all night there. We were cold, we were hungry, but of course it's just my mum and my sisters and then some, like, random guys trying to help us cross the border, but we also crossed a river in the middle of the night and I just remember that the waste were like really, really strong that night and some guy would carry us on his shoulder to the other side and we ended up getting really wet still, and you know, my mum actually got super soaked because she, super soaked, because she actually, you know, walked herself across the river and right after we got out the river we started running, because we actually saw La Migra, and you know, we would hide behind big rocks, and it was just such an incredible experience that I look back at now and I feel like having that story to tell my son Issac is going to be really, I don't know, it's just a nice thing. It's not a nice thing for it to happen, but it just, I feel like it does make me to the person that I am today, just because after everything that I went through and to see where my life is now. So now this whole journey ended after a couple of days, and the last step was actually climbing into an airplane, and we had obviously fake papers and it was so easy back then to just hop on a plane. I mean, just thinking how easy it was for us to get in some random plane without all that inspection, but anyways, we flew into San Diego, our family picked us up and I started living my life in 1994 in a little trailer park and the city that I actually ended up growing up in was Oxnard, even though my house was in Camarillo, but I ended up going to high school in Oxnard and elementary, and all my friends were from Oxnard, so I always say I'm from Camarillo/Oxnard.

So now the place that we used to live back then was a trailer park, just like I mentioned, and it was a two-bedroom trailer park and we had furniture from family members that they passed down. My dad actually worked in the fields before and that's how he used to provide food and a shelter and I was really, really grateful for that. I mean, being a little girl, you don't really think about the things that you know as an adult you kind of, you know, have and take for granted, so yeah, we used to live in a small trailer park but regardless, above anything else, I was always super happy, so close to my dad and my mum and all my sisters, and I actually really miss the trailer because we had lots of wonderful memories there and we always had fun, especially during the summer in a pool and the trailer park had a bunch of trees and flowers, and I feel like it was a beautiful place in my life.

So, growing up, I always wanted to be so many different things, but I always loved to sing. So even though I suck at it, I really, really do, I've tried. Even though my friend Morgan says that I could sing really good, well, she doesn't say that, but she says I got potential, but, yeah, I used to love to sing and acting was one of my favourite things to do ever. I used to have a camcorder and I would film myself and my sisters and we just act out scenes from a novela or, like, the Power Rangers. I also loved gymnastics - that was one of my favourite things to do, was to do flips and all kinds of things. My parents unfortunately couldn't afford to enrol me in classes, but I used to do flips in my backyard.

So here I am in the first grade. I'm drawing my crazy frizzy hairy arms and hair, and the one moment that I remember the most was actually meeting this really beautiful girl. Her name was Lily, and before the last day of school, she wrote the word "butterfly" in one of my books with her picture in. And then summer passed by, second grade, first day of school, I found out that she passed away, and it was one of the saddest things ever, because she was such a beautiful, nice girl, and she would never, she was never mean to anybody, so I just found that to be really unfair.

But anyways, that's me, being a smarty-pants, and I wanted to be a lot of things. I wanted to be a teacher, I also wanted to be a doctor, and I always said I wanted to be the CEO of a company, so for me, to be a CEO right now, it's such, like, wow - if you write it down, you can make it happen. Alright, so now fast forward a lot of years, this is me in junior high. Let me just describe myself. I was a really awkward girl, definitely not the pretty girl in school. I had frizzy, frizzy, curly hair, and I used to wear, like, baby oil, and these are actually the shoes that I'm drawing right now, those are my soda shoes from, like, the Spice Girls. But yeah, I used to have really long, awkward oily hair, I used to have a styer in my eye and I still have hairy, hairy arms, bushy eyebrows, ugly, ugly clothes, so I was not happening, but still, I was very, very happy in junior high.

See, when high school came, my life changed completely. I was really, I became like a really shy girl, and I was hanging around all the wrong people. Maybe not all of them - I had a few good friends - but for the most part, I was hanging out with people who I was ditching with all the time, so I got really bad grades. I was, you know, like I said, ditching and partying and just doing the wrong thing, all the things, all the time, which made me really depressed and also the fact that, right here what I'm drawing is a picture of this guy that I met, and I used to really like him and he was such a cool, cute guy and he was actually my legit first boyfriend. Actually, he's not legit first boyfriend, because the first day that we actually saw each other in person, he's like, "Uh yeah, I have too much going on. I think it's better if we break up and get back together when basketball season is over". Fast forward, this guy, ugh, no bueno. Anyways, I went home, I started crying and crying, and I started attempting suicide by taking pills and trying to hang myself in the closet, and I was just a really depressed girl, and I was basically depressed for my entire high school four complete years. And yeah I'm just I remember just asking God, like please, just let me die. I'm tired of living, and just very, very depressing, very suicidal state of mind, but you know what? I am so glad and I am so thankful that God did not allow that, because if not, I wouldn't be where I am today.

So anyways, right after high school, I wasn't happy with my life, and I didn't have any money to pay for college, and I was working a low, I was working at Hobby People, so I wasn't making a lot of money. I think I was getting paid like \$8.75 an hour and I decided to call up a recruiter and tell him I want to go and join the army ASAP. I want to leave like by next week, so that's what happened. January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. So, the first things, that I did after enlisting in the military was obviously swear in. I actually took you a little bit forward but flashback - first thing I did was join, go to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and do my basic training there, which is actually not hard at all. You just got to be one of those people that's like, "I don't give up". Next I went to Aberdeen Proving Grounds for about thirteen weeks in Maryland, and I did my MOS training, and that's where I got certified to become a generator mechanic, and I feel like my MOS training was actually a lot harder than actual basic training in certain ways, just because even though I had more freedom here, I still did tasks that were a bit more difficult and then after that, I went to Fort Hood, Texas, and that's where I was stationed. And that's in the big great state of Texas, Central Texas. And I was in HHC three Corps - that was my unit. Right after that, I believe like three months later, I went to Iraq and I was stationed in Baghdad in Camp Victory from 2006 to 2008. Yes, 15 long months. When I first got there, it was supposed to be a 12-month deployment but then it turned into a 15-month deployment, which was really, really long. The last three months were extremely long and I was actually a driver for a convoy that would escort VIPs from Camp Victory to the Green Zone, and we actually got attacked a few times, but the biggest one, this little thing in the front is called the rhino arm, and it detects IDs and stuff like that, but anyways, I was the driver and then we had my truck commander and then there was the gunner, and occasionally we had VIPs right in the back, which is the one that I'm drawing right now. But the one incident that happened was we got attacked by an RPG and the person who shot the insurgent who shot the, the RPG, actually didn't shoot it correctly because it hit about two feet from my truck in the ground and then it ricocheted, parts of it into the gunner and my side of the door, so, if he would have done it correctly, I would have been gone. Boom. But I ended up getting a Combat Action badge, which is pretty awesome, and then, yeah, I feel like that was like the most significant part because I was so close to death at that moment, but we went out and we did a bunch of different things there. And they were pretty dangerous, but anyways, so anyways, oh, I did want to mention, girls do end up being in the battle zone and just because you're a generator, it doesn't mean they're going to be a generator in Iraq or not in Iraq anymore but any danger zone. Because now they have a bunch of contractors and they take over the soldiers' job and the soldiers actually do things that are a little bit more dangerous and they don't get paid anything hardly ever. Oh, here I'm actually sketching out the RPG, which stands for a rocket-propelled grenade, which is pretty scary.

So also, for those of you wondering, I actually met my husband in the military. We were stationed in the same unit and we got together when we were in Kuwait, and then we got to Iraq and then he asked me to be his girlfriend, so I was really blessed, because I didn't have to be alone the whole time that I was there. And not only because of that, but we fell in love and we just share a connection that I don't feel like I could really find with anybody else because we shared such an extreme chaotic moment in our lives.

So now, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011, actually 2012, that's the day that I officially got out of the military, but the day that I moved to LA, it was in 2009, after I finished three years of active duty in Texas and then I did my last years here in California, in LA, which is when I moved to Los Angeles, so first I actually lived in South-Central in a house full of roaches. I never mentioned this, but that was my first house ever and I also wanted to mention that I got out as a Sergeant, so an E5 was my rank, my last final rank before I got out. And then I discovered YouTube, but YouTube was actually discovered in 2008.

So anyways, then in 2008, actually I'm doing a flashback, in 2008 is when I joined YouTube and I started to do videos and it was just such a fun way for me to step outside of my military uniform, you know? I was in a mechanic shop all day working on Humvees and generators, so interacting with you guys on a more feminine level really just, I don't know, like I became so obsessed with it, and then their interaction and the comments and feedback, so it's just like a major plus, so I became so in love with YouTube and then my biggest moment ever was when I appeared in 2008 in Seventeen magazine, actually 2009, not on the cover, inside, but I was a Beauty Smartie and I actually have that framed on my desk because it's like the moment where my life changed forever, so Seventeen magazine I'm so, so thankful.

So, I've been doing YouTube, like I said, since 2008, and a lot of people say that, and they love to say this, they love to say that I changed. And of course I changed. Of course I'm not the same person. I know it would make a lot of people happier if I was the same person I was in 2008, but look at this. I'm 25 now, you know, I've been doing this for, like, what? Five years. I'm 25, I became a mother, I became a businesswoman, a wife and so many more things, guys, like, of course I changed and I've changed in such a positive manner, but of course I can see why some people would, you know, rather see me back where I was in 2008.

But yeah, I finally reached a million subscribers a few weeks ago and I am so thankful and blessed to get at this number because it's such a huge milestone for me and I just really, really thank you and I just want to say that I love you guys so, so much, and just know that if a regular girl like me, I'm like, I don't know, I'm just as regular as it gets, guys. If a regular girl like me can do it, and be successful and be accomplished, look, my first job was working at Carl's Jr., and I was like in the cashier, I was like flipping burgers and then I went on to work at Hobby People for another eight months fixing RC cars and, like, I don't know, just, and then I joined the army after that, but if I can make it, you definitely can too, I promise.



So, Jesse and I, Jesse is my husband's name, Jesse and I ended up getting married in October 2011, 11<sup>th</sup>, and it was such a beautiful wedding. It was really intimate, I think. We didn't really have a lot of people there, just because also it was in a yacht, and it was just beautiful and I had the chance to design my own wedding dress which was a really cool experience, as I do go to fashion school, so yeah. He had a little beard going on that day and it's really nice when you can marry someone who is really supportive of what you do and, you know, whenever my spirit is down, he always gives me words of encouragement and he has a lot of positive words and advice that he gives me all the time, so he's very, very supportive. He goes with me to my photoshoots, events, we travel together and overall, we are just a big happy family. And as you know, I also have a two-year-old little boy. His name is Isaac and he is just the most amazing little boy and the best gift from God ever - the best blessing. And I actually miss being pregnant. I feel like it was just, everybody just treats you so nice, and it was just, I don't know, a really magical part of my time in my life, just because the birth itself was really extraordinary. Just to know that you're growing a human being inside of you is like, wow! And now to see my son so big - he was actually 5.3 pounds when he was born, so now he's like so tall and he talks a lot and he has his own personality and life just couldn't be better. So that's basically it. I hope you guys enjoyed my life story and thank you for watching.

3713

### FDML #28

Hello guys. So today, I'm going to draw my life. A lot of you have requested this video, so here it be! So, I hope you all enjoy my lovely drawings, or should I call it doodles.

So I guess I'll start off with this man right here who be my dad. Throughout the video he will be in blue because that's his favourite colour and this woman right here be my mama, and she's going to be in red because that's her favourite colour. So, started off when my dad was from Vietnam and mum's from China and they came together and met in the beautiful city of San Francisco. So, in the year 1991, my parents had my older sister Winnie. That's my mum with her prego belly. So, funny story - my dad actually fainted at the hospital because my sister came out as a girl. Being the traditional Asian man he is, he wanted a boy.

Fast forward to the year 1993, my parents decided to try again and see if they would have a boy but nope, I came out as a sister, I mean, a girl. So yeah, I was born in 1993 and our family expanded from there. So, here's my dad, my mummy and Winnie who will be in purple throughout the whole video because that was her favourite colour growing up and me who will be in pink because that's my favourite colour now.

I was born in Oakland, California. We lived in this small little house with only five bedrooms and we lived with over 30 people because my grandma was a traditional Chinese woman and she wanted all of us under one roof. One awesome memory I had of preschool was one day before naptime when I had the bathroom all to myself. I looked at the toilet and thought, how do boys pee? So, I thought I'd give it a try, and I peed all over my leg, which was really disgusting. So, because I had super busy parents, I was taken care of by my grandma. She was a pretty mean lady growing up, but I don't know why I felt that about her because now I feel like she's the nicest lady ever, but she was just kind of strict, I guess. And one memory I have was when we would buy groceries at Chinatown and she would have me and my older sister hold bags of groceries and we would run and chase the bus. I remember feeling really embarrassed because we were holding bags and bags of groceries.

One memory I loved about hanging out with my grandma was that she would take us to the park and we would bring bags of rice to feed the pigeons, which is actually really bad for the pigeons, we didn't know that at the time, so don't do it. Although I had lots of fun during my childhood, there were times where it was just terrible. In the year I was born, something bad actually happened to my family and we basically lost all our money. We went from a pretty wealthy family to having nothing. We lost our family business which was a supermarket and we also owned a hotel which we also lost. It was all gone. Before we lost our hotel, I remember playing with my older sister at the pool with my dad and it was just super fun and one of my best memories growing up. Due to our financial issues and stress, my parents fought almost every day. I remember them saying that they were divorced and me and Winnie would cry in our beds watching them, thinking what would we do if they split up, and we would just beg that they would please stop and please stay together. There were lots of great memories growing up but because of these problems, I always felt sad. Me my older sister would always live in fear and we would cry almost every day. We cried a lot.

Because my mum was constantly stressed, I grew up in a very abusive environment with my older sister. My mum would come home from work and she would be angry and take it out on my older sister and I. She would make us get on our knees while she would hit us with anything she can get her hands on, and we basically had no dignity. The beatings were horrible and extremely painful, but worst of all, my mum would call us all sorts of names. She would beat us so hard that the sticks and hangers she'd hit us with would all break. My dad was a pretty cool guy and he would never hit us but while my mum did, he would jump in front of us and protect us. Sometimes he would hug us and say, "It's okay". So, like I said, there are good times and bad times. Although all this was happening, my parents were very hard-working, and they really tried to provide for the family. We would actually still go on vacation like a normal

family. Yeah, my parents would take us on road trips, what else would we do? We would go to Canada, Reno, China, camping a lot, and Disneyland.

My parents were extremely hard-working and were constantly very tired. So, kindergarten came around and I moved to Berkeley, California. We lived in an unfinished house which went for very cheap and I lived all my cousins with my grandparents, aunts and uncles once again, and there, I met my first group of friends. I had a friend named Jackie which had a bowl cut and a boy named Raphael. We were pretty close, and we hung out all the time and I played monkey bars a lot and I was crowned the queen of monkey bars. My grandma from my dad's side of the family wanted us all to go to Chinese school so we would keep our roots. Because of that, I now know how to speak Cantonese and Mandarin and also read in Chinese. So, in third grade I moved again to Alameda, California. Due to all the moving, I really had no friends.

So, in fourth grade, my parents finally saved enough money and we moved out into the suburbs. We had a big house and I had my own room. And I started fourth grade at a new school, and I had no friends. People made fun of me all the time and I ate lunch all by myself. During recess, I would actually go to the bathroom and just hide in the stalls because I was afraid of hanging out in the playground, because people would just make fun of me. I would sit in the stalls and just wait and wait until the bell rings and I can go back to class. In fifth grade I transferred schools to be closer to my house. Because it was a new school, it was new people and I was the new girl once again. I was super tall and people made fun of me for my crooked teeth and being chinky. So, one day in middle school, I saw this one Asian guy, which is pretty rare because where I lived there was barely any Asians, and he was super tall and handsome, and I soon found out his name was Wah. So, being the stalker I am, I found out his whole school schedule and his locker number and I would wait for him at his locker just so I could take one look. And he was a super popular guy, so I was pretty surprised when he decided to start talking to me on AOL Instant Messenger. We talked a lot and at this point I was like, "Oh yeah girl! I got him - he likes me!" Sadly, I found out that Wah actually has a girlfriend and I was super jealous at this point because I was like, "Why can't it be me?" And she was actually somewhat of a friend of mine and because she found out that I liked her man, she threatened to beat my ass with a whole bunch of her friends.

High school was actually not that terrible, probably because I started cheerleading and I met a great team of great people, and I loved them so much. I also really enjoyed dancing. Parents' relationship continued to grow worse and my mum would always yell at me and my older sister for our grades, because we weren't the best people when it came to school, and it just got to the point where I felt like it was too much and I constantly thought about death. I've even tried to commit suicide many times and yeah, something I'm not proud of at all in my life.

Growing up, I was a pretty depressed kid. I think it was due to all the bullying and all the fighting in the family and all the beatings. And one day I wrote a letter that I titled to be read after my death. In the letter I talked about how much I hated my mum, and one day my mum actually found the letter when she went through my closet and, which I'm actually pretty thankful for, because since then, our relationship has definitely improved and we became best friends. It took over 15 years for me to finally say that I forgive my mum and that I love her.

So, fast-forward to the better things in my life. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Wah asked me out, and basically my fairy tale started there. I've never been happier, and I've never felt more loved, and I'm just so thankful to have him in my life. And as most of you know, I have been making videos since I was 15 years old but it actually wasn't until Wah and I started dating where I found that, you know, YouTube is such a great career and it's something that I really enjoy doing, especially with the tampon video, and yeah I kind of figured that I like beauty and I went to FIDM to major in Beauty and one year later I moved to Los Angeles, California, with my boyfriend and we both started going to school at FIDM and yeah, that's basically what it led up to right about now. And that's basically my story and here I am today, still trying to make videos, although I'm not the best at it, but I am extremely thankful for this opportunity that you guys have given me. And I couldn't thank you all enough. I just hope that I still continue to entertain you guys and you guys still enjoy watching my videos.

As for my future plans, just like any typical girl I think out there, I hope to one day have a very beautiful house, preferably a condo because I want a beach view, and I hope to be a hot mama. I want to have kids, of course, and I want to have a daughter and a son and amazing husband, but yeah, while I do want to have a family, I do definitely want to focus on my career, which I hope one day to have my own company and basically just sell makeup or anything as long as it's beauty-related. I just want a known company and I want to be a boss, yeah, and that's about it. Thank you all for believing in me and giving me the chance to do what I love and, girl, I'm just going to keep writing, so you can read that on your own. Remember no matter how tough your past may be, keep pushing for the day you dream for. It may take years, but you can do it. All my love and wishes to you.

1995

FDML #29

Hey guys! As you can tell by the title of this video, this is my draw my life. So, without further ado, let's get started. I was born July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1987 - a few days earlier than my due date. My mum was having bad contraction pains, so a doctor

told her to have a glass of wine to relax. Well, a glass of wine and a nap later, my mum had slept through her entire labour and barely made it to the hospital in time. I had so much hair as a baby, they couldn't even fit a beanie on my head. My mum said it made it really easy to spot me in the baby ward. I was the first child for my parents' marriage. I had two older half-brothers from their previous marriages to other people, but I feel like they're my full brothers and we're super close. Four years later, my two younger twin brothers were born about a week before my birthday. I guess you could say they were an early birthday gift.

On my fourth birthday, I had a pony birthday party and it was fabulous! My parents rented an actual pony and all the kids dressed up as cowboys and cowgirls. Till this day, I still remember this as my best birthday ever. It'd actually be my last birthday party my family could afford for a while because a few weeks later, my mum went through the hardest time of her life. Her mother, my grandma, passed away from breast cancer. Since her dad had died when she was little, my grandma was all she had left. My mum had also found out she had cervical cancer around the same time and since she had just given birth to my little brothers, the stress of everything had become too much for her. Not too long after all this happened, she injured her back at work and had to leave her job. Everything piled on top of each other and my mum fell into a deep depression and started to become very dependent on prescription drugs to get her through her pain. With my mum not working, my dad had to work extra hard to pay the bills, and since he commuted about two hours away, he'd be gone really early in the morning and wouldn't get home till really late. About halfway through second grade, my mum decided to home-school my brothers and I because she thought it'd be easier if we were at home. From this point all the way up until fourth grade, I don't remember learning anything. My mum spent most of her time in bed and if she was awake, she wasn't a very happy person. She'd be heavily medicated and sometimes be physically and emotionally abusive towards me and my older brother. I'd try and do things she used to like laundry, cooking, cleaning, watching my little brothers and taking care of her in hopes that someday she'd start feeling better and be my mum again. Right before I started fourth grade, we got sent away to my grandma's for a year because my mum had locked us out of the house and tried to kill herself. I didn't realise what was happening at the time. I just remember seeing my mum being taken away on a gurney and being so sad I couldn't help her.

Fourth grade was hell. I had the education of a second grader and not to mention I was extremely socially awkward. I was an easy target for bullying. I tried so hard to make friends but failed miserably. I became the gross kid that people would push into the boys' bathroom, throw into trash cans and any time I tried playing Foursquare, they'd throw the balls at my face to make me leave the game. I hated it. Not to mention, I really missed my mum and dad and didn't understand why I couldn't live with them anymore. Whenever the bell would ring for recess, I'd run as fast as I could to the furthest corner of the playground and think about all the awful things kids would say to me and work on what I could have said back to them. This is where I perfected the art of the comeback. I passed fourth grade with all Cs and was able to move on to fifth grade.

My mum had started getting better and we were able to come back home. My mum started massage school and was the happiest I'd seen her in a really long time. With extra income from my mum, financially we were able to afford school clothes and groceries and it almost seemed like my life had picked up where it left off when I was four. I made friends more easily when I went back to school. People had remembered me from second grade and were really excited to see me. I felt like I had a second chance at a new start and this time, I wasn't going to be picked on or thrown into the boys' bathroom. I became the funny kid and did whatever I could to get a laugh out of people. It made me happy being able to make other people laugh and helped me deal with the pain I was holding onto from what happened to me when I was younger.

Life was great, until it wasn't. My mum had found out she had rheumatoid arthritis from massaging and was devastated. She fell back into a depression and medication addiction and all at once, everything was crumbling again. My parents weren't able to pay bills and our water kept getting turned off and at times we didn't have money for groceries. Luckily, the church we used to go to would give away free groceries and we were able to live off of those. If we didn't have that, I'm not sure what we would have done. I was afraid my parents were going to send me back to my grandma's, so I started picking up the slack like how I did when I was younger. I was a mum to my little brothers, and I would handle all the grocery shopping, cleaning and cooking. I helped my brothers with their homework and helped them pick out their school outfits, and at the end of the day when I was done with all that, I'd work on my homework. I still managed to maintain a 3.5 GPA in school while this was happening because I had hopes for my future and that things were going to get better. Unfortunately, they didn't - they got worse. She'd always argue with me over the littlest things. It didn't matter what I was doing to help my family, it seemed like she was always upset at me and it was never good enough for her. I realise now it's just the medication talking and not my mum, but at the time, I started getting so sad and depressed that things weren't going to get better. I started believing I might be the reason my mum was so sick, so I just gave up. I stopped caring about my grades and started partying and drinking with my friends a lot more. When I drank, I felt like I could escape my problems if only for a night. I became the funny girl again. When I drank, everyone would always want to be around me. I made people laugh and for a moment, all my troubles and worries would go away. When I would sober up, I'd feel even worse than I had before, causing my depression to spiral deeper and deeper out of control.

I barely managed to graduate high school and during the first year of college, I met a boy. We dated for about a year and a half and my relationship with him was as healthy as my relationship with my mum. We'd argue all the time and break up with each other then get back together and I hated it. Around this time in my life, I really hated everything. My drinking problem had gotten worse and so did all my relationships. My mum was constantly threatening to kick me out of the house and my brothers resented me because any time I was home, we were always arguing. One day after getting in a huge fight with my mum and breaking up with my boyfriend for the billionth time, things hit me. I hated myself and my life and everything in it. I didn't see the point in living anymore. I'd wake up every morning and wish I didn't have to, and I finally wanted to put and end to all the pain. I had planned on stealing my mum's medication and going into my room and taking all of it and then going to bed and never having to wake up again. Before I did this, I had a moment of wondering if my life could be different. A few months before this day, my grandma had been taking me to church and although I never believed in God or church, I just went to make her happy. A lot of things the pastor had said was starting to make sense. I struggled with the thought of God in my life because if he was real, where had he been when I was alone and hurting all these years? Well in that moment, I decided to pray and I ask God if he was real to tell me my life could be different - to tell me my life hadn't been a waste and that I was meant for something more. In the moment after that, I can't explain it in any other way but that I felt a peace in my heart that I had never felt before. I had the strength to leave my boyfriend for good and I moved out so I could better focus on myself. I stopped drinking completely and joined an internship/Bible College program at my church that my grandma had been taking me to. This part of my life is where I really started to live and forgive myself and my mum for everything that had happened. I learned so much about myself while I was in this program and learned so much about my faith and who I wanted to be in that.

Since I had lost all my old friends from giving up drinking, I had a lot of extra time on my hands. So, I spent a good chunk of that time on the internet and I stumbled across the site called YouTube. I'd watch these two YouTubers named Brookers and The Hill 88. They were so funny. I remember wanting to be their friends and feeling like they were mine because I'd watched them so much. Around this time, I started helping out in the video department at my youth group and my friend Sean showed me how to use a camera and edit. I started making little home videos and editing them in Windows Movie Maker and posting them on YouTube. I never really thought much of my videos, but other people started watching them and they started getting more views. I made my first music video with my brother to a song called I'm a Gummy Bear. And after that I started getting approached by major record labels like Sony, Universal, Warner and Atlantic to help promote music for them. This was insane to me because I was just a girl from Modesto. I didn't think opportunities like this happened for people like me.

In 2010 my mum had pulled herself out of her depression and started getting better. I moved back home, and we started to get along for the first time in a really long time. My YouTube started to really take off and I decided to leave Bible College and pursue it full-time. I also decided to attempt daily vlogging, so I started a channel called Life Burry. Somewhere along my YouTube journey, I met a boy named Joey and we instantly became best friends. He loved anime, cosplay, video games and just about everything I did. We'd spent hours talking on Skype and watching anime together. He told me he was going to move out to LA and at the time I decided I wanted to do the same. I just had to save up a ton of money before I could. In 2011 I met a cute boy named Jimmy who encouraged me to enter this competition called Next Up. The prize would be \$35,000, which was more than I had ever made in all my years of working. I decided to enter really last minute, and I ended up winning. I used that money to move out to LA and a few months later, Jimmy and I started dating. He's my best friend and the best boyfriend I could have ever hoped for. Now I live with my brother David and my cousin Alyssa, and living in LA has been a crazy experience. Since moving here, I've had the chance to interview celebrities and take on a producing/show creator role for teen.com. I also got the chance to race around the world with Joey on The Amazing Race, which was a total blast.

I know my life had a lot of ups and downs, but if anything, I hope it can be a story of encouragement for you. No matter where you're at in life and how bad things get, they can always get better. So, to sum up everything, I can just say I am so grateful at this second chance I've had at life and plan on living every day I'm given to the fullest. Thank you so much for believing in me and my dreams. I wouldn't have gotten nearly as far if it weren't for people like you who subscribe, like and watch my videos. Even if it seems like such a little thing for you, it's a big thing for me because by doing that, you fuel my future. Thank you for letting me be creative and coming on this amazing journey with me. I love you guys more than you could ever know. But yeah, that's the end of my draw my life. I hope you guys enjoyed it and I will see you on Tuesday with a brand-new video. Bye!

2418

#### FDML #30

So, guys, welcome back to the Kelly and Carly vlog channel and today I'm going to be doing a draw my life. So this has been super highly requested for ages and I've been putting it off because I'm really not good at art, so, you'll see that as my drawings go along, but I thought I'd give you an insight into a little bit of my life, so you guys can get to know me better. So here we go.

So, on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, I was a May baby, in the summer in 1995, I was born and I think I was like seven pounds or something, so I was a pretty big baby compared to my big brothers who were Ryan and Scott. So they were four years old when I was born, and there's my mum and there's my dad, and they were super happy that I was born because they wanted a girl and **they're really bad stick figures**, and there's Ryan and Scott, so they were only four when I was born. I was super little, and **they were really good big brothers** and they were kind of hoping for a boy I think, but I think it was okay that I was a girl.

Oh gosh, so when we grew up, we were in a house and it was in a small town in Mead in County Ireland and it was semi-detached. It wasn't that small, but **it was pretty nice**, but there was loads of kids on the road who used to play together all the time. And **it was kind of hard** though, because they were mainly boys, but **there was one girl who became my best friend and her name was Amy. She was so nice, and we became best friends** and my hair was super curly by the way - that was me, the other little stick figure. I had super curly hair when I was growing up.

But when I was seven years old, my parents decided that we should move to Spain. They were, had a company that involved business over there and **I was super sad** because I had to leave but **I was excited** about being in the sun and having some ocean and swimming pools, but I left my very sad friend, best Amy, my friend Amy behind, even. So, **it was nice that it was sunny and everything, but I was a bit sad**. So, when we got to Spain, we lived on a golf course and **it was really cool**. I mean, it was like a resort and **it was super nice** and there was little playgrounds and stuff, and we lived in houses and apartments. We kind of moved around quite a bit and our school, though, was about an hour away. It was super far away from where we lived, so we had to go an hour every day on this bus with loads of different students that went to our school in the same area and we'd have to go an hour on a bus every day just to get to our school, so all the friends I made in school were, like, living super far away.

On my first day of school, **I was nervous to say the least**. I was a little pale Irish girl going into a Spanish school with all these crazy students, but my brothers Ryan and Scott were a lot more confident because they were the older than me, so they were, like, happy enough to go in, because they had classes together, where I was on my own, so **I cried all my first day because I didn't know anyone** and, of course, "no hablo español" at the time. I could not speak Spanish at all. I was only seven and I'd only moved there. So, **it is pretty crazy at that time but then I made some friends on the playground who were super, super nice in my class**. And I will always remember them, like, Carlos, Pablo and a couple of other girls and **I finally learned some Spanish by talking to them as well and it was really awesome, so I made some friends, which was really, really great**. But while we were living in Spain, Ryan and Scott were always tall but they took a growth spurt. They became like 6-foot overnight and I stayed a really, really small kid, so no one ever believes that we're brothers and sisters. It's kind of crazy.

Two years later then, oh gosh, **so I was still pretty sad** living in Spain. I had made friends but not like I had back in Ireland, and **I was pretty sad, like, a lot of the time, and I told my parents that I was super sad**. I was nine years old, and **I didn't really want to live in Spain** anymore, and I asked if we could move home. And Ryan and Scott weren't really sure about it because they had a really great time living in Spain, but we decided to move home and we moved back to our hometown. Anyway, we took the flight home. Ryan and Scott would have been about 13 and I was 9. They were teenagers and **that's a very bad drawing of Ireland**. Sorry about that. I actually, I'm not, so unpatriotic. But we moved home to Ireland, and **it was great. I was so happy** because I was finally back on home turf. I didn't have to deal with the big sun burning me and of course my friend Amy was super happy to see me and yes, we were both 9 years old, but she was a little bit older, so she was 10, **which was really great**.

So, I started primary school, and finally **I made great pals with loads of girls. I had Megan, Keira, Sophie, all my friends that I'm still friends with to this day now**. And **I was so happy to be back with all my friends that I grew up with**. Then, when I was 13 years old, this is where it gets a little bit weird. Well not weird, but **a little bit sad**. So when I was 13 years old, I noticed that my parents were fighting loads and they decided that the best thing for them to do would be for them to get a divorce, so they split up when I was around 13, but **it was okay**, because they were much happier apart **which is great**. So, it was my mum, me, Ryan and Scott, and **we were all super happy** living together and of course I went and saw my dad a lot as well and **it was really, really great**.

So then when I was 17 years old, around 16 or 17, I got my first ever job, and I was studying for exams **which was not great**. So, I was studying for my exams, my final secondary school exams, which is called the Leaving Cert over here, and **I was stressed out loads**, and then when I was around 18, I had to do the exams which was **no good**. But I was working away. I had a job in a bar in my local town **which was great**. I was picking up empty glasses and then I was serving drinks because you have to be 18 to serve drinks and I got to work with my big brother Scott who came to work with me - so we worked two jobs together - there, and another place. So in Ireland, there are these crisps or chips as you might call them in America, and they're called Tayto and Tayto opened up a park with roller coasters and stuff like that, so I got to work there **which was really, really great** but **I got in trouble**. I was giving out free ice cream to the staff because we used to be allowed to do that, and I got fired. So, I never got any more free ice cream, nor did the staff, and I had to leave that job, which was **not so funny**. But I thought I'd put it to get you guys to let me know better.

So, I was in college of course as well which was great. I loved college. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I left school, but I loved parties and I love planning, so I thought that I'd be a party planner. So, there's me having my little party with balloons and stuff. College was great. I made so many friends which I'm still in contact with them now, because I actually didn't finish my degree. I dropped out when my big brothers started a thing called YouTube. And this is how it all began. So they were in college themselves, and they were doing games development and they started up a YouTube channel and they called it Little Lizard and then there was Tiny Turtle as well, and they were doing so good and they asked me to join them as the first girl in their series, and I was so excited. And that's when Little Kelly came about. So, the skin I chose for little Kelly was picked so quickly, on a day, it was crazy. And I, then it became such a staple that I was Little Kelly, and this was, like, the really beginnings of my life, I feel. It was so crazy different from anything I did, but as I was starting this as well, I started dating someone, and I know that doesn't really look like Sharky, but that's meant to be Sharky, also known as David, and we fell in love straight away, and it was so cute. We had a great time being together and we decided that, well, with Tiny Turtle's advice, that we should move in together. So, that's us in our apartment block. Three months into the relationship, we moved in together, which is crazy quick. But we had a great time, and then, in the November of that year, which was the same time around David's birthday, we decided that we got Buttons. Yes, we got Buttons straightaway. And we had a great time, so we were less than a year in our relationship, we had an apartment and we had a dog.

Of course, I hit a million subs as well, which was all down to you guys, which was so exciting. One of the best things that, like, most accomplished thing that's ever happened to me. I was so proud. And then we got Bruno as well, so that happened after. This is a very bad picture of Bruno. I'm so sorry Bruno if you're watching this. That's meant to be Bruno - we got him as well and we were so happy. Of course, as well, we moved into our new house, which we're still into this day and we're renting and we're super happy and it's super big and there's a nice garden in the background for the dogs to play in. And I forgot to mention something really, really special. In all of this of course, because I started going out with David and Little Carly is, like, going out with David's brother. I met Little Carly, and she is the one who's helped me get through all of this, I mean, I don't know where I'd be without LC. She is the best and we are like best friends and we do everything together, but I forgot to put that in in the other bit there. I'm leaving things out but that's okay. So now guys, I am happy as Larry living in a house with my boyfriend too - I'm drawing a little bit better here with his beard - with David, we are living together and we're super happy, working away on our channels. We all, we both have multiple channels, which you should go subscribe to by the way, we've got our little doggies - that's meant to be Bruno I think, and that's meant to be Buttons, oh my goodness, I'm so bad at drawing - and we're happily in love and we're a super happy family. But who knows what's next to come? I don't even know. It could be maybe a wedding if Sharky ever proposes, and, or, it could be, I don't know. It's kind of crazy. It's down to you guys what happens next in my life. Let me know in the comment section what you think I should do next, because I've had a great time and it's been amazing, and this is the end.

2123

### FDML #31

So, this is my version of draw my life. Hello! Yeah, here we go. Ready? This is a picture of me. I have something on my face and smile and I'm doing like a thumbs-up. No, those are my, nope there we go, cool kid glasses. Cool!

Okay, so first things first, there was a man and a woman, and they got together. Whoa, with those legs, so they got, fell in love and they had a baby. That baby was my big sister, then they were like "We're not in love, just kidding", but they had another kid on accident. Whoops! And that kid was me! Well okay, there we go. This kid was another baby and that kid was cool. Just like me, Hannah, yeah. So then there was a mum and she had two kids and they were like, "Yay! Let's do things. Oh, we don't have any money, oh, we don't have any food. Oh, we barely have any clothes. That's rough, but we have a lot of love. Yay!" You know, and to be fair guys, I am, I really, I'm trying to do this all in one take. And I was like, "What can I do to get food?" Question mark, hmm, but I was still really cool, and I wore sunglasses and I smiled a lot and I came up with an idea. It was a bright idea in fact, that was so cool! Great, so the idea went a little something like this - you know when you go to school and you are in elementary school and you have a lot of people and they all have, like, extras in their lunch bag? Well, I used to get on the playground and do this game I like to call "Will she eat it?" and it was a pretty simple game. It basically meant that if anybody had something in their lunch that they didn't really want, they could just give it to me. So, like, that meant, like, you know, like a Fig Newton or like a big burrito with, that looks like a hot pocket, like a Fig Newton, you know, and then they put like ketchup on it and then they put like, you know, other various sorts of extras on it and try and make it gross and be like, "Whoa, will she eat it?" and the answer was, "Yes yes yes yes, she would", so that was a lot of what my childhood was like I was pretty happy, you know? But then I got older and a bunch of other stuff happened and we're not going to talk about that. I was like, man, not that happy.

But I was still pretty happy, you know, keep positive, right? Keep positive. But then I, there was a really cool thing which is, those are my mum's legs, this is another baby! And I have little sister all of a sudden, and I loved her so much and I was like yeah baby, that's so cool, everything is coming up roses. You could play with the baby, you can teach baby, you can sing, you give them hugs all the time, and all they do is they say, "Thumbs up dude, so cool!" So, then

me and this baby, we're super happy, oh and then a bunch of other stuff happened. Yeah and things get complicated when you do a draw my life. Things are pretty good, this is a rough patch, I'd say. You know, sometimes you get emancipated when you're young and babies go into foster care and have to figure life out, but you're like, wow, I'm thinking, how do I get through this tough patch? And I was like, oh, I'll just ask for help, because I need it and that's what I did. And so eventually there was this really cool family that came along and they're like, "We love having nice babies. Could we have that baby?" and that baby was like "Yeah, I want to be in your family" and they love each other and they're working it out, and everything's great, and there's me, and I'm like, "Good job guys!" and get to look and see this like, everything's working out.

So, then you're me and you're like, "I'm going to go to college! I'm going to get lots of jobs, I'm going to get lots of degrees, I'm going to make my way through college and be somebody that works hard, work hard play hard", really, is what I'm trying to say and that's a good logic thing. Look at that happy derpy face! So basically, what happens is you go to college and then all of a sudden, you're in your classrooms, you're like well, who that? Who that? And you're learning Japanese and that's your life, and then it's a girl and you're, like, looking and liking, do I like this person? What the hell's going on? Ah, they're like, oh my god, am I gay? Am I a big gay homo? Is that, wait now, this is real life? Not my life, no. I'm not gay. Okay, now think about it. Think about it. Think about it. Yeah, pretty gay. Ah! So that was really confusing, but she ended up liking men, and I ended up continuing to like girls, and that was also a very long complicated story as well. Very, you know, but look, that's me being gay and eating pizza, I guess. It's a happy thing.

Next stage of my life, it's post college and I worked at San Francisco but I moved to New York City and I worked as a translator at a desk and it was exciting and interesting and hard, but it was fine because I have a job and frankly, the economy was crashing and who wouldn't be happy to have a job? But then something amazing happened, which is I got drunk and then I got hungry, and that equalled My, dun dun, Drunk, dun dun, Kitchen! MDK woo woo woo woo, see, it's a spatula and a wineglass, and my life got so crazy, cool and awesome and interesting and fun! And I started doing YouTube and it's really, really good. And what's next? Oh yes, when I moved from NYC, New York, to Los Angeles, a city I had never, ever, ever, ever, ever wanted to live in in my entire life? Okay, so I got a Prius and I have lots of friends here and I do YouTube all the time and I have money and love and everything's working out.

So now my life is really, really, really, really great and I've got a tour coming up, getting the community together and we're going to do volunteer work all across America with you guys. I have a dragon, I have really big muscles, you know, and I've lots of love and hearts and you know, there's a bunch of question marks. This is probably me not knowing what to draw next, so that's, sometimes you get sad but then sometimes you're happy. That's life and it's sometimes, everybody feels difficult, you know? Sometimes people have tales, but they get past it, you know? They get over it, but life goes up and down a lot and life doesn't have to be that hard if you have a good foundation of people that love you and you love yourself and then life's ups and downs will feel like tiny little waves and you're really just on a boogie board, that makes a lot of sense, you know. People ask me how do you deal with all this stuff and how do you manage? Then I say, "Look dude, I have three hands!"

1298

## FDML #32

Hey everybody, it is xxx and this is the long-awaited draw my life, in celebration of a hundred thousand subscribers. That is just crazy to think about, that a hundred thousand of you clicked that little red subscribe button and you're like, "Yeah, you know what? This chick's okay, this chick's okay and I'd like to see more of her", which that, that could be taken wrong, but, you know, let's, let's disregard that. Yeah, but, no, thank you guys. I just want to start off, thank you guys so much honestly for just being there and all of your support for a hundred thousand. It's just crazy. It still blows my mind, and this is my life. This is about me and all of the, the stuff I've been going through. Not the happiest story, but I hope that you can enjoy it anyway. So here we go.

So, I was born and raised in this horrible-looking, that's not quite Ontario, but we're going to call it Ontario. It kind of looks like a, like a stomach or something terrible. But no, that is Ontario. I actually grew up in, in Sarnia – Sarnia, Ontario, Canada. I am Canadian. This little tiny little blip on the map, 72,000 people, no one's really heard of it, so if anyone asks where I'm from, I usually just say Toronto because it's not that far. It's actually known for, like, petrochemicals and horrible gross smelly stuff in the air. We have the worst air quality in all of Canada, so it's, it's great to grow up here.

I was born February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1991, to a lovely woman named Margaret. She was a nurse, and that's my mama, a little nurse hat and everything - there's my mama. And my dad, Benny, he, his legal name is Benny, not Ben. He's a roofer. He does everything and all sorts of stuff. He owned a company and there's little old me, a little bundle of joy. Sup bitches? I was actually born super underweight. I think I was like 3 pounds and 9 ounces, so I was a tiny little baby. I was in the hospital for an extra-long time because I was so tiny. Oh boy! Growing up, I was a little princess. I got everything that I wanted. I was an only child. I did not have any brothers or sisters, so I was spoiled. I was the little princess of the family. Anything I wanted, I got. I would spend hours on my little trampoline, everyone would shower

me in gifts, and, like, everyone would come visit and everyone just loved me. I was this little princess and I was actually blonde. I was born blonde, so a little blonde curly hair and I was just a little adorable bundle of annoying joy.

One thing that I loved more than anything else was going to visit my oppa. He was awesome. All of the adults would be upstairs doing little adult things and having conversations and talking about family, but I would be hiding out downstairs. I had to have been about 7 or 8 at the time. I would hide out downstairs and my grandpa had a DOS based computer and I loved it. I loved trying to figure out the commands and how to navigate it and, it just intrigued me. It really, I was captivated by it. And I found out he had games like Wolfenstein 3D, Crystal Caves, Jazz Jackrabbit, Duke Nuke Em, all these games and I loved them so much and then I would spend hours downstairs playing them. My mum saw how many hours that was actually putting into these video games, and she knew it was super important to me, so one day she came into my room and sat me down and she surprised me with my first N64. That thing was my baby and I loved it so much! I was kind of a weird kid and I had a bunch of blow-up furniture. In my room, I had a bunch of blow-up chairs and couches and pillows, so we used to sit on them for hours and hours and her and I would play Mario Party and Mario Kart. We would actually play Mario Party to the point that our palms would bleed from rotating the controller stick so much, and being a nurse, she would grab the gauze and she'd wrap up both of our hands, and we'd keep going all night. Those were some really nice times. She would always get super upset whenever I beat her and, like, almost cry, so a lot of the times I would actually pretend to lose just to make her feel better, but unfortunately, my happy family didn't last very long.

In the year 2000 when I was about 10 years old, my mum and dad broke up. They were never actually married, so they just split. My mum was having a really hard time, really stressed, and she actually tried to commit suicide, and ended up hospitalized and my dad was the only one that could take care of me, so I ended up staying with my dad. This left me really sad and really confused without my mum there. Everything really started to take a toll on me. I got really, really depressed. I knew that I didn't really, you know, fit in with everyone. Oh, everyone had perfect families and everyone was so happy and here was my family, falling apart. And I was so alone and everyone seemed to just be having fun and I started to lose a lot of friends and, I just, I really isolated myself because I didn't know how to deal with it, and I really didn't have anyone to talk to. I always felt like I just had this rain cloud over my head, and nothing could make it go away.

I'm so thankful I had two pretty close friends in elementary school. Their names were Jess and Sarah and I thank them so much for being there. We would spend hours on the trampoline and just hanging out and having sleepovers, and they, they seemed to always be there for me. We were kind of weirdos, like me and Sarah, I remember one time my dad told me that we were just bouncing on the trampoline with the sprinkler yelling "Oh Canada", and I don't know, we were really weird kids. My dad thought we were really strange, but I think he was just happy that I had friends there to help me. But the one thing that, that really helped me through everything was that N64. My mum wasn't there anymore, but as how, as cheesy as it sounds, my N64 was, so I still had something that I used to do with her all the time and now I could do. It wasn't the same, but it was still something to try to, you know, help me get through everything. So, I played Zelda Majora's Mask and Ocarina of Time, and, just, everything. I played Mario Kart and, like, all of the N64 games, like, hours and hours on end. I never, I didn't really hang out with a lot of people. I just played my N64 hours and hours because that's, that's what helped me deal with things and that was my solace in life.

Things kept getting worse and my dad actually started to date someone new. And it wouldn't have been that big of a deal if it wasn't his cousin, which was really, really awkward. So, it really made me feel uncomfortable and she tried to take the position of my mum, and she would always boss me around and she would always tell me I'm worthless, and she would just make me feel like shit all the time. She would make me feel like I'm just this leech and I'm just a terrible, she said no one wants me in the house, and it just made me really, really sad. And my dad never really stood up for me. He just kind of sat in the background and was like, "Yeah, you know, whatever, whatever she says. She's, she's the boss, I guess". So, needless to say, I didn't spend a lot of time around them. They were their own little happy family just the two of them and they spend most their time downstairs together, and I just kind of hid upstairs, because I didn't feel welcome in my own home. And that's when I got more into the internet. I found that, you know, video games were amazing and then I started spending more time on the computer, and I realised, wow, there's more computer games and there's actually people on them. And there's people that that talked to me all the time and there's people that actually care. And I got really into Runescape and Habbo Hotel, and I met a lot of people on there that, you know, I talked to about my problems and stuff, and they, they were there for me. They were always there to talk to and they always, you know, kind of gave me advice and they made me know that they were there and that they cared about me.

So finally in my family, there was kind of a breaking point and there was a lot of stuff that happened between us that I don't really want to talk about, but long story short, I ended up calling Children's Aid and they came and took me away. I was really confused, even though I called it on myself, I was just really upset and really, I didn't know what was going to happen. I was alone. I didn't have anyone there for me and I was so scared and it didn't seem like it was too big of a deal to them that I was leaving, so I was put into foster care after they couldn't find any family members that would take care of me. And I got bounced around from home to home. No one actually wanted to take care of me. I got put with a bunch of different homes that didn't make sense to me. There is one that is extremely religious, and they made me practice their religion even though it wasn't my beliefs and it just made me really uncomfortable and really sad. I



ended up with a family that expected all of us to clean the house top to bottom. They would leave us alone all day. They would just take off and we didn't have anyone there and then we would get in really big trouble and get disciplined if the house wasn't clean when they get back. I even once ended up on a cucumber farm with Mennonites and, I mean, that was an eye-opener. One place I ended up that was the worst thing that ever happened to me was at a girl's home, and it's basically just a bunch, a big house full of girls that have juvenile problems, that have family problems, that are in the foster care system and they throw them all into one home and expect, you know, workers to help them and it just it was not that at all. There was fights all the time. I got into so many fistfights. I got my ass kicked as well as kicked some ass. It wasn't a home and I was constantly worried all my stuff was getting stolen. I was just always worried that I was going to get my ass kicked again. I was worried that they were messing with my food. I was worried all the time. It was really, really unhealthy. They decided to celebrate my 15<sup>th</sup> birthday after I went out for dinner with my dad; they actually had all of my stuff packed up and put it in the front in trash bags. In the front of the house. And said, "Hi, happy birthday. You're actually moving to another foster home. You're moving to a farm out in the middle of nowhere, population 300 people. Happy birthday". One home that I ended up with and I was at for the longest period of time was actually a native family on a Indian reserve called Omjunon, and being a little blonde white kid on the reserve, I didn't have anyone to back me up and I got bullied every day because I was white. And it was, it was difficult. The family had a real "us and them" mentality, so it was always the foster kids versus them. They would spend family time in the living room, and we would sit in our bedrooms alone all day. It was just, it was really, really lonely and I had no one there. I didn't have my family. I didn't have anything, and I wanted to end my life.

There was actually one point that I, we were at the mall earlier in the day, and I had seen some of the girls that had beat me up at the girl's home, and I got really sad about it. When I get sad, everything snowballs into bigger issues and I get more sad. And I was really alone, and they ended up taking us out for dinner. They picked up, I don't, KFC or something, and we were eating it at the dinner table and I was just to myself, I was really sad, I was on the brink of tears and I was just kind of sitting in my little corner at the edge of the table and trying to fight back tears and then all of a sudden, my foster mum yells at me and says, "If you're going to fucking pout like that, you can go to your damn room" and that's when I really knew that I was alone. And again, my storm cloud continued.

Around this time is when I was going to high school and I was trying to make some friends, and I was kind of a weird kid, so I, I kind of hung out with a lot of really weird kids. But they were like me and I really enjoyed being around them because a lot of them were misunderstood too. And, I wasn't allowed, because of Children's Aid, I wasn't allowed to have sleepovers. I wasn't allowed to hang out after school, so the only time I got to see them was during school time. This really didn't help my grades at all. I ended up skipping class all the time because it was the only time I got to actually spend time with friends and I actually felt like I belong somewhere, so my grades slipped. I started getting Fs. I started failing classes all the time, but I was getting a little bit happier because I had a little group of friends.

And this is when I started to get anxiety. I started to get panic attacks to the point that I couldn't go to school. I was just, I was always having panic attacks. I felt like I was having heart attacks. I couldn't eat anymore. I was just a wreck, and I had no one there for me, so eventually, my foster parents made an appointment for me to go to a psychiatrist. I'm going to use the term "psychiatrist" very loosely because he put me on medication that was way too high of a dosage for my age, and wasn't even supposed to be prescribed for someone my age, and it had really, really bad effects on my brain. I was to the point that I didn't know if I was actually in class. I couldn't remember what I ate for dinner. I forgot everything all the time and it was really, really scary, because I had no idea what was going on half the time, and it's actually still affected me today. To this day, I still have memory issues and it's all because of that.

I was so unhappy at the foster home, and it got to the point that it was my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and that was the final age that I was allowed to move out on my own and I could do my own thing. So, I said "See you", and I moved out into my very own apartment. So now I was 17. I had severe anxiety issues. I was all alone. I didn't have family there for me and I had limited friends, but at least now I was out on my own. I didn't have to deal with all the crap that they gave me, but now I was trying to balance school and I was trying to balance a part-time job working at Geek Squad in a call centre, and I was trying to manage to pay bills at 17. I was trying to manage paying my water bills, my electric bills, my rent, my phone and everything, and it was, it was a lot to deal with, and no one really knew what was going on and, you know what? It was actually a good time, because I was the coolest kid in high school. I had my own place, I threw, like, raging parties all the time, I had so many people in my yard, we had bonfires and we were bad kids and got hammered and the neighbours didn't appreciate all the time because it got busted by the cops a lot of times. And I got in a lot of trouble for it, but I guess you can't have super close friends forever, because one night, I was actually trying to repair my relationship with my mum for a little while and I ended up staying with her for one night. And while I was gone, one of my friends actually was living right in front of me, and he told all my other friends when I left my apartment and they broke in. I remember seeing it the next day and walking into my apartment and just seeing everything broken. If it wasn't stolen, it was broken. All of my stuff was gone, and it was just devastating, but the worst part was that they took all of my N64 games. The games that, that really helped me get through a lot of stuff and the one thing that I really really, really cared about. And it was all gone.

I needed to find a new place and I had actually a couple months ago met a random Asian guy from California. He flew in from California that day and he was trying to find a place to get blankets because it was the middle of the winter and

no one would help him, so I helped him out and I showed him some 24-hour stores and I showed him around the city and I gave him my number. I said, "Hey if you're ever stuck, just give me a shout and I'll help you out". And he ended up being my roommate. **His name is David and without him, a lot of this stuff wouldn't have happened.** So, I ended up picking up a new job and I was working at PetSmart for Blue Buffalo. It's a pet food company and I was advertising for them, and **I wasn't really the happiest,** but David knew that **I was really, really into video games** and he had some connections out in California. And one time, he called me at work, and he said, "Sonya, if you can get to Los Angeles, I can get you into E3. And **my eyes just lit up! I went crazy. I was so happy,** and I actually went right into the lunchroom at my work and I booked a flight on my phone immediately.

So, there I was. I flew out to California the next day from **smelly old Sarnia.** And I went to E3 and **it was the greatest thing of my life** and I have been going every year since. When I got back from California, **I had so much more passion in me and I was really excited about everything and I wanted to get involved with children and youth,** and **make sure that they didn't have shitty experiences like I did.** And I ended up, through my friend Shanna, I found a group called Our Voice, Our Turn and it was led by James, **who is awesome** - shoutouts to James. And I met a whole bunch of other foster kids who had had the same experiences as me, and **I felt so at home.** So, what we did is we basically got all these youth across Ontario to submit their story and submit their voice, so we can compile them all together and show it to the government. And that's exactly what we did. We ended up putting together a book called My Real Life Book, and I'll put it in the description. And we, we brought it to Queens Park in Toronto, **which is huge.** It's where they pass bills and stuff and they let all of these kids in there, and they listened to us and they listened to our voices and we're like, "**Man, shit's whack!**" and the government's like "**Yo dawg, we hear you!**". **And we've been making changes, and it's crazy - we've been making newspapers in Japan and it's just, we're creating waves and it's amazing to be involved with.**

Shortly after that, I went to a foster parent award ceremony **to celebrate** some of the great work that volunteers and foster families have been doing at the Children's Aid Society, and I was approached by our new executive director at our agency that just started working there, so she wanted a fresh perspective. She'd seen everything that I was doing. She was like, "Hey man, you're alright. **I like what you're doing - come and work for me**" and of course, I did. **I wanted to make a change,** and **I had a blast.** I got rid of rules that didn't make sense like the no sleepover policy. And I started a sailing class for them. I started a Zumba class. We took them camping, we had movie nights, I made photo albums of all the great times we had and gave them to them. **I had so much fun, and I was so thankful that I could spend time with these kids and hopefully make their experiences a little bit better.**

Meanwhile, I was still traveling a whole bunch and my job was super flexible with it. They wanted me to pursue my passions with video games and computers, and just people, so they let me travel as much as I can. So I continued to go to E3 every single year and then I heard about Penny Arcade Expo, and which **I definitely wanted to attend,** so this is my second or third year here during this time, and I had been talking to a guy named Brennan, Goldglove you might know him as, on Twitter. And **I thought he was super cool and a bunch of other people, and I wanted to meet him,** and he tweeted at me and said, "Hey man, like, we're going to the Twitch party. Do you want to meet up?" and I was like, "**Hell yeah!**". So, we met up and we had an awesome night, so we had a few drinks. They ended up introducing me to a whole bunch of people and we ended up hanging more over the weekend and **it was a really good time.** So at one point he wanted to meet up with a couple of his friends and that just so happened to be Vic Star as well as Jericho, and we were all just kind of hanging out in this couchy area at PAX, **just kind of relaxing** and seeing, you know, what's next, what are we going to do today, and I thought he was kind of, can't, so I was like making some jokes at him. I was kind of joking around, making fun of him at stuff and then out of nowhere, he's like, "Wait. Just just just wait a second - I have something for you". I was like, what? I just met this dude and he has something for me. That's crazy! **Oh, how nice of him, this is really sweet. I like this guy a lot,** and he started just ruffling through his bag and he's really, really digging and **I was so intrigued** as to what he could have for me. And then he pauses, and he shoots me the middle finger. And **I can't believe that I fell for that.** So, with his super witty charm, **I kind of thought he was really cool,** so in typical creepy girl fashion, I found his Twitter and I found out that he does YouTube, and **I was really intrigued.** So I was, started watching a couple of his videos and his "Hey, what's going on guys? My name is Jericho!" and **I really thought he was funny.** I watched some of his high stakes and I thought it was crazy, what he does to like make his fans happy, and I, **I was really interested in him.** So what turned out being a little quick Twitter message turned into some Skype messaging and then texting and before I knew it, we were skyping every single day and **I couldn't have been happier** and then, one day, while we were skyping, he was like, you know what? Why don't we make this official? Why aren't we dating? Do you want to date? I was like, "**Hell yeah,** Facebook official". And that's, that's the love story. That's what happened.

And then I started to go out to Los Angeles almost every month and Tucker would come up here and we'd go to PAX together and **it was amazing. I am so happy with him** and even from a long distance, I find that it's actually pretty easy and for the first time **I had an awesome job, an amazing boyfriend and I got a new apartment, and everything was looking up.** Things with the Children's Aid Society ended up not working out so great. They wanted me to pursue my dreams so much to the point that they kind of forced me out of their workplace. They lowered my hours so much to the point that I couldn't pay my rent anymore, so I actually had to quit, and I picked up a mediocre retail job at The Source,

which is basically a Canadian Radio Shack. And I started to get kind of sad because I, I loved Tucker and I missed him so much and I couldn't see him all the time and I was really, really lonely and I was just kind of working a dead-end retail job and I wasn't really doing anything with my life. I got really, really sad. I didn't like working retail. I missed Tucker. I couldn't afford to see him all the time and half the time when I was working, I just wanted to go home and cry. Tucker knew that I was really passionate about video games and he knew that I was in retail I guess, and I was okay with people, and he kind of just popped the question – no, he, he asked me, have I ever thought about making a YouTube channel? And, of course I had. The last couple years everyone's like, "You're, you play video games. You love it, you're passionate. Why don't you, you know, share that passion and try to get more people interested and stuff?" And I, I've always wanted to, but I didn't really know anything about it, and that is when I started my channel. About a year ago, I started xxx. I always used xxx as an alias on Habbo Hotel; I used it on Runescape, I used it on Steam. I used it on everything, and I thought that it would be perfect, and then I started making videos. I started highlighting some leaked stuff that I would play, and you know, Tucker kind of sent some people my way and they, they see what I was doing, and they're like, "You know what? You're okay. You're actually not that bad. You're, you're, you're semi funny I guess sometimes". And it's just been crazy seeing all these people that I don't know at all, I wish I could know all of you, and just to see them turn into my little foxx family, and I started to get more happy. I started to see more passion in life and just get happy about what I'm doing for once. But then I was kind of stuck with, you know, I had to balance making like a video every single day, I had to livestream almost every day, and I wanted to pour my heart and soul into it, but I couldn't because I was working at The Source and I was working part-time, and I had to balance that, and between the two, I had no sleep. I had no personal time. I had never seen my friends, and I got really sad, and I started crying a lot again. I got really, really depressed, and honestly, I can't thank Tucker enough for putting up with it and being there and cheering me up.

And this brings us to today's Sonya. The one big announcement that I wanted to make - I am not getting married, I am not pregnant. Tucker is not pregnant. I'm not moving to The States yet, but I quit my job at The Source. I put in my final couple days last week and I am done. I am doing YouTube and streaming on Twitch full-time and I'm going to, like, cry happy tears of joy because I am so happy. I am just so happy to be able to pour my heart into this finally, and I don't have to worry about not having enough time to sleep and not having, you know, time to myself. I get to pour my heart into something that I'm really passionate about, and I get to share it with you guys, and I can't thank you guys enough.

And this brings us to the end. I, I really have no words to describe how thankful I am for all of you guys and all of the support that you've given me. All the times you watch my videos and share them and like them and give me feedback, it's just, I can't thank you guys enough for your support. You're amazing and all the shouts outs on Twitter and everything, you guys make my day, every single day. And you guys given me, you guys have given me something that I never thought I would have. I never thought I would have passion. I never thought that I would have self-confidence. I never thought that I would find such joy in life and in something that I really, really, really love doing, and I can't even pay you back for that! So seriously, thank you guys so much. I love my little foxx family, and I'm looking forward to many more milestones and many more videos and streams and all this fun time with you guys. So again, thank you guys so much. I love you foxx family.

5278

### FDML #33

Hi everyone, this is Wolfychu, and a lot of people have asked me to make a draw my life, so today I'm going to do that. It all started in the place called Surrey in the UK, the place where Harry Potter grew up. I was an Irish girl who was born and lived in the UK for the first six years of my life with my parents and my two older brothers. I was a really quiet kid who loved animals and to draw. I remember when I wanted to draw but couldn't find any paper, I'd look around the house for other things to draw on, like boxes, the wall, my mum's clothes. I remember liking the street that we lived on because my best friend lived just a few houses away. So, we could see each other almost every day. There was also a park at the end of the street too which I loved, but then one day, my parents said that we were going to be moving away from there and going to Spain. I didn't understand what it meant to be moving to another country, but I knew that Spain had swimming pools, so I didn't really think about anything else. When we got there, though, I remember I started to get scared. I was going to have to start at a new school all by myself, and I thought that I was going to be the only person there who spoke English. I also didn't realise how far away from home we were either. I remember I kept expecting to see my best friend coming through the door at any moment, just like she used to.

I got used to living in Spain pretty quickly though. The street we lived on was actually full of stray cats, which I thought was great. I remember I gave a name to every single one of them. We even got to keep some of them as pets too. Learning Spanish turned out to be easy for me too, since I was still really young. I really enjoyed my time in primary school. I had great friends and had fun every day, but once I started high school, things started to change a lot. My two best friends started hanging out with this other girl, and I was seeing them less and less, until we weren't really friends anymore. I didn't have any other friends in school, and since we were a few months into the first year already, everyone already had their own little friendship groups, and I felt like I couldn't get into any of them. So, I ended up just staying

by myself, which really sucked. Things stayed like this for almost two years, until I ended up sitting next to two of my old primary school friends in class, and we started to become friends again. I started talking to one other girl, too. And the three of them ended up becoming really good friends to me. Suddenly, school wasn't so bad anymore until the time came where everyone had to decide what career path they wanted to take.

Everybody I knew seemed to have it all figured out. They knew what they wanted to be and exactly what they needed to do to get there. I had no idea what I wanted to be. The only thing I'd ever taken a real interest in was art. Drawing was my favourite thing to do, but I'd been led to believe that I could never make a career out of it - that if I did art at uni, I'd just end up finishing school and never be able to find any kind of work. So, I felt like I had to choose something else, but I just didn't know what. I thought about so many different kinds of jobs but could never find an answer. My friends all moved away for university while I stayed at home. Everyone was moving on with their lives while I was just being left behind all by myself. I felt like there had to be something wrong with me for not knowing what I wanted to do with my life. I felt completely lost. I still wanted to draw though.

I started drawing pictures for people on the internet who I was either friends with or a fan of, and I was really surprised at the reactions I'd get. People really liked my drawings. I wanted to get more into it, so I got a small drawing tablet and tried out drawing digitally. It felt really different at first, but it was also a lot of fun and I just wanted to draw more and more. My life really started to change in 2016, when I started talking to this Australian boy who I had known online for a few years. His name is Jordan and we started talking to each other on Skype every single day for hours at a time. He was really different from anyone else I'd ever known. He liked basically all of the same things I did, and he was just always so fun to talk to and always made me really happy. I realised that I was falling in love with him, and we knew that we had to meet each other in person. I remember I wanted to tell him how I felt about him, but I was just way too shy, and I couldn't get the words to come out of my mouth, so I told him in Spanish instead, because I knew that he didn't understand any Spanish. He was trying to figure out what I was saying to him with Google Translate but it kept telling him the wrong thing, so he was just getting really confused.

Just a few months later, I travelled out to Australia to meet Jordan in person for the first time. The time that we spent together was amazing. I've never been happier in my entire life, and just a few days after me being there, Jordan asked me to be his girlfriend. I knew for sure after being together in person that he was the one for me and I decided that I wanted to move out to Australia permanently so that we could be together. Moving to another country might be a big decision to make, especially if it's on the other side of the world, but I had no doubts. Everything just felt right. Jordan and I had both loved art since a young age, and when he saw my art, he said that I could probably make a career out of it, even though everybody else had told me that I could never make that happen. Jordan had just discovered the animation community on YouTube and started to encourage me to try out animating and create my own YouTube channel. The only time I'd ever tried out animating was on Pictochat on my Nintendo DS. If you can even count that. I was really keen to try animating properly though, and Jordan wanted to get back into animating too, so I created my channel and we started creating animations together. I've only been on YouTube for a year and a half, but my channel has grown so much since then, and I just feel so lucky and happy to be where I am today. It's really all thanks to you guys that I'm able to do what I love every single day and I'm really so grateful for that. Thank you all so much for all of your support. It really means so much to me, and that's my life so far. I hope you all enjoyed this video. I have a Patreon where I post my works in progress, storytime bloopers and heaps of other cool rewards. If you'd like to check that out, the link will be in the description down below. Thank you all for watching. Bye!

1332

#### FDML #34

My name is Baylee Jae Neubecker and I was born on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1990, in the small town of Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan, which has a population of about 1100 people. I had an older brother named Wendell who was born two years before me. When I was still a baby, my family moved to a town near Gravelbourg called Palmer. We lived there for a few years, but I don't remember much of it. Sometime during those years, my dad's parents both died of cancer. They were only 46 and 52 years old. I was just a baby, so sadly, I don't remember them at all. My family moved into their house, which was on a farm about 10 minutes north of Gravelbourg. This is where I lived most my childhood and it's where I have some of my best memories. Just three days after my fourth birthday, my little sister Brooklyn was born. We were heavily influenced by our older brother. We would always watch him play video games and we liked the same shows he did, like Power Rangers, Ninja Turtles and Dragon Ball Z. I was a pink Power Ranger three times for Halloween. I remember jumping on the trampoline with my brother and doing Power Ranger moves. We had a lot of good times on the farm since there was a lot to do. There was a river we would go to to catch frogs, there was even a spot called The Rock Crossing where you could hop from rock to rock to cross the river, we had cows and cats and dogs, which made me quite the animal lover; other fun areas were the old house which was falling apart and full of all kinds of cool junk, the old barn where we would climb the old wooden stairs to get to the top, and the junkyard where there was a weird sloped metal thing. I don't know exactly what it was, but we would always climb it and it was scary and fun. We would ride our bikes and dirt bikes and have so much fun. Mm, we even had two ponds in the backyard which is where we would keep the frogs we caught. There were some good hills nearby where we'd go tobogganing in

the winter and two of my best friends, Danelle and Delee, lived on farms really close to mine, so I always got to hang out with them.

And I think it was the summer between grade one and two, my friend Angel was over and we wanted to go out on the trampoline but we didn't want my little sister to tag along, so we hid on the staircase leading to the basement until the coast was clear, then we ran up the stairs. I slipped on one of the steps and smashed my head on the edge of the stair so hard that it split the skin open. I had to go to the hospital and get five stitches, which was not fun, but I was proud that I didn't cry at the hospital at all, even though I was bawling when I first hit my head. The stitches were right next to my left eye, so I was extremely lucky I didn't hit my eye when I fell. I still have a scar there to this day.

When I was about 7 years old, I started getting little white spots on my body. I didn't know what they were, but they started spreading rapidly. They didn't faze me though. Other kids would question me about it, but I didn't really have an answer for them since I didn't even know what it was. After a while, I realised it was not normal and that it wasn't going to go away. I hated when people asked me about it. I stopped wearing shorts and I would only wear skirts if I was wearing tights with them. I also avoided swimming because I didn't like wearing a swimsuit. I didn't know at the time, but it was called vitiligo, which is an autoimmune disorder where your immune system attacks healthy pigment cells which results in patches of skin with no pigment. I was lucky that I didn't have any on my face or my arms, and I was also lucky because no one at school would tease me about it. The only time was one day when my brother was prancing around the house saying "leopard girl, leopard girl" until my mum made him stop. Having vitiligo has impacted my self-esteem so much over the years, and I don't think many people realise the effect it can have. I used to cry myself to sleep at night thinking that no one would ever want to marry me. I could make a whole video about this topic but all I want to say is that I know at least a few of you watching this video have vitiligo as well, and if you ever need someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to message me. I'm here for you.

When I was in grade 7, my parents got a divorce. It didn't really shock me at all, since they would fight a lot anyways. My dad stayed on the farm while the rest of us moved into town. It was actually a nice change to live in town, although I would still miss the farm at times. About a year or so later, my grandpa got really ill and passed away at the age of 65. It was the first death that really affected me. The only grandparent I had left was my grandma.

The best days of my life were the days I would spend camping at Elbow. My relatives would camp with us, so we'd have three campsites all in a row which were located right along the lake, just up a small hill. Also, we cut down some trees between the campsites so there would be little pathways leading to each other's sites. There was also a small town nearby, because the campsite's actually called Tufts Bay and the town is called Elbow but we just refer to the campsite as Elbow just because. So, since the town was nearby, we got to know some of the locals which made summers there even more fun. We had so much fun boating, tubing, water-skiing on the lake. All the parents would sleep in campers and the kids would sleep in tents, and those were like our little homes away from home. We'd always have sleepovers in each other's tents and watch scary movies late at night. Sometimes we'd go to town to get some ice cream and go mini-golfing.

When I had just turned 15, I found out my mum had gotten a job in Medicine Hat, which is a city in a different province. I was kind of excited but at the same time really sad to leave all my good friends. We were going to be moving in November which was right in the middle of the semester. I remember my last day of class which was on Remembrance Day. My friends and I were all hugging and crying. Our eyes were so red and right after that we all had to go get our pictures taken for our driver's licenses. So, then I lived in Medicine Hat, which to me felt like a big city even though it's not that big. It was quite the adventure at first. We got two dogs, Mattie and Ben, well, we got Mattie shortly before we moved, and my mum also got remarried. I got a lot of attention for being the new girl since it was the middle of the semester, and because I was in French immersion, which only had a small number of students. But soon that newness wore out and I realised I didn't have any close friends. I would sit at the French immersion table at lunch, but all people would talk about were people I didn't know, the trip they went on the year before, stuff like that, which I wasn't there for and I just had a hard time joining in on conversations, so it made me feel like an outcast. I realised it was pointless to eat with them when it was like I didn't exist to them, but there was nowhere else to go. So, I started leaving the school at lunchtime. I'd walk a few blocks down the road to this secluded park where I would sit on the swing and eat my lunch all alone. Then I would walk back to the school and sit in the bathrooms for a few minutes until the bell rang. No one ever questioned where I was, which probably meant they didn't care. The only person I kind of considered my friend was this guy, Christian. Our houses were kind of near each other so we would take the same path home. I actually lived about twice as far from school as him, so I had a bus route that I could have taken but I prefer to walk just in case we ran into each other. It was weird because sometimes I had a crush on him and sometimes I didn't. It was like I couldn't make up my mind, but I, all I knew is I really enjoyed his company.

After grade 10 was over and summer had started, a fair came to town and Christian asked if I wanted to go with him and these two other girls. I agreed and when he came to pick me up, he said the two girls couldn't make it anymore. Yeah right, I think it was a setup. We hung out just the two of us at the fair and had a good time, and at the end of the night, we were in the parking lot waiting for his mum to come pick us up. It was really awkward and silent. He mustered up the courage to ask me out and I turned him down. I was in one of those phases where I really didn't have a crush on

him, plus summer was coming up which meant fun times at Elbow and flirting with Elbow boys. After the summer though, it was back to school in Medicine Hat which I was dreading. I was actually considering moving back to Gravelbourg for grades 11 and 12 but I decided against it. I would still walk home with Christian a lot of the time. The day after my birthday, he invited me over to his house to watch a movie. I knew what was on his mind, but I agreed anyways. We ended up kissing for most of the movie, but he didn't ask me out again.

A month later, we were hanging out with some friends and we were on our way to someone's house. The car I was in ended up racing with another vehicle. I was freaking out the whole time and saying, "I don't want to die!" The car went around a curve and hit some ice, and we skidded out of control across someone's lawn and into a truck that was parked on someone's driveway. We uprooted a bush in the process and wrecked the lawn. The truck we hit only had a scratch, but the back of the girl's car was smashed. We were so shaken up. I remember standing on the sidewalk shivering in the cold as he waited for the police and the girl's parents to arrive. Christian came over and put his arms around me to keep me warm. We just stood there huddled for a long time. The next day, we were walking home from school and he invited me over to his house again to watch a movie. We ended up making out again and this time, he asked me out. I remember being hesitant, but I said "yes". That day was November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006, and we were both 16 years old. To this day, we are still together. That means we've been dating for six and a half years.

After that, school became more bearable since I wasn't always alone. Christian was still my only real friend, but I still had some good memories. Even though I had tough time at that school, I think back and wonder to myself what my life would have been like if I stayed in Gravelbourg with my dad and my brother. Part of me regrets moving and I would go back in time in a heartbeat, but if I did, I never would have met Christian. He's the one reason I would not go back in time if I could.

When I graduated high school, I stayed in Medicine Hat to take pre-veterinary medicine. I was actually torn between art and science and I really liked both. I was deciding between vet school and an art degree and chose vet school since I didn't know what I would do with an art degree. So, I did two years of pre-veterinary classes in Medicine Hat, then moved to Saskatoon for my third year. The summer before I moved to Saskatoon, I was really getting into YouTube. I'd already made a few videos earlier but during the summer of 2010, I started making videos on a regular basis and was gaining a following. I had about 400 subscribers by the end of the summer and over a thousand by the end of the year.

Around this time, my grandma was diagnosed with cancer and was on chemo for a while, but she decided to stop the chemo treatments. As her condition worsened, she moved into a hospice. I didn't like the idea of a place where people go to wait to die. I also didn't like that it was in a different city in a different province, so it was hard for me to go out and see her. I knew she was going to die, so every time we left, I desperately wanted to run down the hallway back to her room to see her one more time in case it was the last time. I also had a trip to Vegas planned with my boyfriend's family, since he's the youngest and he was turning 21. I wasn't 21 yet, but I went anyway. I was worried about my grandma and my mum said she would only call me if it was an emergency. One day, we were at Caesar's Palace having a good time when my phone started ringing. I couldn't answer it in time but saw that my mum had called. I called her back and waited for her to answer as tears filled my eyes because I knew what she was going to say. Sure enough, my grandma had passed away. I burst into tears and my boyfriend's family was there to comfort me. I just tried focusing on enjoying the rest of the trip, since I knew that's what my grandma would have wanted. She was my fourth relative to die of cancer including my grandparents on my dad's side and my six-year-old cousin. I just wish I could walk up to cancer and punch it in the face.

That same summer, I had just finished my third year of pre veterinary school, and I got interviews with two vet schools, but didn't get in. I was going to finish my Animal Science degree the next year but was hesitant. I really was into my artistic side and had been contemplating switching into animation. Ever since I had seen Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, I was really curious and interested in animation. I thought to myself, somebody animated that. People get to do that as their job. I want to do that. I didn't tell anyone about my interest in animation because I thought I was too far into the vet thing to change my mind.

I realised, hey, I'm only 20 years old, and this decision could change my life forever, so I researched different schools and even talked on the phone with a recruiter and filled out an application form before I told a single person. Then I had to break the news to my mum, and it turns out she was really supportive of me. She also used to be really into art, so she wanted me to go for it. I wish I could have told my grandma about it, since she was an artist as well. It turned out to be the best decision of my life. I had to move away from my family and my boyfriend, but we're making it work. I'm now a student at the Art Institute of Vancouver and I graduate in two months. I can't wait to be done with school and get a job in animation. Meanwhile, I've continued making YouTube videos and it's become a huge part of my life. I don't think I'll ever stop making videos until I'm physically unable to. If it wasn't for your support, making videos wouldn't be this much fun. You guys keep me motivated to keep making more content and I wouldn't be where I am without you. I've had my ups and downs, but right now, things are going really well, and I like to think of this as just the beginning of my grand adventure.

**FDML #35**

Hey guys! I've finally gotten around to uploading this video. I know it's taken me so long and I really apologize for how long it's taken, but it's up now, and yeah, **I just really wanted to share my life experiences** with my subbies, so enjoy the video, get yourself a hot drink or a snack or something, because it's kind of lengthy, but yeah, enjoy my video and I'll see you in my next one. Bye!

Okay guys, so it all started on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1990. There's my mum, my dad, my older sister Paula and my older brother Guy, and then there was me in the pram and my brother, my brother and sister were like jealous of me because obviously I took all the attention away from them. But I was born in Sudan in a place called Khartoum, baby. Represent! But when I was a wee little baby, my parents decided to leave Sudan because it was so war-torn and we moved to Egypt, because they thought it was, it would be a better place to raise a family. And once we got to Egypt, my mum fell pregnant again and my dad was a vet and well, you know, obviously he looked after animals, but it wasn't puppies and kittens and all that, he used to look after cattle in the village, and it wasn't very exciting. Yeah, that's a cow in case you didn't realise.

So when my mum was pregnant with my younger brother, my dad just realised that he didn't want us living this life anymore and, you know, he was really struggling finding work and he just decided that he would get a one way ticket to Australia and try and provide a better life for us over there. And my mum wasn't having it at first, but at, in the end, you know, we just realised, well, she realised that it was for the better. And, you know, dad left, and **we were upset** at first, **but we knew it was for the better and we just moved on**. And then my mum gave birth to my little brother – **yay!** But he was so quiet, like, he's still so quiet, he was like the most quiet baby in the world.

So, on the plane ride to Australia, apparently I was so loud I kept everybody awake, and my sister said that even the man in the moon was like what the f is wrong with this child? So, my earliest memories of Australia were McDonald's and the Simpsons, so, you know, nothing has changed at all. My brothers and sisters and I were so loyal to the Simpsons, like, for real, we would run home from school and just finish our homework so quick so that we didn't miss like a single second. **We were obsessed**.

So a little while later, my mum got pregnant again with my little sister Nyaduck and when they went to the doctor, he actually told them that if she gave birth she'd probably lose her, so he advised that they terminate the pregnancy, but she was like, "Heck no!" and she kept her. But, you know, Duckie was born, and she was healthy, and she was loud. Nothing has changed. **We loved her so much**, well, almost all of us loved her. When she was born, my little brother was so evil, like, for real you guys, he came while she was asleep in a cradle and he sat on her face! Like he seriously nearly killed her.

Anyway, primary school started, and to be honest with you guys, it was **just so awkward. Like, I was shy** and I kind of looked like a boy because I had these cornrows that my mum insisted looked cool. They, no one thought they looked cool. I had this really hard name to pronounce, so my name is Nyakuoth, right, that's my real name. And you pronounce it "na-quoth" and the substitute teachers would come in and they would never know how to say my name, and they'd say niqua, niya couth, or like niquath and **it was so embarrassing. I would just sit in my desk and like, put my head on my desk and just pretend like I wasn't there. Kids were so mean**.

But anyway, in third grade, this girl came up to me and she was like, "Girl, we have got to do something about your name - it is way too hard to pronounce" and I was like, "Girl, you're right". We didn't really talk like that, but, you know, thought about it, thought about it and she was like "What about xxx?" and I was like, **"Yeah, sounds cool". It could be cool, and I was like, "I like, I like"**. So yeah, from that day forth I was known as xxx.

Anyway, moving on, my mum got pregnant again, as she does, and the doctor advised her again that if she went through with the pregnancy, she's going to give birth to an unhealthy child, and my mum didn't believe him. She was like, "No way. We're just going to have this baby". So, they went ahead with it and Sarah was born on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and, you know, she was absolutely perfect. She had these big brown eyes, and these long eyelashes, and this beautiful curly hair and just looking at her from the outside you'd think that there was absolutely nothing wrong with her, but we soon found out that we were wrong. So, one day, we were, just come back from church and we were all playing outside with our dad in the front yard and all of a sudden, my mum just comes running out the house, screaming "She's dead! She's dead! Sarah's dead!" and I mean that was hands down, **the scariest day of my life**. My dad went running inside and, you know, we soon discovered, well, he soon discovered that Sarah had had her first ever seizure, which, you know, would be her first of very many of them. So, you know, my mum and dad got an ambulance and they rushed to the hospital. They left us with some family friends and I just remember **feeling so sad** and **I was just so scared for her**, but they found out that she had epilepsy which causes lots of seizures, and **it was so scary**, like, at a young age seeing your sister go through that. I mean, she would be so still and she would just look lifeless and sometimes she would shake and, you know, when she was having them she couldn't breathe and I just remember **having this huge cloud of guilt** over my head even at a young age because **I just felt like I couldn't help her at all**, and I didn't understand why. And at

our house we had this, like, pot plant that I planted in the backyard and I used to, every time she had a seizure, I would run to the back and I'd just get on my hands and knees and pray and just be like, "Please God, like, if you're out there, just take her pain away".

So, back to primary school. I was really, really good at running, like, that was my thing, you guys. I used to be good at high jump as well. But I was so fast, like, for real, I used to beat the girls ahead of me in school and I was just the bomb dot com, you guys. They used to call me Grease Lighting, I don't know why, probably because I was fast as lightning, but everyone else was totally jelly of my awesome running talent. I even made it to State Championships for high jump and, I mean, it was cool and all, but I remember looking at the crowd and being like, wow, my parents are, like, the only parents that aren't here, but it was only because they were so busy looking after Sarah and my dad was busy at work. And after a while, I just kind of got sick of it, because if no one was there to watch me, then what was the point, right?

My grades stayed pretty consistent. I was a nerd, obviously. I remember in grade five, my aunt had a wedding and she had her flower girls have these long extensions. They were like just braids but I was so in love with them, for real you guys. I thought I was so good-looking and these boys that didn't notice me before, suddenly were coming up and saying "Hi, how you doing?" and I was like, "Better than you!"

So, back at home, around age 11, my parents, you know, got this really busy lifestyle and they didn't really have time to look after Sarah on the weekends and, you know, they had extra help around the house, so at age 11, they gave me that responsibility of being her caretaker - give her her medication on time, which she hated, of course, I would feed her and I'd also give her showers as well. And it was a huge responsibility to put on the child, but I had to do what I had to do to help the family.

So, a little while after that, oh gosh, high school started. Year seven, I was quiet, I was shy, but as soon as I found some friends who I had some things in common with, you know, I was loud and everybody's black xxx girl, you so funny, but I was really good at sport and I was still running, still killing them on the track field, and I was still doing high jumps in sports like A+ and my daddy was proud of course. But, you know, a little while after that, Sarah's condition got worse and she ended up in hospital for, like, months at a time. So, Sarah never really developed the ability to walk and talk, and, you know, do all these things that we learn as we grow, and growing up, I think my dad definitely downplayed Sarah's condition. He didn't tell us the severity of it. I recently found out that she was diagnosed with cytochrome C deficiency when she was just a few months old and it just affects her muscles. It affects her brain and liver, basically every organ in her body and one day, she just completely stopped eating and that really concerned the doctors. So, they came to my parents and they said that, you know, we've got to do something about this. We have to insert a feeding tube because she cannot go on like this, she will not survive. So, my parents gave the doctors the okay and they went ahead with the operation and they inserted a gastric feeding tube so that we were able to feed her a lot easier. But after the operation, she stayed in hospital for quite some time, you know, just in recovery and stuff, and, you know, the doctors had to watch over her and just see that everything was fine, and I remember watching the nurses as they came in and out of the room and, like, the care that they took with her and the patience that they had, it was so admirable, and I said to myself, when I grow up I'm going to be a nurse, you know, so I can help other families the way these nurses have helped mine.

So, as you could probably tell, growing up, I had no social life whatsoever. I spent most of my holidays every day just looking after my sister. On the weekends that's all I did as well. And, I mean, I know that if Sarah could talk, she would tell me that she appreciates me. She would tell me that she loves me and for a while, I thought I was really missing out on, like, a big scene out there, but I realised that my sister loved me and, you know, this was way more important than going out and socializing. So when I went back to school, my grades were dropping because I was really tired from all the stress at home and all the responsibilities, and then a little while after, my mum got pregnant, and we, I just remember being so excited because there was, like, four girls and two boys in the family, and we were so desperate to, like, get those numbers even and we all wanted to call him Malakai or Noah, but my parents were so settled on the name Emmanuel and, so yeah, we decided to call him Emmanuel. And you know, as life goes, there's its ups and its downs and my mum ended up having a stillbirth and Emmanuel didn't make it and he passed away. And I remember at his funeral, they asked me to read from the Bible and I was in the middle of, like, reading my verse and I just couldn't finish. Ended up running away, as I do.

But yeah, in year 12, things got even worse and Sarah ended up in ICU because she had some, you know, vomit go into her lungs, so she was in intensive care for a while and I remember this nurse coming up to me, this stupid nurse, that had her information mixed up with somebody else. She actually came to me and told me that my sister was brain dead and that her brain had stopped her giving her body the signals to breathe. Like, I mean, if you could imagine hearing such news, I was devastated. I remember just running home that night and locking myself in my room and just crying. And back at school, my grades were dropping. I spent a lot of time trying to catch up on my work on the computer, and at the same time, I also got distracted with MySpace. I had a new friend request from this guy called Jamie Perkins and I was like, who is this guy? But, you know, after a while, we just started talking and I figured out we had quite a lot in common, and I was like, wow, he's pretty cool and he used to listen to all my problems, and I mean, he was just so



interested in me and wanting to get to know me. And I mean, I fell for him, and it wasn't long before we went on our first date which was to the movies to watch, what was it? Oh yeah, we watched The Mummy 2 and yeah, we just talked, and we just clicked, like, I've never clicked with anybody like that before, and I mean, it wasn't long, and I fell for him and I fell hard. Jamie felt the same way at the time, but he was such a bachelor and, you know, living the single life. He sort of acted like he didn't, and then once my feelings wore off, he was like, "Oh wait, I'm kind of into you now. Let's date" and I was like, "You're a bit late buddy!" So, we went our separate ways. He was in his own relationship and I was in my own, and we were so miserable and after that, we just completely lost contact.

So then, back to my family, my mum was pregnant again and she gave birth to my little brother Nehemiah but we nicknamed him Nemo because he was so cute and it was around the time that Finding Nemo came out and, yeah, but yeah, back to me. I was at the mall one day with my best friend Bigwah and we were just shopping and stuff, and I got approached by this man who worked at a modelling agency and he had this accent and he was like "Madame, are you a model?" and I was like, "No" and he's like, "You should be!" So, then I decided to give modelling a shot, and my agency actually sent me to New York to go to the Big Apple, and I mean I was, like, excited, but I was nervous at the same time. But then the Victoria Secret show came on and I was like, "Oh my gosh, that could be me!" So, then I got, like, so excited and I was like, "Hell yeah, I'm going to go to New York. I'm going to kick New York's ass and become a Victoria's Secret model" but that didn't happen, obviously.

A little while later was my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and I mean, at this point, I hadn't seen Jaime in years and somehow, for some reason, it must have been fate, oh, I don't know, I saw him at the club and I was like, "Oh my gosh, what are you doing here?" and we just chit-chatted all night long and we danced all night and it was so fun. And months later, we, you know, got back together and just did lots of activities and we'd go out every, like, every day we'd spend together, and I was happy. I was finally happy, and I just couldn't believe it. But, you know, work called and after a while, I moved to New York, well, I didn't move, I went to New York and Jamie was still in Australia and I was in New York and we were doing the long-distance thing, which was sad and I missed him so much. But New York was hard you guys, like the model life, like, everyone thinks it's easy, but it's not. I went from being skinny to being really skinny, and it was like, still not good enough. I got my hair, they cut all my hair off and, like, I just, I don't know. I just didn't feel like me, but you know, Jamie being the sweet, romantic man he was, from halfway around the world, he was still sending flowers to my door and I was sick, and he would do grocery shopping for me. Like, who does that? And, I mean, I guess then is when I realised, like, this man is the best, most romantic man I've ever met. I'm never ever letting him go. But anyway, I got into magazines like Vogue, Italian Vogue and French Elle, and I mean, it was cool and all, but I just really missed home. I was so homesick and when it was time to go back, I was so happy. I was like "Yes!" Like, you should have seen me - I was on the plane like just cheesing the whole time. Could not wait to see Jamie, yay! Yeah, New York City definitely played Cupid in our relationship. It really made us realise how much we loved each other and after not being back for very long, Jamie proposed to me at Federation Square in Melbourne, and I'm sure most of you've seen the video already, but it was literally the best day of my life and yeah, I just, I was like, I was on cloud nine that night.

Like, Jamie and I were so in love and just so oblivious to the world, we were, you know, in like our bubble, and I mean, we didn't really realise that there were a lot of people around us that were upset with this relationship that was happening and, I mean, they didn't approve of the whole interracial thing and it was the first time we would see, and, each other as like black and white, and not just xxx, you know, and I mean, it was upsetting. It was like, what are we doing so wrong that's upsetting you? But after a while, we were like, "Why do we care what these people think?" But, you know, like people say, these tough life lessons are what makes you stronger as a couple, and we really have come out of it a lot stronger. And I realised how much he loved me, by not leaving for one, because any man would have left with all that drama.

And it was around that time as well when we started doing our YouTube videos and I think our first YouTube video was our proposal video, but it wasn't really a vlog or anything. So, when people saw our proposal video, they started requesting more videos and, you know, requesting that we do a vlog and then I think that's when we did the boyfriend tag. So yeah, that's how it all began. But yeah, YouTube definitely strengthened our relationship. Just seeing that so many people worldwide were inspired by our love, it was just really humbling, and on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013, Jamie and I finally tied the knot and we finally got married, but that day was honestly one of the best days of our lives. We have never felt so much love in one room before. It was just, oh man, I don't even know how to describe it. I wish I could go back and just live it all again.

But yeah, all these events have led me to where I am today. I am happily married to the most romantic, beautiful man in the world, we've got a roof over our head, my family's happy, I've got this whole YouTube thing going, and, I mean, everything is just falling into place, and I feel like, you know, if it weren't for the events in my life, things probably wouldn't have gone the way that they did. And my sister Paula always tells me that God sent me Jamie for looking after Sarah the way that I did for all these years. And, I mean, you know, maybe it's true, maybe it's not, but I know she's definitely played a major role in my life and made me the humble person I am today. She's definitely strengthened me, just seeing that she's bed-bound and she's so sick but, you know, on days that she does have strength, she still

smiles at you and, I mean, it's just so inspiring. But unfortunately, her condition has gone downhill over the past few years. I just ask that you all pray for her. It would really mean a lot to me and my family.

So, this brings us to the end of my draw my life video. Thank you guys so much for taking the time out of your day to watch this. I hope you enjoyed my life being drawn and I'll definitely see you guys in my next video. Take care for now and thank you so much for watching.

3794

### FDML #36

What's up, crazies? So many of you have been asking me to do this draw my life video, so let's get right into it, shall we? Hey! I came out of my mama's womb on February 7<sup>th</sup> twerking it. She was only 16 when she had me. Thank you, mama! After I was born, my daddy hit the road, no, for real, he did. He was drafted to major league baseball and didn't have time for little old me. But when he was in town, he did spoil me with gifts. I love toys. I have 7 siblings. 2 sisters and 2 brothers on my mum's side, and 2 sisters and 1 brother on my dad's side. I'm the only one from my mum and dad.

Growing up, I was scared of the dark, so I'd make my brothers and sisters sleep in my bed. Are you afraid of the dark? When we weren't sleeping, we were fighting. My sister and I loved beating up my brothers, mwahaha. My mum wanted me to become a model and an actress, and so did everybody else in my family. I was a little Beyoncé. I would always get into trouble. One day, I was visiting my grandma, I lit a match, I threw it in the garbage, and I told her that the devil made me do it. My grandma was all like, "Oh gosh, Jesus, have mercy on my soul, oh, these children is too unruly!"

My best friend growing up was my cousin Anna. She still is my best friend. We would do everything under the sun together. We're like twins. BFF for life. Growing up, I would travel a lot. I've been to Bermuda, Japan, Trinidad, Jamaica, all over the US, Canada, Granada - I get around. OK, that did not even sound right.

I was such a tomboy. I hated dresses and skirts, but every Sunday morning, my mum would force me into that Sunday dress to wear to church. In the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade, I went to an all-girls private school and this school was in a castle. I guess my parents were scared that I would get pregnant if I went to public school. I had a lot of fun at that school. We would go on the dopest trips ever. One time, we had to climb up a 20-foot pole, walk across a log and then jump off like a G. I was scared shitless ya'll, but I didn't want to look like a pussy in front of those pussies.

The summer before the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, my mum told us she wanted to go back to school, but not in Canada - she wanted to go to Oklahoma. I was pissed. So, we packed up the van and we were on our way to Oklahoma. Like, really? Our road trip to Oklahoma was actually fun though. It took us 30 hours to get there. It was just mummy and her kids. When we got to Oklahoma, it looked like farmland. I was so angry. I thought we would have to live on a farm and raise pigs, but then we pulled up to a huge house. My mum's friend allowed us to stay with her. She had a huge pool, so me and my siblings would swim all the time. We swam all summer.

A few months later, we got kicked out and we had to go to a shelter with other homeless people. That was the worst experience for me. I was depressed up in there. My mum continued to work her booty off, and a few months later, we got a beautiful town house. We finally got our own place. Ay! Hey! School in Oklahoma was actually fun. Football games, basketball games, pep rallies, dance ensembles, bands that make her dance. School was like the stuff you see on TV. Canada was not that popping. My best friends in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade were Brittany, Tristan and my Mexican lover Diana. The minorities stick together. During passing period, Diana and I would always stick pencils up dudes' butts, and we thought it was the funniest thing, but then some nerd told on us and we got in-house detention for sexual harassment.

One day after school, this black gay dude pulled off my weave ponytail because some girl told him that I said something bad about him which I didn't, because I'm an angel, and that was the most embarrassing moment of my life. After that school year, my mum forced me to go to a Christian school, with all the Christian kids so I could do Christian stuff because my mum is a Christian lady with a bad-ass kid. She threw holy water at me a lot. I was the class clown up in that school. I was always cracking jokes. I was loud in the hallways. I was getting in trouble. I was that girl.

My first kiss was in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. I made out with a white boy ya'll. He was sexy. I enjoyed myself up in that bathroom, OK? That school got incredibly boring and my best friend Sesian convinced me to enrol in his school, an all-black magnet school. Well it wasn't all-black - it was probably 85 percent black. The first few months at that school was depressing. No one tried to make friends with me, everyone just stared at me, I would sit by myself at lunch. I would go to the library and sit there until it was time to go back to class. I hated that place. I was a loser. That year, I turned 16, and I had a huge party with all my friends from my previous schools. My mum and her best friend were serving us fried chicken. Everyone was twerking it in the living room. I got so drunk for the first time, ya'll. That party was off the hizzy. I started dating this African dude from my new school and as soon as that happened, a few girls wanted to be my friend. Mm, bitches. I lost my virginity to him when I was 16. He was so in love with me. He wanted to marry

me, he wanted me to have his kids, but **I was not having all of that**. I cheated on him with this sexy dude and my boyfriend found out. **He cried and broke up with me. I am so cold-hearted**.

Time went on and **I didn't want to live in Oklahoma anymore. It was not popping** like it was before, so I moved back to Canada right into my daddy's house. Hey! I graduated high school - C+ student in the building. I got my first job as a hostess at a country ass restaurant. **I was too black for that place. I met my best friend Chanel, my sidekick, my dog-eat-dog, that girl has the best weave ever**. I went to college for Communications Studies and dropped out. I moved back to Oklahoma, went to college for a year and dropped out. I was like Kanye West, college drop out.

**Things started to go downhill** from there. I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. I started to work at the bar making them tips. I met an older dude, my sugar daddy. He took me shopping, he bought me a car, gave me money every week, paid my rent, paid my bills. I quit my job at the bar - I didn't need it anymore. I was balling out of control. I had all these materialistic things, and everything looked damn good on the outside, but **I wasn't happy with myself and money didn't buy me happiness like I thought it would**.

On my 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday, I got so drunk **I got into a fight with some Mexican chicks**. My cousin Anna broke it up. The police came and threw me in the police car and took me to the detox centre for public intoxication. I got fined \$420. After spending 14 hours in **a disgusting cell full of disgusting girls**, I said to myself, LaToya, **you need to change your life around - it's time to get focused**. **My biggest dream was to have my very own talk show**. I spent a lot of time on YouTube watching beauty videos, comedy videos, talk show hosts. You name it, I was watching it. After weeks of sitting on my booty watching videos, I decided to make my own channel, because **I'm a star, baby**. LaToya Forever was finally born. At first my videos were all over the place, **they were a hot mess**. I was posting anything and everything.

In 2011, **I finally figured out what I truly wanted to do, and that was and still is to make comedy videos. I love making people laugh; it brings joy to my heart**. Yes, it does. That same year **I met the man in my dreams**, Rayshawn. No, his name is not Rayshawn, it's actually Adam, but I be calling him Rayshawn, I don't even care, Rayshawn. **Hopefully this year he asks me to marry him. I want a big ass ring, ya'll, and I want to have his babies**. Heeheehee! **I want to thank Team Crazie for being the best supporters on the internet. Ya'll have my back through thick and thin** - it's like a marriage up in here OK? **Team Crazie is taking over the world, baby. Don't hate on us**. Anyways, I'm LaToya Forever. **Thank you so much for watching**, don't forget to subscribe to my channel and all the other links to contact me are below. Have a wonderful time in the world, crazies, bye!

1621

#### FDML #37

Hey guys, and welcome to the long-awaited draw my life. **I've been so scared** of making this, but I think it's time you got to know me more.

It all started in a town called Pontefract in England where I was born. There was me and my two older brothers, my mum and my dad. **We lived in a nice-sized house with lots of toys and I have so many memories of playing** with my brothers in the garden. Over the years we've had lots of pets. I think I've owned a total of seven rabbits so far. We had a fishpond, a goldfish, a cat - you name it. The cat we had was called Blue. **The cat unfortunately scratched my poor rabbit's eye**. The eye became infected and she had to have it taken out. Poor Isabelle!

It wasn't all sunshine and rainbows though. **My family went through some hard times**, like the passing of my great grandma who we all loved dearly, and the fact that my parents eventually decided to separate. **This was very hard on us**. Me and my brother were too young to understand and **sometimes we blamed our parents**, but their separation was for the best. **Going to school and hanging out with my friends definitely helped me take my mind off of it. I loved where I lived**, and I would play out on the streets with other kids who lived nearby. We'd ride our bikes and pretend we were in Hogwarts, pretend to camp out in the garden and sometimes make mud pies. I would also watch my brother Daniel play on video games and sometimes even join in, and then my dad bought me a PlayStation One of my own. **That's where my addiction to video games began. My favourite console was the Sega Dreamcast** and I'd sit and play Sonic adventures all day.

My mum fell in love again and before I knew it, I had **a new role model** in my life called John. Also around this time, I rescued a dog from the streets. I was out playing with my cousin when I found her. She followed me around and wouldn't leave me, so I rang my mum from a payphone and convinced her that I had to bring this dog home. I'd even clean up its poop and take it for walks. Somehow, my mum agreed, and we named her Shadow. **She was the love of my life**. Mum and John got married and we welcomed my little brother into our lives. They called him John, which now meant we had two Johns. What a creative name! I moved onto high school and **I fit right in. I was super social and made lots of friends. Lots of kids from my old school moved up too, so I had all my best friends with me**. I ended up opening a Beebo account and I met a guy called Chris who went to a school nearby. We went on some dates and he soon became my boyfriend. **Chris was so nice to me and he treated me like a princess**. He was also great at cooking.

I did really well in lessons except math. I can't do math at all. My pet rabbit soon became ill and passed away and it broke me. I had my friends and family to support me, but Isabelle was honestly my best friend at the time. It was hard, but life moves on. At break time, I would hang out with some older kids. My best friend at the time had an older sister and we would hang out with her and the kids in her year. From doing this, I met this cute older guy called Kyle. Unfortunately, after a while, me and Chris grew apart and we'd argue a lot, so we decided to call it quits. Breaking up was hard because he was my first real boyfriend and we stayed together for around two years. We even went on holiday to Turkey together. I knew things wouldn't be easy and my life would change without him being a part of it. Fast forward a couple of years, me and Kyle started hanging out a lot. I really liked him - he was kind to me and super-cute. After a while of being close friends, I decided that I would ask him to be my boyfriend over MSN Messenger. Oh, how cringy! But he said yes and from there, we became boyfriend and girlfriend.

Kyle got me into gaming even more. He had an Xbox and we would sit and play Gears of War for hours with our friends. Around this time, I was about to start my exams when I had a feeling something wasn't right. I started to feel sick and I couldn't concentrate. I had a feeling that I was pregnant. This was a huge shock to everyone, and it came at the worst time. How was I meant to do my exams? How was I meant to go to college? This discovery sent me into a very dark place, and I felt like running away from it all, but Kyle was there for me. Eventually my mum found out and she was very disappointed, but she was also super supportive. We made the decision that I would keep the baby and I would try to live as normal as I could. We welcomed Dante into our lives. It was hard being such a young parent, but with my mum, Kyle, my friends and family there to support me, it made everything so much easier. I passed my exams with flying colours. I was so happy! This enabled me to start college.

At this time in my life, I wanted to be a teacher, so I took English language, photography, RE and media. College was super fun and much different to high school. While I was studying, my mum would look after Dante and Kyle would work full time to support us. Also during college, I started hanging out with my cousin and his girlfriend Jenna. Me and Jenna both shared the love for gaming and decided to start a YouTube channel. We set a goal to reach 1000 subscribers. We started posting clips of Gears of War and Halo to our channel with super bad backing music. Oh gosh, those videos were so embarrassing. I made lots of friends at college, but I also lost some of my old friends from high school - some of them would even bully me and call me names for being a young mum. They would also load up my videos on the max at college and laugh at them in front of me. This is the first time that I've ever experienced bullying and it was horrible. It made me embarrassed of doing YouTube, but I carried on anyway because I loved creating content.

Eventually Jenna went to university and it meant that she couldn't make videos anymore, so I took on Chicks Can Game as a solo project. I decided I needed more female friends who also did YouTube and so I ended up meeting Lizzie through YouTube messages. She was a YouTuber called Idshadowlady and she had around 16,000 subscribers. She made super funny Minecraft videos and I really enjoyed watching them. Soon after meeting her, I decided to contact over YouTubers. I couldn't believe that all these other people out there had the same interests as me. I started collabing and making content with all of the other people in the community and I made loads more friends. I was also taking driving lessons and so I was juggling being a parent, having friends, making YouTube videos, taking exams and learning how to drive. It was very stressful but some of the best years of my life.

The end of college soon came, and I managed to pass all of my exams, and so I applied to university to become a primary school teacher. I got accepted. I was going to university! It was going to be so hard for me though. On some days I wouldn't get home until 7:00 p.m., meaning I wouldn't get to see Dante or Kyle. I would also not have time to make videos. This was a hard decision. Just before I was meant to be starting university, my channel exploded. I was now past 100k and I was now making enough money that me and Kyle could move in together, and I had a hard decision. I didn't have to go to university anymore. My mum again was a big influence and told me opportunities like YouTube don't come around to people very often, and that I am very lucky. University will always be there, and it will always be an option for me.

I decided for my family's sake that I should take on YouTube as a full-time job. The house was pretty lonely - going from a big family home with a dog to just me, Kyle and Dante was strange, and so we decided to get a puppy. We called her Sansa, after the Game of Thrones character. Fast-forward a while, and Shadow started getting very ill. At first we thought she had kennel cough and the vet sent us away with tablets, but it became apparent that it wasn't kennel cough - we discovered that she had cancer. This was the worst thing I've ever been through. Within three weeks she became a shell of who she was - she was thin, refusing to eat and getting weaker by the minute. It was heart-breaking for us all, but we decided in the end that she had to be put down. I have never loved an animal as much as I loved Shadow. After she passed, I ended up getting into a deep depression. Life wasn't the same without my best friend and I couldn't find the strength to look after myself or even get out of bed. I've never felt so much pain in my life but my friends, my family and my viewers slowly made me feel a bit better, and I was able to continue as normal.

We decided that Sansa needed a friend and so we adopted Molly and soon after Molly, I got a pet hedgehog called Sonic. Kyle was able to leave his job and started working for me. After lots of time and effort, I am where I am today. I had always dreamt of being able to afford to marry Kyle and now the time had finally come. In April 2017, we, a

bunch of friends and family flew out to Disney World in Florida and had the best time of my life. We were finally able to become a real family. It was so magical having a Disney wedding and I felt like a princess. Then, a month later, in May 2017, I hit 1 million subscribers. My life has changed all because of YouTube. Without this hobby, I don't know where me or my family would be right now. YouTube has helped me through so many hard times and the friendships I've made on this platform have made me who I am today. I'm now looking at buying my first house and eventually planning on opening up a local animal rescue in memory of Shadow. Hey, maybe in the future I'll even write a book about my crazy life. YouTube has meant I'm able to spend time with my family while doing a job that I love so much. If there's one thing I want you to learn from my story, it's that no matter how low you feel in your life, things will always work out for the best. If I had given up when I felt my worst, I would have never been able to achieve my goals. I have put six years of hard work into this channel and I only have you guys to thank for sticking around with me on this crazy journey. Thank you guys so much. You have no idea how grateful I am.

2026

### FDML #38

Hi guys! So, I'm finally getting a chance to do a draw my life video. I know I'm kind of late to jump on this boat, but better late than never right?

Unlike many YouTubers, my life was pretty uneventful until puberty, so sorry my early years don't make a very interesting story. Also don't mind the band-aids on my fingers - that's a whole new story within itself. Anyway, I'm going to start out with my name is Jessica, as most of you guys know. I was born on March 7<sup>th</sup> of 1992 in the little town of, well not little, pretty big town of Fresno, California. Me being the first born made my mum and dad really happy, except my dad never wanted to be called "dad", so I called him papa. From the stories I've heard, I was quite a handful as a baby. Every time my papa hears my kids cry, he says it's payback for what I did to them. But anyway, they eventually had been married for two years - she was beyond ready to be a mum, so she always took super good care of me, no matter how much I cried. My papa worked long hours away from home which was good for the money but my mum didn't like me being in day-care, so when I was 18 months old, she became a full-time stay-at-home mum, which is exactly what she always wanted to be, so it actually worked out for the both of them. When I was just 2 years old, I tried chocolate milk for the first time. Oh, and my mum gave me a baby brother. I guess we could call these milestones equal. But believe it or not, he actually used to be cute, but he was a fat baby. Just kidding, I always loved him.

As me and my brother grew older, my mum would spend a lot of hours by herself with us. My papa started going on lots of away business trips and she didn't like her husband being away all the time. Right after I turned 5, and my younger brother was 2, my mum found out that my papa had a long-term affair. He ended up marrying her and my mum left him, and it really did end up working out for the better, for my mum anyways. But anyway, she took us smack-dab in the middle of California, Laemmle, Modesto, where she met and married my stepdaddy, and he has always been so good to me and I called him dad from the beginning, hearing his two kids call him dad, but we fell in love with him just as much as my mum did and I have always loved having two daddies, not to mention I got two of every holiday and two birthdays as well.

When I was 7 years old, I saw my first dance performance and my mum put me into dance and I absolutely fell in love with it. And I continued dancing, well, until this day. Then, in the seventh grade I went to a dance show at my middle school. It's just one of those little things that the school put together, and I saw this cute guy breakdancing and I wasn't much of a break-dancer - I mostly stuck to, you know, ballet and stuff - but I thought he was so cute and I loved that he knew how to dance. Then, in the eighth grade, me and the cute guy had some classes together. I found out his name was Gabe and I really liked him a lot. Gabe told me he liked me too, so one day he wrote me a note at school, and he asked me to be his girlfriend. And I was like, "Yeah, duh, of course - you can dance!" After only three short months of being together, we were absolutely head-over-heels for each other, but we lived in different school districts, so after middle school, we really didn't see each other too much, but we decided to try to make it work and I loved Gabe with all of my heart and despite our young age, we stayed committed to each other, even though we hardly ever saw each other.

High school really was a whole different world, and towards the end of my freshman year, I noticed a lot of different people, but there was someone in particular, and his name was Drake. And we talked a few times just in class, we had English class together, but I told him I had a boyfriend, so we just stayed friends and we kind of went our separate ways. At the end of my freshman year, Gabe and I were more in love than ever, so I decided to switch high schools to be with him. They had a better dance program there anyway, so I figured, why not? I got to see him every day now, which made me really super happy. And Gabe and I stayed strong throughout high school. The supervisor even called us the "cookie couple" because we always split a cookie at lunchtime. Meanwhile, I was a straight-A student spending most of my time working as a dance teacher at my dance studio and I did some beauty pageants here and there.

Finally, every kid's dream, my senior year of high school came, but very early in the year I missed a period and I decided to take a pregnancy test and sure enough, I found out I was pregnant. I was really scared to tell my mum because we had always been so close, but when I did, she told me that I had been in a committed relationship for nearly

four years, that I had a car, a license, I was almost 18 years old, and she said, "You know what, there could be a lot worse that could have happened". She told me that I'd be okay and that **she is behind me every step of the way**. Then the time came where I had to tell Gabe and his reaction was the total opposite of my mum's. He wasn't happy at all. He waited until the last possible second to tell his parents. He waited until seventeen weeks - the week before I found out what I was having. After telling his friends and family, and he realised everybody was supportive of him, he eventually came around and he became excited. We found out we were expecting a beautiful baby girl. I always wanted a daughter named Lilly, but Gabe wasn't sold on the name, so Gabe suggested Lilia, which I had actually never heard before, but **I absolutely fell in love with it**. I started making pregnancy vlogs on YouTube like I'd seen other people do, so I could go back and show my daughter what it was like to be pregnant with her. **It was actually really cool to have other people be interested in my life that I could relate to**.

Only two short weeks before I was due, I actually graduated high school. I walked the stage with everybody in my class with a super-duper huge belly. I looked like a huge mushroom, but **I was proud that I got to be able to do that**. Then, on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010, exactly on her due date, Lilia Jean was born. She weighed seven pounds, six ounces, and **she was absolutely perfect. I absolutely loved being a mum**, but **it was a lot harder than I thought it was going to be**. Gabe didn't come around much. He would visit for a few hours here and there, but he didn't want to live together, and he didn't want to come over to help me when I asked, so **I just felt really alone**. When Lilia was just two-and-a-half months old, I started going to college full-time, and **although I was juggling being a first-time mum exclusively breastfeeding and tons of school work for my classes, I think I handled it all pretty well**, but Gabe and I just grew apart. We didn't really hang out a lot anymore. He started hanging out with different people and we just had different interests, different likes, and we were really just growing up to be different people than we thought we would be.

In September of 2010, **Gabe and I split up and it was one of the hardest things that has ever happened to me**, but **for the sake of our daughter we decided to remain friends and co-parents**. Then, in December of 2010, of all things, I got a Facebook message from someone that I hadn't seen or heard from in years, and that was Drake. He was like, "I saw you walking at the mall the other day - you have a kid now?" and I was like, "yep", he was pretty shocked because he was thought I was a goodie-goodie, but he thought she was adorable of course. We exchanged numbers and started talking a lot. **At first, we were just friends, but then I started to really like him**, and **he was always so amazing with Lilia, which attracted me to him even more**. And we became official when Lilia was six months old. Gabe and I had split custody of Lilia and I think **we did a pretty good job at co-parenting for being new at it**. He got her whenever he could see her during the week which is once or twice a week and he also got her every other weekend, and I had her the rest of the time.

**Meanwhile, Lilly and I spent basically every waking second with Drake and me and him fell in love really quickly**, and since he had a lot of problems at home, my mum let him stay with us since **he helped me so much with Lilia, and it was really nice to have someone love my daughter as much as her own parents did, because after all, you can't have too many people love your own kid**. After several months of living together, we saved up enough money to get our first place together. And **it was so exciting** because it was our first place, basically like a family, and shortly after we moved out, I felt the need to take a pregnancy test and I found out I was pregnant again! To be honest, **I was pretty dang terrified**, but when I told Drake he was surprisingly happy **which made me feel a lot better** about the situation. **We were both scared, but we both knew that we could pull through and we could do it**. Then, when I was seven weeks and four days pregnant, we went to go get a routine ultrasound to check the baby's heartbeat and growth and development and just make sure everything was going okay, and there were two. Not heartbeats, two babies, which I guess technically means there is two hearts too. And we were absolutely shocked because there are no twins in my family whatsoever. Although **we were really, really excited** to bring two babies in this family, **I was really scared** to be honest, because I was about to go, I'm being a mum of one baby to a mum of three, and I was only 19 years old.

Considering we were soon to be a family of five, Drake and I decided it was probably best to get married before the babies were born, and everything went really, really, super fast. We planned an entire wedding, the budget, the venue, the food, the dress, the bridesmaids, the groomsmen, everything in less than two months. But **it was all worth it**, because on 11/11/11, original I know, I walked down the aisle to **the man of my dreams** and literally the next day, we found out that we were having two baby boys which **we were so ecstatic about**, as you can tell. But then, only three short weeks later, **my whole world came crashing down** on me. I found out that Drake had cheated on me and **I was a wreck**. I moved back in with my mum and I didn't know where my life was headed. I was six months pregnant with our baby boys, we had just gotten married and **the next few months were the hardest that they have ever been in my entire life**. **I just told myself that everything happens for a reason**, and on March 30<sup>th</sup> of 2012, everything changed when **I added the two most beautiful baby boys to my little family of two: Kyson James and Kayden John. The birth of our baby boys really changed mine and Drake's relationship for the better. I never knew how much I really loved him until I saw how much he loved all of his kids: all three of them**. After Drake and I decided that we wanted to make things work, we decided that couples counselling was the best for us, so we attended to counselling weekly. In counselling, we learned to not let mistakes completely ruin a relationship. We were in it to the end and although **it was hard**, **I eventually allowed myself to forgive him for his infidelity**. Now, **we're the happiest we've been in a long time**. The

twins just turned a freaking year old and Lilia, I can't believe I'm about to say this, Lilia is going to be three years old in June, and she can talk, and I can't, I just can't believe it. I honestly can't believe it.

Even though I'm only 21 years old, I feel like I've lived the life of an average 30-year-old. In the short years I've lived, I've learned a lot of things, one being that two-year-old's voice is louder than 200 adults, but the main thing is that happiness is not the absence of problems, it's the ability to deal with them. And my life is nowhere near perfect – perfect's here and I'm way, way, way over here - but I always try to make the best out of every situation and face reality with a positive attitude. I live by the motto that everything happens for a reason because I really think it does. I can honestly say that I don't regret anything that's ever happened in my life. I absolutely love my life and although from a stranger's perspective, people would think I am crazy for loving my life, it's my life and I wouldn't change it for the world. And plus, it makes a good story when you're trying to draw it. So anyway, thanks for watching guys. I hope you enjoyed this video and I'm sorry I couldn't put every little detail into it because that would be a 20-hour-long movie, but I hope you enjoyed it! Bye!

2485

### FDML #39

Hey guys! It's Lauren and today I'm going to be doing a draw my life video. I know I'm a little late with making one of these. They used to be really popular, like, when I first joined, last year but I didn't have enough subs to really share my life with you guys, and I haven't really said a lot about my life and I'm a little nervous to do so, but you guys have been so supportive and so awesome that I felt it only right to do it for you guys to celebrate me hitting 25,000 subscribers. Well now it's 26 already. It's going so fast!

I was born on July 7<sup>th</sup>, aka the day the world became amazing, and apparently, I was put into a straitjacket. What the heck is that? I think I was trying to draw a bundling of some sorts. I was born into a family which already consisted of my mum, dad and my older sister Chrissy. Two years later, my younger brother Ryan was born, and our family was complete. I had an amazing childhood, and ever since I was born, I was super close with my family, and we would travel all over and do all of these really cool things. One of the things we liked to do was go camping all over the place. We would go camping in an RV, but I can't draw an RV, so this is some type of tent, triangular house type deal here. My older sister Kristi is actually my half-sister, so she mainly lived with her mum in Pennsylvania but would visit us a lot, and I remember every time that she would have to leave me, I would cry and she would have to leave me either stuffed animals or little notes or drawings to make me feel better until she got back.

After I was born, my family moved to our house in upstate New York, and we still have that house today. It's truly one of my favourite places in the whole world. I was even lucky enough to be in a house across the street from another little girl who was the same age as me. Her name was Sarah and we became BFFs. As we grew up, we did everything together, but we were total opposites. I was more of a tomboy and not really caring so much about my appearance and loved playing video games. While Sarah was your classic girly girl and she was actually the one that started trying to get me into make-up and doing my hair. In third grade, my parents sent me to Catholic school because they believed I was evil. Just kidding - it was because they were doing some silly district separation thing, where my brother and I would be in different school districts and my mum didn't want to separate us. Sarah was coming with me too, so it was okay.

In my Catholic school we had the same kids in every grade for five years. I went through cycles of being friends with some of them one year, and then not friends with them another year. Eventually, it always just ended up being back to just Sarah and myself, so that was okay. I started liking boys around this time too, but I was a pudgy, brace-faced, short-haired tomboy, so safe to say, I was no one's first choice in a date. There was even a guy who dated me for a week and later told me he just did it because he felt sorry for me – ouch. Oh, and by “dated” I mean we told people we were boyfriend and girlfriend but that was it, I mean, we were like in third grade.

When it was time to graduate from Catholic school, Sara and I decided to go to the public high school over the Catholic alternative to get a fresh start and get away from the other kids. It ended up being a really good decision because I made a ton of friends who helped me to experience new things that I had never had before. I even started wearing makeup and dressing nicer, but I never gave up my love of so-called “boy” activities like playing video games, snowboarding and imitating the show Jackass. True story - that was actually how I started using a video camera in order to film our crazy antics.

Eventually, Sara found a new group of friends who had more in common with her and eventually our close friendship faded from there. However, we still keep in touch and she still lives across the street from my family home. Plus, I ended up making two really great friends in high school named Michelle and Kayla, and a whole bunch of other friends, so I wasn't alone.

When I started my second year of high school, my dad told us he had lung cancer. I remember not being too worried about it at the time, because one, I was young and optimistic and two, he was in such high spirits, saying that the doctor

said because he was still young that his body could beat it. Even through the chemo, the hair loss and the pain, my dad never lost his humour or his bright spirit, and **he will always be my hero** for that. I credit him for giving me my sense of humour as well as my sweet tooth. On a cold October morning when I was 15, I was pulled out of class by my mum who told me that my dad had passed away. It was only one year after his initial diagnosis. Obviously, **I went through a really dark period after that day. I rebelled against my mum a lot, which was awful.** I started dating a guy who wasn't the best influence on me, and I started going to parties a lot. **I fell into a really, really bad depression and I really didn't feel like myself anymore.**

If there was any good to come out of something so horrible that happened to us, it was that **me and my mum and my brother became so close afterwards.** My mum did such an amazing job dealing with two teenagers all by herself, and **my brother was always there telling really weird and funny jokes to try and make me smile,** or teaching me all about computers which has significantly improved the quality of my YouTube channel, so **thank him for that.** But **just like my dad, my mum is such a hero to me** for the way that she dealt with such a horrible situation, and she even started seeing **someone who eventually became my stepdad, and we all loved that he made her happy again.** After dating that first boyfriend for a year, **I found out he was cheating on me, thus why people said I shouldn't have dated him. So that was obviously over.**

By the last year of high school, **I was finally starting to resurface as the person I was before my dad died.** This is where YouTube first came into play. Like I mentioned before, **I always had a love of making videos,** so in 2007, two years after YouTube began, I created the account LaurenzSide. It stood for Lauren's side of the story and it was where I would post random camera ramblings and videos with friends. I only uploaded a handful of videos over the span of one year and then stopped. Knowing my mum wasn't alone anymore, I felt that I could go to college further away **to get another fresh start.** I went to college upstate for a year and a half, and while **it was a blast and I made a lot of friends, I felt like something was missing.** After a lot of thought, I felt the urge to be in New York City. It was where my dad grew up, it was where my career opportunities were because I was going to college for a TV production, and it was closer to my mum and my new boyfriend at the time who lived back home, so **I made the hard decision to say goodbye to my college friends and head to New York City.** Meanwhile, **I also got the urge to lose weight. I was never fat, but I was the chubbiest girl usually out of all of my friends, so during my transition from upstate New York to New York City I lost close to 40 pounds and have kept that weight off ever since.**

Moving to New York City is without a doubt **the best decision I've made in my life so far.** The people I've met, the things I've experienced and the opportunities I've been given have been nothing short of amazing. I always say I really could write a book with my stories, and maybe I will someday. **I gained a super close group of friends and we got to experience amazing things that I never thought I would.** Honestly, being young and in the city is one unforgettable experience. Now mind you, I had my fun in college, **but I also worked my butt off. I graduated in the highest GPA tier. I worked as an intern sometimes for 19-hour days during events and I also worked a part-time job. I felt like superwoman.**

One semester into school at New York City, my boyfriend from back home and I broke up. Although **I really cared about him,** **I learned that there's a fine line between someone who loves you and someone who tries to hold you back.** I constantly felt stressed and anxious that one of my guy friends would post to my Facebook wall, because it would usually upset my boyfriend, that my new profile picture would cause him to ask, "Who are you trying to impress?" **If I didn't text him back right away, we'd get into arguments, and I guarantee he would have never let me start a YouTube channel.** Sometimes love isn't enough, and you need to find someone who loves you and trusts you enough to do things like go out with your friends and not text them every minute all night. That's just my little love rant - I will continue.

Right before I graduated from college, I began dating my now boyfriend, Bobby. We had been interns together and became friends. **We eventually started dating and we've been together ever since.** Bobby is the total opposite of my last relationship, and **it has strengthened me as a person.** I truly believe you should find someone who helps you to be the best version of yourself, and that's our relationship. After we got together, **I felt like everything else started falling into place. I found a good job, Bobby and I started renting an apartment together and eventually we got Dexter. I finally felt like I had almost everything in my life together for once,** but **I still felt like something was missing** - here's where YouTube comes into play again.

I had recently started finding game commentators, which I had no idea even existed. The first person I found was PewDiePie, and **I became addicted to watching his videos because they made me laugh so much.** I eventually showed my boyfriend, who in turn said I kind of sound like that when I play games. Thus, the idea came about for me to become a gaming commentator with the intention of making people laugh. I decided to reboot my old LaurenzSide username and **became addicted to making videos again.** Since I started my channel a year and a half ago, **I have grown more than I ever thought I would, made so many friends as both viewers and fellow YouTubers, and found such an amazing creative outlet that not only helps me to be happy but also helps others to be happy as well. Thank you all so much** for contributing to me reaching 25,000 subscribers. I know you guys always tell me how much I help brighten your day, but I just wanted to remind you guys **how much you help me to be happier in my life** too. The end. Sorry for being a little mushy, but sometimes life is mushy and not all sunshines and butterflies. Also, if you haven't already and now



that you know a big chunk about me and my life, why don't you hit the subscribe button? Also make sure to like this video because it took me literally almost all weekend to put together. If any of my stories relate to you, make sure to leave a comment below and I will see you guys soon.

2125

#### FDML #40

Hi, I'm Catrivic, or my real name is Catherine Elizabeth Valdez, and I was born on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1989, in Orlando, Florida. I come from a kind of big family, you could say. I have my mum, my dad, my two older brothers, me and my little sisters, so I'm right in the middle. My dad is 100% Cuban, my mum is 100% white, and that makes me 50% Cuban mix. I love my family so much. They're my best friends, my greatest mentors and I don't know where I would be in this world without them.

When I was in preschool, I was about three years old and I went to SeaWorld in Orlando for the first time. I knew at that age that I was going to be a dolphin trainer. I loved the sea life. I loved the way the whales made me feel, just like looking around them, looking at them, being around them and everything. It just, sea life became my life at the age of three.

When I was eight years old, my dad got a new job and he said that we had to move to Georgia so he could be an operator at the Chick-Fil-A, so I wasn't very happy about this because I had my best friend that lived in Florida and I didn't know anything different so scary change, and I had to move to Georgia which ended up not being so bad. We were home-schooled when I was really young. My mum was our teacher and in Georgia we were home-schooled from around the ages of eight to ten. Then I started to go to a school called the Kings Academy. This is where I met my best friend Ashley Braden at the time. We had we talked on our first day of school in fifth grade and she said to me, "This is going to be a long day" and I said "Yep". From that day on, we became best friends all throughout middle school, elementary middle and high school, until we graduated. We were obsessed with the Goo Goo Dolls. We even saw them live in concert three times. We also got in trouble for talking too much in school and her parents weren't too happy about that because I was a bad influence.

When I was 14, I got my first job working for my dad at Chick-Fil-A. Things were going really well and I liked my job. I liked working hard. By the time I was 16, I was a manager and something really scary happened. I actually got robbed while I was working, and it was one of the most terrifying experiences of my life. And I was only 16 so I was really young, and it was really scary. So, when I was 18, I graduated high school in 2007. Yay! And this was a big year for me. When I was 18, I discovered YouTube and I became obsessed with it and started watching all these videos and decided to make videos of my own. I had three jobs: I worked at Chick-Fil-A, I was a full-time nanny and I also worked at a restaurant called California Dreaming, where I was a waitress. I was also a volunteer this year at the Georgia Aquarium, because I was still trying to pursue my dreams of becoming a whale trainer. This was also the year that I discovered Myers Briggs Type Indicators and I started to study this stuff a lot and it became a huge part of my life, as I wanted to grow and learn about myself and through psychology. So, the next year, I decided to actually go to college. I forgot to mention before - the first year I decided to take a gap year to just work. I studied Biology because that's what I wanted to study to help me learn more about whales. And, it wasn't for me. I decided I wasn't very happy, and I just had to do something else. I decided to go to a Christian school in Redding, California, called Bethel. It was basically just a year for me to grow and learn in my and just take some time off. My mum drove me across the country from Georgia to California, and it took us four days. At this school, I met a ton of Norwegians because there were a lot of Europeans that just happened to be in this school, and this is when I first discovered that I love Europeans and they are so awesome.

When I moved to California, I started to get more involved in a company called Dailybooth that I helped start up. It was a social networking site that revolved around taking pictures of yourself and it updated your life through pictures. They offered me a job in San Francisco and my school year was up and I decided to take it. So, living in San Francisco, working at Dailybooth, things were not exactly as I expected. Things were really slow, and I didn't really have a lot to do and I started to become really dissatisfied with my life and my job. And it led me to becoming pretty depressed. I never really experienced depression before until now and it was this new thing for me, and I didn't know what to do. I, this led me to leaving my job at Dailybooth and moving to Los Angeles. So, in Los Angeles, I decided to try YouTube for the first time as a job. I was extremely anxious if I would be able to come up with enough views and money to be able to survive. Oops, did I forget to mention Beta? I bought her right before leaving San Francisco before moving to LA and she was probably one of the best decisions of my life because I love her - my little French bulldog - so much.

Around this time, I also started to play a game called League of Legends. This, oh my goodness, I played this game 10 to 14 hours a day at some point. But this was a mixture because I loved the game, I have an addictive personality and I was really scared about not succeeding at YouTube so I started to distract myself with things like video games instead of facing my fears and my problems. And this is something that is not a good quality about me, but it's something that I do. Then the dreaded sock story - when Beta was 8 months old, she swallowed a sock whole. It cost six thousand dollars in surgeries to just keep her alive and get the sock out. I had just moved to LA and I didn't have a lot of money

and I was really stressed so I didn't know what to do. I turned to YouTube to see if anybody wanted to help me out with Beta's vet bills and this was something that's extremely humbling and hard for me to do. I never wanted to ask anyone for money ever because this is something that I was not used to doing, but they ended up backing me up and helping me pay for Beta's surgery and I will forever be in debt for the people that helped, that helped with that.

Some of you guys know iJustine. She is one of my best friends and it became really clear during this time that she was a real family friend for me. During this time, she was really supportive and helped me with Beta stuff and just was really there for me when I needed somebody. In fact, I'm really lucky to have some of the most best friends in the world that I could ever ask for – Joey, Ingrid, Justine, mm, I just love them so much. So now that I've been in LA for a while making YouTube videos and trying to make it as YouTube, I started to get more into the League of Legends team. eSports in general was something that's really important to me and I attended my first League of Legends event called IPL 4 and that was my first LAN where I got to meet tons of people who were just like me. They loved League of Legends and they, some of them even played competitively as their job, so this introduced me to a whole new community besides the YouTube community that I'd been in for so long. Now I spend so much time playing the game, being involved in the news of this community and it's definitely something that I could see myself doing or being more involved with in the future.

Okay, well, that's it for now. That's my life up to this point that I wanted to share with you guys. I'm sorry for any bad drawings. Thank you for sticking through and watching anyways. Yeah, be sure to subscribe if you want to see more videos, you can click on this "subscribe" word here to subscribe and, yeah, be sure to check out my previous video if you haven't before. It's with Ingrid - she's awesome and, yeah, give this video a thumbs up because I worked freaking hard on it! And, yeah, you guys are awesome. Thanks, bye!

1555

#### FDML #41

Hey Pokémon fans! Tamashii here, and today I'm going to draw my life. I was born on a Memorial Day weekend in 1993 in sunny Southern California. I was actually born asleep and with the umbilical cord wrapped around my neck, so my parents thought I was dead at first but luckily, I wasn't! I lived in a teeny tiny house in North Hollywood with my mum, my dad and my older sister who was just 18 months older than me. The day after her second birthday, I was having trouble sleeping, so my mum was up trying to rock me to sleep. At about 3 a.m., the Northridge earthquake hit. We were pretty lucky that our house was mostly undamaged aside from a crack in the chimney. And I actually can't even remember it since I was so young. Obviously, it wasn't traumatic for me at the time, but as I grew up, the adults around me would tell stories about "the quake". It was like hearing about some horrible giant monster that could attack unexpectedly again in any moment. I'd say this is probably where my anxiety problems began.

When I was four, we moved from North Hollywood to a city near LA which is where I lived for most of my life. It was kind of an affluent area and most of the kids were snooty and spoiled, but everybody was still pretty nice. A couple years later I started school there and joined the girl scouts. My parents got divorced when I was six. I don't remember it bothering me too much, but my parents put me and my sister in therapy to help us deal with it. While I was there, all I wanted to do was draw the Powerpuff Girls and I didn't understand why she kept asking me how I felt about my dad living in an apartment. It didn't bother me - I could finally watch Nickelodeon on Cartoon Network because he got cable.

That year as I was finishing kindergarten, I saw some boys pretending to be Pokémon trainers on the playground. I asked them if I could play too and they said "Sure!" and that I could be Pikachu. I had no idea what a Pikachu was, but I had a lot of fun anyway. When I got to first grade, Pokemania really exploded. It was awesome. Every single kid in my hometown was absolutely obsessed. It was really just the most wonderful thing because it brought everyone together - it didn't matter who you were, if you liked Pokémon, you were never alone and always had someone to play with. One time I remember I brought my Gameboy to church to play after the service and a whole bunch of older kids crowded around me and watch me play. I found the hidden item in the tree near Lavender Town and they were all very impressed with how well I knew the game. I felt like a rock star.

Pokemania started to fade around the time I reached third grade though, and fewer and fewer people were into it anymore. Most of my friends at that point moved away and I felt pretty lonely. I still loved Pokémon but everyone else was suddenly saying it was for babies, especially my older sister. For as long as I can remember, she would regularly physically and verbally abuse me, not just about Pokémon. And it was around this time that it got pretty bad. She completely destroyed my self-esteem by telling me constantly that I was a loser and ugly and that no one liked me. Everyone around me said it was normal, that that's just what siblings do, so I felt powerless to do anything about it. Slowly I began believing her, that I really was all those horrible things, and I had absolutely no confidence in myself at all. It didn't help that around that time I got braces and was diagnosed with ADD. I felt like everyone was trying to fix things about me and that everything about me was wrong. My brain needed fixing because I had ADD and OCD and got chronic migraines and had a ton of anxiety problems, even at that age. My teeth needed fixing because I was

so ugly and even my interests needed fixing because it made me a loser to like Pokémon. I never had any friends in my classes and I just felt really alone. Pokemon was all I had that made me happy.

To treat my ADD, the doctor put me on Adderall. It made me lose my appetite completely and I lost a ton of weight. My mum was even considering having me hospitalized at one point because I was so underweight. It also made my migraines worse and more frequent to the point where I would vomit because it hurt so much. I was doing better in school, but it took a huge toll on my health and happiness. I'm still underweight to this day. Around this time, my sister started doing musical theatre with a local kids' theatre group. I eventually decided I wanted to try doing it too, much to her chagrin. I didn't have much confidence, but it was so much fun being on stage and entertaining people and I started to become more sure of myself. I couldn't sing for crap and I wasn't that interested in dancing, but I loved acting and performing for people. It's funny when you consider that the weakest aspect of my videos now is my line reading that I used to love to perform scripts. And I was actually pretty good at it. I think it's like it was back then though - I just need to get more confidence in myself first.

But any self-esteem I built for myself evaporated by the time I reached middle school. I got teased a lot in school too because I was geeky and nerdy and weeaboo, and I liked to draw comic books in the library at lunch. As I got older, my sister's abusive behaviour only got worse. But it wasn't just about me anymore. If my mum or I got her way at all, she'd threaten us both with violence. Our house became a war zone and while my sister and my mum would fight and throw things and scream, me and the dog and the cat would cower under the furniture praying for it to end. More than once it got so bad the police came. As she got older, the fights became more and more intense and scary, and even though she never physically hurt my mum, she had no reservations when it came to hurting me.

Growing up, we also had a pet dog named Scribble who was sweet and friendly 99% of the time but he had a habit of attacking and biting me viciously. Between the bullies and my sister and Scribble and my fear of natural disasters, I never really felt safe at home or at school. My anxiety got really, really bad when I was in middle school and I shut myself off from everyone. I dropped out of Girl Scouts, I dropped out of theatre, I lost most of my friends and I didn't like to go out at all. My escape from it all was Pokémon. Basically no one I knew liked it any more at this point, but I was still as into it as ever. My Pokémon were basically my only friends. I played all of my Pokémon games so much during this time that I actually got bored with playing the first three gens over and over again. Fourth gen hadn't been announced yet and I had heard of people making bootleg Pokémon games online, so I decided to try and figure out how to make my own Pokémon game. Eventually after a little digging around online and some help from a few nice people, I was able to figure out how it worked. I was able to figure out how to hack Pokémon rounds. Around this time YouTube also came out, and I decided I'd post videos of my hacks there. And for that time, I was an overnight success, not because I was good at hacking or anything but because people just thought the idea of hacking in itself was cool. So, I kept doing it and making videos, and eventually when I discovered actually making a completely new game with ROM hacking was too much work, I decided to just tell stories with my hacks instead. I guess you could call what I did primitive machinima. I was only 13 and really weeaboo and my videos were terrible but for some reason, people kept watching them. In fact, one video hit a million views and at that time was the number 5 most watched video in the gaming category. I wasn't the only person making Pokémon ROM hacks though - there was a whole community of hackers and I made some great friends. For the first time in a long time, I had people to enjoy Pokémon with and who really liked me for who I was and stay up all night on MSN with them all just talking and laughing. One of these people was a guy named Justin. He was really cool and nice and funny and also made Pokémon hacks and he liked me a lot. I liked him a lot too, but it kind of scared me. We were total strangers, but I had never felt that way about anyone else before, so we became boyfriend and girlfriend even though at the time I was just 14 and he was 16 and we didn't know for certain if we'd ever meet in person.

Things were still pretty bad at home, but my mum actually finally decided to do something about it - she sent my sister to a boarding school for troubled teens very far away, so soon we had some peace. My anxiety actually almost completely went away, and I had Justin and my YouTube channel. I even started making some new friends at school too. I missed Justin a lot though. He couldn't come online much anymore, and I only got to talk to him on the weekends. That just wouldn't do, so I decided to do anything I could to actually meet him in person. That summer I asked my mum if we could go to Las Vegas where he lived on vacation. She said "Sure" and I knew that was my chance. I asked her if we could check out this one game shop near Justin's house where I planned to meet him. She agreed and it all went without a hitch. We had an extremely awkward first kiss and exchanged Pokémon plushies. My mum was pretty miffed that I had tricked her like that, but she said that we were too cute for her to be angry. I was totally over the moon and life had never been better, but it wouldn't last for long.

My sister came home from boarding school that next year and the war at home resumed right where it left off. One morning before school I decided to stand up to her because I was sick of it and she beat the crap out of me. I decided I couldn't live with this abuse anymore and I told the school counsellor about it. They called Child Protective Services and what followed were the worst few weeks of my life. I won't get into all the gory details, but it all culminated in my sister being removed from my household. I haven't seen her or spoken to her since then and I'm much happier for it. I hear she's doing just fine these days, going to school and living with my grandpa, so I guess it was best for everyone the way things worked out in the end.

By the end of my junior year of high school, my mum and I decided to move. I suggested moving to Justin's hometown, and though my mum was reluctant at first, she eventually decided it was the most cost-effective solution, so we packed with our bags, said our goodbyes and left California for good. Justin and I were finally living in the same city and could have a normal relationship. Highschool kind of blew senior year, not knowing anyone, so again I escaped into the internet for comfort and started making different kinds of videos than before. I was tired of ROM hacking and I was also tired of seeing people who were clearly not Pokémon fans making videos about Pokémon. I wanted to make videos about Pokémon by a fan for fans, so that's exactly what I did. Luckily, people liked it a lot and I decided to keep making more and more. People liked them so much, I was even able to start getting paid to make them. After completing our prerequisites, Justin and I decided to transfer to a school in Oregon, so I moved a third time in the span of two years and headed north. Now I'm here in Oregon with Justin in our very own apartment.

I wish I could say this story has a happily ever after, but I'm not quite in the clear yet. After surviving my childhood, I'm finally at the point in my life where I can figure out who I am and what I want to do, and most days, I don't have any idea. But even though that can be kind of scary, it's also kind of exciting. I'm an adult and I'm free and though I might make mistakes, I finally have the confidence in myself that I can do great things. And it's mostly thanks to you guys. Some days I still doubt myself, thinking my videos aren't good enough or that other people my age have their lives figured out, but I know at the end of the day, no matter what I do, I have people who care about me. YouTube has brought me a ton of opportunities and most of the happiest things in my life right now are a direct result of you guys watching my videos. I met my first boyfriend on YouTube, I met my best friends through YouTube, I got my first job based on the experience I've gotten editing videos, and without YouTube, my life wouldn't even remotely resemble what it is today. So even though sometimes I get scared still, above all else, I'm grateful to all the people who have watched my videos over the past six years. You truly have helped change my life for the better and I love you guys sincerely from the bottom of my heart. For you guys and myself, I hope I can keep making videos and keep improving for a long time and hopefully figure out who I am along the way.

2503

#### FDML #42

Hello everyone! So today's video is going to be a little different - I am doing the draw my life tag, so it's going to be not so much about makeup and more about getting to know me, so I hope you guys like it, and let's just get started.

So, it all started on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1993. I was born in Montreal, Canada, eh, and I do not say that, and I also do not live in igloos. Contrary to popular belief, there's actually, doesn't really snow where I live now, but anyway, I was born to a mum whose name is Louise and a dad who had a moustache and his name was Angelo and he was a mechanic and they also had another daughter named Amanda. She was five years older than me. So, getting on to when I was one year old, we moved from Montreal all the way to Kelowna which is a small town across the country in British Columbia. It's kind of near Vancouver and I was one year old, like I said, and we moved into a cute little house which is now my dad's house. I visit him all the time and I love this house. It's near an orchard and it has all kinds of really tall trees and it was really nice to play there and I just loved it and we also had a dog named Samson, but he always ran away, so we had to get rid of him.

And so, starting off with preschool. When I was 4 years old, I went to a French Immersion preschool, so I am now fluent in French which is kind of cool, and it was just really nice, fun times at this preschool. I met my best friend Corbin and we used to play together all the time and I remember there being a really cool playground, because I always used to get rocks in my shoes, like, no doubt, I always had rocks in my shoes, like, every day on the playground.

Anyways, so this is where the story kind of gets a little weird. So long story short, my mum started working for her, Corbin's, dad at a bank and, as his assistant, and they actually kind of started a relationship and that kind of resulted in a not so nice, messy divorce on both sides as you can see. It was just not good but me and Corbin weren't really affected by it because we were only four years old at the time, so, we didn't really understand what was going on. But they ended up together and everyone's fine with it now, but yeah, so I, basically, my whole life I lived with my mum in a really nice house with my stepdad, my stepsister, Corbin, now, so she was my best friend, now she's my stepsister which is kind of cool and also my sister Amanda and Corbin's brother which is now my step-brother Stefan, so we all lived in that house together, but I also lived with my dad like every like other week or whatever, you know how that works, and me and Corbin were kind of like besties. We were kind of like twins - we dressed up the same and we also had two cats - Teddy and Rocky. Rocky was mine, Teddy was hers, and it was just fun times all around.

So, getting on, my mum put me in dance because Corbin danced, so when I was about seven, she put me into dance and I was actually so good that they told me I should do solo but no, I did not want to do a solo because I was too scared but I ended up doing them later in life, but I ended up doing that until I was 18 years old and I absolutely loved it. And in grade seven, my mum took me and we moved to Vancouver, the big city because there's just a lot more opportunity with jobs and stuff there for my step-dad but my dad still lived in Kelowna and I visited him all the time still, but I decided to go with my mum because it was just better in Vancouver. But I was really not happy about it at first - I hated it and it was time for high school at that time, so I was the new kid, which kind of really sucked and I had no friends,

like, the first whole year of high school, but I had Corbin so that kind of made things a bit better, but I really didn't have, like, good friends until, like, the second year. Towards that, I started hanging out with these girls. I guess you could say they're like the popular girls that just went out and did all these fun things - at the time I thought they're fun and I just thought I was like hot stuff because I was hanging out them and I just thought I was so cool but actually I wasn't, you know, kind of, you know, kind of bitchy and, like, rude and I started fighting with my mum a lot and it was just not good. So I decided that after a couple, like, I guess a year of hanging with them, I was like "No", like, this is a bad influence and they're just doing all these things that I don't want to do, and I just found them kind of annoying, like, the things they would talk about and I just didn't really feel like I fit in very well with them, so kind of want to like went off and did my own thing again. I didn't have much friends, but I started focusing more on dance towards the middle of high school and I really, really got into it and I would kind of get closer with my dance friends. Me and my dance friends were like the best of friends. We hung out all the times, time. We had sleepovers together, we were just, they were like my family. I loved my dance friends so much. We did everything together, went shopping, sleepovers, we kind of made the videos, we were obsessed with the Jonas Brothers and even wanted to make like a reality TV show about dance but yeah, you know. Kind of like Dance Mums but that never happened. And we also won a lot of money and awards for dance, so that was kind of cool.

And kind of the last couple years of high school, I started hanging out with, like, a ton of people and everyone just kind of was friends with each other. I started getting into more of acting and musical theatre, and my friends just kind of were better and less bitchy, if you know what I mean. And everyone was kind of like obsessed with the environment, thrift shopping and games, so that's kind of like how the hipsters came along. Everyone at my school were hipsters and it's just fun times. So then it was senior year and graduation times, and me Corbin had to, like, figure out what we wanted to do and after high school and our parents kind of was telling us that we had to go to university, and they actually suggested that we went to Montreal for university and at first, I was like I didn't really want to go to university because I had no idea what I wanted to do, but everyone else was doing it, so I decided to go and our parents told us we should go to Montreal for like a new kind of experience, so me and Corbin decided we were going to go to Concordia together and have an apartment downtown Montreal. And we're really excited for it at first and we put our house up for sale, because my parents were going to move as well because my stepdad lost his job and things weren't going well for that, but we packed up our stuff, we started selling all our furniture and my mum one day decided to sell our couches to her friend, Pam. They've been friends forever - she was actually in Pam's wedding. And so Pam's son and Pam's husband one day came to pick up those couches and little did I know Josh came along, and Josh is actually Pam's son and I knew him, like, when I was really little but I hadn't seen him in a while so that is when I met him and he back then, he kind of had Justin Bieber hair and wore a hat, but yeah, so I met him when he picked up the couches and we just started dating. March 2011 we started dating, which was two years ago now and, yeah, we had some fun times, but of course, in the back of our heads, we knew that I was moving, but we even went on vacation together for those few months that I was still in school and living in Vancouver. We had like the best few months ever. We did everything together and we went to Barbados and it was so fun, but of course, I had to move away and we both knew that, so that was really sad. We knew it was coming, but from March until August we just had the funnest times ever. But then August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 rolled around, and that is the day that I moved away, and I still remember the exact date because I was dreading that date. So, me and Corbin and her boyfriend and my boyfriend Josh, they dropped us off at the airport and it was just like this saddest day of my life. Me and Josh and Corbin and Brahm were splitting ways, but it just had to happen because we already planned it all out and I couldn't back away from going to university, so it happened.

Me and Corbin moved to Montreal which was a five-hour flight and so that was eight months, no, eight months was how long I'd be there. From September to April, that was how long I'd be at school, so I was in Montreal and Josh was in Vancouver, but we never thought about breaking up, like, once. Like, we always knew it would work but it was, just, sucked and Skype was on a lot and it was just not fun, and I became a little depressed. I wouldn't really get out of bed. I basically stayed in bed all day. I didn't eat very well, and I lost 15 pounds. Contrary to belief, freshman 15 is actually losing 15 pounds. I just wanted to go home and see Josh. I didn't really go to school. I didn't like school. I didn't have friends where I was, and I would visit Josh like once a month, so, that was kind of good, but then the best day ever: April came along, and I got to move home and I never went back to school to Montreal, obviously. I just, obviously, I did not like it, so I wasn't going to go back, but now I had to decide what the heck I was going to do with my life. What now? Like, I gave up school to come back here. I didn't want to go back. I had no plans of going back to school any time soon. I had no job and no experience, and it was time to grow up, so I had no idea what the heck I was going to do.

I had to get a big girl job, so my stepdad got me a job, thankfully, at a printing company and I ended up working there as a receptionist. I started in April and I would answer phones and just sit on the computer all day and it basically sucked. I worked 8:00 until 4:30 every day and it was tiring, and my bosses were the worst people ever, especially the wife. They were husband and wife and they were just terrible people. But anyway, so I worked there until from April until January, but I'll get into that soon. While I was working there, oh wait. Back when I was in Montreal, I had nothing to do so basically, I would go on YouTube and watch beauty videos all the time. I watched a lot in high school but I really got into it when I was in Montreal, and when I was at work I had nothing to do so I just watched them all day and I wasn't working on stuff I was supposed to be doing. But on 8<sup>th</sup> October, I was still at this job and I decided to

create Sierra Marie make-up, and I actually didn't post a video until November, at the end of November, which was a Black Friday haul, but I deleted it because **it was super embarrassing**. So, in January **I actually reached 1000 subscribers which was only three months after I started my first video**. And also in January, I got laid off, I didn't know how to spell laid off, from my reception job at the print company which **kind of sucked** but **I was kind of happy at the same time because I hated that job**, but then I was back to square one. I had no job, I didn't know what to do and now we're here right now in the present time, and **it's three months later and I have nine thousand subscribers, almost nine thousand**, and **I couldn't be happier**. Things are going so well with Josh and everything and I am actually now working for my stepdad's new company that he just made and I'm working from home which is really, really cool, so I don't have to go to work and wake up early. **I have no boss to boss me around which is awesome and it's just fun**, and **I just like to focus on YouTube and things like that, and it's five months so far into YouTube, and I'm already at almost nine thousand, which is just crazy**, which makes me think of the future - what can it bring? And it just makes me **so excited and I just love you guys so much. I love making videos for you guys**. It's my, like, hobby. **I love editing. I love reading - the best thing is reading comments - it just makes my day so much better**. So, **I just want to thank you guys for being here for me** for the fast, past five months, and **I just can't be happier**, so that is the end for now. But it's definitely not over, so I'll see you guys later. Bye!

2482

### FDML #43

Hello moosh army. It's me, Olga Kay, and today I'm going to do draw my life. Now **I'm not a great artist, so this is going to get really funny and weird**, but let's begin. This is my mum and this is my daddy, and this is my brother. Now, **he's a pain ass** but I'm not going to get into it. Okay, so my mum, her heart was very broken when she was trying to have a baby after my brother, because every time she would have a baby she would have a miscarriage and on top of it all she also had a really, really bad heart, so my dad was like, hey, let's try this again, and then, you know, they tried again and boom, there was me and I was just like, you know what? It's me and I'm going to hold on to this stomach and I'm not going to get out.

So, the doctors, they kept telling my mum, they were like yelling, they were like "Hey, listen, ah, you can't have a baby. You have a bad heart - you're not going to be able to survive if you have a baby". So, she was like "F you", and then the doctors were like, "mmm what can we do? I mean, she will die if she has this baby so we're going to give her prescription medication too," and I was like, "mum, mum, mum, mum, help, help!" and they were like "haha" and they look like cats, I'm not sure why.

But, so my mum was taking this medication and she had no idea what she was taking, so what happened was I disappeared from her tummy, and here I am, two months premature and I'm a miscarriage. And here's me, and I'm totally alive, and **I was like, wow, winning**, okay. So, I was 105 pounds and the doctor said that my brain is going to be really slow like a turtle and I might never succeed in life. **Sad face**. So, my mum was like, you know what? Screw you. I'm going to give my daughter who looks like an insect lots of exercising, this is the running track, and she's going to be doing splits and working out and she's going to be just fine. Then, when I was six years old, she's like, "You know what? You're going to go to school - music school". Because apparently when you go to music school, your brain experiences something amazing that helps you succeed. So, **my brain became a lot stronger** and kind of looks like a butt on fire. So, in school, **I was not the best student**. I remember **it was really hard for me to memorize the alphabet and learn how to read and do all those things**. **The only thing I was kind of good at is math and I was just kind of like behind, so I kind of started to think that maybe I am a little slow**, but you know what? **I really love dancing**. This is me dancing. And so, because of that, **all the boys, you know, they kind of loved me**. And I was like, **"You know what boys? F you!"** and that was it - that's it for my school.

So then my mum asked me one day, "Hey Olga, what do you want to do for a living?" and I said, "You know, mum? **I want to be in the circus**". And she said, "No, not until you're 18 years old". Ah, **very upset**. So then, you know, it was myself and my girlfriends and I was just teaching them how to dance because **I just wanted to express my creativity somehow, and that's when I knew that I loved to entertain, whatever it takes**.

So I lived in the village of only 400 people and we do you have much going on, but we did have lots of animals like cows, yes, this is a cow, and we had lots of chickens and goats and sheep and all kinds of stuff. And so, this is me and I was like, "Oh my God, **animals - love it!**" This is my brother and he's like, "I'm a little lazy but I love them too". This is my daddy and my mum, and they started to worry because we were just not having money or anything to survive and they would not, they would even turn off the electricity from like 5 p.m. till 5 of 8 a.m., 5 a.m. And **it was really difficult to do homework and was just, like, really bad**.

So, one day, my aunt called my mum and they're twins, that's why they look like that, and she said come to the circus and I heard that and was like "What? We're going to the circus? Yay!" **I was just so excited** I was in the circus. Next thing I knew, a couple months later and I remember thinking, oh my god **my dream came true and I was only 14 years old, so I was like jumping all over the place. This is me jumping, being super excited**. So, while in the circus, **I dreamed to be an aerial artist**, maybe like a flying trapeze or something. I would picture myself flying through the air like whee,

but I was 14 and apparently that's too old. Somebody asked me if I wanted to juggle, and I said, "Hells no, you're crazy". So, three months later, I was juggling balls eight hours a day. HD, it says HD. Okay, so then, my cousin and I, we had an act on unsupported ladders. Now, it was very unique and weird - we were balancing, you know, ladders and juggling in between. Wow, yeah, very special. Then one day, I was rehearsing this trick where I was balancing this stick with the ball on my head and the ladder fell and I fell on my head and that explains everything. I cried a lot. I had a bump on my head and a little crack, and I was just like WTF - Who am I? What happened? Not winning at all. Then I was terrified. I was like, "I don't want to do it". So then one happy day, my aunt got a phone call from America, from an American circus called Ringling Brothers, and they asked her to come and visit and while I was rehearsing my act, apparently, I was coming too and my plane looks like a penis. Oops. And so yeah, I went to America when I was 16 years old. More like the land of McDonald's - Big Mac - my favourite, yum-yum! So, I was in the circus. I was 14. I was practicing all day long and I knew no English. And I was like "What? I don't know English!" Now because I didn't know any English, I was almost 16, no - I was 16. I was 16, I had no English and also my high school diploma was in Russian and because of that, under American law, I had to be in school, so they put me in school. The problem is they put me in school - second grade - second grade at 16. I was like "What the hell? I make out with boys!" And not winning again. That's not important. So, while in America, I was in America for three years, and I was traveling back and forth visiting all kinds of states. It was really awesome, I really got to know all of America and I really fell in love with Hollywood. So, then our contract came to an end, the circus closed down and just naturally, when I was about 19, myself and my family, my aunt and uncle and my cousin were kind of separated, and I moved to Holly, oops, Hollywood. Ugh, Olga.

So, I moved to Hollywood and I had no money, and I really couldn't find any jobs juggling. I didn't want to be in a circus, so I found myself the job on TV, and I was doing lots of background work. That's me, yep, nobody ever saw me, so I was making fifty four dollars a day and rent in Los Angeles, I don't know, sixteen hundred dollars a month, so it's really difficult and I was trying to figure my life out and in 2006, I discovered YouTube, and I was like, oh you too? You too? Is that a band? And my friend asked me to rate his video so for that I had to create an account, so I created Olga Kay and that was just my bank account password. Yep - not anymore. Anyways, I didn't know how to use a camera, it was really confusing for me. I didn't know how to edit or really use a computer because I never really had one, so that was really confusing, so I was like, "What am I going to do with my life now?" So, I was 24 years old and I learnt, oops. Oh, Olga, my gosh. So, I didn't know how to use anything, so I started learning a lot and I got myself a cat and her name is Mooshka and that's actually how we have our term Moosh, but later about that. Then one day I got a call from Russia from my mum and she said "Olga, I really want to see you one last time" and I said, "What are you talking about?" and she said, "My heart is getting really, really bad. I'm afraid that I'm not gonna see you or be able to hold you before I die". And we cried and I haven't seen her in seven years at that point and I remember getting off the phone and it was just so difficult, and I was, remember, I remember thinking "What am I gonna do? How am I gonna make money? Will I ever see my mum again?" She thinks she's never going to see me again.

And I started posting lots of videos on YouTube juggling and hoping that I will maybe get a job or somebody will notice me and nothing really happened and I still did a lot of background work on TV and film and then I got lucky and I started doing commercials and I was juggling in them and I was juggling in the Burger King commercial and a Dirt Devil commercial, and I remember saving up all of that money for my ticket to go back to Russia and I saved up enough to go visit my family, and I finally went to see them, and it was just so emotional and it was so foreign because I haven't seen them in so long and, and also I joined Screen Actors Guild and that was another dream of mine and it was \$1400. It was actually cheaper to fly to Russia than join Screen Actors Guild, but no regrets. I am really happy, and I invested a lot of the money back into my Olga Kay channel. I bought cameras and everything and my channel started to grow and because of that, I travelled all over the world and I met all of my mooshers and we created the term moosh and even a moosh face and all of you guys naturally became a moosh army with the hat on top. And because my channel grew, in the next two years I started a second channel, Olga Kay 2, where I documented my life with my kitties and my puppies and my friends - it was just so much fun - and I opened Olga Kay Games channel - where on this channel it's basically me being terrified, playing video games even if the video game is as simple as Minecraft. And this is a creeper, just in case you don't know, and he blows up, he just blew up. Then I opened my Mooshville channel which also comes from my cat Mooshka and it's a ville - the village, village of moosh, and that's the channel where I teach girls how to do makeup and do hair and I love it so much.

And what can I say? I've been in love and attracted to boys and I've been attracted to some of the girls. Whoops. And my true passion is to entertain you guys - my moosh army. That's what really makes me happy every morning when I wake up. And little things about me? I'm a workaholic and I think, you know, it helps you succeed, and I don't give up. And I don't think you should ever give up. And my motivation is very simple. It's my dad, my mum, my brother, my animals that I have to feed every day, and my new puppy Roxy and Mooshka and Pishka, and of course all of you guys. All of you watching my videos, my whole moosh army, as you see, we have more girls than boys, but that's ok - our army is also Instagram and all of you guys. So, thank you so much. You make me wake up every morning and make videos. Moosh! Bye! But I feel like I'm not done. I just want to talk forever. I want to talk to another 10 hours explaining my life, but we are on YouTube. Attention span is very short, so I'm gonna finish up. This is my outro that I'm writing out by hand. It's kind of funny. I need to take a class where I can learn how to draw. But yeah, I feel like

there's a lot of things that I didn't say in this video, but **it'll do for now**. **Thank you** for giving me that an idea to do draw my life video and, **oh my gosh, I just misspelled Mooshville**. I'm gonna go. **I love you**. Moosh, bye.

2334

#### FDML #44

Hey guys, welcome to my "Draw my Life" video. I'll be telling you all about my childhood, how I got into video games and, answer tons of FAQs on the way. It'll be animated by the one and only Lilypichu - **big, big, big thank you** to her. I'll leave her YouTube channel in the description, and I recommend you guys check her out. Alright, so let's get started.

I was born on May 14<sup>th</sup> in Morocco. From what my mum tells me, I was a super sleepy and lovable little baby. I didn't yell much at all, and I mostly just slept and ate a lot, so I guess in 20 years not much has changed, except now I yell a bit more in solo queue. I lived in Morocco until I was about 4 and I was a pretty bad little kid. **wasn't afraid of fighting any of the boys in the neighbourhood. This one time my brother, who is 3 years older than me, came home crying because someone was bullying him, so I ran outside. I found the bully and I just smacked him in the face. I also hated going to school.** My nanny would drop me off at day-care or whatever and I would do like a full circle around the place until she left and then I would just try to walk home.

Anyways, my family moved to Canada when I was 4, and we lived in Quebec for about a year before moving to Ontario. I started going to a full French school where all of our classes were in French and French was spoken a lot in Morocco as well, so ultimately, it was the first language I learned fluently along with some Darija, which is the Moroccan dialect. And then around grades 3 to 4, they started teaching English in school, which I learned pretty quickly because all the other kids would speak English too. This was also around the same time where I started playing games online because I'd always see my brother on the computer, so I just started copying him and playing the same games he played. Even though **sometimes he'd get mad at me for always copying him, we still had a lot of awesome memories questing together and any time I got stuck in a video game, I was really lucky because he would always be there to help me out.** I mostly played MMOs around this time, and as for console games, of course I played all the classics like Mario, Zelda, Pokémon, and I mostly played them on my Nintendo DS or our GameCube.

Throughout this part of my childhood, **I loved going to school** and **my parents were really, really encouraging and helpful when it came to academics**. Seeing as they were both teachers at some point or another, it was kind of like I had two tutors at home whenever I needed it. So **I got into this cycle of studying really, really hard, doing well on tests and then feeling a lot of satisfaction and joy** when I would get a good grade back, and I'd be able to show it to my parents, they'd be proud of me. And I know it may sound cheesy, but **my parents do mean a lot to me, so it was really important for me and still is to this day that they feel proud of me and my accomplishments**. It's kind of funny because this cycle has been so ingrained in my mind that **sometimes it's hard to feel proud of myself** as a content creator or in any other aspect of my life, because I don't get a weekly grade that I can go show my parents, so it's almost like there's no way to measure when I'm really doing good enough. But **it's something that I'm learning to manage**.

So anyways, I stayed at the French school until I was in seventh grade. Then I switched to an immersion middle school and high school, which meant that as the years went on, I had less and less classes in French and more classes in English. My high school years weren't bad at all. **I loved being able to see my friends** every day and **I kept up my cycle of gratification via good grades**. I was really, really involved the first couple of years of high school. In Grade 9, I ran for grade representative, which is a position on the student council. Anyone can run, so I signed up, we got to campaign for a couple weeks, put up posters around the school – like, one of my posters was basically what YouTube click bait is nowadays - I wrote a bunch of captivating words in big bold letters like “Money! Food! Pokémon!” and then at the bottom of the poster, I just wrote “Vote for Imane” and the night before the election I went to my friend's house and we baked two hundred cookies to give out to every single student in my grade. And the next morning, **I did exactly that, then I gave a kickass speech and ended up winning. It was really one of the best high school memories that I have and a really good way to start off my year.** I ended up being on student council in grade 10 as well, and I was on the dance team for both of those years too.

However, as the school years went on, it seemed like people in my grade got more and more into partying and doing drugs, and **that wasn't really my cup of tea**, so I ended up keeping to myself a lot more during my sophomore and senior year. I still had friends in school, but I wasn't super, super close with them outside of school anymore because our hobbies just didn't really line up, and I started playing League a ton, so **I became pretty close friends with a group of guys** who went to a different high school than me, and we would basically just play online on the weekends or after school. **My parents were also a lot of stricter than most other parents, so I ended up being stuck at home a lot**, since they weren't comfortable with me going out late. And that just resulted in me playing even more League.

But being at home so much and playing video games a lot meant **I made a lot of online friends**, obviously, and they introduced me to Twitch. **I fell in love instantly** when I started watching streamers in my senior year, and so **I saved up money to buy my own custom-built PC** from Kijiji which is like Craigslist, and I started streaming. My stream started off small and grew slowly, but **I loved doing it** since day one. However, I never thought of it as more than just a hobby,



so **my education remained my priority in life**. I graduated high school with a 93 percent average which is a 4.0 GPA in the States, and I went to McMaster University to study Engineering.

Juggling streaming semi consistently and a course load that was mostly maths and sciences **was not easy** at all because in my program they make you take more classes than a normal student would. People usually take four or five courses and they make you take six just so that they can filter people out, **which really, really sucked**, because every girl I became friends with in my first year of engineering all ended up switching programs. And **I found myself pretty depressed** and unsure whether I was doing the right thing, because I didn't want to let my parents down and I also didn't want to let my stream die, but there just weren't enough hours in the day to do everything that I wanted to do.

**Luckily**, halfway through my second year, I started making enough on Twitch to convince my parents that it was worth taking time off of school to stream full-time, and here I am today! I'm not sure whether streaming full-time will lead me to a long-term career in the entertainment or eSports sector. **I'd be very happy if it did, but if it doesn't, then I'd also gladly go back to school to finish my studies**. **But regardless of what happens, I'm so, so, so grateful to be in this position and to be able to have these experiences. And it is all thanks to you guys. Thank you so, so, so much for your support. I would not be where I am today if it weren't for you** and not a day goes by where I don't keep that in mind. And, of course, **a huge thank you to my parents. I'm so grateful for how they raised me and the fact that they support me in anything that I do. I'm truly just so lucky and blessed to have everything that I do in life, so thank you so much for watching. I hope you enjoyed the video** and I will see you guys in the next one. Bye!

1529

#### FDML #45

Today I'm going to be showing you guys the draw my life tag and before I begin, I just want to say that I am actually going to school for art. **I have always loved art** and it's always been, like, the one thing and I've always wanted to do, so I've always wanted to do graphic novels, so when I saw this tag, **I thought this would be a really fun opportunity to kind of show what I love to do**, and just kind of show you my life at the same time. So yeah, let's just go ahead and get right into it!

And I actually forgot to dot, not dot, cross the ts on my "little", **so whoops!** So, my parents were married when they were 22, I believe, and then when they were 29, they had me, on August 28<sup>th</sup> in 1993. And I actually did not cry as a baby. I had, you know how babies have stuff in their nose or something and you got to get those weird things to get it out, I actually had it in my throat, so I didn't cry, but I just like to say that I was an angel. That's why I didn't cry. And my parents are still happily married to this day.

When I was almost two, my brother Carter was born. My dad liked to joke that he kind of had a really big basketball head as a baby and we have pictures where his head looks actually pretty big. And yes, my dad actually is bald and I drew this at an angle so I didn't realise how flat his head looked! So, when my brother was born, I got the choice either to stay in my old room or move into the guest room. And being like 2 years old, I was like, "Guest room - yes!" **I was super excited** and, yeah, but that didn't work out because once I was older, I kind of realised his room is a little bit bigger than mine and it has a walk-in closet **so that was kind of disappointing** as I grew up.

So mainly the things that I remember from being a kid are all the times I actually got hurt and they're not, like, normal "getting hurt" stories, so I thought I'd just share these because I don't really have a lot of memories as a kid. I never broke a bone or anything like that, but yeah, so, when I was around five or six me and my cousins went under a bridge at a family reunion, which was a bad idea - let me tell you. We were under there for a little while and **it was really cool** to sightsee under a bridge instead of walking over it, so, **that was kind of cool**, but then I felt this horrible, horrible pinch. Like, it felt like somebody had taken tweezers and taken just the tiniest bit of my skin and squeezed it as hard as they could on my hand, right on my palm, and I saw this horrible black snake slithering into the water below which **just made my heart, like, stop** because I realised I got bit by snake. My hands started to hurt really bad and I looked over at it and I had realised that there was a lot of blood actually gushing down my arm and, yeah, **that was kind of terrifying, so I cried a lot**, and my dad rushed me to the hospital but **thankfully**, I did not need stitches or anything like that so **I'm really thankful** that that didn't go badly.

Around the same time, me and my brother were outside, and he had a little mini golf club - it was like a broken one that we had fixed up. And my dad told him not to swing in because I was right around, but he didn't listen and he hit me in the forehead, and this is a really exaggerated view of what happened, but basically, he smacked me in the forehead and I flew back and yeah, that, that did not sound, that was a horrible smack. And it didn't record me drawing this, but now you can see what I have, but I got a horrible welk that bruised up like crazy and **that did not feel good**. I had to walk around with that on my forehead and **I looked crazy**. But something that I find really funny now is that he's actually a golfer - he plays golf in high school and he's actually pretty good but **I'm kind of proud** of my golfing drawing.

Another really, like, **troubling memory** that I have from a kid was not actually getting hurt, but every year I would have to go to the hospital because my, like, whenever I would go to the bathroom it wouldn't all work and go back up into my kidney, so they had to hook a tube up to my bladder through something I won't mention and **that was really traumatizing** and **I'm still not very good** at being in hospitals, and some days I still have flashbacks and it's just not **it's not a happy memory**.

But enough with the sadness - let's get on to - my little brother was born. And I was about eight I believe, when he was born, and again, I wanted a sister. When Carter was born, I wanted a sister and then when Calvin was born, me and my brother argued if it would be boy or girl and then it was a boy, so **I was kind of sad**, **but I was also excited** to have a little brother, again, and just kind of be around a baby because I had never really been around babies before. This is a picture we took of **me gloating that I got to hold Carter** and **I'm really happy**. So, around this time, I started going into the woods behind our house and climbing trees around, and **I fell in love**. **I can't even explain how much I loved** to go outside climb a tree, find a new tree to climb and just kind of find the challenge of how far I can go in that tree. And **I still enjoy it** to this day, you guys, and I'm almost 20.

So this whole time I was in school, I went to a private school and we had to wear a dress code, but in eighth grade, I decided to switch to a junior and senior joined high school, so **I met so many new people and it was one of the best decisions I've ever made because I had so many friends**. And then I got into art class and it completely changed my life. **I always knew I wanted to be an artist and do something with art**, but I never knew, like, what was going to happen or how I was going to do that. And then I got into art class and **me and the teacher hit it off right away**. **We immediately bonded**, and we actually have the same name which was really cool, and **it just made me felt, feel, extra special**, but **she immediately took a liking to me and really challenged me to make myself a better artist**, so **I really do appreciate how hard she pushed me**. **I didn't appreciate it at the time**, but every time we had something in common, we'd say "It's a Leah thing". But yeah, **I really love art so much**.

So freshman year, **I got to know my best friends who are still my best friends to this day**, and **I actually drew one too many heads**, which I'll erase, but there's both Ks, there's a B, there's an A and there's a J and **they are the best friends I could ever, ever ask for**. I seriously - I don't even know what I would do without them, but they made high school, like, I never had a problem with high school - I was never bullied, I never had a problem not having friends because **they were the best friends ever**. And **I totally spelled sophomore wrong**, but I, I'll fix it later, but the reason **I'm unhappy** here is I actually had a boyfriend for about four, not even four, months and he broke up with me in a text message. It wasn't even the breaking up with me **that made me upset**. It was breaking up in a text - he couldn't even do it to my face, and that was really a turning point in my life, because I had never had a boyfriend before, so I didn't know how to, really, to act and then for him to do that, it really made me open my eyes and, seriously guys, never, never send a text to breakup. **That's one of the lowest things ever**. **I actually learned a lot about who I am as a person and just what I want for my life**, so, I guess, I kind of **thank you for that**. We're not friends to this day, just because, it, it didn't end well. **I was not happy**, but I never cried when he broke up with me. **I was never like real depressed or anything - actually gained confidence**, so in a way, **I'm kind of glad**, and yeah, **I found I had a newfound respect for myself**.

So, junior year was pretty uneventful - nothing too serious. The only thing that actually happened was I went to, after prom, I didn't even go to prom - I just went to after prom, and I won the iPad, **which was really cool**. **The entire gym erupted in cheers which was pretty cool**, but I was completely in shock. **Senior year was phenomenal**. My friends and I got to go to Disney World for Spring Break with the band and my friends were in art club and they were cheerleaders and they were also in band, so it was **a huge group of friends that we all got to go together, and it was just one of the best experiences of my life**, but B didn't get to come **which was really sad**. But, going to Disneyworld **was amazing**, because **we didn't have any, basically like, parental people telling us where to go and what to do, so it was kind of like our first independent thing to do**, so **that was pretty cool**. I also got my driver's license. Yes, I got it at 18. **I do not like to drive** unless I have to. **I also got accepted into my dream college**. I had been wanting to go to this college since probably sixth grade, and I got accepted and **I was just overjoyed**, and I also graduated high school.

So, about a month into my college career, **I finally got the courage to put up a YouTube video** and **I fell in love**. I really **did**. People started to like my videos and subscribe, and **I actually gained a lot of confidence** by doing this and **I'm so glad that I decided to**, because **I am completely comfortable with where I am in life**, and I don't know. **Just, like, your nice comments and everything you guys have said is so sweet** and **I am having just so much fun**, like, building up my channel and experimenting and **I'm excited for what the future will bring**. So, **thank you guys for watching** and if you would like to, you can click the thumbs up and subscribe - if you want, no pressure. I also have a Twitter if you would like to see that. It's twitter.com/littleleahlouu. And **I totally wrote this, I, upside-down**, but **I love you guys**. **You are so sweet and so supportive**, and I don't even know how to explain how much I love you guys but have a great day and I'll talk to you guys later. Bye!

2015

FDML #46

Hey guys! This is Amy Lee33 and welcome to draw my life. I was born in the summer of 1987. My father divorced my mother when I was still very young, leaving my mother, my two older brothers and myself alone. I was basically a happy little kid. I was totally obsessed with the animals in nature. When I got a little older, my mum met a new guy who moved into the family and I didn't like him from the first moment I saw him. My instincts were right. During my childhood, I was a victim of severe abuse. My happiness faded and I lived in constant fear of him. He made my life a nightmare and my childhood was stolen. I'd use my imagination to escape the fear, lose myself in stories.

Although not all of my childhood is bad. My mother tried her best to give my brothers and I a happy life. The older I got, the worse my behaviour got. I started to misbehave in school and getting into a lot of trouble, constantly having detentions. I was basically a wild child. When I reached high school, I was bullied by all of my classmates. I was always the odd kid out, listening to heavy metal music, skateboarding. I wasn't the same as the other kids in the school and I found solace in music and writing stories. After years of terrible abuse, I managed to stand up to the evil man. Something I'll never forget. After that, I knew I'd never let anyone hurt me that way ever again, and he finally left my family. I suffered of behavioural problems and depression in school and I was diagnosed with ADHD and put on medication to try to calm me down.

When I left high school, I went to college to study law and psychology, but I just couldn't cope, and I decided to leave. Things improved when I got my horse Blue and I love being in the horsey community, where I could go and ride every day forgetting all about the problems in my life. I started to gain confidence and I decided to work with kids who'd suffered with the same kind of problems that I went through. Things in my life greatly improved and I was getting happy.

Although, all this changed when I suffered with an illness which forced me to stop work for three years. I was very sick, and it took me years to recover. Four years ago, my niece made me download a game called Minecraft. I saw it looked rubbish, but soon I was addicted, watching YouTube videos to gain inspiration and that is when I found Stumpy and Squid. Contacting them, we played together and became best friends. They encouraged me to try making my own videos which I did. However, I was so nervous. I soon developed a love of recording and learned many new skills that I never thought I could, such as editing and special effects. My YouTube channel exploded, and so did my confidence and self-belief. I wanted to make sure I'd be a good role model for the kids watching my videos, so I'd regularly promote love, peace and kindness. I made the most wonderful friends I've ever had in my life on YouTube. And with my newfound confidence, I was able to defeat fear that held me back in my past. I decided to do my very best to achieve all my dreams. My biggest dream of all came in 2016 when I published my very first book, The Magical World of Amy Lee, from using reading to escape my misery as a child to now being able to share my stories with the world that really is my biggest accomplishment. So, I've now hit 1 million subscribers and I want to thank every single one of you for sticking with me on my journey. I'm forever grateful to have you all in my life, and I love you all with all of my heart. Thanks again guys. Goodbye!

680

#### FDML #47

My name is Shannon Harris and today I'm going to be doing the draw my life tag, so I'll be starting from the beginning. Here is me, here's my dad, he had glasses and black, thick curly hair, and here's my mum, she's just got regular lady hair, and then here's me as a little baby wrapped up and I had red hair when I was born. Everyone was kind of shocked.

When I was really young, my mum and my dad broke up and I never really understood why. I was very upset about it and eventually my mum and dad just decided that they could still be friends, just for the sake of me. I only had a small family and I was very close with everyone, apart from my cousins. I am an only child, so I used to always get really excited when my cousins came over and want to play with them, but I was the young one and they never really wanted to play with me.

I'm not sure why, but I was always a very shy person and I still am. Everyone at school used to hang out and play together and I was always kind of the outcast girl that just never really knew how to make friends, so eventually I just kind of went over and tagged along and people just kind of thought I was really weird. I think, because I was so shy and making it really easy target for other girls to bully me, and because I was so young, it just made me even more shy and even less able to go out and make friends. If you can't tell what this is, it's a stage at school. I remember joining in with a whole bunch of other girls and doing Stop Right Now by the Spice Girls, like performing it. Everyone else kind of thought I was just tagging along because I wasn't really invited to do it, but I just did it anyway. I had so much fun. I used to love performing and singing. During that time though I did make a really, really good friend, someone who actually accepted me and didn't tease me about everything. And soon after that, my mum announced to me that I was going to go to a new school. I was really not happy - I didn't want to go through the whole process of trying to make new friends and fit in again.

As angry as I was, I still loved my mum though. I remember when I was a little girl, when she went to work, I used to climb up on the bath and get into the top cupboard in the bathroom, put on her makeup. And I would always end up looking something like this. I used to put bright red lipstick and bright red eyeshadow all over my face, and my mum was not impressed in the slightest. And so, I begin my new school again and the cycle happened again. It was pretty hard, but I was kind of expecting it. What I wasn't expecting was another girl coming up to me asking to be my friend, and that was really nice. Okay, so this is a hand by the way. We were really good friends for a while but she was actually a little bit weird, and one day in class she stabbed my hand with a pen and I bled, and everyone was kind of like, "What the hell?"

Started making friends. I just kind of started tagging along with people again, started getting along with them and it was really nice. I was living a really normal childhood until my mum said, "Shannon, we're going to Korea" and I was like, "What's Korea?" I had no idea what Korea was. I swear, I used to be a bit of a chronic liar when I was a young kid. I remember trying to be real cool when pretending like I could speak Korean to everyone in my class so that they would think I was cool.

So not long after that, we boarded a flight, and here I am drawing the world - I'm so good at geography - but we left and we flew over to Korea and it was really, really scary. I kind of refused to do any schoolwork. I was doing correspondence, so home-schooling. I kind of just made best friends with neopets online and learned how computers and the internet worked. After about a year, I went back to New Zealand to live with my dad while my mum stayed in Korea for a little bit longer. And I thought it was the best thing ever - me and dad used to just cook nuggets for dinner and have lots of fun. I was really happy because I got to go back to my old school and one of my friends from back when I was a young kid, her name was Chelsea, she was actually in my class. Life was really good until I hit intermediate and my best friend Chelsea actually got put in a different class to me. And again, I had no friends.

I used to be very, very insecure because all of the boys in my class used to call me names and say I was really unattractive and, of course, while you're going through puberty, that kind of thing really upsets you a lot. When I think back on it, I think this is just absolutely hilarious. I remember for about a year I knew I needed glasses. Everything was so blurry, but I refused to tell anyone because I thought that my parents would make me get glasses and I was, like, mortified of the fact that I was going to get called four-eyes and other nicknames such as that. My dad completely understood where I was coming from and he was like, "You know what Shannon? You can get some contact lenses". I was so happy. I remember being real stoked and the holidays right before high school I realised what tinted moisturizer was. I used to plaster it on my face until I was orange so you couldn't see any of my freckles and I used to wear bright blue mascara. Over that summer, my makeup skills progressively got better and better, and, for once in my life, people actually started noticing me and I felt a lot better about myself. I finally had the confidence to speak up and chat to new people, and I found a guy that I really liked to move in together for four or, was it five years? I'm so bad. I cannot remember. Around this time, I also learned how to make websites and how to work Photoshop and other things like that. I found a whole lot of new hobbies and for once in my life, I had a ton of friends - I was really happy. I had a boyfriend. But that was the trouble, I started to get really hung up on my boyfriend and lost the friends I made.

Now we progress to the end of high school, and in the last couple of years of high school, it was the best time of my life. I met my best friend who's still my best friend, Kelly. She's so tall so I drew myself on a little brick wall because I'm short. And we kind of bonded over our love of photography. We already knew each other from class, but we became really, really good friends in our photography class. I'm going to backtrack a tiny little bit. I remember from third form till about fifth or sixth form, everyone used to kind of think I was that weird girl that dressed up for school. I used to wear a lot of makeup, just because I knew it made me feel better about myself, and that's all I cared about at the time. I'd been so sick of people dissing me for the way I looked that I just decided to do makeup and not worry about it anymore and everyone else kind of didn't like me because they thought I was really strange and really vain and up myself. By the end of it, I didn't really care what anyone else thought. I had my best friend Kelly and I had confidence now because I really felt great about the way I looked. And I was really happy.

Near the end of high school, I found this thing called YouTube, and I had no idea that there were all these girls making makeup videos. Makeup became a huge hobby of mine. I no longer used it to cover myself and hide the real me, if you want to call it that. I just decided, you know, I really love makeup. This is something that I just really enjoy doing. I would search and search and search and I could never find anyone that was from New Zealand that did these makeup videos, so I decided that I would try it out myself. In the back of my head I thought, you know, gosh, people are going to give me so much crap for this, but it was just a true passion of mine, so I decided to give it a go. It turns out it was the best thing I have ever done. I made so many friends and my viewers just gave me so much more confidence. It really helped me feel a lot better about myself. None of the friends I had at high school were really into makeup, so I was just really stoked to be able to have a community online where so many people could just relate to me and I could relate to others, and we could all just support each other.

Once high school finished, life was even better. Me and Kelly both went to join BAVI - I'll just shorten my legs a bit - and we both took photography and design and just heaps of stuff that we're really good at. We finally thought that we had found out calling in life and we finally thought we'd found our career path, but halfway through the second

year I just knew it wasn't for me. I was having anxiety attacks, depression, and I was just really upset all the time. So, because I was making a little bit of money off YouTube, and because I knew it made me so happy, I decided to leave BAVI and continue with YouTube full-time.

And for me this was the best decision I've ever made in my entire life. I am so happy, I've made so many friends with other YouTubers and with my viewers, and I'm just at total bliss at the moment with myself. I also have found an amazing guy who is so supportive of my YouTube and just thinks that it is the coolest thing ever, and he invited me to move up to Auckland with him, and I was really excited to do that. Zeus is like our fur baby. Hamish loves him just as much as I do so we're really excited that we could bring him up here with us. Once I got up to Auckland, I finally released my makeup brush brand which I'd been thinking about doing for a long, long time. The whole YouTube experience has been the best thing ever. I'm so happy I'm living up here in Auckland, I absolutely love it, but the only part I miss about my old life is having Kelly right there with me. Even though we don't talk all the time, as soon as we do catch up, it's like we've never been apart. So, from the bottom of my heart, I just want to say thank you so much for being there with me for this entire experience. This video is a little bit of a downer and I didn't really want it to come out that way, but I just wanted to let you know that I really do love you and you have all changed my life for the better, and I'm just so thankful for everything. Thank you for giving me the confidence I've always wanted and thank you so much for helping me make my dreams come true.

2071

#### FDML #48

Hey everyone! Liz here. So today I'm going to be drawing my life. This video always intimidated me, but I just decided to go for it, so there's me becoming a teen mum, and you'll notice throughout the video that I am not the best at drawing, so please excuse it.

So, it all started on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1994, so that makes me 22 years old today. I was born in California, Southern California to be exact, and I was also born at Loma Linda hospital. Actually, really nice hospital - my niece was actually born there too, so I think that's kind of cute. So, this is baby me guys. I actually don't have any pictures of myself as a baby at all, so I have no idea how I looked. My sister tells me I had dark hair and I'm the last out of five kids and also my dad wanted an abortion with me and my brother and the funny thing, we came out looking exactly like him. And I had a big family - there's my dad, my mum, my mum had really short curly hair, there's my brother Nick, now I'm drawing my sister Eileen, had really curly hair like my mum, that's my sister Ashley, she had straight hair like me and my dad, my brother Jacob and myself. So, my mum had us all back to back, as you can tell. We were all so close in age, we were all so close and I love that about our family.

We lived in a four-bedroom apartment when I was really young. My dad was always drinking. He was a good man, but he always had this horrible habit of drinking and used to get really violent with my mum, so my mum was just always, like, really sad and not really happy in her relationship. So, what I'm about to tell you guys I had no idea that it happened. My sister told me this about a week ago and I'm like, "Oh my gosh, really?" but apparently, when I was super young, my dad was talking to his sister and he found out that he had another daughter and he was like, "Really?" So, he packed up and left my mum with her five kids and he left us all. It was so bad when I heard. I was like "Wow, how could my dad do that?" So, he was leaving us apparently. My mum was so sad, and I can't even imagine. She was a young mum too. He, she had my brother at 16 years old, so she had to raise five kids all by herself. And my sister actually told me this next part. She used to remember my mum crying at night and, like, she used to ask my mum what's wrong. She used to lie and say that her stomach's hurting, but my sister was like a smart child, so she knew that my mum was sad because my dad had left.

But one year later, my dad came back and tried to beg for my mum back, but my mum wasn't having it. She was just like, "Nope, I'm never getting back with you", and she literally never got back with him. I remember throughout my childhood, like, I would always like wish, like, every birthday that my parents would get back together but they never did, and I can see why, and I don't blame my mum. So, my mum had a new boyfriend and my brothers and sisters, we were separated. Usually it was always my brother Nick, Eileen and Ashley living with my mum and most of my life I lived with my dad and my brother Jacob.

So, that's me. I am a little nerd. About, like, third grade or fourth grade here. I had really short hair. My parents always loved doing the bob cut on me. I loved Sponge Bob. I was obsessed with Sponge Bob and also Lizzie McGuire - that was my favourite show. So, in the third grade I lived with my mum but then decided to live with my dad in the fourth. I was actually really excited because I loved the city he lived in, which was Murrieta. So surprisingly enough, I made a friend right away. Her name was Tori, but Tori always used to talk about this girl named Lupita, not very nice things, so funny enough, Lupita and I got sat at the same table and we clicked. We became BFFs. And we also made another friend named Alex and we liked to call ourselves the three musketeers.

All right, so the summer after fourth grade I wanted a change, so I decided to grow out my hair and to wear girly clothes like skirts and stuff, and I remember being so excited to start the fifth grade because I had my two best friends with me,

but all the excitement came crashing down because girls would hate me for the stuff I would wear and call me nasty names. I remember this day at lunch this boy came up to me and told me I was going to get jumped after school. My stomach dropped. I felt so sick and I immediately went to go talk to my friend Lupita and she had the great idea of just going and telling them why they didn't like me and sure enough we did, and they could even tell me why they didn't like me. I just remember that we were okay after that and actually became friends with some of them, so it all kind of had a happy ending.

All right, so now that fifth grade was done and over with, it was time for middle school. I remember being so excited to start middle school because my brother would be 8<sup>th</sup> grader while I was going to be a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, so I just thought my brother was really cool and I don't know, I was just so excited to start school with him and bug him and all that stuff. So middle school was probably like the best memories I had. I had adventures, new friends and my first boyfriend. I was just really excited, but there was a lot of things going on in my house. My dad had this really bad problem at spending all his money on alcohol and he wouldn't have enough money to pay the rent, so we had to move around a lot. Thankfully, it was in the same city though, so I could attend the same school, but it was still really hard just to pack up and leave, pack up and leave like every three months it felt like. And another big thing I was going through, my dad would hardly ever feed me - it was just like once a day. He would have no food in the house, nothing, so I was always hungry and always thirsty, and just all, all that. I didn't really know how to tell anybody so I kind of just kept all that stuff to myself because I kind of felt like it was embarrassing, just because no kids I knew were going through this, so I just kind of got tired of that and decided to say "peace out" to my dad and go live with my mum. I was actually really excited to live with her because I hadn't lived with her in a while. So, at this time my mum was living in this, like, nice old house, but it wasn't in the best neighbourhood, so I kind of just didn't like going outside. So, at this time I kind of felt like my mum was acting different. She was cheating on the boyfriend that she had with another guy and she used to take me in a car with her just to see this guy and I would be left in the car alone while she would just be, like, kissing him and, I just really, really didn't like it and this led me up to, like, my depression and just not feeling good and just not being happy. So, since my mum didn't live in a nicest neighbourhood, I had to go to not a nice school. Just the school was probably the ghetto school I've ever been to, you know, I'm not trying to be all, like, you know, nose up in the air, but I just felt really out of place, like the kids were a lot different than I was and I remember just hating that school so much. I would fake sick just to not be there. Since I didn't have any friends at school and my sisters were already out of the house, I felt so alone. I just felt like I didn't matter, felt like, since I'm the last, like, last child, no one really cared about me, and they kind of just like "Oh she's already older, like who cares about Elizabeth?" And this kind of led me up to like my, my dark stages in my life. I used to cut myself just to, I don't know why I did, I just did it just to feel something and I regret doing that, because I can never think of my son or daughter doing that to themselves. I never want that to happen to them.

So that depression lasted for a while but then I eventually decided to move back with my dad. I was actually really excited because I would see my old friends again and just hang out with them and have friends, and just, I don't know, just excited to be in high school, in my old school, and have my old friends back. But even having my old friends back didn't help. My dad was still an alcoholic. He would spend all the money on beer and just would not pay the rent and we would get evicted and evicted and evicted. And my stepmum and my dad finally broke up after like 11 years together. They were together for a long time and Sam was really close to me. It was really sad that she left, and I feel like right after she left, like, my dad just went downhill after that. And then it gets even worse. My dad decided to move back to Riverside and I went back with my mum.

My mum was in a small little studio - she lost her house. The studio was so small, my mum was living there with her boyfriend. My brother, me, like, a lot of people in one room and I just felt so isolated. I didn't like it. My mum was also using drugs at this time. She used to get high in the bathroom and she'd act like I didn't know but I did. That was just really hard for me, and to top it off, my mum would just leave me while she took off with her boyfriend and I wasn't even at school or anything, so it was just really isolating, really hard. So, I eventually went to go move back with my dad, and that was probably even worse. He had a smaller place than my mum. He was living in the back of someone's house in like a little, little thing that I couldn't even describe it. But he had to go to work and he would literally leave me there with no food - nothing at all. I wouldn't eat until like 4:00 or 5:00 in the afternoon when he got home from work and it would be like burgers and fries or pizza or something like that. I wasn't attending school again. My little escape was my sister - thankfully she came, and she picked me up sometimes with her and her friend. We would, like, hang out and have fun and I was just so thankful that she did that, because I don't know what I would do without her because she helped me a lot.

So eventually, my dad got a bigger house which I was really excited and thankful for, but I was still dealing with the same problems, but I was really happy that we at least had a bigger house and I also started attending high school. I made one friend - her name was Sarah. She was really sweet and down-to-earth and I'm so happy I met her. Even though we had a bigger house, my dad would just stop buying me, like, shampoo, no food again and I just got over it. I got over it. 15 at the time, I had my purse and I started to shoplift, which, not proud of, but it kept me from starving sometimes. I would steal, like, the sandwiches from the deli market and just chips and water and stuff like that, so I guess that's how I would survive. I tried getting a job, but you need to be 16 and have a work permit. I was 15 and to

have a work permit, you need to get good grades and you can just imagine how my grades were since I was out of school for so long.

So, around this time, me and my sister Ashley were getting really close. I felt so happy because she was always kind of there for me and she started to kind of live there too. She had a boyfriend at the time, so they kind of would just hang out at my dad's house and I wouldn't be alone, so I was really grateful about that. So, Ashley is the one that introduced me to the club Gotham. Gotham is basically like a club for teenagers and like eighteen-year-olds, 20-year-olds and stuff like that, and one day I seen my old friend Giselle. She was actually my brother's ex-girlfriend and she was with Eric and as you guys know, Eric is my husband, so that's how we met. We met through a mutual friend at a club, unfortunately. So, Giselle, Eric, Ashley and I got really close. We were hanging out, like, every weekend and Eric and I got really close. We became friends, so yeah, Eric and I would just drive around. He had a car, so we kind of just like drove around. I was really happy because I had like a best friend and I was just so happy to have him in my life at this particular time because I was going through so much. But even having my best friend, I was going through a lot at home. My dad just went up and left. He took everything in the house except my room and he left me there. And that was really hard. I remember just like crying, feeling so alone, like what do you do? I am 15, my dad left me in this house all alone, everything was gone except for my room, just really ugly feeling, and I called my mum. And my mum picked me up. My mum was barely having anywhere to live. We went in, like, a really tiny trailer. I only had a bed and barely any room to walk, but thankfully I didn't have to be there a lot because Eric and I would hang out every day, and we would just be driving and doing fun things, and, ah, I'm just so grateful that I met him at such a perfect time.

But I just wanted to say even if I didn't meet him, my life would still be a lot different from that time of my life. So I just don't want you guys to think, oh, just because of him, because it's not - it's because of the person I am, and it just so happens that Eric came into my life at this just perfect time. So, we weren't living in that trailer for a long time. I think it was just for maybe a couple days or a week, I'm not sure, but I know eventually we went to go live with my grandma. And me and my grandma aren't close at all, my mum wasn't close with her at all growing up, so I didn't really know her, so it kind of felt really uncomfortable being there, but I was just happy. I was at kind of a stable place, so I was living with my grandma at the time, and I also started school again. And this time was actually really nice. I started continuation school. I met two friends - one was Gummy Bear and one is Jasmine, and it just felt so nice to have, like, a normal life for once, and I just stopped moving constantly and I was just living with my grandma and we stayed put for a while, so I really liked that.

But eventually, Eric and I fell in love. We hung out every day, so he needed to go to college and we decided to move to Northern California and he went to college out there, and it was just so exciting because we had our first apartment together and we had our first cat and I had a job at Taco Bell, not the best job at all, but after that, I got a job at Target which was, like, really, really cool and while we were working, we were planning our wedding as well because he proposed, and we decided to get married. And we did - we got married on December 7<sup>th</sup>, it was really nice, and I loved every minute of it and one month later exactly guys, I think, we found out we were pregnant. January 8<sup>th</sup>, which is crazy. We found out we were pregnant with Ethan and couldn't be happier. I remember telling myself that I was going to be the best mum I could possibly be. I was never going to be the type of parents that my parents were to me. I was never going to let my children go through anything I went through. But I am a strong person now. Eric graduated two years later, and he got a job in Colorado, so we moved to Colorado and we had Emma and Ethan. We're so excited because we're in our very first home and honestly, I'm just so grateful to have my little family and to not be in the situations I was while I was a child, basically. And I feel like everything happens for a reason. A lot of bad things happened in my life but that's not going to define me. I know I'm not the best mum, but I know I will never be like my parents were to me - yeah.

So, that's it for my life. You guys know the rest since I do my videos, but I just wanted to let you guys know where I came from. I came from a broken home, still picking up the pieces. So yeah, I hope this video shows you guys you can come from nothing to something, because I've grown so much, not just like material-wise - I've grown so much as a woman and a mum and everything. Eric too. He was a little 21-year-old when I met him or 20 years old, and we've grown so much. And I'm sorry this video was kind of sad. I know my life was not the best growing up, but I just wanted to let you guys know, like, my life was never perfect. Never will be. But I am grateful for the life I live, and yeah, that's it. Talk to you guys in the next one. Bye!

3298

#### FDML #49

Hey guys! It's Ayesha Curry and this is my draw my life. So, let's take it back to where it all started - in the 80s, baby. My mum and dad, they met at a nightclub, fell madly in love and my dad was actually a musician and my mum was a hair stylist. Super cool, super trendy. Yeah! So out of this whirlwind relationship came me in 1989. Just, just hit that eighties babies! I almost missed it by a year. Aww, so my dad had two beautiful daughters before he met my mum - Maria and Janiece, they are my older sisters and I have two younger brothers, Jazz and Chad, although they are much,

much taller than me, as not depicted in that photo. Little thing to note is that I'm actually Canadian. I was born in Canada and I lived there until I was 14 years old, hence why I like to call myself **a passionate dual citizen**.

So, at the age of 14, I moved to the good old state of North Carolina, Charlotte, to be exact. In my family's 96 Astro van. This is not a joke. It was burgundy. I love to call North Carolina the land of sweet tea and biscuits. Never had either until I moved to that great state. North Carolina, come on, take your shirt off, twist it around your head, spin it like a helicopter - you know you know that song. Okay, so, my 13<sup>th</sup> birthday when **I fell in love with food**. Duh! I had the most amazing 13<sup>th</sup> birthday party. **My parents were so nice** to go to the grocery store and get us everything you could think of, lay it out on the table and let us have at it. It was definitely Chopped before its time.

Fast forward to high school in the United States at 14 years old. This was my first experience as an American in America, and let's say, **on top of all of the angst of being in high school**, **I did not have the best experience**. I tried out for cheerleading one time and **I knew that I just had to be a cheerleader** because it was the thing to do, you know, being in the south. So, they said "Show school spirit" and **I decided to do so by covering my shoes in fake panther fur and writing all over my body with the school logos, and it was not cool, and needless to say, I did not make the team**. But, fear not, God had other plans for me, **thank the Lord**.

So, I had decent grades. I was also a thespian, so **I loved the theatre**, and I even did a two woman play one time called Graceland. **I also ran track and field and I loved it**. Little known fact - my nickname was Big A and I threw shot put and discus. Oh yeah! So, my family and I quickly found a church home moving to North Carolina, and **that was my safe haven**. **I loved going to church and I especially loved going to Wednesday night youth group**. Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the door and there's all the people. And it's not because of this, but it just so happens that at that youth group, I met a handsome young man who I barely talked to at the time, but who would end up being my husband many, many years later, little did I know. Look at that hot stick figure!

So, I graduated high school a year early and ended up **moving to LA to pursue my acting dreams**. I hopped off the plane at LAX - oh wow, throwback. So, six months later, **great success** - I booked a show filming back in North Carolina oddly enough called Whitaker Bay, and I did a whole season of the show and I played a girl named Keeley, and I was the bad girl of the school. So shortly after, Stephan actually came to visit and he was in college, and I was still acting. And he facebooked me to hang out. Oddly enough, our first date consisted of going to take a walk on Hollywood Boulevard to look at those handprints and stars. We went to the wax museum and even stopped to get some yummy chai tea lattes. August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 is the day he made it official, and we were married on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. It was, it was **just meant to be**. We were both on a horse at the ripe age of four and five - **doesn't get any better than that. Marriage is what brings us together today. Marriage**.

So, after marrying Stephan, I moved to San Francisco to live with him because he was playing for the Golden State Warriors, a little-known basketball team at the time and now everybody seems to know who they are. So, October 2011, three months into our marriage, what do I find out? I am pregnant with our first daughter and 40 weeks later, enter Riley Elizabeth Curry, **my bundle of joy** - isn't she cute? So, shortly after having my daughter, I tried to figure out what the heck it was I wanted to do for work and for my passions, and it was staring me right in my face the whole time - **I loved food and I loved my family**, and so my husband actually suggested that I start a blog, until I did. And in comes Little Lights of Mine. I then began to notice that people were really gravitating towards the food. It's almost like a light bulb went off. No pun intended. Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding! This would be a perfect place for me to share all of the people, places and things that brought joy into my life. Next, **I took it to the next level, starting my YouTube channel to go along with the blog and that's where I met all of you lovely people and it went 0-200 real quick, because I earned my silver play button**.

So then, a couple years later, almost three to be exact, the stork brought us another baby girl - Ryan Carson Curry, **my tiny little bundle of joy**. Just when I thought our family couldn't get any better, it did, and **she is the most amazing little girl**. And we added a dog named Reza. While Ryan was a baby, I started writing my first cookbook, The Seasoned Life. **It quickly became a New York Times bestseller which was the goal that I set out for myself and I felt extremely blessed and honoured** to be able to do so. **I can't wait to pass this book down to my girls**. So, fast-forward a couple months later, I pitched a show to the Food Network, and they liked it! So, I had my first and second season of my show Ayesha's Home Kitchen on Food Network and **I got to share little bits and pieces of my family and all of my favourite recipes**. In comes Homemade. **I wanted to make recipes easy and accessible** for people to be able to cook with each other at home and to cook with your kids and have it easy and pre-measured so that we don't lose that tradition of gathering around the table and eating together and talking to each other and building those relationships. And the story continues.

Okay guys, so here's the deal. We filmed this draw my life early on in the year and so much has happened since then, so I figured I'd just update you guys like this. Since then, life has been a whirlwind. **I started my first restaurant, International Smoke**. It started out as a pop-up and now it's a full-blown restaurant. I can't believe it. My location in Hawaii has opened, here in San Francisco, and then soon, in the spring, in Los Angeles at the top of the Beverly Centre. **I'm super excited**. I also had my cookware line launched which exclusively launched first at Target and will be at retailers nationwide by the new year. **I can't believe it. That project has truly been a dream come true. worked on**



everything from the shape of the handles, to the size of the pot, to the functionality of all the products. It's just been amazing. Just absolutely incredible - I can't even believe it. And then, Covergirl! Feels weird even saying it but I'm a new Covergirl and I just so happened to be one of the first Covergirls that didn't traditionally come from an entertainment, acting or modelling background, so that was cool and exciting. Makes me proud as a mum to be able to share that with my girls and the whole fact that the brand is doing a completely new ethos and sending a completely different message of women empowerment makes me so happy to be a part of it. And then, The Great American Baking Show, which I'm super excited to be a part of. It's this cool show where people compete to have the title of the best amateur baker in the country. I was so lucky to become the new host of the show alongside my wonderful co-host Spice, and together, we have a blast. We get to do silly things. I really get to step outside of my comfort zone with hosting this show and I'm super excited for you guys to see a little silly side of me.

Which leads me to Little Lights of Mine. I'm sure you guys have been wondering where the heck has this girl been? Why haven't we seen any content from Little Lights of Mine? And that is because dun dun dun, Little Lights of Mine is transforming into something bigger than I could have imagined and we are going with the new name Go Inspo. I know, you're like Go Inspo? So, here's the cool part - Go Inspo is not going to be just me. It's going to be a community of contributors talking about themselves, their stories and the meaning behind all of this - everything that we're interested from arts to fashion to food fitness - you name it, we've got it. It's a place where we're constantly giving you guys information and stories about everything that we love and everything that inspires us, so it's not going to be just me. It's going to be a whole family of people giving you guys information on the daily and telling our personal stories. I think you're going to love it, and I'm so excited to be able to continue Little Lights of Mine and make it bigger and better than ever with Go Inspo. Of course, we're not totally gonna sweep away Little Lights of Mine. We're gonna use Little Lights as a hub to be able to give back so this is going to become the charitable portion and just a place where we'll be able to give back to our communities in big and small ways. You guys are going to love it and I'm just so excited for how this year has gone and what's to come for this new year coming up. I think, I think you guys are going to be really, really inspired and excited with everything that we have to offer. So, with that, I mean, the story still continues - growing, building, learning new things every single day, but I hope you guys have enjoyed my draw my life so far. I'm sure in the future we'll have to do another one and I'll give you guys an update, but thanks for always following along and being a part of my life. I can't thank you guys enough and I will talk to you soon.

1980

#### FDML #50

So, I attempted to draw my life. Believe it or not, but LPS and YouTube have made such a big impact on my life and I want to tell you about it. I'm just going to warn you that there is content in this video that younger viewers might not be able to handle, so watch with your own risk.

I was around four or five years old when my mum bought me my first few sets of LPS. In elementary school, I would bring my favourite ones in a cute little drawstring bag and take it to play with my friends during recess. In the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, I made a YouTube channel and filmed my LPS with a crappy flip camera. I made LPS videos, but they were pretty sucky - my videos had no background music, terrible editing, and I sounded like a chipmunk. Eventually, I grew out of LPS and gave them all away. In the seventh grade, the school gave us a lesson on how everyone has a digital footprint, meaning what you post online will be online forever. At this point, I remembered about the channel that I made, and as soon as I got home, I signed into my YouTube channel and I was going to delete it, but to my surprise, YouTube wanted to offer me a partnership. This meant that they would pay me to make videos, so I watched a bunch of LPS videos and became interested with LPS again. I began to film videos with my iPad. My subscriber count skyrocketed from a hundred subscribers to a thousand, to over 10,000. I used my earnings to buy a new camera, studio lights and my very own computer to start editing with.

By the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, things went downhill. I had four best friends. We were pretty close, or so I thought we were. One of them found out about my YouTube channel and told the rest of our little group. Another one of them posted about it all over social media. Her intent was to humiliate me, and it worked. Soon, I received hate and death threats from people I didn't know, people who I thought were my friends and from anonymous people. I received some pretty nasty messages such as the ones here, and there were people who were brave enough to not be so anonymous. They posted videos on social media of themselves mocking my LPS videos and they laughed, insulted me and everyone in the comments would laugh and insult me too. Soon, I began to lose my friends, one by one, until I had no one.

When everyone found out about my channel, I cried for two days straight until my eyes were burned and swollen. At this point, I became depressed. I stayed in my room, I was too afraid to go to school and I was too scared to even face my computer and look at my YouTube channel. I was ashamed of it. By the ninth grade, I met two new people who I called my best friends. They already knew about my channel and told me that they supported me. I still received hate from people, except they would tell my two best friends instead of me. They would make fun of me in front of them, insult me in front of them, and my friends would run back to tell me. I shrugged it off in front of them, but behind closed doors, I poured my eyes out. I was still depressed and humiliated. By the end of ninth grade, my two best friends

all of a sudden began to avoid me. They would walk the other way when I walked towards them. They didn't respond to my texts either. At this point, I knew that they no longer wanted to be associated with me. To this day, I still don't know why they did that. Maybe it was because they truly didn't support me like they said, or maybe it's because it was too embarrassing to be my friend at the time. This made my depression worse because at this point, I truly had no one. No one to sit with at lunch, no one to talk to, no one to hang out with on the weekends, no one.

Since my depression got worse, I began to do bad things to myself. I would hurt myself, insult myself and keep myself secluded from everyone including my family. I became anti-social. It got so bad that sometimes I would wake up in the middle of the night crying so hard that I couldn't breathe. I felt worthless. I didn't want to live anymore but for some reason, I kept pushing on.

By the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, I walked into school on the very first day with no friends at all. For some odd reason, I had built up the courage to talk to a random boy who was in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade who I knew nothing about, but I thought he was cute. I don't know what built up that courage since I convinced myself that I was worthless and that no one wanted to be my friend, but throughout the school year and throughout 10<sup>th</sup> grade summer, we grew a very close bond. He became my best friend and my boyfriend. He helped me during my depression. On those nights when I would wake up crying, drowning in my own tears, I was still haunted by the torment and the bullying. Because of everything I went through, the four girls exposing me, the cyber bullying and the two friends who all of a sudden started avoiding me, it was, it was hard to open up and to trust people again but when I could completely, completely trust my best friend, my depression washed away.

I was happy. By the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, I walked into school on the first day with only one friend - my best friend. It wasn't until then that I told him the big secret about my YouTube channel and everything that I went through because of it. He told me that he already knew about my YouTube channel and, to be honest, it completely shocked me, but at the same time, it didn't because I knew that everyone knew about it. I just, I just kept trying to convince myself that nobody knew. Anyway, when we talked about my YouTube channel, he told me that he looks up to me - that he wishes that he could do what I could do, and that I'm a strong person. And I agree - I am a strong person. To this day, he helps me build my LPS sets. He supports me and he isn't embarrassed to be my friend. He is the bestest best friend that I ever, ever had. In fact, he is the only true best friend that I've ever had. Oh yeah, I had to show my principal my YouTube channel. I had to show it to him because I wanted to graduate a whole year early and to continue my passion with film and also because my best friend/boyfriend was in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, meaning that once he graduated, he would graduate first. I'd be all alone once I was in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, so I graduated this year - a year early. In the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, I was supposed to graduate with the class of 2017, but because of my great accomplishment with my YouTube channel, I graduated this year with the class of 2016 and with my best friend. The cool thing is that I told some of my teachers about this little channel. They supported me too. One of them talked to me about the cyber bullies, sharing their personal experiences and another one of them offered me an internship that worked with film, so you see, my life with LPS has been so crazy but I don't regret it.

I've learned so many things from it, such as real friends versus fake friends. I would never take it back if I had a chance to. Otherwise, I never would have met my best friend - my number-one fan, my best supporter. Oh, and the next time your parents try to tell you that making YouTube videos with LPS is a waste of time and money, tell them to think again. Thank you, mum, for supporting me all the way through this roller coaster ride, through my journey with LPS and through my journey with depression and had high school drama. I love you. Thank you to my younger sister for helping me come up with skits and ideas, for sticking up for me and for being such a great supporter. I love you. Thank you to my best friend for staying true, for supporting me, helping me build props and for accepting me for how I truly am. I love you. And thank you guys for continuing to support my LPS channel. Without you guys, I wouldn't have been able to make it this far. I love you guys so much and thank you for watching and sticking with me throughout the years.

1533

#### FDML #51

So, last week Simon wowed you with his amazing Draw My Life drawing skillz with a z, but as for today, hi, I'm Martina and this is Draw My Life. I came into this world in a very dramatic fashion. My mum almost gave birth to me in our car. My dad, in an attempt to get to the hospital on time, had to drive the wrong way on a one-way street because the May 1<sup>st</sup> May-Day parade was blocking the fastest route. Well, some police officers stopped him, but once they realised what was up, I got a full police escort, baby, through the parade and to the hospital. Aw yeah, to ruining a parade. My mum made it to the hospital, and I was quickly born. My sister, who is almost six years older than me, was super-duper excited to have a baby sister, so, I didn't experience a lot of those door slamming, screaming, girly fights that a lot of sisters talk about growing up. Nope. My sister was a very fun older sister who would dress me up like a doll, and create, like, treasure hunts for me, and even create haunted houses for me and my neighbour Miki to play in! As I got older, she introduced me to some awesome music, and we shared all of our clothing. Well, I started to get too big for her clothing, but she could still take mine. And still does. I'm super lucky to have such an awesome big sister

that was never ashamed to have her little sister hanging around. Go apple, go orange, go banana! So, speaking of my friend Miki, Miki and her family moved from Japan to our little street, when I was really little. We had a neighbourhood of awesome people, and we all hung out together. Miki and I grew up playing together, and without my realising it, she introduced me to Japanese/Korean culture. Her mum would always make us these amazing little rice balls with some magical seasoning that tasted awesome and for every birthday, I'd beg Miki's mum to make them for me. Now that I think about it, it's probably the equivalent of making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and being amazed by it. But hey, this is a new culture to me, okay? Everything about Miki's home seemed magical. The tiny rabbit doll house filled with little human objects, the blue and pink haired twin angel toys, the long-legged cartoon with big, round, puffy, yellow balls on her head, reading comic books backwards: it all just blew my mind.

Every summer, Miki would come back from Japan and bring me something, and soon I got to know these characters better. I fell in love with Sailor Moon, but my other friends at school didn't know what I was talking about. Soon, Sailor Moon, the cartoon, came to Canada on YTV, and I couldn't believe it. I watched every episode and every rerun. I even bought the soundtrack. I was freaking devastated to find out that they weren't going to air the rest of the episodes. I became a kind of Sailor Moon fanatic, using the internet to find anything I could about the series, and I soon discovered that there were entire comic books about her, but they were only in Japanese, and the drawings were so much more beautiful than the TV show. I started to collect Sailor Moon stuff from all over tiny Japanese shops around Toronto, and outside of Toronto. But, from there I discovered more comics and more food and this whole other world existing outside of North American culture.

I tried to meet other people who were also interested in Japanese and Korean things, but I really couldn't find anyone besides Miki. And Miki would tell me all these stories about Japan and karaoke culture, and those rice balls that I loved, and how they are available at any corner store for cheap. I just kept my hobby to myself. I just surfed the internet looking for friends, but there weren't any forums. No Tumblr, no Facebook, nada. Oh, I did have one friend named Tuxedo Mask, on mIRC, who lived in South Carolina. Anyone else remember that? Before Twitter, MSM Messenger, before ICQ, there was mIRC. Ok, sorry, I need to stop, and shake my old cane at you.

The whole point of this long ramble was that there really wasn't anyone to talk to. But, since we started Eat Your Kimchi, I feel like the Nasties are the group of friends I didn't have when I was growing up. Now I found a whole new group of friends from all over the world, who like K-dramas and J-dramas and who understand my Sailor Moon references, and listen to Kpop and read manga and manhwa and dressed up like Sailor Moon for Halloween in high school. No? Maybe that last one was just me. So, besides my fascination with Japanese culture, I did have lots of friends growing up. I was actually a big old tomboy, and I loved playing sports. Because of that, I had lots of boy friends, but not like boyfriends, just like friends as boys. I wasn't really in the "female" category, according to my male friends, with the baggy t-shirts and baggy jean shorts. Thanks, guys. But I had lots of friends due to my joking nature. I really haven't changed that much since grade one. To add to my already overwhelming sex appeal, in grade six, we were all tested for "musical talent" to see who could join music class. I was selected and was super excited to play the drums, or the guitar, or the trumpet, and I was like, "Oh yeah!" But the music teacher asked if anyone could make a sacrifice for just one year and play the baritone, not the baritone sax, one of these. Because if we didn't have a baritone, we wouldn't have a low brass section, and we couldn't join any competitions. So, I volunteered to play what looked to me like a tuba, well it turns out I was forever tricked and stuck with the smexy baritone. Yup, once I entered high school, the music teacher needed a low brass section, and I forever played the baritone. Why are there no tuba players to save me? There is nothing like playing a super sexy baritone in front of the whole high school for every event and holiday. Oh my god, music student, you play that flute/guitar/drum/violin/piano so well! Hey Martina, way to sound like a fart!

Back to sports. By the time I was in high school, I had a nice injury record. I dislocated my shoulder playing pick-up football with my friends, broke my arm and my wrist playing football, and dislocated my knee in karate just by bending down into a low stance. After physiotherapy on the weekends, it got better and I just kept playing sports, continued to break bones and dislocate. But in high school I dislocated my shoulder really, really badly for the second time, so I was sent to the hospital for an MRI to check out if I had some kind of long-term damage. While I was, I was prepping for the MRI, the nurses injected my shoulder with that weird blue dye stuff, and they were watching the overhead on tv. My shoulder felt all weird after the needle so I popped it back into place, something that I normally do, but the nurses looked really shocked. I didn't think anything of it. I had my MRI, which sucks by the way, it's super dry lips and it's really boring, but after I came out, there was a doctor waiting for me. She told me she heard from the nurses I had dislocated my shoulder on camera in a way that wasn't possible without ripping some things. She said looking at my history of injuries, I had a rare disorder call EDS, Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, and I was suffering from Type 3, also known as Hypermobility. In a nutshell, I'm weirdly flexible. For example, my elbows and knees bend back further than most people in a creepy, kind of broken looking way, which is a great topic for parties. I've always had joint pain, and all my joints dislocate very easily, which explained why I dislocated my knee so easily in karate. I still feel the pain other people feel when they dislocate joints, but it happens a lot easier for me. So, one day, I was sent to a joint specialist after I dislocated my jaw, and he apparently didn't see a whole lot of EDS patients, and decided to call the whole office in to look at me! Hey, let's look at the freak show pop her joints out and bend her elbow all grossly. I mean, like, he literally stuck his head out into door and called everyone to see it. So much for doctor patient confidentiality. Since

then, I've gone on to dislocate my kneecap, and jaw, and hips, and shoulders countless amounts of times. I've had friends grab my hand and tug me too hard and pull out my shoulder, I've sat for too long on the airplane flight home and pushed out my hip. I'm like a 90-year-old woman but without the love of prunes and oatmeal cookies, oh wait, I actually really like those things. Knitting? No. Cats? Pies? Tea? I like all of those too. No recovery. The most painful task of my day is definitely sleeping, which probably explains why I don't like going to bed. I have to sleep on a super soft foam topper with an extra soft pillow to keep my jaw from dislocating, and I still wake up with dislocated joints no matter what. I'm like a transformer in the morning but without the cool car transformation, just the sounds. So, after many more injuries, my doctors recommended that I quit sports and just stick to swimming. But, not just swimming, gentle swimming. Oh, man this totally sucks! So even though I look normal on the outside, well, arguably normal, I'm in pain every day all day. I do have quite a high pain tolerance now, but some days, honestly guys, it just really gets me down because there is really nothing I can do about it. I realised a kind of untaught lesson because of all of this. You know, people will tell you not to judge a book by its cover, often meaning that something doesn't look great on the outside, but it could be great on the inside. But, what about someone who looks, just, you know, normal on the outside but is in pain on the inside? You never really hear about that. When you see someone with a cast or a cane, you assume they must be in pain, and maybe you'll be more understanding if they seem like they're down, but, if you see someone who looks seemingly healthy on the outside, sitting beside you in class, you don't ever assume anything is wrong with them. Meanwhile, people are dealing with emotional issues like heartbreak, grief, failure, loneliness, family issues, and various health disorders that can't be physically seen. I guess what I'm trying to say is, just because someone looks normal on the outside, doesn't mean they aren't suffering or enduring pain on the inside, and I think everyone watching now has gone through some kind of private suffering before.

So just when I thought I was injury maxed out, like a cliché TV show moment, it was my very first day driving alone after finally getting my driver's licence. I was hit by a drunk driver when I was stopped at a stop sign. I saw the headlights coming, but I just didn't register that he wouldn't stop. I remember it very clearly, leaning forward to find a tape to change the music - yes, I said a tape. Luckily, I had no airbag in the car or my closeness to the steering wheel would have killed me. I remember the seatbelt snapping really hard against my collarbone and then hitting the back of my headrest really hard. Unluckily, I was so far away from the headrest that I cracked a vertebrae in my neck. I got whiplash, but surprisingly, I didn't feel any pain. I was just really calm. I kind of felt like "Oh my god, this is so typical that this would happen to me. My parents are going to be so upset". I called my parents, and they were really upset that I would joke about something like this, but once I told them I wasn't joking, they called my sister, and they were at the scene in a jiffy. I was totally fine for a while, but then I started to go numb, like half my body started to feel all weird and numb. The ambulance finally came and took me to the hospital, and I got a sexy neck brace. Ah yeah, so KyuHyun and sexy, free, and single. After all the x-rays and tests, a police officer came to interview me and said that the driver that hit me was indeed super-duper drunk, and this was actually his second drunk driving accident. So blah blah blah going to court, blah blah blah problems, blah blah blah, let's all skip that. Now I'm in physiotherapy, again, to ensure that my neck will be able to bend in the future.

After the accident, I had crippling headaches, saw double vision, I had problems focusing in school and I just felt all over crappy. I was really angry that this happened to me. I was angry I had to spend time after school going to the physio clinic. I was angry I had a permanent pinched nerve in my back which caused my back and neck to be on fire. I was angry I had a permanent pinched nerve in my back, which caused my back and neck to be on fire. I just felt really angry and felt like it was so unfair. But then one day I realised, maybe it was important for me to get hit by this drunk driver. What if I wasn't there, would he have gone on to kill someone? And that thought kind of just blew my mind. Maybe, I was really the perfect candidate to stop that drunk driver. Considering I was already in pain every day, what's an additional neck problem? I should really just focus on being happy and realise that I wasn't more seriously injured, you know? I designed a tattoo for my neck, which some of you might have seen; it's there to remind me to forget about the pain, and to focus on something happier. It's kind of a complicated mirror image design, but it says halcyon, which is an old word that means to be happy, carefree, calm, and peaceful. And in the same way, I don't let my pain, whether from the past or present, get in the way of me being happy.

Simon and I have a rule, of 2 good 1 bad, which means every time you have one complaint about your day, you have to mention at least 2 good things. So, looking back on this video, I brought up a lot of bad things, so I want to end this video mentioning those things that are great in my life. My family is awesome. It's a small family, but they are so wonderful. Living overseas reminds you of all the things you took for granted when you lived close to them. I miss laughing with my joker dad, talking over coffee re-fills with my mum, and going on adventures with my sister. I never planned on getting married, so meeting and marrying Simon was a huge and wonderful surprise in my life. He is both my best friend and my husband; he makes me laugh more than anyone else I have ever met, and he is so supportive of everything I do. I love you my snuggliest duck! My little snuggly pom-pom. Everyone starts barfing. What about me, mum? Oh yeah, I love you too, Spudgy. Don't forget about me, mum. And I also love you, Meemers.

The Nasties. I never thought I'd find such a like-minded group of people, but I guess it took starting a website which reached out to people all over the world to find you guys. Your emails and comments and support and fan mail has changed my life in a way you probably didn't realise. As long as our videos keep making you guys laugh and smile, I

hope to keep making them for you. Thanks so much for watching my long draw my life. I hope you didn't fall asleep. I know that Spudgy did. So, if you haven't fallen asleep, you can check out Simon's Draw My Life video from last week, and you can subscribe for more crazy videos, except don't expect any more of these drawing videos because they took forever to do, guys! Like seriously, I popped a hip drawing on the floor for so long. I'm old Martina.

2876

#### FDML #52

It all started when my parents met in the Philippines. Mia, my life-of-the-party, hilarious and charming mother was working as a waitress. My Dad, Willie, was a Marine Corps officer with a moral compass comparable to Super Man. He often described himself as "boring but sturdy". On their first date, she overslept. On their second date, she overslept. So, he bought her a present. An alarm clock. And on their third date, success! Except that midway through the date, my mum farted. And it was in this moment that she knew my father was the one. Because he looked back at her and said: "Did you step on a frog?" They got married and had me, My brother Will, and my sister Kristina.

As a military family, we moved around every 2 to 3 years to new states if not new countries. And when I was 17, Kristina killed herself. My life, really, is a before and after of this pivotal moment. It defines me whether I want it to or not. It's what has made me who I am today. I started doing Stand-Up when I was 19 because it was the only thing that made me laugh. I would commute the 2-hour drive to Los Angeles, hitting open mics and doing shows in laundromats or coffee shops. I finally was able to move to the city when I was 21 and I started doing YouTube. I had a few failed channels and ruined friendships until I found my stride doing advice and story-based videos where I acted out all the parts. I started doing a video a week. And, until now, haven't stopped.

If I had to really draw what my life is, here's what you'd see: me at home, filming videos and working on the computer on set, as a director or an actor. In class. On stage performing improv or stand up. Waiting in the In N' Out Drive Thru more times than I'm proud of. Driving to and from meetings, so many meetings. All the meetings. I go to dinner and a movie with my boyfriend. I go to the gym three times a week. I put off my dentist appointments. I audition. I cuddle with my cats every opportunity I get. I run a business. I hang out with my friends. I binge on all the shows. I get depressed sometimes. You know, I'll lie on the floor or in bed or just stare off into space, in the dark, like a creep. Sometimes I cry in the car for no reason. I'll read an article about the conditions of livestock or the suicide rates of teens and feel like life is hopeless. Sometimes I drink too much, eat too little, stress out over things that I know better than to stress out about. Life so far has been trying to make a name for myself. Pursuing a career and hustling since I was 19. Wondering "how can I be a better person?" Or if there's a difference I can make in the world. Life has been working hard and living fast and honestly, very confusing. It has been realising that my parents are just people. It has been envying everyone who has a sister. It has been defining myself through loss and accomplishments and failure. But I'm still young. Life will keep changing. Illustrating whatever is next.

All I can really say is I am so lucky to do what I do. Age is a privilege that some never get. And I love my life. Even when I'm depressed and I can't get up off the floor. Because there's always a kitty. And did I mention I have 5 kitties? I'm Anna Akana. Stay awesome Gotham.

623

#### FDML #53

My name is Amena and this is my life, or at least parts of it. Once upon a time, there lived a young married couple who resided in Leicester, UK. Two years into their marriage, they had one daughter. When my mum was pregnant with her second child, everyone including her was under the impression that she was going to have a son. After all, what could be more convincing than a bunch of old wives' tales to predict your baby's sex? To my parents' surprise, mum gave birth to a baby girl – me. I don't think my parents ever missed having a son because growing up, I was a tomboy. I'm the second of four girls in our family's Little Women set up – there's Zainab, me, Maimona and Umaima.

I actually have very few early childhood memories. What I do recall is split into two very different parts: one part is filled with laughter and love and so many good memories with my parents and my sisters. The other part of my childhood is the dark side. There's a lot I can't talk about, but I do remember some upsetting things like the time an adult distant family member cursed at me and spat in my face. In earlier years as a child, mum found me sobbing and upon checking my face discovered the red fingerprints of a hard slap that another distant family member had given me. Rewind even sooner, and I, as an inquisitive toddler, managed to pull a pan of boiling milk onto myself. Mum, shocked in that moment, watching her child's skin start to peel, hurried me to the hospital and entered the room where they did x-rays on me. The hospital didn't know that mum was actually in her early days of pregnancy at that time and her exposure to the harmful x-rays would later result in a miscarriage.

Growing up, I had difficulty coping with these kinds of experiences and what would over time become painful memories, so I naturally built a bubble around myself and decided to live in my head somewhere over the rainbow.

Everybody who met me saw me as a bubbly, happy-go-lucky, loud and vivacious child, fearless and bold, because I pushed on in life to discover better things in other places. I immersed myself in books, so much so that one incident had me inspired by George's Marvellous Medicine, to the extent that I created my own hairspray from household products. It wasn't easy getting that stuff out! I also loved storytelling, arts and crafts, DIY projects, painting writing and directing skits with my sisters - basically any creative outlet would have me passionately hooked. I wanted to do things, to learn new things, to share my art with the world and to discover everything the world had to offer.

Me and my sisters became good friends. We even started our own little newspaper. I was an escapist and would remain so for many years. Like I said, I don't have many childhood memories. I know that for a few years, Zainab and I attended a private school but around this time my parents were taken advantage of financially and we lost almost everything we had. Private school was no longer affordable, so we moved to a local comprehensive school and, Alhamdulillah, I loved it there.

This changed when I moved to secondary school. Here, social circles mattered. Being pretty mattered. Wearing nice clothes mattered, and fitting in with everyone mattered. Of course, I didn't fit in. I no longer had my lovely primary school teachers in whom I found comfort and classrooms where I felt safe to enjoy learning. Suddenly I was very unpopular, and this resulted in my being bullied. What hurt the most were people's words. This one time, after a confrontation with one of the popular girls, I broke down. I fled from school, running as fast as my feet could carry me, as though I was stuck in a nightmare. Half an hour later, I got home and told my parents school had finished early. I couldn't tell anyone what I was going through. Though the bullying eventually eased up, I was left disillusioned. I constantly felt humiliated, alone and dreaded the moment we were told in class to pair up or form a group for work because I didn't have anyone. At lunch times I would tell people that I was going home for lunch, but I didn't and couldn't. The problem was that dad couldn't leave work, mum worked during the lunch hour and I felt too guilty spending money on bus fare because we were struggling even more by now, so I would discreetly leave school and spend the hour slowly walking up side streets and around the blocks near the school. I hid. I didn't want to be seen as a loner. Man, that hour felt so incredibly long.

As a result of the secondary school experience, I developed anxiety and depression. I remember spending nights crying myself to sleep supplicating and asking God to send me just one person - one human being who found me worthy enough to hang out with me. Towards the end of my first GCSE year, I came to realise and desire something my mum had always told us - don't let anyone or anything stand in the way of your dreams. I wanted to achieve something in my life. Why had my adventure come to a halt? So, I studied hard, unabashedly committed to raising my below average grades. I had a new focus in life. A new drive. I remember leaving for my summer holidays with an average of E- in English Lit. Over the holidays, with the help of my older sister, I rediscovered my love of knowledge. I returned in my final school year, worked even harder and passed in the same subject with an A-star. Alhamdulillah.

My older sister inspired me a lot in my studies. In fact, we became really close around this time. At university I often stayed over with her and her best friend and we shared a lot of good times. From the time we watched Jeepers Creepers and locked her in the bathroom, tormenting her with scratches on the door to the Dawson's Creek marathons to the time we roamed the streets of Rome, we had a lot of laughs. But with the good times, I also spent a lot of time at university feeling down. Something felt missing. Despite having quite good friends, I still felt lonely. I figured it must be romantic love that I was missing in my life and articulated this a lot in my journal jottings. While studying human biology at uni, we were allowed to venture into other departments. I decided to reconnect with my old love, English, and enrolled in the creative writing class. Here, a lecturer named Peter told me he liked my poetry, and that set alight my passion for writing poetry and prose. I find writing to be a form of therapy and a vehicle through which to expunge my mind of the feelings of discontent.

After uni, I applied for a new teacher training course called Teach First. This programme placed graduates into tough, into London schools with only six weeks of intensive training in Canterbury. Towards the end of my training, I received a special call from my dad since my uni was closer to my parents. He had gone in to collect my results and rang to say that I had passed with a first-class honours. My parents were so proud and that made me over the moon. Finally, I felt like my hard work was paying off - even my social anxiety had begun to subside because I'd forced myself to stand in front of a class and teach.

I moved to London far away from my family and worked a crazy hectic teaching schedule. Here, that feeling of loneliness came back full force. Though I slowly came to love my job and my independence there, I couldn't shake the emptiness in my heart. I didn't know who I was and, worst of all, what the purpose of my life was. The nights were the worst. So, I practiced and was committed to my religion, Islam. I decided to try to find out more about the man who spread it, the Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam. Reading his biography for the first time in my life, I began to feel things not only in admiration for the man himself but also deep awe at his hardships in life, sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam.

Fast forward a few weeks and I found myself purchasing with some difficulty a DVD from a seller at an Islamic exhibition. It seemed interesting and I figured it might be worth watching. Little did I know, I watched this DVD on

Islamic Spirituality with little idea of how it would end up completely changing my life. As the weeks rolled on, that emptiness in me began to fade as I realised that I was falling in love with God, with his final messenger and with all of the messengers upon whom be peace. I realised it wasn't the romantic kind of love that I was lacking in my life all those years - it was a desire to be close to God. Ironically, it was then that I met Osama. He was unlike all the other guys I had ever met, because I guess I was now looking for different things. What surprised me the most was not that I had finally found someone after all those years of wishing for true love, but that he seemed to feel the same way about me. For the first time in my life, I was at ease, and I left the matter to God. A few weeks later, I married the man who had become my very best friend. Alhamdulillah. The wedding time was a blast. My sisters made satirical videos about Osama and his brothers and their friends. The joke was on my sisters though, because the boys ended up loving their debut video appearances and asked for personal copies.

I moved back and worked in different jobs whilst looking for a teaching position. Some jobs were basic but pleasant, and others were lucrative but soul-killing. I stuck with the basic jobs because at this point in my life I valued contentment more than a big pay check, even though we didn't have much money, but we were so happy Alhamdulillah living our new lives together and we have so many precious memories in our first place. I was very happy to be back in teaching when I was hired in a local college. A year later, we were blessed with a baby boy. During the maternity break, I decided one day to record myself wrapping my hijab. It was fun and brought back childhood memories of recording skits on my dad's camcorder. Little did I know, YouTube was a pretty big community and I was uploading onto a platform accessible by millions of viewers all over the world. When you guys started commenting and messaging me, I was blown away by these connections I was making with sisters from all over the world. Many of you had seen a special kind of scarf that I wore in my videos and began to want to order it, so around this time, I started my company Pearl Daisy. With 50 pounds to invest, I began to sew and sell my hijabs. These were scarves with a hood attached to two lengths of material that could be wrapped to create different hijab styles.

I don't consider myself to be someone particularly special on YouTube or in the business world and I didn't want to say a lot of these things so that you guys felt sorry for me. I just wanted to share my story because I know a lot of people go through similar things. I wanted to remind you as well as myself to count your blessings every single day. Be grateful if you have that feeling of contentment at the end of the day because no amount of money, friends or popularity can buy that. Osama once told me that my wish had come true - that I had asked God to send me a friend and he sent me hundreds - you guys. I don't think I can ever express enough gratitude to my viewers who are so supportive and kind to me in their comments and private messages. Every one of you means so much and I want you to know that if you're someone who's going through a hardship right now, try to bear it with patience. Everything in life comes with a meaning that's either evident or hidden. Sometimes we learn why things happen the way they do and other times we never find out but try to be at peace with your life and the unity of things around you and trust that things will be okay. Inshallah. Remember, it's only when placed next to the colour black that the colour white seems brightest. In the same way, when the good times come, they will feel even more precious because you've seen the dark times. Thank you for listening to my story. Assalamu alaykum.

2234

#### FDML #54

Hey everyone, and welcome to the draw my life video. So, on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1977, I was very punctual at being born. In fact, my parents took so long getting to the hospital that I was almost born in the hospital parking lot. You know, right in that spot where ambulances come rushing in. Yeah, kind of freaked my dad out a little bit but they made it to the hospital just in time and, boom, I was born.

Right off the bat, my best friend was my older sister, April. She was 5 years older than me and we were playing and having fun even before I could crawl. I think I had the best childhood that any kid could ever have. We grew up on a farm and had lots of chickens and rabbits and ducks and cats and dogs and it was so much fun. My sister and I loved, loved playing outside. There was a little creek that was near our house we would go down and play in the creek and make little mud clay figurines and dishes out of mud and it was fun. We would select caterpillars and have epic caterpillar races, which really are not as exciting as it sounds. It's kind of boring. We would build amazing forts in the living room out of chairs and blankets and would spend not just hours in them, but days in them. We would just, like, move into these little forts that took over tables and it was, it was very, you know, we had rooms inside of our forts. Our poor cats were our little children. We would dress them up in doll clothes and much to their dismay, yes, they had to travel along with us in our fort building.

My sister and I were both home-schooled which I really, really enjoyed. My mum said that I was drawing or colouring back when I was, you know, 2 or 3 years old. I was always getting into things, always causing trouble and mischief, and my mum found that if she just got me a colouring book and crayons, that I would sit for hours colouring or artwork. When I was a little girl, Disney rereleased Sleeping Beauty into theatres and my family took us to see it and I was just amazed at it, and I don't know how I saw it - it might have been like a special Saturday or Sunday night Wonderful World of Disney, but I saw a making of Sleeping Beauty and I remember them talking about the people that draw out

and create and they actually showed some of the animators drawing them, and it was the first time I realised that cartoons don't just appear, that people actually get to draw them and that's their job. And it was then that I decided that that's what I wanted to do when I grew up - I wanted to draw pictures for a living. That's what I wanted my job to be. But because we lived out in the middle of nowhere, there was really not any place I could go and get any art lessons. There was a really sweet lady that went to my church who was the first artist, artist that kind of gave me some attention and would look at my doodles and drawings and encouraged me and she gave me a couple of art books.

My dad's job was a truck driver and when I was about 8 years old, times got really, really tight and he got laid off from his work, and the farm we were living on wasn't ours, we were renting it, and about the same time we found out that they were going to sell it, so we couldn't live there anymore. Because I was only eight, I really didn't understand what was going on, but one day my parents told us that we were going to be moving to a big city of Spokane, Washington, where my grandparents lived. I was super excited because the last time we moved I was a baby so I didn't remember it and it was a new adventure for me, so I was really excited but didn't realise how much I would miss living on the farm. That was, really was, just an awesome time in my life and I'm truly blessed to be able to say that I had such an amazing childhood.

We packed up everything into a big moving van and off we went to the big city! And bought us this bright turquoise-green house. It was so bright that when my mum saw it, she just sat down on the street and started crying because the house, like, glowed it was such a bright colour, and, you know, after moving away from this picturesque white farmhouse to the big turquoise house, it was a little, it was a bit much for my mum.

One of the things I did really enjoy about moving to the big city was there was a chance for me to go to art classes, so my mum was excited to sign me up. At first, we went to classes for my age group. Because I drew so much, the teachers really didn't know what to do with me, because I was past the point of learning, you know, shapes and drawing, you know, learning to draw a house and, you know, making things in 3D. I had already picked those up on my own and so I got really bored really easily with these classes, so my mum then enrolled, tried to enrol me into more adult classes, and they didn't know what to do with me, because they thought, you know, I was too young to be able to keep up with the adults and so I kind of would just do the work for me instead of really pushing me to, to learn how to do things. They would just grab my pencil or my paintbrush and just catch me up with the class, so I was kind of in this awkward place where I couldn't find a good mentor or tutor.

Finally, my mum found an art teacher. One of the most impressive things she had was a ginormous photocopier machine. When I would draw something, she would photocopy and give me the photocopy, so it was like I was having prints of my drawing, and it encouraged me. It just really was an hour that I would just sit at her kitchen table and I would draw. I was encouraged and that was like the best thing. When I was 12, Disney released The Little Mermaid and I could not wait for it to come to theatres. Because we were not a rich family, we wouldn't go to the regular movie theatres. We would wait till it came to the discount theatres, which was only a dollar. You could go and see any movie you wanted any time for a dollar - only thing was, you had to wait till the movie got there which was usually a good three months after the movie was done in the regular theatres, then it went to the discount theatres. So, I had to wait and wait and wait and wait, and it seemed like forever, but my mum said that I could go see it as many times as I wanted to, and believe me, I did. I went and saw the first showing they had and the last showing, and just about every showing in between. I finally counted it up and I went and saw The Little Mermaid 16 times in the theatre. Had everything memorized. By the end, I was just studying every single angle that they drew. Every line, I would go home, and I would, I drew Ariel, oh my goodness, so much, and I just really began thinking again about wanting to be an animator and that's when I decided I wanted to work for Disney. I didn't know how I was going to do it - I didn't even know how to even get started. I didn't, I didn't know, like, the process. What, how does someone go to work for Disney? Had not a clue.

When Beauty and the Beast came out to theatres, my sister April took me to the actual expensive theatres, and we went and saw it. Now, my sister April wasn't so much an artist but she's a fantastic writer, and we began to think about ideas about how to get to Disney. She wanted to write for Disney and I wanted to draw for Disney, so when Aladdin came out, I was 15 years old and we put our plan into action, and my sister wrote an original story for feature-length film and I designed over 40 different characters, and we began storyboarding. Now, let me tell you, we knew nothing about storyboarding. I just knew it was kind of a comic book. We would take full sheets of paper and draw out the scenes in full detail - costume detail, you know, accurate backgrounds, all this. It was intensive work. Every single day, my sister and I would go into our little makeshift studio that we had in the basement where she would write and I would draw, and we would spend good two to three hours every single day for about two years. And I can't even begin to tell you how much I learned by doing that storyboard. Well, during this process, I decided that I needed someone to be, like, a mentor. Someone who I could have aspirations to be like. I chose an animator that worked at Disney named Eric Goldberg. He was the head animator for the genie in Aladdin. He just seemed always so happy whenever I watched interviews with him in it, he was just always smiling and laughing. Since I was going to be graduating, we decided to celebrate and kind of a thank-you gift that we would take our parents on a trip to Disneyland. We decided on a whim that we would write Eric Goldberg a letter. We just wanted to tell him about who we were and what our goals were and about the storyboard and just, you know, see and let him know that we were coming to Disneyland and just by chance



and he happened to be free, what do you mind if we took him out for dinner? Yeah. We had some pretty high hopes there, didn't we? I can remember sitting at home one evening and the phone rang, and my mum and dad answered it and called for my sister, said it was for her. And so, she answered the phone and, in a few seconds, let out the squeal and shouted out, "It's Eric Goldberg! He's calling us on our phone to talk to us!" So, I run over to the other phone, picked it up and it was it really was Eric Goldberg calling to talk to us! He had gotten our letter and for whatever reason, it struck a chord with him and he had shown it to his wife Susan and even some of the animators at the studio, and he decided that he wanted to give us a call. So, we asked him again if we could take him out for dinner when we were in Disneyland, and he said no. He wanted to take us out to lunch with a couple of other animators and then on a tour of the Disney Studios. I know what you guys are thinking – yeah, you're making this up! But I'm not. Totally not. Here is a photo of my sister and myself and Eric and Susan Goldberg picking us up at our hotel. Holy cow! What? This is kind of like a person who wants to be a famous singer writing, you know, a famous singer like Taylor Swift or Katy Perry or whoever you listen to, and them saying, "Yeah dude! Come have backstage passes!" and, you know, that doesn't happen very often. We went out to a delicious lunch. I didn't eat anything because I was so nervous. I mean, here I am, a 17-year-old who has been basically nowhere and done basically nothing in her life, now in the heart of LA talking to the people that she has studied their work for years and years and years. They have been these art mentors to her, and now I'm getting to talk to them. After lunch, Eric took us to the Disney Studios. At the time they were working on Pocahontas and so they asked if we would like to see a sneak peek at some of the scenes, and so we got to see a few different scenes that they were working on and then after we watched them, the animators gathered around us and asked us questions about what we thought of this or what did we think of that or how did that look? I was able to bring a selection of my work and show it to some of the different animators there and they were so super kind and encouraging and gave some really good suggestions and ideas of what the next step would be, and we got to see so much and talk to so many people and really, I mean, it just kind of all became a blur towards the end of the day. I was so overwhelmed with just the amazement of it all.

I'm just going to tell you guys that this is the part of my story that as I'm telling it to people, they have the hardest time understanding, because I never actually pursued Disney after that. But even though that was an amazing dream, an amazing job and I have the highest admiration for anyone in the animation field, it was magical. You get to create something that can affect and change people and inspire people for years and years and years and that is fantastic, but I realised that as amazing as that was, there was something else out there that I was meant to be doing and I didn't know what it was yet. It wasn't until several years later that I finally found out what I was called to do, and that was work with children. I got a job working as a ministry assistant for a missions group called Child Evangelism Fellowship and basically what I got to do was hang out with kids. We got to do clubs for kids, camps for kids. Wherever kids needed someone to spend time with, to show them that they cared, that they were important- that's what I got to do. I got to work with kids who had nobody and so for 15 years, that's what I got to do. And it is by far the best job I have ever, ever done. Even to this day, I have adults come up to me and go, "Miss Valerie! Do you remember? You were my club teacher! Remember me from camp?" And you know, they're grown up and they have kids of their own, yet they remember me. I loved it.

When I was about 25, I began teaching art lessons to children as I just found so many kids didn't have access to an art teacher and I really remembered how that felt, not having a really good art teacher to encourage you. So, I thought, that's something I can do, like, I can teach kids art too. Well some things were changing with my work and I knew that I was going to have to step down to a volunteer position to kind of help out. Because I knew this was going to happen about year in advance, I just really began to save money as best I could, and when it came time for me to step down, I had enough money to have a summer. A summer to focus on making a go at being a professional artist. I needed a plan.

Well I had started up a YouTube channel a few years before this, because sometimes my students would miss a class and so I would just do a quick recording kind of explaining how the class went and give a little example and put it on my YouTube channel for them to see, and so I thought, I'll make some sample art lesson videos and put them on the channel, and just see what people think, you know, because I knew several of my art students watched and I knew that some people who weren't art students who had subscribed and were watching, so I thought, well, just, let's just give a try and see what happens and kind of see how if I could teach through a video. So, I began to create a couple different videos and an amazing thing happened, is that, as it began to post these videos on YouTube, you guys began to watch them.

I didn't think I could find a job that I enjoyed as much as working with children. This is probably the best art job for me - it just fits. This is a job career I never even dreamed existed - to be able to create such fun videos and be able to interact with so many people around the world and encourage them the way the others had encouraged me. I collected a little book just full of just the sweetest comments that you guys have sent me. You guys tell your life stories and your struggles and how art has just helped you through that and how you've just been encouraged to try drawing. It just touched my heart. I just love it - I love to hear your guys' stories, and so now this is the job I get to do. Have fun with you guys, make videos. It's such a blessing from God to be able to do this.

A lot of times when I tell my story, after I'm done, people will say that "Oh, you were so close. It just seems kind of a waste. You don't know what you could have been able to do had you decided to go and, you know, work as an

animator!” and I don’t want you guys to think that that was wasted because in no way, shape or form was it wasted. I learned lessons with Disney that I couldn’t have learned any other way. One thing I learned, if you allow a big goal or a lofty dream to scare you where you don’t try for it, then you’ll never know. The storyboard was a huge undertaking - it took so much energy and time and sweat and tears and frustrations, but I learned not to be scared of hard work. Going and meeting the animators at Disney was frightening and exciting all at the same time. You never know what will happen unless you try.

And my dream didn’t turn out the way that I had thought it would at the beginning, but I’m doing something that I love to do and I don’t think if I hadn’t worked so hard to get to Disney that I would have had the strength to be able to work as hard as I do now doing the things I do now. The second lesson I learned from my adventures with Disney is that no matter who you are or what you do, that you always need to be kind to people. Eric Goldberg didn’t have to do what he did for us. I’m sure he gets hundreds, if not thousands, of emails and letters a week from people that admire him but for whatever reason, Eric Goldberg decided to pour into my life, and for him it might have just been a day - a day he invested into somebody else to encourage them, to show them that someone out there cared, but to me it wasn’t just a day. It was a day that would change my life forever and be a constant reminder that no matter where I was, that there were always people that I could be kind to, and I don’t know what the future holds. If I get to make art videos for the rest of my life, that would be just fine with me. I’m just excited to see what God has in store for me. So, thank you again so much for joining me on my adventure and I’ll be back again with another video. So, until next time, God bless you guys and we’ll see you later! Bye bye.

3468

#### FDML #55

Hi, I’m Hannah. Most of you know me through my blog and YouTube channel as Hannah Maggs, but officially I’m Hannah Michalak. In short, I’m 24 and a trained makeup artist living in London. I’m married to a spiffing gentleman named Stefan we have a fat cat called Wiggy and were expecting our first baby in a couple of months.

I guess we’ll start at the very beginning then. It all started on January the 18<sup>th</sup>, when I was born in a little seaside town in Devon called Torquay. My mum Jenny and my dad Derek weren’t expecting me, and I decided to make my appearance feet first. My big sister Jo was 8 when I was born and super excited to have a real-life baby to play with. She even used to pretend I was hers. When I was very little, the four of us lived in a cul-de-sac called Rolly Road with a grumpy cat, Sadie, who scratched me in the eye and left me with a tiny scar forever. We all used to walk the neighbour’s dog, Suzie, together. I was so teeny at the time; Suzy was taller than me and I remember thinking that she was like a giant friendly wolf.

When I was about 4, my mum and dad started drifting apart and became more unhappy together. Although of course I was far too young and oblivious to know at the time, my dad decided to remortgage the house. I still don’t really know all the details, but all I know is that he lost a lot of my mum’s money and we lost our house and ended up renting. My dad moved out when I was about five and after that, I never really had much of a relationship with him.

My first day of school rolled around quickly and I clung to my mum’s leg and screamed. I was such a mummy’s girl. I didn’t really understand why she wanted me to stay there without her. She’d been a stay-at-home mum with me until I was old enough to go to school, so I was so used to it just being the two of us. When the teachers finally managed to prise me off her, I went and sat down next to a girl called Natasha and we instantly became friends. My five-year-old self was so adamant that her name was Matasha and I called her that for ages. Tash and I was so naughty when we got together - we used to disappear into the bathroom at her parents’ house while everyone was eating dinner and throw a wet toilet roll out of the windows at passers-by - a game that never stopped being fun.

When I was eight, my sister and I managed to convince my mum to add a dog to the family, so we drove to the country to pick up our new puppy, Liza. After my sister Jo moved out to the Big Smoke to go to university, it was just me, mum and Liza for a long while. Seeing as I was now basically an only child, Liza was a really great playmate for me. She was really like my best buddy. I’d loved coming home to play with her every night. I used to tie her lead to my bike handlebars and ride around in circles on our driveway and I’d teach her games like hide and seek and make her sleep in makeshift tents with me. We had hours of entertainment together.

Mum, Liza and I used to go for long beach walks almost every single day after school. Sometimes we’d take a little picnic or get chips on the way. Sometimes if it was raining really badly in winter, we’d drive up to a cliff top that we nicknamed “granny lookout” and sit in the guy eating our chips and chatting about our days. We were so close for those few years when it was just us and I always look back on those times with such fondness and feel so grateful that my mum always wanted to spend time with me. There was nothing I loved more than hanging out the three of us, even if sometimes she was too tired to play with me. I’d bring her cucumber slices for her eyes after promises that after a 15-minute lie down she’d play with me!

Secondary school rolled round. I spent most of my time with my best friend Ellie. We'd spend all day at school together, ring each other in the evening when we got home and even write each other letters in the evenings so that we could swap them the next day at school and write back to them. Our weekends were always spent sleeping over at each other's houses. We were constantly together and even used to shower in our bikinis together so we could carry on chatting.

It wasn't really until I was around 16 that had my first proper boyfriend, Sean. We had a great year together until Sean decided to join the army. I wrote to him every single night and we'd talk as much as we could, but distance proved a little bit too much of a strain at such a young age.

When my school years came to an end, I felt pressure to go to uni despite not knowing what I really wanted to do. In the end, I just ended up picking something I enjoyed, just so that I could go to uni - probably not the wisest idea considering the amount of debt that I got into. I visited Bath uni with my friend Frankie and instantly fell in love with the whole city. My decision was made. Frankie and I moved up together, nervous and excited about what the next three years would bring. I absolutely adored living in Bath. Some of my best memories are from the four years that I lived there - parties, sleepovers, meeting a brilliant new friend, Laura, university campus, staying up all night and playing shot kerplunk and not caring about going to the supermarket in my pyjamas, having long lie-ins and movie days and drunken summer picnics. Bonfire nights are always among my favourite memories from Bath. Our little group would always head up to the Wear all bundled up in our hats with hot chocolates to watch the fireworks together. I still adore the little cobbled streets, boutique shops and the fact that you always bump into someone you know. It's such a beautiful place and it will always hold a special place in my heart - a time where everything was carefree.

During my second year at uni, everything in my whole world flipped upside down and it's something I've had to live with every single day since. My mum began to get really poorly and just before my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, she had to have an emergency operation. I rushed down to Devon from uni to see her in intensive care, absolutely terrified and not knowing what to expect. The surgeon telling us at her bedside that they'd found bowel cancer is still to this day so vivid in my mind. The future seemed really fragile and uncertain. My sister, mum and I became really close over these next few months. Mum never told us how serious it was, and I think that's because she didn't want us to stop our own lives and treat her differently. Looking back, I can completely understand why she did that. I remember she started putting things on credit like a little Lambretta and sidecar, a new sofa and lots of shopping. My sister and I were like, "Mum, what are you doing? Don't get into debt!" My mum began to feel worse and worse and none of her drugs were working. Her body started becoming distorted and she didn't look like mum anymore. The doctors told us there was nothing more they could do for her but control the pain. I truly believe that there is nothing more painful than watching the person you love the most in the whole world deteriorate so quickly, and knowing that you have to say goodbye. It was all so surreal at the time and I felt like it wasn't happening to me. I felt like I was living down on someone else's life and it couldn't possibly be mine.

After mum died, I felt this huge sense of relief - the suffering and waiting was over. Although my mum's death has caused me a great deal of sadness and pain, I believe that it has changed me in so many ways and built me into a much stronger, better person and, ironically, a happier person. As I grow older and experience more, I appreciate the things she did for me and all the sacrifices she made. I really wish I could tell her that now, as an adult - not as a child or a student. And more than anything, I wish she was around to meet her first grandchild.

I had no choice but to grow up super quickly. I didn't have a family to go back to, an inheritance or any relatives. It was just me and my sister. I was in a really dark place and felt extremely alone and lost for a long time. My friends had moved back to their family homes and I felt really angry at everybody for not consciously realising how lucky they were to have families and homes to go back to and parents to support them. It didn't help that I was so fed up scrimping and saving and that I never had any money to do anything or treat myself. On top of everything else, I didn't really know what kind of direction I wanted to go with my degree, so I started a beauty blog as a little hobby. I was so poor at the time, I didn't even have the internet, so A Little Beauty Spot was born in a cute little cafe in Bath called Jika Jika, still one of my favourites to this day. I think I had the same cup of coffee for hours while I was setting up my blog. I had no idea what a big part of my life it was going to become for the next few years - all the lovely friends I'd make and the support I'd receive.

After about a year, I'd finally saved up enough money to move up to London with my boyfriend at the time, Ben, and my best friend from uni, Laura, who had already moved out. Eventually, I found a job as a receptionist in Covent Garden and from this point on, things really started to get much better for me. The girls I worked with became like a kind of surrogate family to me in a way. One day I saw a post on Facebook that Heat magazine were looking for interns for the Beauty Desk. I applied not thinking think would actually happen. Then one morning, a few days later, I received an email from Heat saying they needed someone for a week. I was still wondering what on earth to do with my life - all I knew is that I liked writing about makeup, and this sounded like the perfect steppingstone. Well, though the placement wasn't what I was expecting at all, it was at this work placement that I met my future husband Stefan. There were no seats free on the Beauty Desk that week, so I had to sit on the Digital Desk and plonked myself down in a seat right opposite Stefan, and he kept offering to make me tea even though I was the intern and probably supposed to do it. A few days later, I got a message on Twitter from him saying, "I think it's your turn to make the tea", and it all

started from there. We started chatting regularly and **we were really getting on**, so we decided to meet up for this tea that I owed him. I actually cancelled on him three times before we actually went on our first date – whoops! I remember meeting him after work and he was so nervous. I was only going to stay for one or two drinks and I already had my excuse planned, but **we ended up getting on so well and chatting all night like we'd known each other all our lives**. **Basically, from then on, we were inseparable**, and the past couple of years have been a total whirlwind for us. In so many ways, **I think Stefan has saved me. He made me see that life could be fun again, explored with me and made me see humour in darkness. He taught me a different way to look at things that happen in life. I never felt so deeply connected on so many levels to another person. We really understand each other and he's my best friend. I know there's no one else in the world I'd rather be with. I've had the best years of my whole life with him and I feel so lucky to have found someone like him.** And really, who could resist his beautiful ginger beard?

The first proper trip we took together was to a beautiful English countryside hotel called Stoke Park. It was the most luxurious hotel room either of us had ever stayed in and literally felt like we were staying in the queen's room. Our next trip was a long weekend in a very snowy Prague. **It was absolutely stunning. We dipped in and out of cafes for hot chocolates, went out drinking and even visited a torture museum. In the summer I felt like the luckiest girl in the world** after Stef told me he was taking me to the Bahamas. We drank cocktails on the beach, canoed in the sea, had dinner at Fish Fry, swam with sharks and stingrays and made friends with a crazy local man named Perry. As soon as we got back from the Bahamas, we moved in together and **things just kept getting better between us**. A couple of months later, Stef surprised me with another Stoke Park trip. He picked me up on a random work night and told me he'd asked my manager to have the next day off. We arrived on the big majestic driveway and this time it was so Christmassy and it felt really magical. We had some champagne in our room and then that evening at dinner, **Stefan asked me to be his wife. I was so happy that I cried**. Our next adventure together was Venice and, would you believe it, it actually flooded while we were there. We took gondola trips, spent our evenings getting lost down the endless winding streets on bar crawls, ordered Italian lunches with no idea what they were. In between holidays, **Stef was an absolute sweetheart** and paid me to do makeup artist courses. He knew **it was what I was really interested in**. I started getting experience and doing jobs and shoots for music videos and adverts. **All very exciting, fun** and glamorous, **but bloody hard work**. **I loved it though**.

After realising **how stressful** planning a wedding was, we decided to be a little crazy and elope to Vegas to get married in a little chapel. Before we went, we paid a little visit to Stef's family in Ireland the week before. We got to rainy Ireland and stayed in a little cottage by the sea. I had a little niggling feeling that I needed to do a pregnancy test before we flew out to Vegas the next week. I disappeared into the bathroom and just as I thought, two very distinct red lines popped up. I frantically waved through the bedroom door for Stef to come in and told him the big news. We both stared at the test for about 20 minutes and we even reread the instructions over and over again. We just couldn't believe that it was positive. **We were in such shock and over the moon**.

We flew out to Vegas and married each other one night in a little white chapel, celebrating with rooftop parties, dinner by the Bellagio fountains and a tour of the Grand Canyon in a helicopter. **It was truly a crazy experience**. For our honeymoon, we took a trip to Santa Barbara and LA. Back in England, I began to vlog my pregnancy on YouTube. As I couldn't ask my mum for pregnancy and baby advice, I'd turned to other bloggers and YouTubers. **They really helped me know what to expect and were so lovely and supportive**, so I began vlogging **in the hopes that I might in return help somebody else** one day. **The amount of people who have watched and been supportive has really blown me away and I feel so grateful to have met and spoken to so many lovely people**. Although **there are parts of my life that bring me extreme sadness**, they've all led me down a path to where I am today - **the happiest I have ever been. I love London life - living close and getting closer to my sister and having support from my best friend Laura**.

**Going through the pain of my mum's death** at an early age and **having to grow up independently on my own** **superfast** has really shaped me not only into a **more of an appreciative person but also a better person**. **I'll always carry the darkness of that time with me**, but I use it to highlight the good things going on in my life. It makes moments and people so much more special to me because I've seen how delicate life can be. I really can't wait to see what the future brings for Stefan and I raising our new little family. I'm really looking forward to this next chapter of my life as a wife and mummy. Naturally, **we are very nervous about what's around the corner**, but that's life, I guess. All I know is that right now, **having our own little family means more to me than I can ever put into words**. **Thanks for watching!**

3052

#### FDML #56

Life is filled with so many memories, obstacles, challenges and those moments in time that you can never get back. But you hold onto those memories in your heart forever and never let them go. These are the moments in life **I wanted to share with you**, so sit back, get comfy, because you're going to take a trip to the swamps of Louisiana, because today, I'm going to draw my life.

Once upon a time, I was born in a castle by the sea. All right, so maybe, it maybe, it's not that glamorous - that is a complete lie. But **it was pretty awesome** because I was born on the Bayou and don't worry it - wasn't in an actual Bayou

with alligators and all that. It was in a women's hospital in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which is the capital. And right here, I'm drawing Louisiana, our state flower the magnolia and a really deformed Pelican. So, I was born on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1987, and as all of you know, the month of October is the month of my favourite holiday – Halloween! And I remember having a lot of Halloween-themed birthdays. I actually had a witch piñata one year. It was very strange for me.

So, my mum told me she carried me for 10 months and she said that I never ever wanted to come out, and she was like, "Come out!" and I was like, "No mummy, I want to stay in forever!" So finally, when I came out, she decided to name me Breland Emory Kent. Dun duh duh - that's me, that's me! So, mum told me that she had a dream years before I was born that she had a baby girl in her arms named Breland, so she kept the name for ten years and never told my dad what she was going to name me. So, when my parents were discussing what to name me, my dad had recommended the name Brittany and he asked my mum what she wanted to name me, and she was thinking, and she was like, "I don't want to tell him". She's like, "Hmm, Nunya?" So while in the hospital bed, finally, I did finally come out, obviously, my mum named me without his consent while he was outside of the room, and I know that sounds really bad, but he was actually really cool with it because he liked the name Breland, and it definitely grew on him. So my mum got my middle name Emery when she was sitting behind an Emery Express truck on the road when she was pregnant with me and she said she was trying to find the perfect middle name to go with Breland and it just drove into her line of sight and she changed the e to an o and bam, my middle name.

So mum told me after I was born there were nurses coming from all over the hospital to look at me and they told my mum that I was the most beautiful baby they had ever seen and they were like, "Hey, come see this baby! She's super glitter-full!" And there I am at two hours old. This is my first picture, and I was 6 pounds, 6 ounces, 21 inches long.

So, I also have a half-sister named Teresa and she's amazing and we have the same daddy but different mummies. And I sound like a toddler. So, that is me, Teresa and my daddy and we're holding hands and all that good stuff - kumbaya. And then there's Teresa and me. I think I was around eight months old and Teresa was around, I guess, eight to nine because I had just been born. And then that's us playing around in our living room and Teresa actually got me as a birthday present, because I was born on her eighth birthday. So yes, we had the same birthday and she always tells me I was the best birthday gift of her life. And we always had double birthday parties, double cakes and double the presents. And we still do to this day. So, here's a picture of our birthday cakes in the 90s - that was, like, such a long time ago, and mine was the blue one and hers was the pink one. And our cakes definitely should have been opposite because my favourite colour is pink and hers is blue. And yes, that's me taking a bite out of my birthday cake. Our birthdays were always so much fun and they always put a smile on my face whenever I watch that old footage, and I always tell Teresa she is not a half-sister to me at all. She's a whole sister because she is always there for me when I need her. And here's a crochet heart that she had made for me, like, years ago and, yes Teresa, I still have it.

Meet my dinosaur! This was my first toy ever and it was given to me as an infant and I used to suck on his head a lot and as you can see, I still have dinosaur. So, as a child, we lived on 10 acres of land in the middle of Spanish Lake swamp in Louisiana. And it's one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen and I feel so blessed to have been raised in such an awesome place, and the swamp would flood behind our house every spring and we loved it because that's when we would take our crawfish nets, crank up the backyard boat and go crawfishing in our backyard, and it was a blast. So, at two months old, my parents took me crawfishing in the middle of the Spanish Lake swamp and I rode in a little backpack behind my dad, and here is the swamp and the scary little alligator - he looks kind of cute, not scary - and then the crawfish, he was like, "Aha, missed me. Didn't catch me!"

So when I got a little bit older, my dad would take me and Teresa for rides on his three-wheeler all through the swamp and sometimes we would take the boat out and crawfish in our backyard, once again - in our backyard - I'm going to keep stressing that to you, and the swamp was just so beautiful. So one time, my dad and I were riding through the swamp just me and him on the three-wheeler and we were picking up the last of our crawfish traps and the water was getting really, really deep, because we had to go really far back, and it flipped the three-wheeler over which plunged me down into the water and it was very scary for me, but luckily, my dad was there and he fished me up out of the water and I got out with a few scratch on, scratch, actually more than one scratch – scratches - on my legs and I was perfectly fine. I mean I was a little swamp rat - I was fearless!

So, I love my mum. And she was and is so cool. She is a herpetologist and that's the scientific study of reptiles and it's a good thing we lived in the swamp because that is a herpetologist's playground! It was filled with snakes, alligators, turtles and lizards, and she and I would go on snake hunting adventures all through the swamp almost every day. It was so much fun. And we would find snakes and she'd bring them back to the house to study and photograph them for the magazine that she wrote for Louisiana Sportsman magazine. And my mum was a local celebrity with her own column in the magazine. Here's some of her photos from her expeditions, and the name of her column was called Reptile Tales. And she also worked for the Wildlife and Fisheries and would work in the field tagging and releasing all sorts of animals. And I'd go with her most of the time and I was her little helper, and she also co-wrote a book called Snakes of Louisiana, and this is her with a huge alligator. They were tagging and releasing them, and I think they were killing them for food, not really sure. And this is her in the paper. And one time, I remember I was around five, she put me in

a Mr. Turtle swimming pool with a giant mud snake, which is completely harmless by the way, and I remember playing with him like a little girl would normally play with a Barbie, and I pretended to bathe him and nurture him and looking back, I realised I was a little abnormal, but it was my normal and **I'm proud to have had reptiles as pets.** **And they were my friends. And my best friend of all was my beloved chicken Frisky. We did everything together.**

Then when I was around 8 years old, my parents got divorced, and I guess since I was so young, I don't remember feeling anything negative - it never really affected me. It was just me and mum and **we were really happy.** Teresa moved in with my mama and we still visited on weekends, holidays and birthdays, and **we were always connected throughout my life and still are to this day.** My mum and I moved to the banks of the Amite River in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and my aunt invited us to come live next to her in an extra camp on her property after the divorce. And it was **a lot of fun. I was so excited.** I still visited my dad on weekends and we'd always spend time together and **I liked** the fact that I could still go back to my childhood home whenever I wanted. I thought of it as a long vacation and was **very happy to leave my life in the swamp for a new exciting life** on the Amite River. I spent my summertime **enjoying sun-filled days** swimming in the river and this is me jumping off the bank doing my cannonballs that **I like to do.** And there's a pesky alligator ready for a Bre Bre snack. And my mum and I would go boating all summer long and there were lots of fish fries and barbecues and bonfires and **those were my favourite.** And I know this sounds really weird, but the smell of boat motor oil is **one of my favourite smells** because it brings back so many memories. And this is my mum and me with some barbecue and there's our bonfire which smelled so good. **I love all those yummy smells.**

So, my mum and I would take journeys up and down historical Bayou Manchac - the same Bayou that pirate Jean Lafitte sailed his Spanish galleons filled with stolen treasure - and **it was so exciting.** We would go snake hunting and hiking all through the woods and we would even look for evidence of the pirate ship. **It was a lot of fun.** And here's my attempt at John Lafitte the pirate - I know he had a peg leg but not sure if he had a parrot. I know this one is. And again, there's that little **questionable alligator. I didn't do a good job on his sketch** but yeah, he'll do. So the road we lived on was called Amite River Road, and it was nothing but gravel surrounded by secluded woods and there were several camps along the road, but mostly for vacationers and seasonal residents and my mum and I would walk down the road around sunset every single day and we had this special place across the street and deep into the woods, that sounds really creepy but it wasn't, **it was fun.** And there was an old abandoned camp up on stilts that was starting to crumble down to the ground, and in front of that place was **the most beautiful lake with the perfect view of the sunset.** And we'd stand there and watch it till the sun was gone and since my mum was raised on the Amite River, she said she actually knew the family who had lived in that scary house and we'd always talk about how **it looked scary and haunted,** and we had long conversations there which **I really miss** to this day. And she's like, "Let's go before the ghosts get us".

So, after around four **fun-filled** long years of living on the Amite River, we got a phone call from our family in Alexandria Pineville, Louisiana, and they invited us to come live up in Central Louisiana with them. And this was around 2 hours and 30 minutes from us, and again, **I was super excited to start a new adventure,** and they offered my mum a great job there and we decided to pack all of our stuff up and move up there. And at this point, I was around 12 years old.

So, when we got to Alexandria, we moved into a nice house on a piece of property in the country and we lived there for around two years, and while I was there, I'd climb trees, play out in the woods and since I've been living as an only child for so many years, I would still play with my Barbies and dolls. **They were my only friends.** So one day I'd been climbing trees barefoot in the backyard and my third toe on my right foot started itching really bad, so I decided to go inside for a while to rest and the itching turned into throbbing pain, and I told my mum and she was getting worried because I was laying at the end of her bed screaming in pain. I was like "Ahhh!" She had no idea what to do, so she rushed me to the hospital. They immediately admitted me after seeing my toe and hearing my symptoms, and I was in the hospital for several days before they knew what was wrong. And while I was there, there was a reporter interviewing sick kids and she was asking me about my fourth of July, and I'm like, "Lady, I'm half-dead in the hospital, what do you think?" I'm just kidding you all. That didn't really happen. So eventually, the doctors diagnosed me with being bitten by a brown recluse spider and I stayed in the hospital for a week and I nearly lost my toe. Ouch. So, the doctors told me I'd always carry a spider pheromone in my blood which would attract spiders and, for all of you arachnophobics out there, you might want to think twice before hanging out around me. But **it's really not that bad.** I do, however, have weekly occurrences where I'll be laying in bed, and house spiders will spin webs from the ceiling and try to get me, and they're like, "I love you Breland!" and I'm like, "But **I don't love you** for obvious reasons", and it happens at least once a week but **luckily** I'm not near any poisonous spiders that I know of.

So after our time in the country, and the country biting back, literally, we decided to move to an apartment in the city, and here's a photo of my mum and I when we first moved to the city and **we were so excited because we were closer to the mall and all of that fun stuff,** and it was also closer to my mum's job and my school, and **I actually loved school so much. I basically buried my nose into the books, and I loved learning,** and eventually that paid off because I began to make honour roll. I made straight As. I joined the Beta Club, 4-H Club, and I was even on the dance line, **which is actually kind of funny because I don't have any rhythm whatsoever,** but **it was a lot of fun,** and my grades also helped me win this teachers' award and **this is the medal I won for best student of the year. And so, while I was in school, I learned a lot more about computers, typing, digital media and animation, and computer and animation were my**

favourite classes. And I learned a lot about editing videos and drawing, and this was one of the first times that I really got to take in all of that knowledge about editing, and that's where I learned to edit.

When I was 16, I graduated with honours and I received my diploma, and my mum and I then moved to a really nice house in the Garden District of Alexandria. It was so awesome. And I also got my first computer ever for my birthday because I told my mum that's what I wanted, and that's when I started putting those computer skills that I learned in school to good use, and I put those typing skills into good use, and I learned more about the internet and Myspace was the big thing back then, so I decided since I loved to sing, I'd record a CD with a few cover songs and upload them to Myspace. It was a big hit because I had over a hundred thousand views on most of my cover songs and I was singing at numerous weddings and events, and karaoke was my favourite, and my mum and I would always go out to karaoke restaurants, and then here's my comp card because I got into acting and modelling and all that fun stuff and also went to acting and modelling classes and I learned a lot more about film editing, and I even got an agent. And so, I went to Shreveport, Louisiana, to be an extra on a real movie set for the ABC remake of The Initiation of Sarah with Summer Glau and Jennifer Tilly, and it was so cool seeing the actors in action, like, literally in action. They were like, "Quiet on the set, rolling, action!" and that was such an amazing life event to be on set of a real movie. So, after getting a little more movie set experience, I auditioned for the HBO series True Blood, and I didn't get the part, but the experience was awesome.

Later on that year, I met Jungle Jack Hanna at the Alexandria Zoo and he was speaking about wildlife preservation which I'm very passionate about, and it was so cool to meet him. So, after a few years of working on movie sets, I got my first job at Office Depot when I was 18 and it was so neat having my own money and I would help pay bills, and, of course, do lots of shopping. So, after around three to four years, we decided to move again to another house that was closer to my mum's job. And that's where I started working at a bakery, and I loved it. It was super yummy.

So, one day, I was super bored, and I decided to download Yahoo Messenger which was like the Facebook of our day now. And I started going into chat rooms for fun, and on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006, two months after the move, this little box popped up on my computer screen that said, "Hey, want to chat?" And, of course, I said "Yes!" So I said, "What's your name?" and he said "My name is David" and he told me he lived in North Carolina, and we eventually decided to exchange photos and phone numbers and we began talking for hours on the phone, and we even talked on webcam. So, after around three months, he came to visit me in Louisiana, and we hit it off like we had been together forever. We fell deeply in love and I invited him to come live with me in Louisiana, and seven happy years later, we're still going strong. And this is the creepy tree he drew for me on his first visit down, but I love it. And spending my life with my best friend is a blessing from God and he has truly made my life complete, and I love you monkey. I'll always be your turkey. Oh yeah, and this is the first Valentine's Day card David ever gave me.

So after a few years of living happily together, my mum, me and David moved into a new house in Pineville, Louisiana, and after a few years of living in Pineville, I thought it was time for a change, so I went to the local hair salon to get me some highlights. And my mum filmed me while I was getting my highlights done, and this was only supposed to be for family and friends to see on Facebook, and so I used some of my past editing skills to edit the video, and I needed to upload it to the internet, so I conveniently used YouTube as my video hosting site of choice. So when I was thinking about my channel name, and I'm not sure why I cared because I wasn't planning on starting a channel or anything like that, I was inspired by a 17-year-old girl in my home town who I had met only once in person, and I found out that she had passed away earlier that month from texting and driving. And it really made an impact on me. She was beautiful and vibrant and then she was gone. I was so inspired by her. I wanted to live my life to the fullest for her, so glitter is for her vivacious personality and beauty, and forever seventeen is what she will always be. So on May 20<sup>th</sup> 2011, Glitter Forever 17 was created and I uploaded my video to YouTube and I made it public and within a few days it had over a thousand views and I was shocked because a new channel, no subscribers, and then I started receiving comments from strangers telling me how much they loved my video and it helped them. So, then my subscribers started rolling in like crazy, and it was just so amazing how fast it happened. And then I decided to make more videos because I really enjoyed helping people, and I loved beauty and fashion. So, I eventually got partnered and started working with some of the top brands in the world, such as L'Oréal, Tiger Beat Magazine, and eventually Seventeen magazine asked me to become part of their Seventeen Social Club and I was super excited. After that, Rue 21 asked me to be their spokesmodel for the new Sparkle with Glitter fragrance and it was two dreams coming true at once. So now I'm currently working with the big gaming company Machinima and they're lending a hand in helping me launch my new gaming channel Glam Girl Gamer 17, and I am so excited for all of the blessings and the opportunities that you all as viewers and glitter critters have given me and what's to come. Because without you, there would be no Glitter Forever 17. There would be no success or opportunities, and for that, I thank you. Thank you for watching and have a glitter-full day. And the story continues. Bye you all.

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Hello! First take. My name is Breland Emory Avdeev. I know my last name is Russian, but we'll get into that at the end of the video. So, this is me. I'm going to be redrawing my life, mostly because **I wanted to fill in the blanks**. I never lied in the first place. I didn't lie in my first draw my life video - I only skipped a few parts. I suggest you watch the first draw my life video which I'll be sure to link below so that way it'll shed some light on why so many people were confused and thinking that I lied about my life. It's one of **my most favourite videos I've ever created**, and **I really think you'll enjoy it. It's a good watch**. I never thought in a million years I would be redrawing my life and revealing the true story about what I've actually been through. Early on in life, **I faced very tough challenges but there were also good memories too**, which I will be sharing with you in this video today, so get your popcorn ready everybody, as well as your tea party because I'm about to spill all the tea, and I'm going to redraw my life.

Although things could have definitely been worse with my childhood, it just wasn't the typical stable family household. **It was a bit rough** at times, but like I said before, **there were happy memories and we did a lot of family things too**. Everything was true in the beginning of my first draw my life video. I was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on October the 18<sup>th</sup>, 1987, to my mum Ramona and my dad Dwight. So, **things started to kind of go downhill** when I hit around the age of six years old. Until that point, **I basically had every single thing I ever wanted. I had all the newest toys - I was a queen**.

Some of the first memories I had as a child involved my parents arguing. We lived in a tiny trailer and every time they would start, I would just be like, "Please move out of my way so I can see the TV because George Jetson drives a flying car". I need to see this and so does my one-eyed chicken named Frisky. I really didn't care about what my parents were arguing about - all I wanted to hear was the TV and I wanted to eat my mac and cheese in peace. I later found out they were arguing about family drama and my mum's a very private person and that's why she didn't allow me to spill all the juicy tea back in the day when I did my first draw my life video. She requested I didn't include all of that personal information and I respected her wishes, and **I also had a glitter-full persona to uphold**, but now I don't.

So, it seemed like my parents' relationship was becoming more and more rocky as the years passed, and this caused my dad to start drinking again. He had a drug and alcohol problem prior to meeting my mum and got clean when they had me. My mum told him in the past, "If you start drinking again, I'm leaving you". Reason being is my dad would get really mean and violent when he drank. When my mum first got pregnant with me, my dad drank whiskey and held a knife to her throat in a fit of drunken rage. **It was very scary** for foetus Breland. Mum found out dad was drinking after work a few times a week, and she could smell it on his breath when he came home from work every day. She was really mad, but I guess because, you know, she had a child with him, she decided to keep giving him a chance after chance, but always threatened to leave. Eventually my dad got addicted again. He would not come home some evenings and when this happened, my mum and I **would have to leave out of fear for our lives**. I remember every evening for few months we would watch the clock and if it hit 8 p.m., we would have to pack our stuff and leave as soon as we possibly could. **My mum would always comfort me** by telling me, "Don't worry, this is an adventure" and for some odd reason, I believed her, and **I found it to be quite fun**. Sometimes we would leave and just go see a late-night movie. One time, we saw the movie called the Village of the Damned and this was in the 90s when it first came out and they had all those creepy white-haired kids and I think **that freaked me out** more than the entire movie itself. We would also hit up the motel 6 a few nights a week when dad had his late-night drinking parties and I know my mum was hurting, but she told me later she was a bit relieved because she was starting to lose feelings for my dad, especially with all his crazy antics driving her away. We would also go stay with my aunt Judy some nights and **I found these little nightly getaways fun**. I didn't really realise this was the beginning of the end of my parents being together.

The last time my mum left my dad and never went back was on a beautiful summer evening. Mum and I were at home and she had cooked supper and since it was early, she assumed my dad would be home soon. He was, but to her surprise, he was extremely drunk. My mum was furious but she knew she couldn't say anything, because if she did, it could make him angry and he would snap as always, and of course, he found something to set him off again. And then one thing I remember is being on the couch watching my dad push my mum to the ground. **I was screaming and telling him to stop** and he just told her that she wasn't taking his kid away or leaving with his daughter and we eventually ran out the door and when my dad tried to come after us, my mum started throwing firewood at him. **Luckily**, it was outside by the door. And he went back inside, and we ran to the neighbour's house to call family. That was the last family activity we did together.

In my last draw my life video, do you all remember when I said my parents got a divorce? Well, that is the reason why and that is when we moved in with my Aunt Judy and we moved into a little tiny one-room camp with a port-a-potty, a window unit AC and we had cable run to it so we could still have TV, but we were roughing it for a few years there on the Amite River. So, this here's my aunt Judy's house; our camp was right here. This is the bank that I used to play on - it still looks exactly the same as it did when I lived there.

I remember **I was looking forward to** the spring flood. I was around eight years old at this time and it was the first morning that finally came, ran outside and I saw the waters starting to creep underneath the leaves, filling our yard and then, before I knew it, the entire property was engulfed in river water. It looked like our houses were floating on top of a lake. **It was very overwhelming to see in real life**. There came a time when we had been flooded in for over six weeks,



and we were pretty low on food and needed to get to the store, so my mum and I decided to try and paddle down the road to dry ground. This was not a good idea. The road was calm up until there was a clearing which had a strong current into the river. We were nearly swept out into the current and if we hadn't held on to a tree for dear life, we probably would have been goners. But luckily, my uncle Norman saw us out there, he came over with his boat and motor and rescued us.

As the years passed, I turned 10 years old. I would see my dad on weekends, and we would go to the beach and have so much fun together, but that didn't last long when he married his wife Karen. I want to introduce all of you to my step-monster. When you think of a monster, you don't necessarily think of a person - normally just one of these big scary hairy things. Well that was kind of like my stepmother, but she was worse, and here's why: she was so jealous of me. When I would go to my dad's house, she would trash-talk my mum and she was always so paranoid that I was going behind her back and telling all of her business to my mum. This was simply a delusion she had created in her mind. I never said anything. They had no business. I would walk on eggshells and I would be filled with anxiety while I was at their house. She would yell and slam doors and get violent. She would cuss at me and tell me how much of a brat I was and a horrible child. When Karen would finally leave the room for a minute, I would look at my dad and beg him to tell her to stop. I still can't believe to this day he said nothing to her. He allowed her to mentally abuse me.

After my mum found out what she had been doing to me, she forbade me to go to their house again and told my dad that he could either choose me or his wife. Let's just say his own child did not win his heart. A lot of people would think I would have daddy issues after this or, like, crave my dad's attention, but I simply don't. I'm actually very happy in life. I don't crave his love whatsoever because I kind of grew up without a dad and my mum made sure to give me plenty of love, so I never needed him in my life. And that's one of the reasons why me and my dad haven't spoken in over 15 years. I'll be talking more about this later on in the future.

Back to the drawing board. So, my mum and I finally moved into a house of our own. It was this boring white house, so we figured we would use some leftover paint that we found under my aunt Judy's house to paint it. When we open the paint, it was this bright watermelon pink. We just went ahead and painted the house anyway, and this house, it had, like, blue on one side, white on one side and then the entire front of the house was pink. Therefore, we called it "the pink house". I had some great memories here. I had my bedroom decorated in unicorns before it was super trendy, and if you look in this picture right here, I was able to see my bedroom decorated in unicorns in the background. That year for my birthday, my sister gave me a puppy who I named Fairy because my last dog was named Pixie, so I figured I would keep it all in the fantasy category of dog names.

After living in the pink house for a few years, we couldn't afford to pay the utilities anymore, so my mum and I were roughing it for a while with no electricity. She would find some firewood in the forest to burn in our fireplace on cold days, and we would light candles and cook on our gas stove, but it was still a bit too extreme for us. And that's why we had to move back to my aunt Judy's house. After living with aunt Judy for a few months, we were actually invited to move with our family up to Central Louisiana. It was a bit nicer in Central Louisiana - not as low-class as we were used to. And my mum was going through some hardships, so she agreed. We packed what little stuff we had including our dog Fairy and my uncle drove us upstate to a fresh new start.

As an 11-year-old girl, school was pretty rough for me, especially since my home life was on the rocks. One day, I was sitting in class and my first recollection of anxiety hit me, and it hit me hard. I was at my desk and started breathing heavy. Then this terror came over me. I jumped up out of my desk and I ran up to my teacher and I told her, I said, "I have to go home. I'm not feeling well". The class was staring at me, but honestly, I was so freaked out that I could care less. The teacher had no idea what was wrong. She asked me - she was like, "Really? What's wrong?" and I said, "I don't know. I just feel terrible. I need to go home!" So, she took me to the office and called my mum. I sat there on the outside of the principal's office feeling the anxiety start to subside. My mum came in and picked me up and that's all I can remember from that day.

Several years and panic attacks later, I turned 13. I was so excited to be a teenager. My mum actually signed a waiver so I could get my belly button pierced. She was getting a snake tattoo at the same time. Unfortunately, I had to take my belly piercing out later because it got infected. I was so excited for my new life in a new city. We moved in with our family and later found a place of our own. It was a small trailer on a quiet piece of property in the country. We took our dog, Fairy, with us, so she really enjoyed the land to run and play on. This is when I discovered my love for climbing trees. I eventually built myself a little tiny tree house. This is when I got bit by the brown recluse spider in my last draw my life video. For some reason, creepy things would happen on this land. Fairy would bark at nothing on a dark night in our backyard even though there was nothing there. It was so spooky, but we didn't really think anything of it. We were too poor to even care. One night, I woke up and I tried to take a breath, but my windpipe was completely closed off, like it had been pinched closed or something. I would wake up gasping for air. My mum and I slept in the same bed because I didn't have a bed of my own yet, so she would, like, jump up with me because she heard me gasping for air. My mum took me from doctor to doctor for six months of this happening. It happened at least three to four times a month. It was crazy. None of the doctors could even figure out why my throat would just close up when I slept. Now,

one doctor did say it looked like my larynx had signs of asphyxiation, but obviously this was not the case. Eventually, the episodes grew fewer and farther between, but they never really stopped until we moved out of that creepy trailer.

Another thing I remember from living in this trailer was **the sad Christmas we had** one year. We didn't have any money, so we went outside and cut down a little pine tree. We decorated it and it was so beautiful. Although we didn't have any gifts to put under it, at least **we had each other**. To put the icing on the cake, my mum lost her job shortly after **that wonderful Christmas** of ours. **This then led to us not being able to pay the rent**. My mum begged the landlord over and over for an extension, but she refused. Our family that encouraged us to move up to Alexandria with them decided that we needed to make our own way, so **they lent us no help** when we were on the street. Eventually we got kicked out of the trailer, so my mum decided to contact several homeless programs and shelters. A homeless shelter for women and children said they had an opening at one of their shelters. This was **such a life-saving organisation for us**, and it was called the Shepherd Center. My mum and I got into our broken-down little cricket car, that she paid \$1,000 for with her income tax check, stuffed all of our valuables inside including our dog Fairy and headed towards the city to the Shepherd Center. It was mid-summer blistering hot and we had no air conditioning in that car. And to top it off, **I don't think it could get any worse than this**, my mum's car broke down on a bridge on our way to the Shepherd Center, but **luckily, it started working again**. So, we put-putted into the parking lot of the Shepherd Center and **they were so kind and generous to us**. They gave us a key to a private apartment of our own which we were to stay in for one month or until my mum got a job. **It was not in the best neighbourhood**, but it was a place to lay our heads at night until we could find a home. **God was definitely watching over us that day**. We stayed there for over a month. The Shepherd Center provided free board along with food and personal toiletries, vouchers and lots of goodies. They helped us find an apartment for an affordable price and my mum got a job!

**Things started to look up** for us. We went to our new apartment which was very basic, but it was ours, and we didn't have any furniture - not even a bed. **My mum and I both prayed once again to Jesus Christ for strength and for God to come through in making things better for our future**. I looked out the window all of a sudden and, lo and behold, **God provided once again**. I saw a brand-new mattress that was leaning up against the dumpster. It wasn't even in the dumpster, and I was like, jackpot! There's a mattress out there, mum! So, we both ran out there and scored our brand-new bed. **Thank you, Jesus, for always coming through**.

Soon after moving into our new place, **I started getting back into school** again. I was actually able to focus on school at this point I joined the Beta Club and got my grades up there. **I was even on honour roll, which is really big for me**. All my life **I was never really into school because of all the crap that went down**. Later on in the year, **I started dating this guy and we fell head over heels in love**. By the time I was 14, I did lose my virginity to him. I know it's really, really young, but it is what it is. So, we were together an entire year and shortly after losing my virginity to him, at the end of that year, we broke up. **I obviously was not happy about this** and tried to focus on school again. As time went by, I found myself being 16 in the 8th grade. I saw my mum working her fingers to the bone as hard as she possibly could while I just wasted time in school. **I was ready to start working and helping my mum out, so I enrolled in a GED program and passed after a few months. I graduated with a high GPA that rewarded me with a grant for college. I did decline, so that way I could work to take care of my mum and I**.

One of my first jobs was working at Atwood's bakery in Alexandria, Louisiana. **The owner was horrible to me**, but **I reaped the rewards** of free cakes and cupcakes and pies and cookies. **I even met a friend**. Her name was Lisa. I still try to find her on Facebook to this day. Her dad was African, and her mum was, ironically, Russian. I went to her birthday party once and got to spend some time with her Russian family. **It was so amazing, and I really think that's why I married a Russian man. I saw how honest and what good people they were. Her mum was so funny** - she would always, like, scream at her in Russian and Lisa would just say "Dadada mum".

Shortly after, I quit my job at Atwood's because of the super low \$5 an hour pay. That's also when I met David. We met in a modelling chat room on Yahoo Messenger. Most people my age know all about Yahoo and AOL messenger - it was kind of like our Facebook or Instagram back in the day. David and I chatted for several months before meeting. He flew to Louisiana from North Carolina and **we hit it off** and began our ten-year relationship. After David moved in, we had more money and had the biggest Christmases. **Christmas is something we do big in my household**. It's the one time of year where we would get anything and everything we wanted. Even now, I share that same tradition with my current husband, Slava. I think it was because of the several Christmases my mum and I had nothing or very little. Our cups were running over.

When I turned 22, I started having severe heart palpitations. At first, I thought this was due to dehydration from working so hard and not taking a break to drink water. I went to the hospital and they ran all kinds of tests on me. I later found out I had a thyroid disorder called Graves' disease. I was put on some hardcore medication to bring my hyperthyroidism levels down to a normal level along with beta blockers to control my heart rate. I'm actually still on the beta blocker and I have heart palpitations that **I still struggle with** to this day. **My anxiety came back full force. I would have panic attacks all day, every day for months**.

And then that triggered my depression. I went through a long emotional battle with depression until I found this little website called YouTube. I would always watch my favourite YouTubers when I felt a panic attack coming on. The only YouTuber that could keep me from going completely insane was Shane Dawson. His vlogs and funny sketches were my life at the time. I also loved Bubzbeauty, iJustine, Olga Kay and many of the others that used to be really popular back in the day. I never thought in a million years I could be a YouTuber. I loved YouTube so much, I had to figure out a way that I could help people like these YouTubers helped me. So that's when I created Glitter Forever 17. I just wanted to upload a hair video that my mum had filmed when I got my hair highlighted and cut after years. It was only supposed to be for Facebook friends and family, but it was a hit. YouTube viewers besides my family loved it. I quickly started growing an audience and gaining subscribers. I was shocked. Then people started requesting more videos.

I actually became super relevant and popular in 2016 and my dream came true of meeting some of these huge YouTubers that made me who I am today. These people comforted me when I was in a dark place, Shane Dawson being one of them. I went on to make friends and even hang out with the people I never thought I could reach. Unfortunately, that all ended, including my relationship with David. Don't get me wrong - I still love him and respect him as a friend to this day. David, if you're watching this right now, I just want to say how sorry I am. You were amazing and it was not your fault. I will always respect you.

But through YouTube, I met my husband Slava, Dave. He's from Moscow, Russia. Yes, he's Russian! That's where my last name comes from. Obviously, his language and culture and his funny personality truly bamboozled me. Don't you just love that word - bamboozled - my fave. So, we met in April of 2016 through Twitter. He was a viewer and fan of my videos. He had his own channel where he created a funny parody of one of my videos. I saw it and it led me to tweeting him. We dmed back and forth on Twitter and then he told me how much he loved my videos. He was buttering me up, he said he loved my editing style and, you know what? I decided that I wanted to start collabing with him. He was so funny, his videos made me laugh so much and I had to work with this guy. So, we exchanged numbers and our love story began. I know that sounds really cheesy, but whatever. I eventually flew to Moscow to meet him. We had an amazing whirlwind romance. We spent every waking moment together while I was there in Moscow. It was so much fun. We also travelled the world together. So far, we've been to Russia, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Tanzania, Africa and all over the United States to such cities such as New York City and Los Angeles, California. I swear, Slava, he's someone that I would give anything for. I love him so much. It was not easy for us to be together. During a trip to Punta Cana, late at night under the stars, Slava proposed with this beautiful ring. I of course said "da", aka "yes" in Russian, and we were eventually married after he came to the States.

Now that my personal life is fantastic, I kind of feel like my YouTube career has faded. I put so much time into my personal life and travels that I allowed YouTube to plummet. YouTube don't help with their ad-pocalypse and demonetization policies, that's for sure. I feel like I could make a comeback and make this channel great again. I'm willing to do whatever it takes to do so, and it starts with the truth. This is the truth and all the honest events that took place in my life that I left out of the first draw my life video. There is more, but I didn't want this to be a three-part movie, but, you know what? It probably will be. I just want to promise all of you, going forward, I am going to be a better person and a better YouTuber and I'm going to listen to my audience. I want to listen to you. I think that's where I went wrong to begin with. Again, I'm sorry for any video or thing that I've done to make you lose respect for me. We all make mistakes and we all learn from them. This journey is not over, and I'm so proud to have you live it with me. Let's go forward in a positive direction and keep drawing. I have so many exciting future plans that I hope to incorporate into my channel. I want to move to a big new city, start a new life, maybe go back to school and become something. I just want your love and support along the way. I have only love in my heart for all of you. I promise I won't let you down. I'll see you in the next video. Thank you so much for watching and have a glitter-full day. I love you, bye! The end - or is it? Just kidding, this video is finally over. Thank goodness!

4718

#### FDML #57

Hi my loves! I'm a little nervous today because I guess you can say I have a bit of a hard time opening up my personal life completely online, but I'm about to do so today. Before we begin, I have to confess something to you guys - I was so nervous filming this video that I drew my life over three times and wasn't happy with the story, hence the delay on this video. So, I wanted to focus on just telling the story, because I think the story is a lot more important and had my other half, my younger sister, help me out with the drawing part. So, I hope you guys understand and with that being said, let's get started.

I cannot think of a better way to start this video than "Hey you all!" I was born in the United States in a state called Texas. So, how did I end up there? Well, my mum and dad were married and living in Korea at the time and moved to the United States - the land of opportunity - and decided to attend college in Texas to get their study on. Needless to say, they got a little more than just their study on, and April 10<sup>th</sup>, I was born in Fort Worth, Texas, in the midst of my parents' last year in college. Although they were so extremely excited, the pressure and stress all of a sudden started to

build up as my dad and mum were studying to graduate their last year of college and also working full-time. That is when my wonderful grandma from Korea came to the rescue. She told my parents that she would take care of me while they finish up college. We hopped on a plane and off to Korea we went. Although it was for a temporary amount of time, my mum was so heartbroken. She'd cried herself to sleep every night. While I was in Korea, Grandma and Grandpa showered me with so much love - took care of me, bought me toys, food, everything. But I never smiled, never cried, showed no emotions - no affection. I too was incomplete without my parents, so after one month of separation my parents came to swoop me back up and again, we were one big family. We went back to Texas. Then, after my parents graduated, my dad got his first job offer in Georgia, so we packed up our bags and moved there. And then he got another job offer in California, and that is really where our life began as a family.

My parents bought their first home in San Jose and we decided that we were going to call this place our home. Soon enough, mummy was pregnant again and I was so excited to be an older sister and my little sister Jane was finally born. She was my everything, but soon enough, I realised that she was kind of the opposite of me. So, this one time I convinced Janie to play Barbies with me and she agreed to and I was so excited, and when I wasn't looking, she actually cut off the hair of all my Barbies. That's one example of how different we were. I was always a girly girl and she was a tomboy. One day, mum and dad sat us down to tell us something we did not want to hear - my mum was diagnosed with heart disease. But we found a great doctor and she underwent surgery immediately. I still remember the sleepless nights with my dad and sister as we cried and prayed for her healing. When her surgery was done, we were all so happy that she was alive and well. A few months passed and we get a call from the doctor with her check-up results and found out that her heart disease was a little more complicated than most, and she yet again was diagnosed with the same disease but this time worse. So, she underwent her second surgery. We were all so young, but I still remember that we were so sad and so terrified. But it was her second surgery, so we knew that this was it. That it was her time to heal with the surgery. Well, after her second surgery, months passed by and soon enough, the doctor told us that she needed to undergo another surgery. They needed to place a pacemaker in her heart - a pacemaker is used to help keep your heart rate at a safe level. We decided as a family after her surgery not to get too excited - we didn't want to get let down again, but we decided as a family to live life as if she was healed, and months and months went by and we get a call from her doctor and he said that this time she was a hundred ten percent healed. Our prayers were answered and we're so beyond thankful.

Fast forwarding a few years to high school. Man, this was a tough period in my life. We moved to a small town called Denville in Northern California and man, I was so confused. I didn't understand fashion, clothes didn't look good on me, I was taller than 99% of all the boys and not just the boys - all my classmates as well. And I didn't look like anyone else because there was barely any Asians at my school, and I felt so awkward. And I actually felt really ugly, and I wanted to fit in so bad. I wanted to be liked. I wanted to be popular. I wanted to feel pretty. I didn't have the money to buy clothes at the time, so I started to experiment with makeup, and I went through a stage where I overdid it. I mean, talk about wearing pounds and pounds of makeup - dark lip liner, eyeliner, caking that powder on. I mean the whole shebang. And oh, not to mention, I shaved my eyebrows off completely because all the popular girls had thin, sexy arched eyebrows. Man, do I regret that. I'm still to this day trying to grow them out. I wanted to be a cheerleader so bad, but my mum made me play the clarinet and join band and on top of that, not just band but marching band. During the games, I would try to hide behind my bandmates in my huge obnoxious band gear, but I was so tall, you could spot me from miles away. Band might be cool now, but back then, kids used to make fun of me. Man, they were so mean. On top of that, I was a walking five-eight all throughout middle school and high school, towering over all the boys. Not one boy liked me. My self-esteem really suffered during my high school years and I've never felt so ugly and so unwanted.

Then, senior year, I got my first job at a retail shop at the mall and it was game over. Soon enough, I learned a little bit about fashion and discovered my own style. I also started to make my own money and I was able to save up my money to buy cute outfits. And all of a sudden, I felt so confident in my cute outfits. Girls used to compliment me, and boys used to turn their heads and notice me, and I discovered the power of clothes. Clothes became my armour of confidence and strength. After graduating high school, I immediately moved down to LA to attend Cal Poly Pomona to study accounting and soon enough found out that they had a small department for fashion. After a few quarters of minoring in fashion, I decided that this is my passion and I transferred out to fit in the Fashion Institute to pursue my passion. It was a lot of hard, it was hard work, but I had so much fun while I was studying because I felt like I was working towards a purpose. I was so happy.

Now, while I was studying, I had a number of internships for a magazine, clothing line, even a PR company. Then I finally met a wardrobe stylist that completely changed my life: her name is Tanya Gill and she's a celebrity wardrobe stylist, and I assisted her, and she taught me the ins and outs of the styling business. Although it may sound glamorous with all the photo shoots and all the fancy clothing, there were times when it got really, really stressful. As you're interning and assisting, you're making little to no money at all and I had so many bills to pay, but I kept going, and I knew I couldn't give up. I knew my hard work would be noticed somewhere, sometime.

So, one day, I got a chance to style a shoot for a prestigious luxury magazine called Gen Luxe. I remember I was extremely excited but a little bummed out because there was no pay again, but nonetheless, I decided to give it my

absolute all. A few weeks after, Gen Luxe magazine actually contacted me to offer me a position as their styling director, and I finally felt that my hard work was finally getting recognized somewhere. I was so excited, and I knew that this was just the beginning of my journey. All while, a friend of mine introduced me to a boy named Alan. So, my first initial thoughts when I met Alan was, "Wow! You are tall!" I can actually probably wear my heels and also be taller than me. So, we started dating. I mean, that wasn't the reason why, but that definitely helped out. Our dating story is quite interesting but that can be saved for next time.

Fast forward a few years. I started my YouTube channel and my blog The Crystal Factor. I uploaded my very first video on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011. I was unsure about this YouTube thing when I first started off - I didn't know if anyone would like me or even watch me and again, I didn't feel too confident about it, but as my channel started to slowly grow, all of you guys started to show me your support, my confidence level grew slowly but surely. And of course, the wedding series - you guys remember that, right? Alan and I got married last August and some of you guys went through the whole process with me and I cannot believe that it's already been a year. Well, not a year yet, but almost a year. And right after we got married, we had a son. I mean a cute furry son named Mignon the Frenchie. Initially, Alan wanted to name him Filet Mignon and I thought that was completely inappropriate for a dog. Then, soon enough we found out that "mignon" actually meant "cute" in French, and so we decided to name him Mignon. Mignon has completely changed our world - our whole schedule, our whole lives revolves around him now. We have become those crazy obsessive dog parents - crazy as in he has his own Instagram and Facebook accounts. Sigh, I know, I know - I couldn't help it guys.

So, after our YouTube channel and blog began to grow, I started to work from home to create content for our viewers and soon enough, I got some help and started working out of a Starbucks. And all while, I was still working and hustling as a wardrobe stylist working and literally living out of my car. It was insane. And it was just last year when I was finally able to get an office in downtown LA where our whole Crystal Ink team works out of there, and to be honest guys, I wouldn't have guessed in my wildest dreams that this is what I would be doing today, but it all makes sense now.

Everything that we went through serves a bigger purpose. If it weren't for my low self-confidence high school days, maybe I wouldn't have returned to fashion for my confidence. So, whatever you guys are going through, remember that you are creating story and there is a purpose behind it all. We might not understand what that purpose is currently, but when the time comes, it will all make sense. And really, it is because of you that I'm here today. Although I haven't met most of you guys in person yet, I feel like we are so connected through this virtual world of Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, my blog The Crystal Factor. I just want to take the time to really thank you guys for coming along this journey with me, for always taking the time to comment, for always supporting and encouraging me. Thank you guys for being my armour of strength and I hope that you guys were able to find a little bit of strength and encouragement through my story as well. Again, thank you and I love you guys!

2183

## FDML #58

Hi everyone! My name is Kelly Eden and welcome to draw my life. I was born in Denver, Colorado, on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1989, at 11 a.m. I grew up in a very small town in the middle of the mountains called Evergreen. My family had a small house where we had plenty of land to run and play. This house is where I would spend the majority of my life - we never moved, not even once. My family still lives there today. I have an older brother, a younger sister and an older half-sister from my dad's first marriage.

I was the middle child. My little sister and I were very close we bonded through playtime. We loved Barbies, playing dress-up and make-believe. We had so much fun together, though unfortunately, my parents fought a lot through my life. My dad was always really angry and miserable, and I never understood why. It created a lot of anxiety and sadness for the rest of the family. I didn't know it at the time because I was just a kid, but he was struggling with severe depression and he was self-medicating with alcohol and prescription drugs, but we'll come back to that later.

And at the same time, from a very, very young age, I began experiencing symptoms of existential depression and anxiety. My first memory was in preschool. I was standing by a window looking out at the rain and I felt really sad for no reason. It was really confusing for me since I could see that all of the other children were happy and content. I guess it was the first time I felt different. The symptoms of my depression got worse through elementary school. I had a really hard time making friends and was even neglected by my teachers. The problem was I would be constantly drawing or daydreaming to cope with my depression. I would never pay attention in class because I was off in my little dream world, so most of my teachers got frustrated and put me in the back of the class. My mum was so pissed. I felt isolated and I had a desperate need to belong. Thankfully, my dad spent a lot of time tutoring me at home. He was very smart in many ways. He taught me how to read, write and spell when most teachers had given up on me. Any time I had homework or a big project due, he would sit me down in the dining room and helped me work on it.

Thankfully, the art teacher recognized my natural talent and passion for visual arts. I loved drawing and painting - it was the only time I felt good and sure of myself. I remember when I was six, our art teacher taught us about Van Gogh and she showed us this painting from his blue period. She explained that the artist experienced extreme fits of despair and expressed his feelings through his paintings. I instantly understood because I could relate and understand his concept. I felt instantly connected to Van Gogh, as though I could feel his passion. This memory really stands out to me when I think about the beginning of my path to art. This is around the same time I discovered anime. I watched Sailor Moon and Digimon every weekend. It was really hard to find anime merch in my hometown, so I used to draw paper dolls of all the characters and play with them alone in my room. I filled out sketchbooks of my favourite anime characters.

So, having realised that I had a natural talent in the arts, my mum took me to audition for Denver School of the Arts which is the private magnet school for children who are gifted with theatrical or visual arts and, sadly, I wasn't accepted on my first try, but it ended up being a blessing in disguise because my mum ended up enrolling me in a very small charter school where I met my first best friend. Sam was different like me. She was also an artist who liked anime. We were alienated by all the other girls in our class, so we quickly became friends. Sam introduced me to Dragon Ball Z, and I showed her Final Fantasy. We started writing self-insert fanfics together, having no idea that other people also did this as well. So, we were very secretive and embarrassed about it. We started a story that lasted for many, many years and we even still update it from time to time. It was so cool because we could just escape the real world together. The stories we told felt real and they affected us in such a profound way. I could share my dream world with another person and go on adventures. Sam made my middle school years the best part of my childhood and I'm so thankful that I had her during this time of my life because this is when my dad's addiction reached an all-time low. I stayed over at Sam's almost every day. Like I said, she was my escape and I felt like an extension of her family, but during high school, Sam and her family moved away. We still kept in touch through our stories which we would email back and forth, but it was really hard to go on to high school without her. I sank back into my depression very quickly.

During my freshman year, I got a camcorder for Christmas and started making movies. My sister and the other kids in the neighbourhood would help put on skits. We had so much fun even though my skills and resources were very limited when it came to movie production. I missed Sam a lot. It was tough not having your best friend through high school, so I submerged myself into anime and video games - Final Fantasy, Yugioh, Dragon Ball Z, Sailor Moon, Inuyasha and YuYu Hakusho - it was basically my obsession during high school. This was also around the same time someone called me a weeaboo for the first time.

Anyway, before my junior year in high school, I auditioned to the Denver School of the Arts one last time and I finally got in. So, I spent the last two years of my high school career working on art. Making friends was still pretty tough, but I just focused on my art. There was a boy in my class who had phenomenal painting skills. I learned a lot from him - he was the only person who ever helped me with my technique. He helped me learn the basic foundation of oil painting and portraiture. It was a huge step from drawing anime all the time to doing fine art. DSA helped me get a scholarship to the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design. I decided that art was what I was meant to do for the rest of my life, so they told me college was the way to go.

During my first year in college, I signed up for a benefit walk for breast cancer awareness. I decided to dye my hair pink for the occasion. It was the first time I had done anything brave with my appearance. It was sort of like a Sailor Moon transformation sequence. I came out of the salon feeling like the real me, and it just stuck. Later on, I took up an apprenticeship at the tattoo shop down the street from my college. I was hired on the spot. In hindsight, I'm pretty sure they hired me just because I was a cute, young vulnerable girl, but later on, I brought in my artwork and they started taking me seriously. I became a full-fledged tattoo artist after a year and a half. We always had a ton of tattoo magazines sitting around the shop. I would always admire the model on the cover, and I thought, hey, I bet I could do that! Well, sure enough, I started meeting lots of photographers and doing photo shoots just for fun and then, in a few short months, I was published on my first magazine cover. I couldn't believe it! It was really exciting for me and I felt really accomplished.

So, this is about the time I met my first love. He was a drummer in a popular screamo band back in ye olde scene days. Every once in a while, I would get to go out on tour with him while skipping a lot of school, but I got to travel all over America and do photo shoots with tons of photographers along the way. For two years we had a lot of fun together, but unfortunately, he was the typical rock star and had many girls on the side. It didn't take long for me to find out and we broke up and it completely crushed me. It took me four years to get over him. The depression came back in full swing.

I dealt with my sorrow in the only way I knew how - by painting. My art was the only therapeutic outlet that I had, the only way I could truly express myself and affirm my beliefs and attitudes. I started doing large-scale paintings and developed a unique style of portraiture. I had a painting studio in art school which was like my sanctuary. By this time, my social anxiety had completely taken over my life and I basically just kept to myself, which wasn't a bad thing. It gave me more motivation to study and work on my art instead of wasting my time partying like most college kids. No offense. But I was really unhappy during this time. I couldn't get over my heartache and low self-worth.

To make things worse, my dad started to get really sick. He was in and out of the hospital frequently due to his drinking problem. The doctors urged him to quit drinking to save his life, but instead, he ended up drinking more than he ever had. My mum was really stressed, and **we were having a lot of money issues**. So finally, I graduated from college, **yay**. I packed up my painting studio and got my degree. **I had really good grades and was even on the Dean's List, so all my third-grade teachers can suck it!** Anyway, **I was filled with a lot of anger** from my breakup and **it was enhanced by my depression**. This prevented me from creating any substantial relationships with other people because **I was so mad**, though I still got to visit my childhood friend Sam from time to time, **so that helped**. She introduced me to cosplay and we started going to anime cons together. Yet again, **anime and art was my escape**. This time, instead of writing stories about the characters, **we dressed up as them and it felt really special**, like we were bringing these characters to life.

I quit my job at the tattoo shop. I don't really want to get into the details of this, but I left because the shop I worked at **had a negative atmosphere and the animosity from the other artists became very aggressive** and I kind of feared for my safety. Generally, the tattoo industry is misogynistic, so **it wasn't a society that I really wanted to be part of any longer**, and **I completely lost my passion** for tattooing. Then I got a job working for MAC. **This was a big deal for me because it was always my dream** to work at MAC. I was hired directly into the flagship store which was also a big deal. **Working at MAC was a lot of fun. I learned a lot from the other artists and finally started making friends. I had a really supportive team**. Now that I was making more money, I started traveling again. I made frequent trips to LA to get tattooed and model. I was published in countless magazines including Seventeen magazine, People, Cosmo, Vogue and various other tattoo magazines, but on one such trip, I got a call from my mum urging me to come home. She didn't say much, but I could tell by the tone of her voice that it was serious. When I came back, home was a very different place. The hospice had been there caring for my father during the week that I was away. He was laying in a hospital bed that they had set up in my parents' room, and he was in a lot of a pain and couldn't talk. And **I cried** and I told him that I loved him over and over, and I couldn't seem to think of anything else to say. And **I was in shock seeing him like this**, and four hours later he passed away. **All the pain and sorrow and despair that I had felt through my life was a shadow compared to the horror of watching my dad die. I was deeper in my black hole of depression than I ever was before, and I didn't know if I would ever come out**. Nothing was ever the same after that. I had a lot of time to reflect during my grievance. I spent every day in my painting studio until the funeral. My sister would sit on the floor and watch me paint. We talked a lot about our childhood and what it was like growing up with dad. We both wrote a speech for his funeral. More importantly, we reflected on the fact that dad had suffered severely from depression and used alcohol to cope. Because my siblings and I also suffered from depression, **we made a pact to steer clear of drugs and alcohol, knowing that we were vulnerable to the same fate**.

Though the horrors of mental illness and addiction had claimed my father's life, **some good came from the experience because it helped me to finally understand him and myself. I didn't want to live this way anymore**. I realised that **I spent my whole life being angry and depressed**. They say that artists are bigger risk takers. This might be because we are constantly reminded of mortality or because we are constantly reflecting. **decided to take a chance on myself and do something that I always dreamed of** - moving to LA. I left everything I knew to be here. I came from a poor family, barely had any money in my bank account, and gave up the only stable job I ever had. **The first year was rough. I often contemplated giving up and moving home. I had never felt so isolated and alone before**. Don't worry - the story has a happy ending. **I felt really out of place during the first year in LA. I missed my family and never felt at home, so I used my creativity to make my happy place**.

**I wanted to turn my crappy little apartment into something special**, so I started painting everything. I didn't have any furniture, so I started collecting pieces from Goodwill and antique shops. **I took old, worn-down pieces and gave them a new life**. I made **a nest - my happy place, my sanctuary**. I started feeling a little bit more comfortable **but was still pretty lonely**. One day at a photo shoot, I met Stephanie. **We were both shy** and didn't talk much, but then I mentioned I cosplayed Sailor Moon and she said she loves to cosplay and Sailor Moon too! **It was like a light switch went on**. Suddenly, my life was filled with light and happiness. We became very close and went on many adventures together. **We cosplay together all the time. Finally, I started making more friends. I had the most loving, supportive group of friends that I could have ever asked for. We were a family. One by one, more lost girls joined our little family of misfits. We all had something in common - we all knew what it was like to be an outcast and we rejoice in finally being loved and accepted for who we are**.

**They say you'll meet the right person when you're truly happy on your own, and that must be true, because that's about the time I met Davey and started dating him. He taught me how to make a living doing what I love** - through my art, I became my own business. He was such a contrast from what I was used to with the unfaithfulness, if you know what I mean.

Finally, that brings us to YouTube. **I found a platform where I could share all the things that make me, me**. I've only been here for a short time, but **I've truly felt like all my subscribers are an extension of my self-proclaimed Hollywood family. I love interacting with you guys and sharing my life with you all. It makes me feel fulfilled and I wanted to thank each and every one of you for supporting what I do**. So, that's my life up until now. If you enjoyed this video, give it a like and comment on your favourite part. **Thanks for watching** you guys. I'll see you next time!

## FDML #59

Hey guys, what's up? It's Sejal. Happy new year and today's my birthday! So, today's video is going to be draw my life with a couple of pictures. So, **I hope you guys enjoy it**, and let's get started!

So, it all began on the first of Jan and I was supposed to be born on the 31<sup>st</sup>, actually but my doctor had a party to attend to! So, I was born in New Delhi at 10:07am according to my mum and here are a few pictures. So, my brother Rohan is four years older than me and just a few hours after I was born, he was pinching me and troubling me. **He's just so annoying** and, I mean, look at him - What is he even doing? What is he trying to explain to a baby?

So, my family consisted of my dad, Major Anel Kumar, my mum Dr. Anjali, my brother Rohan, me, my grandparents, vaddy and daddy, and my official name they kept as Sejal, but at home they decided to call me Joy for some odd reason. This is all my brother's doing. So, my parents were both in the army and that meant a lot of traveling. So, we lived in Arunachal, Pradesh, for two years when I was two years old and I remember playing in the waterfalls with my brother. I mean, **how irresponsible is that? How could our parents let us play in a freaking waterfall?** And **we were also friends with little kids who were monks so that was really cool**. After a few years, my mum, my brother and myself moved back to Delhi because my mum wanted to start working here. And my mum got me this ridiculous mushroom cut hairstyle. Yeah, that's me. So, I remember this really well because my brother would not shut up about it. **He was so annoying**, and **I was quite the cry-baby of the family. That is an understatement. I used to howl all day long** and my name was pony. Yeah, that is me.

So, I remember my first ever day of school. I refused to go inside, and **I stood out all the day crying** and **I remember scolding my mum**, telling her, "I'm too small for school!" So, after I got over the whole "Oh my god, I love my house!" phase, **I just had a lot of fun in school**. I studied in Mother's International and I remember we had this slide inside the swimming pool **which was awesome**. And I also did this arty kind of dance **which was quite cool**. So, grade one came around and I used to sit with **this jolly annoying girl**, Khyati, who used to draw a line on the desk and didn't allow me to cross it. And **she is still as annoying to date** and **still my friend**, sadly. So, **I was really shy, soft spoken** and **won the best personality award**, **which was quite cool**.

In middle school **opened up quite a bit**. I started playing basketball, I was on the school team and, yeah, that's me playing basketball in the morning. So, **we had this gang of friends and used to have water fights and get into a lot of trouble. So, that was kind of fun**. Around this time, **I was kind of fascinated with making movies and making pictures**. So, I begged my dad to get me a Handycam and **I learned Photoshop and Moviemaker all by myself**. So also, my brother left for college when I was in class eight, so **that was kind of sad**.

So high school came around and I joined the dance works, and in no time, I started dancing professionally and it really changed me as a person. **Made me really confident** and **passionate and I just loved it**, and yeah, **that's me doing some cool stuff**. During that time, me and my friends Kinshuk, Mas and Tanisha made this little dance troupe and it's **really embarrassing** now, but **it was fun at the time** and we used to go for competitions, do dances in schools, and that was a **lot of fun**. So, our school took us to a lot of **cool places** for trips and it took us to offbeat places like Kechla, Pondicherry, Shoja, and I also went to Bangalore every year to visit my cousins Druv and Zoya. So, this is the picture of me in Kechla, this is Shoja and this is my cousin Zoya.

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade was the year which meant getting serious and kind of figuring my life out, so yeah, but I still managed to have **a lot of fun** and still got into a lot of trouble. So, but in the end, **studied really hard and came first in the entire school**, to everyone's surprise. So, when school was over, me and seven other friends went to Goa and it was **so much fun**, guys. **It was a really good trip** and I remember it to this day.

College was here and I chose SRCC and I took Eco there. The atmosphere was pretty different. It took a while to get used to and I joined a bunch of societies but **didn't really like any of them**, but I stuck with Street Play for a while - **it was brutal. The directors were so mean and they made us run around in the sun and scream and shout**, but I ended up **making some really nice friends** and really different kind of people I didn't really think I would become friends with, and **I had so much fun in the college** first. **I even walked the ramp and won like this title of Miss Crossroads**, **so that was really fun**.

After first year, during the summer I decided to go all the way to Turkey for an internship for one and a half months **all by myself**. I didn't know anybody there and **it was amazing - probably the best thing I've done yet - and I met some amazing people there, made amazing friends, amazing memories** and we travelled all over, backpacking style, so these are a few pictures and it was just stunning and amazing.

During this time, **I was obsessed with watching YouTube videos** and noticed there weren't too many people in India who were doing this, so I decided make a channel of my own. So, I begged my friend Abbi there to film me and we made a little video and the video is called "Summer Style in Turkey", so you guys can click this box and watch it if



you haven't already! So, at the time, I had a lot of other things going on with YouTube, theatre, dance classes and music, so but everyone always told me I had really great content and I really enjoyed making videos. So, this summer, I decided that I'll do YouTube full-time and it's probably the best decision I've made because I've learnt so much and I've had so much fun and just been amazing. So, these past few months I've had some really great times with my friends and these people were jape enough to have me print that pictures especially and put them in this video, so there you go. I hope you guys are happy now.

And yeah, and these past few months I've travelled a lot, I went to Bangalore to meet my cousins, Canada, Goa, so these are a few pictures and it's just been really great. And you guys who watch my videos and support me - another reason why I'm so happy. It really encourages me to see all your comments. The positive feedback and even the negative feedback is okay! So, thank you for watching my videos. Do make sure you subscribe to my channel and leave a comment below about your new year's resolutions and thumbs it up. So yeah! I'll see you next time. Bye!

1333

## FDML #60

Hi everyone and welcome to draw my life, which is a long overdue video on this channel. I don't post a lot about my personal life, so many of you probably have no idea how I grew up and what I did before starting YouTube. The longest job I ever had was working as a web designer and that's why I've teamed up with Wix to bring you some videos on this topic.

Wix is an online platform that lets you create your own websites for free and they give you an incredibly professional range of tools, so you have complete creative freedom. They have packages for any type of website that you might want, such as a blog, an online shop, a portfolio site or a wedding home page. You also get full technical support, custom domains and mailboxes, reliable hosting and much more. So many years ago, when I was still working in the industry, creating a website was a very expensive process. You basically had to hire a web designer, which was me, and a web developer to create every single page of your website from scratch. This would cost thousands of dollars and takes several months to complete. The crazy thing is there's still people in 2018 who think that this is the only method to make a website. Technology has come so far and platforms like Wix give you all the tools you need to achieve the exact same results for a fraction of the time and cost. So, if you're thinking of making your own website or you know someone who needs a website, then be sure to check out Wix, which I've linked down below. I'm actually going to be making a new website for Macaron and cute life hacks using Wix, so I'll be updating that in a future video.

And now let's get into the story of my life. I was born in China in a town called Jinan which is slightly south of Beijing. I had a slightly tricky start to life because when I was being born, the umbilical cord got wrapped around my neck, so for several weeks afterwards, the doctors weren't sure whether I had brain damage due to lack of oxygen. But thankfully and obviously, that wasn't the case, and I'm very grateful that I lived to experience such awesome things such as making slime for you guys on YouTube.

Both of my parents worked in Beijing at the time, so they took me back shortly after I was born. My dad was an English teacher at university and when I was two years old, he got a job offer from the United Nations to work as a conference interpreter. So, he started off working at the UN in Geneva, Switzerland, and then transferred to Vienna, Austria, soon after. China had a lot of travel regulations back then, so my mum and I were only able to join him two years later. I still have a clear memory of my first flight. We had a layover in Singapore for a few days and I thought it was the most amazing place in the world. Compared to Beijing, there were so many more shops, restaurants, attractions and just overall awesome things to do. We also flew with Singapore Airlines and they gave me a ton of toys to play with on the plane.

So now I'm four years old and just arrived in Vienna. Because my dad worked for the UN, I went to an English-speaking school in a German-speaking country and that's why I have this unusual accent which many people have asked about in the comments. When I first started kindergarten, I didn't know any English so I started speaking Chinese to everyone and I couldn't understand why they couldn't understand me. However, children learn languages really easily, so by the time I was in first grade, I had no problems reading or writing. I don't have any siblings, which of course is quite common in China. This never bothered me because I was so introverted and I loved spending time alone reading, drawing or crafting. My mum was very creative, and she'd often make small toys and dolls for me to play with. When we first got to Austria, we didn't have a lot of money, so my mum DIYed a lot of my clothes and toys. That stuck with me for a very long time and it was one of the driving factors behind my channel.

Life did get easier for us later on, but I always thought that no expensive console or designer clothes can replace the joy of getting a handmade gift.

I went to Vienna International School for 13 years and I loved my time there. I was not one of the popular kids, but I always had a good group of friends and to this day, those are still the people I'm closest to. I know it's almost a cliché for YouTubers to pretend that they were geeky or uncool in high school, but without joking, I was literally the biggest

nerd in my grade. I would study for everything and I volunteered for events. I was editor of our yearbook and school magazine and I also played on the girls' soccer team.

When I was about 13, I became increasingly obsessed with Japanese pop culture. I fell in love with mangas, anime, video games and kawaii brands. I started drawing fan art with the characters from my favourite video games and I discovered online forums where I could share my work. This is the time when computer graphics and the internet were just taking off and I realised that I wanted to continue working in this field, so I decided to study Graphic Design in England which is the closest English-speaking country to Austria.

I arrived in London when I was 18 and started my foundation course in Art and Design at Central Saint Martin's. This was my first time living away from home and the first year was pretty tough. I always assumed that I could get good grades in art simply because I can draw but going to university made me realise that your technical skill is only a tiny, tiny part of being a successful designer. Real creativity is being able to spot trends and make connections that other people can't see and then communicating this visually. Having had all that training at university actually helped me a lot with YouTube because that's the reason that I never run out of new ideas for my videos.

After my foundation course, I started a bachelor's degree in Graphic Design at Chelsea College of Arts. Things were a lot better right now since I got used to living on my own and I also made a bunch of new friends in London. During this time, I was very active in the manga scene and I attended loads of conventions and expos to sell my own comics. I'm actually curious to know if anyone watching this video actually has one of my old comics. If you do, then please leave a comment because that is such a throwback memory for me.

I graduated in June 2007 and decided to move back to Austria for the simple reason that London was just too expensive. However, I really loved the city and there were so many things I was going to miss about it such as Pret, BLT sandwich, peri-peri chips from Nando's and most of all, Japan Centre at Piccadilly Circus. I used to eat there every weekend and buy Japanese fashion magazines for inspiration. I even got my first needle felting kit there, so without Japan Centre, my entire YouTube channel wouldn't exist. After university, I started working as a designer doing all kinds of projects from magazine illustrations to designing toys and dolls. I also spent a few years as a web designer and creating artwork for online games. At this point, many of you might be thinking, wow this is a pretty uneventful draw my life, since you obviously went from designing to YouTube and everyone knows the rest. However, there was actually a turning point coming up in my life which changed a lot of things for me.

Starting from my second year of university, I began getting headaches. At first, these would happen randomly, but they gradually increased to the point where it was really affecting my life. I was constantly taking painkillers and I was always anxious about making plans because I didn't know whether a headache would end up ruining the day. I tried everything to get rid of them including physiotherapy, cranial sacral therapy, biofeedback, which is a very weird method where they attach electrodes to your skin, and you have to control something on-screen by changing your body temperature. I also tried cutting out foods like chocolate or gluten and I took all kinds of herbal supplements but none of these methods had a significant effect and all the doctors I went to just told me it was stress. So I convinced myself that it must be stress because I did have a busy life and I worked in a job that was pretty tiring for your neck and shoulders. This actually went on for six whole years and I somehow just got used to living with the headaches.

However, things took another turn in 2011 when I realised that my hair was falling out. I still remember that it was January 2<sup>nd</sup> because I was actually at the gym as part of my new year's resolution to get fitter and healthier. While drying my hair, I noticed that there were actually big chunks missing and I somehow managed to overlook that in the past few months. So now I was really freaked out and I went back to the doctor's looking for answers. After a bunch of blood tests, it turned out that I had tons of antibodies which were positive for Lupus. Lupus is a complex autoimmune disease and it affects every person differently. Fortunately, in my case, everything was well under control by the time I started YouTube, so that's the reason I've never posted about it on social media - because these days it doesn't affect my life that much. However, I wanted to share this story because I know that statistically many of you might be going through similar things. When I was first diagnosed, it just felt unfair to be dealing with something when you're still so young and all of your friends are still out traveling, having fun and doing whatever things healthy people do. So, if you ever find yourself in a similar situation, then please remember that you're not alone, even though it might feel like it. You'll end up adapting and surviving and the experience will make you appreciate life in a whole new way.

So, after getting diagnosed, I started taking medication and my physical symptoms improved fairly quickly. However, the mental recovery took longer because I had to deal with a lot of changes to my appearance. My hair was growing back unevenly, and my health anxiety caused me to lose a lot of weight, to the point where I looked really unhealthy. This took a big chunk out of my self-esteem, since we live in a society that places so much emphasis on appearance. During this time, I had to find other ways to keep myself happy, such as drawing, crafting or working on business ideas. I spent a lot of time at home and obviously ended up on Instagram, YouTube and Facebook. Like many girls my age, I followed a ton of beauty gurus and fashion bloggers. However, after experiencing illness and recovery, something changed inside me and I started to get angry at social media. I hated the fact that so many influencers send out the message that beauty and wealth are the two most important things in life when they know fully well that the majority

of their followers will never be as blessed or well-off as they are. This got me thinking - Why can't there be a mainstream female influencer whose content does not revolve around photos of her face and body? There are hundreds of ways to be happy that don't involve staring at yourself in the mirror. I learned this myself after spending a year working on my design label, and I regained my confidence after my business started succeeding.

The idea of an anti-fashion influencer never left my mind, so in 2013, I decided to start a YouTube channel focusing only on creativity. I wanted my followers to create instead of consume. I've also always encouraged people to sell things that they made based on my tutorials because learning business skills is a huge confidence booster and will be useful for the rest of your life. My original plan was actually to never appear on camera, just to prove that appearance isn't important. However, I soon realised that viewers really want to know who is behind a channel and it would be unfair not to show my face. But even to this day, I don't appear that often in my videos or thumbnails and I still like staying behind the camera whenever possible.

Starting YouTube has been the most fulfilling job I've ever done, and I'm so thankful to each and every one of you for your support. I absolutely plan to do this full-time for as long as I can, so there's always going to be videos on both my channels. So now I think you know almost everything about my life and the only part missing is how I met my husband. This happened around nine years ago, and I was walking around town with my best friend from high school when we bumped into two guys that she knew from her university. We chatted briefly and then went our separate ways. Later on, I was chatting with my friend on Facebook when I suddenly noticed a ridiculously good-looking guy on her friends list. I asked her who he was, and she said he was Stefan, who was actually one of the guys that we met in town, so then I thought great - we sort of know each other so I'm definitely going to send him a friend request. We started messaging each other on Facebook and then met up a few times and one thing led to the other, and we got married last year. Many of you guys have asked whether Stefan can appear in my videos, and even though he's really supportive of my work on YouTube, he's just not a very social media type of guy. So, the only place you might see him are random clips on my Instagram story. My account is Macaroon, so please go follow me you haven't done so yet. I really hope you enjoyed this video and if you have any more questions about my life, then just leave them down below. A big thanks to Wix for sponsoring this video and be sure to check them out if you want to make your own website. This is Joanna. Thank you so much for watching and I'll see you in my next video. Bye!

2558

#### FDML # 61

Hello, this is Emma and this video is draw my life. I have so many stories to tell you - some of them fun, some of them not so fun, but all of them have contributed to the person I am today and that means I'm really grateful for every event, no matter how difficult that may be. For a while now, I feel like I've been living two lives: my WhispersRed life and Miami home life. It's been really lovely to have the two separate because when I started this channel, it was nice to just be me and not someone's mum, someone's wife or all the other roles I played - just me, and you all saw me not having to fit in anywhere, not being a certain way to conform, just me with my soul, you with yours. I've been able to express myself in ways I never could anywhere else - just be the true me, so thank you. I'm ready now, and it's about time for those two lives to come together. For me to show you all how much being around you guys has helped me. This channel and the kindness that comes out of every video has literally saved me - transformed my life and the lives of the people I love and care for. So many of you over the years have trusted me with your personal experiences, and now I'd like to show my gratitude for you by trusting you with mine. So, if this is something you'd like to share with me, then make yourself a nice cup of tea and snuggle up cosy. Let's begin.

I was born in the late 1970s in a small city called Lancaster, which is in northwest of England. We lived near the sea. My mum and dad were very young when they married - she was 17 and he was 21, a nurse and a builder. It wasn't long after their marriage when they had me, and I'm the first of three children. Life was lovely when I was little, and I was cherished by my family and my grandparents. I'm from English, Irish and Scottish descent. We had very little money, just like everyone else around us in that time, but my dad is the hardest-working person I've ever known. I'm quite a lot like him - we're close and I've always been able to go to him for advice and support. He's a really good man. He's very sensitive and admittedly he was stressed a lot when I was younger. He hasn't always made the right decisions, but right or wrong, he's always tried his best for me, and I love him so much for that.

By the time I started school, my sister was born. Life changed a lot. She had celiac disorder, but it took a long time to find that out and up to then she just cried all the time. She was sick and in a lot of pain. It's well managed now and she's fine, but it was really difficult when she was a baby. I was very sensitive - surprise, surprise - and an empathic child and learnt very quickly to put myself aside and be a help to my mum. The new baby took up all of her time all of a sudden, but I'd always been very happy in my own company anyway, being an only child for about four years. I was very quiet and well behaved, emotionally older than my years, and loved playing tea parties in my Wendy house making mud pies and colouring.

Early school was fun. I had lots of friends. There were some really lovely, tingly teachers but some mean ones too. One in particular would hit me when I used to use a pen with my left hand. She shouted all the time and once pulled me to

the headmaster by my ear. I can still feel it now when I think about it. I used to fake illness a lot because she just terrified me. Thankfully, she left school and it was fun again. I especially remember playing marbles on the grids in the playground, learning to play the recorder and getting tingles at carpet time when the teacher read a story.

At age 8, I developed Bell's Palsy. Apparently, it was from an ear infection. I woke up one morning and half of my face was completely paralysed. I wasn't too concerned for my looks at that age, but it did make me stand out from everyone else and being sensitive, that caused a lot of embarrassment. I had to explain it a lot and the unkind kids had a great time making fun of me. I already had the nickname "granny" due to my short curly blonde hair, which I hated. After several months of heat treatment and physiotherapy, my nerves started responding again and I was able to smile fully. My face has been uneven ever since, so if you notice my face twitching or my eyebrows are uneven in videos, then that's the reason. I recovered pretty well, considering.

Around that time, my brother was born. He was the loveliest baby and such a funny boy. He was sensitive and empathic just like me, and I felt really protective over him. We had a lovely bond and we still do. Being eight years older than him, he looked up to me and now I look up to him because he's so tall. He's done a lot of interesting things in his life so far and now he's a doctor.

Life with my dad was full of new beginnings. We moved house a lot. After finishing work, dad would come home and he would start work again on our house. Once it was done, we'd move to another beaten up old house and start all over again. Eventually, we arrived at a lovely place that he thought would be nicer to grow up in and it really was. It was a small green village just outside town - it was so great, and I could go out on my bike all day long, playing in the fields, go to the park.

Changing schools though was really, really difficult for me. Being the new kid, I got bullied a lot by a group of girls. The ringleader of the pack still gives me shivers every time I think about her, but don't worry, she grew up to be extremely boring and unattractive, as the spoiled kids so often do, yay.

Once I'd been there a while though, I made really good friends, and everyone lived nearby. It was great to go for sleepovers, have dinner at other people's houses. I became an extra family member in a few households in that area. Food wasn't very nice at my house because my mum has never been much of a cook and dad was never in. The shopping ran out really fast and I just remember being hungry all the time. I had a favourite dinner in all of my friends' houses and became quite the people-pleaser. I'd tidy up my friends' bedrooms and be extra polite so I was always invited back. My favourite things to do on sleepovers was to invent dances to pop songs and read the problem pages in girls' magazines. We used to sit underneath the duvet cover with a torch and just absolutely crease up with laughter.

With both my parents working a lot, I got very used to taking care of my brother and sister. Our mum worked nights by that time, so I had to be quite inventive in keeping the other two quiet so she could sleep. When they were home, though, I preferred my own company and if they went out, I'd sneak out my dad's old Beatles and Stones records. Growing up so close to Liverpool meant that the Beatles are in my blood. John Lennon was and is just like a family member to me, and his voice has always been a comfort. I love him.

I also used to take myself to church on a Sunday morning. My friends and their families would be there, and I earned myself a spot in the choir which meant I got two pounds for singing at weddings. This was amazing to me because I didn't get pocket money at home. In fact, once I got the taste for having my own money, I started working at age 13, first babysitting for different families around the area, then at the local dog kennels when owners went on their holidays I used to take care of their dogs, and then after that I started working behind the music counter of Woolworths, which I really, really loved. As I grew up, I increasingly felt the odd one out in my family. My dad was either at work or stressed about work - he left all of the emotional stuff to my mum. We had our moments of fun and connection and she was there for me at a few key times, but as I grew older, she understood me less and less. I found myself trying to please her a lot and it never worked. I was very different from her, so she struggled to understand my needs and wittingly or not, she often sabotaged my confidence. There was always a separation and something missing. I'll never forget something she used to say to me which started when I was very little - I'd shout to her in sheer frustration, "You don't love me" and she'd say, "I love you, I just don't like you". It kind of sums up our relationship really. I'd firstly assume the issue was me. Being a child, that's what you do. But I was also smart enough to know that something was wrong. I could never put my finger on it. I was the one in the family brave enough to point out the truth when things were wrong, but when I did, they called me selfish and ungrateful. I was the troublemaker in my family. I felt no one had my back so by the time I reached high school and my teens, I was really shy, and I was really well-behaved all on the outside but on the inside, I was just confused and frustrated all the time.

Then, everything changed: music happened. The high school offered musical instrument tuition, so I took up clarinet and later I took up tenor saxophone and I was really good at it. Suddenly I was valued for having a talent and it gave me an identity. After school rehearsals, orchestra, the county jazz band, local shows and festivals - wherever they would let me play, I was there! I always wanted to be a girly girl, but I was given short hair all of my life. Short back and sides every time. I was so embarrassed, and I couldn't speak to people without going bright red, especially to boys, so I finally took control and refused another haircut. It seemed to take forever to grow, but I was now speaking through my

instruments. I had a way to express myself and it gave me confidence to be tough. Eventually, seeing I had a talent for it, my dad bought me my own instruments and it must have cost him a fortune and he never had that much money, so I understood the value of that. They were really big and heavy, and I carried them on the bus every day. If I'd been to an after-school rehearsal, the bus home had already gone, so I would carry them with all of my other stuff - gym stuff and books and everything - two and a half miles along the coast to home. I didn't mind it because every now and then I'd set myself goal posts, and I would take a few bench stops to sit and I would sit and watch the sea for a while and think about what my future was going to be and where I would be in ten years' time and come up with ideas and tell myself that everything was going to be okay. Sometimes my dad would see me on his way back from work and I'd catch a lift. It was one of the only times that we really talked and I, I loved it. He would give me loads of advice and tell me I could do anything I wanted to do in my life and tell me stories about his life too. Finally, once my hair grew long and it was the biggest, bushiest hair you've ever seen, and a sort of reddy brown colour by now, I was in the sixth form, wearing Doc Martens which I customized myself - I painted silver stars all over them - I was dressed like Janis Joplin and knew all the words to every Smiths song ever written. Music was everything to me - I loved Jimi Hendrix, Nirvana, Stone Roses, The Cure, The Charlatans - you name it. Whatever I could get my hands on, I was just obsessed, and I would read biographies about all of the musicians and songwriters.

It was about that time that I was sneaking out at night to meet the older university students in Lancaster and I was going out to all of the indie clubs. I even made my way to the Hacienda Club in Manchester one night without anyone knowing. A friend at school one day said she thought I looked like Tori Amos, so I looked her up. I didn't know who she was then, so that from that moment I was absolutely hooked. After different hair colours, black, purple, blonde, I dyed it bright red like hers and I've been doing that ever since. That's the colour you see now. She was my idol and I still love her. Soon I hooked myself a guitar-playing boyfriend and we started a band. My voice wasn't very strong, but I was determined to be the lead singer, so I just shouted until eventually the notes started to form and I became quite good. We got to support Jools Holland when he came to town a couple of times and had lots of fabulous band disagreements, which we even got into the local paper for. We won a battle of the bands competition and got to play to a crowd of 800 people in France. We thought we were really cool. As well as all of that, I was earning money as a wedding singer plus my Woolworth's job and going out socializing. I really didn't have the time for school and exams. I hated school by this point. I hated the system and the system hated me. Teachers would get frustrated with me because they knew I was wasting my intelligence, but they went about it all the wrong way and they told me I'd never be successful at music and I was wasting my time. It just turned me off completely, so much so that when the A-level exams came, I wrote poems on most of the exam papers, oh gosh.

When it was time for the exam results, I knew what was coming so I packed a bag and I got on a plane and escaped to Paris. My friend was working there as an au pair and she offered me a bed. I had the most amazing time. I spent my days sitting on the steps of the Sacre-Coeur listening to Rage Against the Machine on my Walkman, deciding what my next move was going to be. I just knew that I'd ruined my chances of getting into uni, but I was desperate to leave my family and the town I grew up in. At that time, I just thought that I'd turn mad or boring if I stayed there and I just had to leave. So, I decided to put an advert in the national music paper, the Melody Maker, for "singer available" and joined a band in Nottingham, which is in the Midlands. The drummer agreed to put me up on a camp bed in his house and that was that. I'll never forget the day I moved out. My parents drove me there. All I had to my name was 250-pound savings, a ton of CDs, a guitar, a clarinet, saxophone and a bag full of charity shop clothes. My mum was there crying, doing her usual poor me, you're upsetting me routine, and my dad was disappointed and scared but proud of his crazy, messed-up, brave daughter and trying to comfort his wife, and, and, and there was me. Absolutely terrified but pretending to be in control so that my dad would stop worrying. I had no idea what I was doing, and I cried myself to sleep that night in a cold, damp, uncarpeted room on a creaky old camp bed. It was awful. Eventually, the boyfriend I had left behind decided to move away too, and after a short time, we both moved to London. This was a new boyfriend who had been in one of the other local bands. We were great friends and he was an amazingly talented musician and songwriter. He was the moody, tortured artist type. We were tragically poor but managed to rent a cheap place together. It was above a Jamaican barber shop and near falling to bits. If you went into the bathroom at the right time in the morning, you could see the landlord cleaning his teeth through a hole in the floor. We didn't mind so much being poor - we'd take numerous trips to the supermarket to buy the maximum daily allowance of 9 pence beans and cheap loaves of bread and just lived off beans on toast. I joined an all-girl rock group and he had his own band. It was really tough trying to make it in music, but we both had tons of fun. We'd support each other in our gigs all over London and had some really great experiences. I remember once he supported Coldplay at a gig in Camden. They hadn't signed a record deal yet and that night, they had all of the A&R people from the record companies coming to see them. The venue was packed and they, when they came on, my boyfriend and his band were being really moody by the bar, so I went to the stage to see them all on my own. It was the most amazing atmosphere and such a great, great night. That night, I also met a BBC Radio one DJ - his name is Steve Lamacq - and he gave me his home address to send him my songs. I didn't do it - I was way too scared. There were so many opportunities that came my way at that time, but I was always too scared to do anything about them. Being behind the microphone on stage or in the studio, I felt like I could conquer the world, but all the other stuff just terrified me. A big US label wanted me to send material over, but I didn't. Bjork's manager was interested in taking me on, but I was, again, too scared to pursue it. I just wasn't cut out for the music

business. Me and the girl group, we did appear on a channel 5 TV show once. But thank goodness it's not online. I think my dad has a copy of it somewhere, but I could never bear to watch it.

Mine and the boyfriend's relationship was coming to an end. We outgrew each other and found life, I found life with him quite depressing. I was excited for a new start, so I left the girl band and my best friend from high school was in London too. She'd been to uni there and we decided to move to Brighton together, which is on the south coast. However, when it came to organise our move, she was nowhere to be found and none of her friends would answer their phone to me. As it turned out, she was moving in with my ex-boyfriend and they both just disappeared from my life. I was alone again, with no money, no home, no friends apart from one who was a sort of a friend of a friend – a lap dancer who was in between acting jobs. She's really funny actually. She'd been left behind as well and was in the same circumstance, so we found somewhere to live - me and my two cats, Sydney and Lily, and all the other stuff moved. The new place was just as much of a wreck, if not more. The windows didn't fit the frames, the boiler was a health hazard and the fridge never kept anything cold, but it was all we could afford so we made the best of it and I survived on instant mash, tinned tomatoes and brown sauce until I got a job. My friend helped me with that. She also did agency work for marketing companies and offered me to either join her, lap dancing, or the agency work. I chose the latter. I'd never had the courage to be a lap dancer even if I did think it was a good idea. She never really took any of her clothes off anyway. She was such a good talker that I think they just paid her to be quiet most of the time.

Single life was amazing. I didn't earn a lot, but it was more than I'd ever had, and I would never work in the same place for long, so I really got to explore London more. In the mornings I could be at the train station handing out free chocolate bars or something, after that an exhibition and in the evening, I could be handing out free drinks in a bar. I did everything and anything, from dressing up as a banana to walking around celebrity parties handing out free stuff. I loved it, and I made tons of friends. I have so many stories from that time, but I'll tell you just one of them. There was a new cable channel out called The Dating Channel, and me and a friend were hired to walk around a shopping centre asking people to film a profile for themselves. By the end of the job, they needed a couple more profiles, so my friend and I made one each. I didn't want to do it as myself, so I created a character called Millie with pigtails and glasses and filmed a profile. I never saw it, but apparently, they played it a lot on the channel. I didn't have a TV, let alone have cable, so, but later on I found out the Radio One, the BBC radio 1 breakfast show saw it and started a week-long nationwide appeal to get a date for Milly.

One night, about a year later, my life was about to change again. A friend of mine invited me to a Halloween party in Brixton, so I put on my best long tasselly black dress and black buffalo trainers like the Spice Girls used to wear and went along. As I was getting ready, I just knew that I was going to meet someone that night. I remember looking into the mirror and just smiling at myself - I just, I just knew. The party was terrible. There weren't even any nice people there, let alone nice men. But I did make friends with a DJ and he offered to take me and my friend to another party, so we went along. We didn't have any money to buy drinks - we'd run out by that time, but I was quite good at pool, so I challenged someone to a game, and we won our drinks. My friend and I were dancing away when I looked over the other side of the room and I saw the most beautiful man I had ever seen. He was sitting there looking at me with his arm over the space beside him. I played it cool and spoke to his friends first but then made my way to the empty space next to him. We talked for hours. He was dark-skinned and exotic looking, with the kindest face, really deep eyes and the warmest of voices. His name was Nam. He was Vietnamese with a strong London accent and was a DJ. I fell in love with him straightaway. I wrote my phone number down for him on the tiniest piece of paper. He managed not to lose it and called me the next day, and we started dating. Nam had had a tragic upbringing. Having left the poverty of Vietnam after the war as a baby with his mum, only to end up in the poorest of homes with a physically abusive stepfather. He was living alone in his sister's old place. It was a real bachelor pad - DJ decks in the lounge, friends round all the time and it needed a really good clean. He needed a woman in his life, so I moved in and cleaned the place up. We were very close, very quickly, and knew that we'd one day be married and have children. We knew each other already as soon as we met. After a short time dating, we decided to get our heads down and work really, really hard just to make our lives better. After a lot of work and saving, all in one year we bought our first place, we had our first baby and planned a wedding.

So, in 2003, I became a mum to the most beautiful sweet little girl with dark, thick hair, gorgeous olive skin and big juicy red lips. Her name is Mia. Her birth was a really bizarre experience. It lasted all night long and by morning, I was screaming at the top of my lungs in broad daylight, curtains wide open looking through huge big windows at the Houses of Parliament. The hospital was directly opposite. I had no pain relief or gas and air. I'm surprised they didn't hear me in cabinet. Poor Nam didn't know what to do with himself. Mia didn't look anything like me, and people used to assume I was her child minder, but I didn't care about that. I was a proud young mum. We had a few cultural complications over the wedding plans, nothing too major. I was well accepted by his family and him by mine, but we decided that pleasing everyone else was too difficult, so we did our own thing and we got married in the mountains of northern Thailand. It was a lot cheaper to go there than it was to have a wedding at home, surprisingly enough. So, we had a super budget Buddhist wedding. We had hungry local villagers as guests, some dancing girls, a band and a drunk videographer. Neither of us speak Thai, so we didn't understand a word of what the monk was saying, but it was the

most beautiful ceremony. I wore a green and gold wraparound dress with a purple orchid in my hair and Nam wore a cream Thai style linen suit. Our wedding flowers were jasmine.

Afterwards, we travelled to Nam's birth town in Vietnam to see his family that he'd never met. He never knew his dad because he unfortunately passed away whilst Nam was growing up in London. However, he was a well-known football player during his lifetime in Vietnam and people recognized him in the streets because of it. They were pointing at Nam saying his dad's name. It was quite an emotional trip.

With a grandchild in the family, my dad decided he'd like to move to the south and be nearer to us. My younger sister had already moved down south to London for other reasons with her fiancé and dad was ready for another house renovation. With me being a mum now, and more settled, I think my mum found it easier to relate to me, so our relationship improved a little bit. I really enjoyed being a mum, but it was so lonely for me. I had none of my old friends anymore. They were still all busy partying away. For a whole year, the only friend I had was our elderly neighbour Kath, who would come in every day at 2:00 p.m. for tea. Kath is still around now, living in the same place. I go back there and I take care of her every couple of weeks. I take her shopping and help her with things she needs. We're very close and she's been like a mum to me - she never had any children of her own, so I'm like family to her.

I began spending the weekends with my family like a dutiful daughter, but it wasn't good for me at all. Those feelings I'd had that made me want to leave them came back again and I began to feel trapped. Nam was working really hard to keep us, he was so tired, and he was stressed, and I was stressed, then we argued a lot. So, I did what I knew best and threw myself into work, which incidentally made me unavailable at the weekends, so I didn't have to hang around with my family as much. I borrowed whatever I needed to start my own business and I became a London market trader. I drove a silver transit van with pink fluffy dice hanging in the windscreen and I sold electrical hair products. It was so much fun working alongside really lively people. They're some of the best people ever - so funny and so happy. They look me under their wings and really looked after me. The work was hard, usually starting between 5:00 and 6:00 in the morning and we couldn't afford childcare, so I took Mia with me. I was determined to take care of her myself anyway. So, she would sit on a stool in the middle of my pitch all wrapped up with her breakfast in hand, and I would build the stall all around her. It was really tough, but we had lots of fun. She'd have her nap beside me and then help moving boxes and selling things. Before long, I had four different market pitches, working seven days a week and I was a big hit with the African girls who always needed new hair straighteners. I didn't make a huge amount of money because I kept feeling sorry for people all the time and I gave my stock away, but I did alright. It was a dream of mine and Nam's to move somewhere quieter and with both of us working constantly, we never once took a break - no holidays, nothing. We were finally able to do that, so we sold up and moved to the same area that my mum and dad were living in. It was a nice place and we thought that it would be nice to raise Mia there. We bought the only house that was in our budget. Nothing worked and it needed complete renovation which we couldn't afford but it had a garden and it was ours and we were so happy to be there, away from the city and into a more child-friendly area. I remember the first year we had no heating and barely any money left over each month for food, but we loved each other deeply and it always got us through. Life was tough and we had our moments of stress just like everyone, but we were happy.

Things were ticking along nicely in our old rickety house. Our finances had improved a little bit and we were saving up to pay my dad to renovate the place, which he had kindly agreed to do. I couldn't leave him twiddling his thumbs, could I? He needed a new house to renovate, so we did the sensible thing and added to our financial obligations by having another child. In 2009, I became a mum again to a beautiful, kind, sweet and empathic little boy named Bo, which pronounced in Vietnamese means father. I had built my stall every weekend right up until I was 8 months pregnant, so I managed to stay quite fit. The midwives agreed that I could have a home birth and it was the most beautiful experience of my entire life. We hired a pool and because we were at home, Mia could be there too, which I really, really wanted. So, she was the first person he saw when he opened his eyes. She cut his cord and she helped the midwives. Nam near enough passed out from the anxiety of it all, but us girls had it covered.

It was time to say goodbye to my market days and I started working with a friend of mine on a small business. I helped Nam with his work, and I got involved in the community for my children. On top of work, two children and falling apart house to take care of, I ran the local baby group, youth club, preschool committee and I had an allotment where I grew food for us. I used to grow my own vegetables. Between wanting to please everyone all the time and trying to prove how good I was, I became the most stressed and worn out I'd ever been in my entire life. I took on everyone's pain and responsibilities. I barely looked after myself and even all my clothes had holes in. Once again, I was the smiling, hard-working people pleaser on the outside, and a total mess on the inside. Nam was tired from working all the time, I was totally overwhelmed, so, again, we argued a lot. Then, one day, just before Christmas, disaster struck. Finally, after saving and borrowing, we were able to renovate our house. It needed near demolition, so we couldn't stay in it and luckily, my dad had offered for us to lodge with him till it was habitable again. The building work and the accommodation wasn't for free of course, but we were so grateful for the work to be done and have a place to stay. I planned to be the best daughter ever. They wouldn't even know we were there, and I fell over myself to make sure that everything was going to be perfect - housework, cooking, everything. I bought fancy presents for everyone and planned the perfect Christmas with minimum stress. I was aware that it wasn't my mum's choice that we move into her home, so I wanted to have as little impact on her life as possible and just keep everyone happy.

The 17<sup>th</sup> of December that year was **the most stressful day of my entire life**. My, mostly, it was mostly self-perpetuated which I understand now, work, school events, emptying our house and both of the children had flu. My work friend watched the children for a moment while I went to run an errand and whilst I was getting into my car, another car came skidding around the corner on the ice and scooped me up onto her bonnet. Suddenly, everything was in slow motion and I was looking into the eyes of the driver. **I felt really sorry for her**, first of all, because she just looked terrified and **then I had a feeling of just total surrender, like I was about to die and there was nothing I could do about it**. I fell off her car bonnet and hit my head on the side of the road and blacked out. The driver was unharmed, and she managed to stop her car further down the road. Due to bad weather conditions and our location, my dad's truck was a better option than the ambulance. I was in and out of consciousness but came around on the journey to the hospital. My left tibia was crushed on impact with the car and I needed an operation to save my leg, so I was admitted to hospital. They took bone from my hip to build up the tibia and I had a plate and some screws to hold it all in place. On top of that, a full leg plaster and steady stream of morphine, a hospital stay all over the Christmas period. My life was, complete, completely turned upside down, but **I was really grateful to still have it**, and what struck me the most about that time with all of the medical professionals kept saying, "You're so young, we can do this" or "You're young, so we need to make sure that we do this" and it just surprised me, because after my life so far, I felt like I was anything but young.

Slowly but surely after that, **life became near enough unbearable**. I was stuck in heavy full-leg plaster and crutches on a bed in my mum and dad's garden shed which they called the Garden Room, **which luckily had a toilet and a sink, thank goodness**. And it was the middle of winter. I was in a lot of pain and unable to do very little for myself, let alone do anything for my children. They were sleeping upstairs in the house and I couldn't get up there to read them a story and say goodnight to them. **It was really awful**. Nam had to keep working night and day to pay for everything on his own, because I was out of work and we had to rely on others to take care of the children and pay childcare and stuff. I coordinated everything from my bed and asking other people to do things for me was **the worst thing ever**. My dad threw his everything into finishing that house. Working was his way of dealing with things, so his way of helping was getting on with that so that we could move back in there. Mum had started off helpful and involved, but I could tell that the enthusiasm was quickly running out, and **we began to feel unwelcome** in that house. A lot happened between me and my family during this time. **I was at my lowest and in need of help**, which allowed people who should have been there for me to behave in ways I'd never seen before to such a degree. It wouldn't be appropriate or smart to go into details about those events at this time, mostly because it would invite negativity into my life now and in the future, which no one needs. However, I will say that **emotional manipulation is one of the worst kinds of bullying to endure, especially when it's coming from the people who you should be able to rely on for love when it's needed. I don't often talk about my lack of a close relationship with the women I grew up with. For a lot of people, it's one of the worst things ever to speak disrespectfully of family, especially of the woman who brought you into this world, and in many cases I would agree with that. And by talking about it, you also run the risk of sounding as though you're the one with the problem, especially when it's hidden, narcissistic-style behaviour - the type when everyone else sees a nice version of them that you. But right is right and wrong is wrong**. There are bad and good people in this world and are plenty more in between, and they all have to be related to someone. So, if you're one of those people in the same situation as me, I get it. I totally get it. **I'm just really glad** that Naam was there. Even after his upbringing, he couldn't be, he couldn't believe the behaviour he was seeing and finally **I had someone on my side to see what I had always experienced and thank goodness he was there**.

**We finally moved back into our home - our new improved little house was amazing**. There was still work to do when we moved in and it's still not finished, but **it was the loveliest place** either of us had ever lived in. After two further operations to my leg, physiotherapy, exercise and **determination**, I was able to walk again and pick up my babies from school and nursery. The rest of the healing started to begin and as my physical health improved, **my mental health needed a lot of attention**. I couldn't sleep. I had a regular panic attacks **and was depressed** and completely distracted at times. I could make the dinner from start to finish and afterwards couldn't remember a moment of it.

Then, **the most amazing thing happened to me. I found you all!** **My anxiety was sky-high**, and I would wake up at 3 a.m. wide awake quite often. I remembered years ago that me and my ex-boyfriend used to fall asleep each night to tapes of The Goon Show, an old BBC show from the 1950s. The Foley sounds and the voices used to send me off easily, so I searched for background sounds and relaxation videos. Eventually, ASMR videos came up. Discovering the name for my tingles was **incredible in so many ways. It felt as though my whole life had made sense up to that point**. **I found my people, and I didn't feel so different anymore**. I started sleeping through the night after a while, **I found the clarity of mind and the courage to get help** for my anxiety and was diagnosed with severe PTSD. **I didn't feel sad about it at all at that time. Once I knew what it was and that it wasn't my fault, after a course of CBT with the most amazing therapist, my symptoms near enough went away**. I still have the odd symptom now, but **I'm so much more self-aware and I know how to manage myself**. If it wasn't for being run over by a car and everything that happened since, I would never have learned self-care and the importance of that. I'd been pushed to such a point with my family that I couldn't be in their presence anymore without starting a panic attack, which meant I had to minimize contact and that really helped a lot.



About six months later, I started making a few ASMR videos of my own to make friends and to be more involved in the community. Aside from being a mum and from meeting Nam, this has to be hands-down **the best thing that ever happened to me. Thank you. Life became really fun after that.** Nam and I started making more time for socializing and our group of friends grew. **We had so many good times and we met families with similar aged children. It was nice to do our own thing and to put all of the stress behind us.** Finally, **it was good to have the space to heal.** However, it wasn't meant to last. We must have had a few more life lessons to learn, because there was much more drama on the way, and what I'm about to say isn't the last of it either, so **thank you for listening** this far. Here goes.

**I ended up in an impossible situation and one that I wouldn't wish on anyone and it's the most difficult thing I've ever had to deal with.** Even after everything I've just said. There was a family in our social group that stood out to everyone else and not for good reasons. Each of the family seemed to have something they weren't comfortable with - some little things, some pretty worrying, but no one dared assume the worst. The children from different families started reporting events back to their parents and things that had made them uncomfortable and unfortunate. **Unfortunately,** our son had an experience we had to act on. There's a heck of a lot to this story, lots of events that there would be no point going into now but suffice to say that after taking advice from someone qualified and a lot of soul-searching, I made a report to the authorities. I'll never forget **how terrifying the phone call was,** but they assured me it was serious, and they needed to investigate. The investigation was a complete farce. The parents were alerted to reports but nothing more was done for over a month and due to staff shortages, they only looked into it for the minimum amount. Apparently, that's quite a common occurrence for cases in rural areas, and **it's such a massive shame. This made the situation worse and when the parents discovered that it was me that made the call, they went on the attack. They tried everything they could to deflect back onto me using people in the community, making up stories about me, telling lies. Thankfully,** after all the work I had done for the children's groups and other community projects, lots of people knew me and knew me to be quite the opposite to the person they were describing, so the plan didn't work so well. However, the mother threatened my life, **which was really scary.** She also called my close friends and **threatened various levels of violence towards me.** The father would stand and stare at my children in the school playground and block my way on the pavement outside school. They are wealthy, you see, and they're close friends with a lawyer who tried to intimidate me at a community event. All of this stuff was reported and, don't worry, I am safe now, but **it was a difficult time for sure.** Since then, another separate incident, nothing to do with me, someone else apparently, another incident happened, and another report was made. I can't finish with a conclusion to the matter but, as far as I know, it's still ongoing. However, I will say and this is the purpose of me telling this story, that if anyone, any of you are ever in the same position, if you ever witness something you know isn't right, child protection is the number one priority, and incidents like these should never be ignored, but please, please don't forget how important your protection is too. Always make sure you're safe and that you have support by your side because you will need it.

So, throughout all of this time, I was making my ASMR videos. **The strength and the relaxation** I got from that was immense. **Spending time with you all was an escape from the stress for me and thank goodness for it.** I didn't tell many of my friends about the channel and certainly not family. I think when you're so used to not talking to people about the tingles, it didn't seem like something I needed to mention. And it was just my little hobby anyway. However, I thought I'd start to mention it to my friends. My channel was growing a bit and **I was just really proud of it.** A close friend at that time had just relocated her family to LA and **I missed her so much.** There'd been so many stressful events in my life and we hadn't been on holiday since Nam and I got married, so I decided that we go. Poor Nam had to stay behind and work, but he said, "Go ahead and enjoy yourselves!" I really needed a break and **it was an exciting opportunity for the children.** I decided to tell my friend about my channel when we got there. **It was so great** seeing her - the children really missed each other too, and **LA was fantastic.** Just hanging around, doing normal stuff, taking the kids to school, shopping, driving around. We had a trip to Disney as well. **It was brilliant!**

Everything was going so well until I told her about my channel and I also told her that I wanted to take a day out to go meet another content creator. She tried to understand about ASMR but had a really hard time and **the rest of the trip was so tricky. I tried to keep the energy up, but we were just not welcome** at all after that. **I couldn't wait to get back on that plane** and go home to Nam. She and I spoke afterwards, and apparently, she thought it was narcissistic of me to put myself on YouTube. **She said it was sad and I must be missing something in my home life to want to do something like ASMR. It was such a big kick in the teeth for me and I was absolutely devastated, mostly because I couldn't believe that I had continued for so long to allow such awful people into my life. I loved everyone** despite their faults, but I was learning then that there needs to be a limit and **I had to stop allowing people to hurt me. From that moment on, I did a complete evaluation of everyone in my life. I studied everything I could find out about narcissists and sociopaths and became much more aware of what personality type I am and why I behaved the way I did for so long. I realised that I had been a victim of my extroverted, highly sensitive personality through sheer lack of understanding, self-love and confidence. I vowed then to turn it into an advantage from now on. I now have the most wonderful very small group of friends close by - people who have been there through all of it and they know me inside out.** And then there's you guys! Some of you I have met, some of you I know of and many that I don't, but **I know that you're there and I know you're listening, and I know that you feel.** And **that's so important and this means the world.**

I have one more story to tell. One I have promised a few times before but it's just never been the right time, but now you know my past, I believe it is the right time and now you'll be able to understand it all and that I am able to explain it properly. So, this is a story of what happened to my wedding ring and my engagement ring. After the big storm that had been mine and Nam's life for so long, **there were suddenly calm**. The odd ripple here and there but nothing we couldn't handle. Nam and I had been through so much together and **we worked so hard**. We put ourselves through a lot over the years and **we'd been very hard on ourselves. We went over and above what was necessary at times too and we attracted heartache** into our lives and ultimately our day-to-day relationship. There was a lot we had come up against as a couple and **we got into the habit of acting out our frustrations on each other. Me, quietly building resentment from unresolved disagreements** and him, reacting to **all of the pressures we'd had around us**, impatient and resisting "what is" became his default, and I always knew he hadn't processed his past, not fully.

**My life had changed incredibly. I went through a lot of personal growth. I had had therapy. I learned a lot and my eyes were just wide open.** Nam and I had finally achieved what we set out to all of those years ago. **We had somewhere nice to raise our children, we had an albeit modest but steady income with which to do it, two absolutely beautiful children, the most loving of friends and we were still not happy - not in a day to day sense.** We'd always said things will be better when this happens or things will be better when we have this or when we have that, but "when" was now and everything was the same, just prettier looking and we had kitchen cupboards and a boiler that worked. Finally, we agreed to separate. **There were lots of frustrations and heated discussions of course** but **we knew it was the right thing to do.** **We were all sad,** the children included. They were involved in the discussions as well and it was important for us to listen to them and keep them just involved in what was happening so that they didn't feel like they were left out and that they weren't in control at all. We took our wedding rings off and Nam moved out of our home. I had Mia and Bo during the week, and he had them at the weekends, which is when I filmed my videos. And I have to say that **as sad as it all was and how hard it was being poor again, though I'm quite good at being poor, and how lonely I was at times, I couldn't remember ever feeling so much peace and calm.** The children flourished in the atmosphere and at the weekends they had a lot of fun with their dad. He's never spent that much time with them before and he bonded with them in a way that he'd never had the time or the patience to. He'd always been a really loving dad and he always really loved and adored his children, children, but all of their practical care had previously been my job, so suddenly he had to know their timetables, their homework, what was going on with their friends, everything. **I became the most centered I had ever been in my life, and with the love and support from you guys, who never knew anything other than that I had removed my rings, I just couldn't be anything but strong. I was finally taking care of myself and it just felt really good.** It was touch and go for a while, but Nam eventually took control and he pulled through. He never missed childcare payments we'd agreed to, he always kept his word with the childcare arrangements and got himself into therapy, which was so important. In fact, the same lady who treated my PTSD, he went to see her. Her name is Lorraine and **she's our saviour - she's an amazing woman.** He also gave me the space I needed which was just right. I did yoga every day, I lost weight, started studying sound therapy and Reiki. There were even more hours in the day. **It was just amazing. I was on top of everything at home - it was lovely.**

After therapy, lots of time, patience, healing and growth, Nam completely turned everything around and **we started to fall in love again,** just like we did when we first met **but with much more understanding and maturity.** It felt like we had pressed the reset button and we could build a relationship that we both wanted through everything we had learned. We got to show our children that if things aren't right, then you fix them. And how to do that properly. Eventually, after lots of dates on our own and with the children having fun together and being a team, Nam moved back into our little house and **we became the best family we could be.** Mia and Bo are really proud of us for making things better. Everyone is respected and we purposefully show kindness to each other. Nothing and no one is perfect and we still have the odd disagreements but nothing big - nothing big at all, and now we have a way through **with love and patience we just come to a compromise** and we could never do that before. We were just so busy and focused on other things that we just weren't doing things right. Above all, now, neither of us want to have the same experience as we did before, and **we'll never again allow outside influences to affect our day-to-day happiness as a couple and a family.** I'm the love and support he's never had from anyone in his entire life and **he's my protector and he's my home.** We saved each other when we met and we've been taking care of each other ever since, even when we were apart. **Nam has always supported me in anything I want to do,** and he thinks you're all really wonderful. He enjoys it when I read the comments to him, all the nice things that you say, I sit and read them to him quite often and he has a really big heart and he appreciates all of them. Some of you have said in the past that they'd be quite spooked stepping out of the tingle shed at night after filming. Well, I'm not too keen on the dark either so he waits for me to finish recording and he helps me back into the house, just so you know. He doesn't get tingles and sometimes tries to give me ideas for videos. He's getting a bit better at that, but yeah, some of his ideas are quite funny. Mia doesn't feel tingles either but Bo does, and he loves me to stroke his hair to sleep and he loves me to draw on his back, so I do that for him quite often.

So, I'll finish this rather long video now and tell you a few things I can see in the future, just to finish off on a super positive note. And I feel like if I say it here, then it's definitely going to happen. Ok. **I'm going to continue to show anyone and everyone how wonderful ASMR is.** I've experienced people in my local area gossiping about my YouTube channel. I think I may have spoken about this before. I've been said all kinds of different things. One woman even came up to me and said that she's been watching my porn channel, and I've been told that people have passed my

videos around the local pub. You name it, I've seen it. But you know what? I don't care about that stuff one bit. **Those people just make me more determined** to keep going and my mission is to make it so that no one ever feels embarrassed to talk about their love for tingles or for ASMR videos to family and friends. I will continue to make videos until you guys tell me it's time to stop. Then, **my dream is to build an ASMR residential retreat centre**. I want to find a beautiful green space and have Mongolian yurts for accommodation, a community space, therapy rooms and a vegan café. And with the proceeds from that, **I would like to fund a project to rescue children from the streets and to give them a home, education and lots of love. So, I hope to set up a foundation for that**. I know it's going to happen, and **I know that when the time comes, you guys will be supportive** and **I'm so excited** about that. I expect I'm about halfway through my life now. **Everything I believe up to this point has been to teach me how to live the next half, and I intend to do it consciously**. So, **I thank you so, so much** from the bottom of my heart for everything, and there isn't really much for me to say now apart from sweet dreams and goodnight.

9948

## FDML #62

Hey YouTube! It's Mortemer and I figured it's about time I finally did my draw my life and I've been promising it to you guys for a while now, so let's get started.

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1989, a baby girl was born named Jean and then 15 seconds later I was born - twins! Yay! My sister got to go home right away but I had to stay in the hospital for a few weeks until I could breathe on my own. I was youngest of three boys and one sister - there was Jean, Ginger, Matt, Charlie, Joey - a lot of us! Growing up, my mum always dressed us in matching clothes and with such a crowded house, we shared a room until we were 13 years old. **That got old really fast**.

In second grade, **I got really into** Dragon Ball Z when I raced home from school every day to watch it on Toonami. My friends and I made a Dragonball Z club and my character persona was Mortemer. I took the name from my favourite cartoon show, Rocko's Modern Life. That persona has stuck with me even to this day - I'm sure if you looked through Mortimer archives all over the internet you would find me posting from every different stage of my life.

In third grade, my sister and I, now allowed to dress however we wanted, went crazy and dressed pretty goth and **got bullied for it**. So, we started taking Taekwondo classes we made a lot of new friends with **the confidence we learned** and in sixth grade, **I got into** anime. It's all I could watch, draw, and even dictated how I would dress. I started cosplaying at 12 with my sister and we won all of the costume contests at anime cons in our hometown. I even won a costume contest to be a mascot for a local convention. This got me started on modelling and building a portfolio. **Even had a successful stock photography page** for a few years.

When I was 13, I met my future husband, Aaron Hansen, at a convention. While we both lived in the same state, we lived very far apart. It was about a four-hour drive to his house and then four hours back, so we would talk on the phone for hours every night. Shortly after meeting, we decided to try being a couple. We dated long-distance for almost four years. I would get to see Aaron for one week a month. At 16, I got my first job at the Disney Store in the mall. While it was not fun work, **I did enjoy making my own money**. I worked many retail jobs through the years - Godiva, JCPenney, Bells, Hot Topic, Forever 21.

In high school, **I really took to art** and **had an amazing teacher who I still look up to today for guidance and advice. She helped shape me and my art skills**. She entered me in a few art contests, and **I won a couple scholarships for college. My parents were so proud**. After high school, I went to the Disney College Program. It's where you live, work and go to school at Disney. Aaron came with me. All of my life, it was a dream to work for Disney and after working at the parks, I decided **it just wasn't for me** anymore. Aaron and I moved back home and decided to take a break for a while. I met a crazy guy and we dated for a while, but it didn't work. Aaron wrote me a letter every single day for a year to win me back.

When I was 20, **I finally caved in, and I moved to California with Aaron to make it work this time**. He moved me all the way across the country and we just drove all of my possessions in my car up to California and **it was an amazing road trip** and something I'll just never forget. Once we got to California, **I pursued a lifelong goal** of modelling. I got signed with two agencies and worked with many major brands and companies. **It was a lot of fun, but it got old fast. I wanted more in life**, so I decided to move on to other goals. **Aaron's always been my main support and inspiration in life**. Seeing his goals take off and him being able to make a living off what he liked to do **inspired me**.

I decided to start my own animation channel, Libre Fish. While **animation was fun, I still had other passions like painting and fashion**. So, when I was 23, I started my second YouTube page, Mortem3r, the one you're watching right now. **It has opened many doors for me that I could never imagine, all because of my subscribers!** So, thank you all. In 2013, **I finally got to marry my best friend** after being together for half of my life. In the future, **I have lots to be excited for**. Please subscribe to follow me on my journey. **I have so many more exciting things** coming up in the future and I

can't wait to share each stage of my life with you guys. Thank you all for being such loyal watchers. See you guys all next time!

890

### FDML #63

Hey guys! So, I decided to do a draw my life video, but I'm really bad at drawing so bear with me on this one. So, my full name is Brittany Lynn Joyal, and I grew up in Marlborough, Massachusetts. I was born on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1991, so that makes me 21 years old. Growing up, I would spend all my summers at my beach house in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. I loved it there and some of my best memories come from there.

I have a mum and a dad and two brothers, Ryan and Tyler, as well as a dog named Sophie and a half-sister, Alicia. My dad is a police officer, even though he looks like a gangster in this photo, but he's also in a rock band, and growing up he was one of my biggest inspirations. We've both shared a love for the arts, and I want to be just like him. My mum used to clean houses but now she works in a cute little sandwich shop in our neighbourhood. Being the only girl and having two brothers, her and I have always been super close. She's one of my best friends.

Growing up, I was a huge tomboy, but I guess having two brothers and being the middle child can do that to you. I always wish I had a sister though, because my brothers would always leave me out of stuff. In elementary school, I was the class clown. I loved to make people laugh and was always super social with my classmates. As I got older though, I became more reserved. All the girls were starting to wear makeup and having boyfriends, and I just kept to myself. I was pretty self-conscious and relied more on my personality than I did on my looks. Seventh grade was one of my favourite years. I started to come out of my shell again and was really active in school activities. I got a part in the seventh-grade play and that's when I rediscovered my love for acting. I was also in this band called Exit. I sang, my friend Jeff played guitar and my friend Joe played drums. We decided to perform at the seventh-grade talent show and we played TNT by AC/DC. It was the first time I ever sing in front of a huge crowd. In seventh grade, I also got my first boyfriend. His name is Ryan. He was the best seventh grade boyfriend I could have asked for. We lasted four months before I broke up with him in a note.

In eighth grade, I started high school. In a few weeks in the school year, I met two of my best friends - Joey and Amanda. We did everything together, from going to the mall to swimming in the pool to playing monkey ball and listening to the Veronicas until my 9:00 p.m. curfew came around and I had to go home. This was the first time I actually had best friends. We were equivalent to Lizzie, Gordo and Miranda, except Amanda wasn't Mexican and Joey didn't secretly have a crush on me, but I had blonde hair, so I guess that still makes me Lizzie McGuire.

My high school years, I didn't have a ton of friends but the few I did have, I kept close. When I was in tenth grade, my friend Joey and I decided start uploading videos to YouTube. We made a YouTube channel called Winter Spring Pro and it wasn't before long that we start getting paid. It's safe to say that that day in June forever changed our lives. It didn't take long for our teachers and friends to find out about our after-school hobby. It was like day and night for me. People started to pay attention to me more and teachers started to know that I existed. I'd walk down the halls and people would whisper and point, saying, "It's that girl from YouTube!" It was really cool and really embarrassing. The first time someone ever asked me for my autograph is during lunch. I was so embarrassed and so caught off guard that I spelled my own name wrong!

By the time my senior year came around, I was a totally different person. I was more outgoing and started to care less what people thought about me. In May, I attended my senior prom. My original date decided to bail on me last minute after I bought my ticket and dress, so I ended up going with my seventh-grade boyfriend, Ryan. Senior year was coming to a close and it was trying to start applying to colleges. I wanted to go to film school, but my dad said if I did, he wouldn't pay for it because, not a promising career, so I decided to be a graphic design major instead, and I applied to three state schools. I got rejected from every single one.

Thinking that my life was over, I quickly regretted every test I didn't study for and every homework assignment I didn't pass in. I decided I'd go to Community College for two years and then transferred to a state school. I hated Community College. I had zero friends, disliked most of my teachers and I ate lunch alone every day. Also, there was this one girl who literally wanted to kill me. I kid you not. She really did want to kill me. July 2011 was the first time I had ever been on a plane. I was flying out to California for the first time in order to attend this YouTube conference called VidCon. During that week, my life completely changed. I got offered a partnership at an online production company and my friend Joey and I decided to drop out of college and move out to LA to do YouTube full-time. Five short months later, I was packing up my car and getting ready to drive cross-country to start a new life for myself out in California. Saying goodbye to my family was probably one of the hardest things I've ever done. I've only seen my dad cry three times - when his mum died, when his dad died and when his baby girl moved away. I did everything in my power to hold back the tears because I knew if I cried it'd make things that much harder.

My friend Joey and I drove 50 hours, 3,000 miles in four days across the United States. It was an amazing experience I will never forget. The Winter Spring Pro Channel only lasted a year out in California before Joey decided to branch off to do his own thing. Safe to say, I was pretty heartbroken and to this day, I still am.

In February, I attend the Grammys. It was such an honour being able to see all the talented artists accept their awards. To say the least, I was so inspired and the whole time all I could think about was how I was wasting my life away. Even though I was already pretty successful for being 19 years old, I just felt like there was something more for me out there. That night I went home, and I decided that I want to start living out my real dream of being an actor. I always wanted to be an actor for as long as I could remember. I remember being seven years old and standing in front of my bathroom mirror holding a shampoo bottle as my Oscar as I gave my acceptance speech, but as I got older and entered high school, those dreams only seemed like dreams and I decided to be more realistic with my career choice. But that night in February, I decided to sign up for my very first acting class.

It wasn't before long that I booked my first TV show. I got the lead role on a show called Killer Kids on the Biography Channel. The first people I called tell the good news to were my mum and dad, and what an amazing feeling that was - a feeling I know will never get old. I filmed the TV show that same exact week and it was an incredible experience. When I finished my last scene, the director yelled "cut" and every single person on set stopped what they were doing and they all cheered for me, and it was in that moment that I realised that this is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. Shortly after the shoot, I booked two more TV shows - one for Spike TV and a fun little court show. I was having the time of my life while living out my dream. My dad, who was the guy who said he'd never pay for a film school because it wasn't a promising career is the same guy who calls me every week to say how proud he is of me. I'm living proof that you can live out your dreams and it's not as impossible as it seems. I'm a completely different person than who I was in high school, and I know that I've been living this crazy life, one that I've only dreamed about growing up, and I'm so thankful and so blessed every single day. Everything happens for a reason. Don't let your dreams be dreams. Thanks for watching!

1572

#### FDML #64

As a disclaimer, there are some points in this video which may not be considered suitable for all youngsters, so if you're under 12 years old, have your parents check this video for you first.

Hey creatures, it's M and if you're watching this video, it's because the creature crew has just grown to over 300,000 subscribers. Crazy! To celebrate our growing community of animal lovers, I thought I'd share a little bit more of my ever-peculiar adventure that happens to be my life. It involves six-foot tree frogs, almost dying whilst trying to become Batman and a ton of cool animals which I will attempt to draw. This is the official draw my life, Emzotic style!

My story begins at the Royal Free Hospital in London on the day that I hatched, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1988. I'm told that I was born in the middle of the night, so I like to imagine it being dark outside and given that I was born in London, it was probably raining a lot.

As a baby, I had awful eczema all over my body and I would scratch myself raw. To combat this, my parents put cute little socks on my hands so that I wouldn't scratch so much and hurt my skin. My early years were super happy and carefree. My mum, my dad and my big sister and I all lived in a big traditional English house with a beautiful garden filled with pear trees and apple trees, cherry trees and lots of lavender. While my big sister would play sensibly with her tea set, I would spend hours in the garden digging up worms, which is where my first pet came from. Squirm the worm!

When I was six, my parents told my sister and I that we were going to have a new sibling. They asked us whether we wanted a little brother or a little sister. My big sister said she definitely wanted a baby brother, so this way she could have a little sister and a little brother. I said I wanted a puppy. Well, a few months later, and out popped my little brother who completed our family, but not as much as a puppy would have. Just kidding - love you!

Just a few weeks after my little brother was born, we packed up and moved across the world to Hong Kong. It was a total culture shock for me. I was so sad to leave my friends behind and I didn't want to move to Hong Kong. To cheer us up, my dad bought us ice creams for me and my sister as soon as we got off the plane, so I pointed to the red ice cream tub. I took a big lick and I was almost sick. It was not strawberry - it was red bean. Talk about a culture shock! Adjusting to a new country and a new school was really difficult. I joined the school halfway through the year, so everyone already had their friends. I had a lot of friends back in London, but this was the first time that I encountered what it felt like to be a bit of a social outcast. Although no one was really mean to me, the white girls didn't really want to hang out with me because I wasn't exactly white and the Asian girls didn't really want to hang out with me because I wasn't exactly Asian, and I didn't speak the language. You see, I'm mixed, Spanish and Chinese, and this is something I'm really proud of now, but back then it just meant I was a bit weird. During one particularly lonely recess, I told the playground supervisor that I had no friends to play with. She gave me a skipping rope and told me to play alone. This

teacher also used to take away my lunch on a number of occasions and also told me not to eat anymore - cue a lifetime of body image issues.

I eventually made friends with a small group of misfits and we used to break into these abandoned quarries to find lizards. At home I had a pair of budgies which my parents gave me, some Terrapins which many homes in Asia have because they're a symbol of luck, and a canary which was found in the mouth of one of my neighbour's vizslas. I also snuck home a rat in a Pringles tube and raised it in secret for weeks. When my parents found out, they were not happy, but they let me keep him.

When I went to high school, the movie Clueless was huge and I thought that it was the cool thing to appear kind of dumb and that maybe this would make the boys like me – nope. The first boy I ever had a massive crush on did not like me in the slightest. I would hang out by his locker and when I found out that he was leaving school forever, I plucked up the courage and gave him a beautifully carved soap which looked like a rose. I even wrapped it. He accepted it - he accepted it, stomped on it and peed on it. Yeah.

Then the Harry Potter books came out and everyone was in a frenzy. My friends and I just started to learn how to use the internet and we discovered a religion about magic. We thought it was like some kind of fun game and we would go to the discount shop and we bought cheap notebooks to become our pretend spell books, and basically wrote down our crushes' names inside. Well, some of the girls in school found out and you know what kids can be like. From then on, nobody would talk to us, from then on nobody would talk to us, and some of the girls were really cruel with their remarks. There was even a rumour for a while that I was a werewolf, but to be fair I was such a feral looking thing that I really can't blame them for that one.

The bullying and the taunting got to me and my self-esteem plummeted to make up for how much I was hurting. I became tough and mean. I was always grumpy and I wore a scowl on my face. My grades suffered and I was even guilty of being mean to the few friends that I had because I was so scared that they were going to abandon me. Things weren't completely hopeless, because, although I was hurting at school, I was very dedicated, and I had an after-school and weekend job I loved. I had been working in a pet shop and hanging out at a vet's clinic learning, observing, and eventually I was also accepted to work at the Hong Kong RSPCA, which is just now the SPCA. I was entrusted with looking after the stray dogs that would come in, socialising, walking, basic obedience training. Eventually I became so good at this that I was allowed to interview potential families about their lifestyles and pairing them with suitable dogs.

When I was 14, I moved back to London and although the previous few years had been hard, I was sad to leave Hong Kong. It's got such a unique vibe and it has so much wildlife. In London, I was sent to a prestigious all-girls school where everyone was so nice. It was actually the same school that Amy Winehouse went to and I actually had her old locker and her old books. I was really happy there. I made friends with an awesome group of girls and we called each other Squid. Together we were "the squids", which I think stood for the sexy queens under intense demand. Hm, it sounded good at the time! At this school, I had a careers advisor who told me that my grades were not good enough to do the job that I wanted to do, which was to be a vet. She told me instead to focus on acting because my theatre grades were really good, so I did. I did my exams and left that school with decent grades and I went on to college, which isn't the same as college in America. It's more like further education for over-seventeen-year olds. I really didn't want to go to university, so instead, I chose to do something called a BTech in Performing Arts but the school that I had chosen, against my parents' wishes, was a very rough school. At this college, I saw all sorts of things that I had been sheltered from and I saw things that people should never have to see.

It was here that I met my first boyfriend. He made me feel safe at this college, but he was not a good match for me. My parents knew best and although they weren't supportive of the relationship at all, they allowed me to make my own mistakes and grow. This guy we will call L. L made me feel special and slowly he would convince me that my old friends from school, my squids, were just laughing at me and they didn't miss me, and they hated me. I became so paranoid. Under my controlling boyfriend's instruction, I deleted my squids from my life. I was convinced that they didn't want me anymore and I'd regretted that decision instantly. I truly felt alone at this point and so miserable.

My parents had to move back to Hong Kong at this point and gave me a choice - go back with them to Hong Kong or stay in London alone. I chose to stay in London. Although they were worried about leaving me behind, I promised that I would be okay. I decided that enough was enough. I finally decided that I had to take control, and after two years of manipulation and realising what a toxic person L was, I finally ended the relationship. Best decision ever! Against the odds in such a horrible place, I graduated from my college with a triple D grade in Performing Arts. Triple D? D is for "distinction distinction distinction". Yep, I did really, really well. For a while I actually worked as a builder for a few months to help me save some money and then I went to drama school.

Long story short, the first drama school I went to was not a good fit for me and tried to put strange ideas in my head such as "I couldn't be an actor if I kept pet snakes" – yeah. They also had an issue with people being gay and believed that it was a curable state of mind, and they had these odd practices like making classes start at 7 a.m. and keeping us there until 11 p.m., and some Saturdays, we would come into school and be made to wash the walls with sugar soap –

yes, really, really weird. And they really didn't like the fact that I was into animals. They actually told me that the reason why I kept snakes was because I must have a bad relationship with my mother. Uh-huh. Cuckoo!

With the help of one of my tutors who I trusted, I transferred onto another acting school which I enjoyed so much for two years. At this drama school, I was happy but quiet and I kept to myself as I still had the scars of college and L. Whilst being at this drama school, I worked on weekends in a reptile store. I was entrusted with a few private collections as well from the visitors who had come into the store, and this included looking after incredible Boelen's pythons. If you know your snakes, you know how much of a high honour this is and what a risk it is too. I was also briefly in love with a guy who worked in the reptile store who looked like a grown-up and more masculine version of Mowgli from The Jungle Book, but he broke my heart into a million pieces and basically chose another girl over me. Cue another year of crying myself to sleep and eating my weight in ice cream.

My drama school was a little bit of a party scene, but worked really hard, and during the lunch breaks, when the other students were, you know, having a cigarette or catching some rare sun rays, I was inside writing to casting directors and applying for roles. The day that I graduated from drama school, I found out that I landed a role in a really awesome horror film. This was my first big break as I had only done student films before this and I was so excited. My acting career was going from strength to strength, and I had become a bit of a scream queen, doing lots of horror movies. Horror movies are so much fun to film, and the biggest film that I was part of, I actually found myself flying out to America for the premiere, where I met Elijah Wood and Dominick Mahatma, Mohan, again, Dominic, Hanigan. I can never say his last name, but he was one of the hobbits. Speaking of hobbits, I remember vaguely looking super nervous while talking to Elijah Woods and making some weird joke about hobbits. Even today when I think about it late at night, I grit my teeth, cringe into my pillow and hope for the darkness to swallow me up.

Although I loved making films, the life of an actor is very hard, and I wasn't passionate enough about it. Meeting certain people in the film world really freaked me out and turned me off to the acting scene. I completed my remaining projects and decided to do what made me happy - and that's working with animals. Along with boarding exotic animals, for a while I did a string of really random jobs. I worked for a few months as a waitress in a fish restaurant, but I quit because I am deathly allergic to fish. I worked as a TV extra and as a promotional girl for diet coke, even though I hated diet coke! Somehow, I found myself working as a mascot for the Rainforest Cafe in London. I dressed up as Cha-Cha the tree frog in a suit and I really couldn't move or see out of this suit - it was six feet tall and I'm five foot four, so there you go. On my very first day as Cha-Cha the frog, I went out into the street and I was excited because I was going to be the best Cha-Cha ever. I was going to drum up so much business, but a stag do of drunken guys pushed me over and rolled me down Leicester Square. Yep, there I go. Rolled down Leicester Square trapped inside the hollow body of a giant red-eyed tree frog, and there's my resignation.

Luckily, it was around this time when I managed to get a job working as a zookeeper for a really lovely little zoo. I loved it and my two favourite animals were two donkeys called Sienna and Calypso. Although I loved being a zookeeper, I didn't feel the zoo was being run particularly well and worst of all was my nightmarish ghoul of a co-worker who had it in for me, but I will make a more in-depth video about my time as a zookeeper some other time. After a bit of a dramatic showdown at the zoo, by a twist of fate, I started working at an animal education company learning how to give school presentations with a whole variety of exotic animals: birds-of-prey, crocodilians, snakes, meerkats, bats; I loved the job. During this time, I was in a relationship with someone we will call M. We worked together on animal shows for years and spent lots of time traveling. We raced Huskies in Finland, went on safari in Africa, partied down in Hongkong and lived in the remote jungles of Thailand. We actually nearly died in a bat cave which we were exploring in Thailand, and suddenly there was a flash flood and the rain was coming in and we had to basically, in the pitch black, dive in under some rocks and out the other side. It was super, super sketchy, but I was like, "I'm Batman, lol". If I were going to die, I was going to die with a little bit of humour.

When I got back to London from my strange adventure in Thailand, I adopted an awesome ferret called Bear and he was my soul animal. We were inseparable - he was my work colleague, my best friend and my most precious baby. After almost six years of being together, it didn't work out for us because we wanted different things and we realised how different we were. Our relationship counsellor told me that I was a race car and he was a comfy cushion and that I just couldn't expect to turn someone who was happy being a certain way into a race car to keep up with my life. The break-up was hard, but it was for the best.

With that breakup, I lost everything. We shared the animals - of course, I kept Bear, but I had worked hard in that relationship to grow the business that we shared. I thought we were a team but when we broke up, I decided I didn't want to claim anything - not the thousands we had in the bank and not the business or the bookings. I told myself that if I could make money once, I could do it again, and this time it would just be for me. It's really hard to go from living your life with someone to living alone and I was so lonely but determined to carry on. Luckily, as fate would have it, I had a best friend who would later become my soul mate. You may know him as Danny. Although we lived on opposite sides of the world, we had met several times over the years and we just clicked. My parents were not sure about Danny. I mean, although we'd been friends for years and met a bunch of times, he was still relatively unknown to them. Danny knew how much my family's peace of mind meant to me, and he arranged to meet with my parents to formally introduce

himself. Yep, he flew from New Jersey all the way to Hong Kong for eight hours, just to introduce himself. **It went well.**

**Through determination and hard work, I had built a thriving doggy day-care. I loved the business so much and I felt so fulfilled.** Then, I found something on the back of my knee. My doctors told me to prepare for the worst and I had to go for biopsies and surgeries. I had no choice but to close the business. I had no one else to run the day-care. **I was so cut up.** My business, my thriving start-up, had gone. **Thankfully,** my biopsies came back negative and I went back to work as an animal educator. This meant waking up at 4 a.m. every day and I got home at 10:00 p.m. on most nights. **It was tough, but I loved working with the animals and the job had perks** like raising baby meerkats.

I saved all of my money to fund my trips across the world to see Danny and vice versa. I can tell you now that **long-distance is hard** and expensive. In 2016, **I had a little bit of a shock.** Danny and I were surprised to find out that we were expecting. I definitely didn't feel ready and **I panicked** because we've a long distance but although **I was scared,** **Danny was so supportive,** and I went back to my doctors for a scan. This is where I found out that the pregnancy wasn't viable, and we wouldn't be having a baby. There was a baby, but no life. I won't go into the details of what happened soon after, but I was in no doubt that I had lost the baby.

For three months I felt so sick, but I carried on with my work. **I was living in a cloud for three months and I barely remember anything from this time.** One rare Saturday off, I was in Oxford Street and I had awful pain in my lower abdomen and I just couldn't stop bleeding. I rushed home and called my closest friends to tell them that I was losing a lot of blood. By the time I got home, I was so dazed and in so much pain, but I wouldn't let my friends see me. Eventually I started slipping in and out of consciousness and I had to allow one of my friends in to help me as I waited for the ambulance. When the ambulance arrived, they told me that I'd already lost three pints of blood and that my state was critical. I remember very little about being in the hospital, but I do remember refusing a blood transfusion. The hospital saved my life and informed me of what had caused my bleeding - in short, my body hadn't fully miscarried the first time and I still had parts of my baby inside for three months, and this was slowly poisoning me and making me very sick.

The next day, I just sat at home with my ferret, Bear, **who slept with me all day long and covered me in little kisses.** Something clicked inside of me that day, and I realised how short and fragile life is. **I decided to work hard and to better my life and to get to a point where I could support** myself enough to finally be with Danny. Just as **I was starting to pick myself up,** my old ferret Bear left the world, and I made a video about coping with pet loss, **which really helped me to deal with his absence.** As a way to help me with **my grief,** I started my YouTube channel.

My first video was a weird makeup tutorial which I have set to private now, but then I took a chance and uploaded my first animal video featuring my cockroaches Rice and Beans. Soon, my channel started to gain some traction and **I was feeling so happy that I was connecting with people around the world,** educating and sharing stories about animals and **just having fun.** I made enough money one month to buy some animal food and then, I had enough to support myself without having to go to work so many days a week. I decided eventually to become a full-time digital animal educator and finally, after so many years, I finally had enough money to join Danny. I petitioned to bring some of my animals with me, but the US government said absolutely not. So, in the end, I could only bring Ka. But don't worry, the rest of my animals are safely in the loving hands of my good friends, family and ex colleagues. I still get to go home and visit them, which is what I'll be doing soon, and **I cannot wait** to see my babies again.

After so many years of **obsessively working myself to the bone** and **being alone,** I finally have the ability to wake up every day next to **the person I love,** and I'm surrounded by an incredible menagerie of beautiful animals and I get to **reach hundreds of thousands of people who share a deep love and passion for animals.** There's still a long way to go in my life, and I'm finally slowly laying the foundations, but **I'm not afraid.** If I've made it through all of that, and plenty which I've omitted from this story, **I can make it through anything.** **Especially if I have all of you, the creature crew, beside me.** I have so much I want to do, achieve, see and accomplish for animals worldwide. Stay with me. I can't see the future, **but I know it's looking bright.** And this is where our story ends for today. **Thank you all** so, so much for watching and I will see you in another video soon. Bye! Don't forget to subscribe.

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## FDML #65

Hello my people! I don't want to keep this intro too long, but essentially, I've always wanted to do a draw my life. I don't even know if they're relevant anymore, but I've told you guys a lot about my story, from, like, my beginnings with **social anxiety** and being diagnosed with that at a very young age, and so on, and I decided I wanted to give you guys a whole picture and I thought it would be so incredibly impactful, and I was just at Playlist Live, I met a ton of you and **I heard your amazing stories and I don't know, there were a lot of tears. There were also a lot of mothers, really kind mothers that were saying the sweetest things,** so they, shout out to you mothers, too. **I'm a proud father.** But anyways, I am giving away a Hot Topic gift card. If you follow me on Instagram at Jessie Paege and extra entries if you follow at Jessie Trash, and I'm doing that the whole entire month. And can we get this to 25,000 likes? Because



this is probably one of the videos I have worked the hardest on and it really, really, really, really, really means a lot to me. I honestly, all my videos mean a lot to me, but I think there's so much to be learned from this, and I'm really proud of myself for opening up. And also, I just know my people. I know that you guys can do it. I'm watching you. Yes, I love my people. I literally have your work hanging on my fridge. I'm a proud father, a daddy. Yes, I was trying to avoid that word, but you know it always comes around, daddy. My voice always gets, like, really low when I say it: Daddy, daddy. We love a king with comedic timing. Alright, let's get started.

One day, on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1999, there was a little baby born, and she had dark brown hair and green eyes. Her name was Jessica. Yep, my full name is Jessica. When I was little though, I was a little tomboy and I was like, "No, Jessie. That's going to be my name". I was born Jessica Page Eisenberg. Yep, Eisenberg. I was born in northern, northern New Jersey. I was born a little Hufflepuff. We all admitted I was probably the ugliest baby ever. I look at pictures and I'm like, "Why?"

And there's my mum and my dad. My mum's blonde and my dad has really dark hair. That's him and they both have pretty green eyes. That's where I got my green eyes from - green eyes are really rare and I think it's really beautiful that they both have green eyes. And my mum's name is Linnell and my dad is Marc with C. And I was born on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1999, so that makes me a Pisces. When I was little, I was, like, the easiest baby in the world. I barely ever cried and, I just, I was very, very chilled and relaxed and then because I was so easy, a year later, my parents decided to have another child who ended up being my mean brother. We stan him. His name's Matthew - Matt. And growing up, I didn't look like either of my parents directly, but I looked so much like my brother, like, everyone told us we looked like twins. Another thing when I was young, I was diagnosed with selective mutism which essentially means that I was very, very uncomfortable speaking in certain situations and in certain situations, I would be mute. And when I was young, I literally only talked to about three people. It's essentially shyness to a new level, to the point where you legitimately cannot speak in certain situations. And it was really hard growing up with that. I went to a special ed. preschool, was super isolated and I was constantly tested - they were trying to figure out what was wrong with me and so on. It was really isolating. I was just insanely, insanely shy. Definitely born with it - from, like, the second I could talk, I was very selective with who I felt comfortable talking with. Because of that, though, I was a super easy kid. I was just really friendly and nice and very, very content with myself. I was very introverted from a young age. Very nice Hufflepuff and then my brother was born, and he was always the nicest boy but the most outgoing kid on the planet. He would just go into the doctor's office and, like, talk her ear off, whereas for me, I couldn't even get a word out, and due to this, I didn't really have a lot of friends growing up in preschool. So, my brother and I were kind of like best friends, which is really adorable. We essentially went all in on the fandoms and so on, especially because I was so shy, and I think I resorted to these other worlds because they allowed for me to escape. I was one of the biggest Harry Potter fans, literally dressed up for the midnight premiere, read all the books four times. I loved anime from young age like Sailor Moon. And I remember I always thought the girls were so incredibly beautiful. I wanted to emulate them growing up, but I think that definitely was something that sparked my interest in coloured hair later on my life. Was obsessed with Club Penguin. Never had a love interest growing up but had many love interests on Club Penguin. Yes, we stan. Loved Star Wars, Battlestar Galactica, was obsessed with Pokémon.

My brother is super outgoing and so on, and then later on when he started to get older, in school, he was always friends with a lot of girls, and he was just a very nice, sensitive boy and people wanted to pick on him for that reason. And he was bullied to an insane extent. I remember one day coming home and, like, he had holes in his shirt. It was incredibly hard for me to watch as a sister and to not be able to do anything. As for me, I personally, when I was growing up, didn't experience bullying, but that's because I didn't even put myself out there in the first place. I think seeing what my brother went through, I feel like that ended up making my social anxiety even worse. I definitely had social anxiety a lot.

When I was little, I never knew what I wanted to be when I grew up, I never had any hobbies that my friends didn't have, and it was really hard for me. I was an individual but anything that made me individual, I was scared to communicate with the world, and it was really, really, really hard for me. I couldn't even tell my friends that I watched Pokémon. I was that insecure. My brother and I definitely went through different struggles, although my brothers were external and mine incredibly internal. Genuinely, I give more power to my brother for putting himself out there, even if it meant he was getting picked on, because it definitely was harder for me later down the line because I was such a wallflower genuinely.

So anyways, eventually I found very few friends I was able to communicate with, and internally, I was always thinking about these things that I loved but I was never able to share that with other people. And I know they say this in every single draw my life video, but I'm going to say it, I discovered YouTube and genuinely, it really did change my life. I didn't tell any of my friends when I first started watching YouTube that I watched these YouTubers. It was always something I kept very secret. I was scared they would judge me for that as well. And I really, I don't know why I was like that. I remember watching Bethany Mota when she had like 100,000 subscribers and I remember loving watching Dan and Phil videos with my brother because we just both really, really just connected to their humour. We had, like, similar interests and we loved, you know, like similar video games and meme culture and stuff. And Connor Franta I really loved as well, and Tyler Oakley, etc, etc Joey Graceffa. And it was really, really, really, really cool, and seeing

all these individuals become so, so courageous and seeing them speak up just **made me want to speak up**, and I remember the first big thing that, like, really changed my life I, it's going to sound silly, but I started listening to music I wanted to listen to versus what was on the radio, and then I found out that **I really do have a passion** for alternative music. I decided I wanted to switch from acoustic guitar to electric guitar and from that point on, like, I literally would practice guitar an hour a day by myself. Would never let anyone see myself play electric guitar, because **I thought I sucked at everything. I was incredibly insecure to an insane extent. I even had an aid growing up. She would follow me around in all my classes because, one, I would always stare off into space and I had issues with concentration. Like, such serious issues that the school board was like, she needs assistance - she needs a person to be with her. And two, because I had issues communicating with teachers and other students alike.** And YouTubers really just enticed me to the idea of building my own hobbies and interests.

So then eventually, I moved on to high school and I started to become more of an individual. **I found friends that were kind of nerdy and artistic, which is me.** That's definitely me in a sentence. If you saw me in school, like that was my friend group, like the friends that, like, never went to the parties. We did weird artistic shit in our free time, but when my brother was so severely bullied, he had to move to a very small private school, and I had to move to the same very small private school because it was too much for my mum to take both of us to two different schools that were very far apart. And when I switched to this school, it was so much smaller, and **I didn't find any people I identified with.** There was no coloured hair, they didn't even really support the arts very much and that was when I was finally starting to find myself as an individual a little bit, and then **I just backtracked, and I started to get really just incredibly unhappy and I isolated myself from the world even more.** And **I found myself getting into my old just socially anxious tendencies** I had finally started to really outgrow a bit.

I asked for a camera when I was in seventh grade to start YouTube and my parents got me a picture camera and I was **too shy** to tell them that I wanted to start YouTube. So, asked for a camera again and this time I asked for a video camera, and I decided to start YouTube. At the time, I believed that girls had to be a part of the beauty community. I didn't think they could be portraying anything comedic, even though it was really ironic because some of the people that I looked up to the most, they were all personality channels. It took me six months to hit 200 subscribers. At that point, **I felt incredibly defeated.** To have that on YouTube after making videos week after week, **it really, really hurt me.** My dad, **I love him so much, but he didn't believe in it. He was like, "Oh, yeah, she'll probably give up after a year".** But **I continued to push through with it and just keep going,** and then I remember I uploaded my first DIY Band video which was just me doing, like, my similar type of beauty guru content but I started to show my, just, **love for alternative bands because it was huge part of my personality, and it still is. You guys know that, I'm trash. I'm trash for bands.** Yeah, you've never heard the word "trash" from me before. I started to post band videos, and I remember that first video was one of them that, like, it blew up, and a DIY fandom room decor, which is essentially me just making like Doctor Who room decor and Sherlock-inspired room décor. I was really far into fandom tumblr and I realised as I started to post more content that started to display my personality more, people identified with that more and I felt like I identified with my audience in return as well. **I saw myself in my audience and my audience saw themselves in me.**

Growing up, **I always found a lot of strength in these girl anime characters. I loved series** that were centred around magical girls. They're essentially these girls that, like, secretly have powers and there were always, like, female superheroes almost, and **I wanted to be like that growing up** and **I also loved their style and so on, and one thing I always wanted to do** was dye my whole head pink. I always had, like, coloured ends and stuff, but I decided to dye my whole head pink. I did it. Yeah, and from that point on I just kept on posting, like, personality-based content. I started to do more comedy and just sharing my weird sense of humour, which my people get. **Thank you, I love it.** And I posted a video called "I'm 17 and it's time for the truth", where I really just talked about a lot of issues I was facing at the time, and I remember **I was so nervous to talk about.** And I remember that video just blowing up - talked about everything from **my social anxiety** to how I really, you know, used fandoms and so on **as this form of escapism.** I even was invited to do a YouTube tour with YouTubers I met as fans, **which was so weird. I literally was a fan of them and then, like, to be on tour with them? That was so cool. I literally, like, still fangirl over them.** I also decided I was going to play electric guitar on stage **which was really scary** for me. I never even played for my parents or my friends. I played this song, it's called Reapers my Muse, and I also played a Black Keys song.

And then after the tour, my family moved to Florida and at the same time, I decided to move to LA at age 17 by myself, which **is really scary** because **I was super shy** and also **super attached** to my home life and my family, and I was living a very sheltered life, so to move right to LA was **incredibly scary** and honestly, I definitely did it too quickly. A big misconception people get from my videos is that I've always had anxiety. **I've always had social anxiety,** but I never had generalized anxiety. It was only from social situations that I got forms of anxiety, but then, when I moved to LA, **it was so great for me creatively. Like I truly as a creative, feel like I was, like, flourishing. I had so many ideas and opportunities to collaborate with Incredible people** and so on, but **it was really, really hard for me** because to be so used to living with your parents to just living by yourself, **it got really lonely. Like, I was so lonely** and although I was collabing with YouTubers, **I didn't have any friends** in LA for the first year. This is actually something I've never really talked about on my channel, but up until five months ago from today when I'm filming this, **I had no friends in LA.** It

took me a year and a half to find people that I really identified with, and I think it's really cool. I literally was at my birthday party this year and I was like, wow, these are all friends I've made within the past five months. That's really cool.

And another thing I think people didn't always realise is that I was super young. 17 years old, and I was as old as, like, a lot of my viewers. I couldn't find anyone else to identify with and I didn't want to go back home. Another thing, how I was able to move to LA by myself at 17, with like the schooling situation is that I switched to online school the last year of high school which was a really big move for me, because school was always incredibly important for me and I was so insanely hard on myself about my grades all the time, which my parents were never hard on me about my grades. It was always myself. Maybe it's because my parents weren't hard on me about my grades that I felt like they weren't pleased because they just never said anything. It's just when I didn't turn in work or etc., they didn't care, and I wanted them to care more.

Anyways, you guys might remember my backdrop had a ton of vinyls on it at this time and fairy lights. I had my pink hair and although YouTube-wise I was doing really well, I wasn't the happiest. I didn't realise it and then at that point in my life, I formed generalized anxiety and I didn't realise the anxiety at the time. And then I got cast for a show called Guilty Party and it was incredible for me. I got to play a character that I really identified with because she was super shy and so focused on improving herself versus giving herself time to just breathe and exist. She was just insanely hard on herself and that's something I've always identified with. I made such great friends on my set like Tiffany and Myles and Teela, my favourite humans. At that point I realised, wow, I can still do my job, yet I can be social and have great friends and connections, and I owe that to myself. I can't live this isolated life and I started going to a therapist and she told me a lot of my anxiety was formed from social isolation, which is insane. I've never shared this on the internet, but I was insanely isolated. I was so focused on my career that I wasn't giving myself time to just have experiences and great friends and so on. I think a lot of it came from just feeling like I needed to constantly prove myself to my parents that I could, that this new job could be sustainable. Anyways, then I listened to what my therapist said and I started to actually hang out with YouTubers after I collabed with them and I started to try to take acting classes to get out of my comfort zone to meet new people and I dyed my hair blue around this time. So, this is why whenever I talk about how, like, when I dyed my hair blue, like, things just really started to go up in my life and it's really true. I started to, like, really form great relationships with people, you know, who a lot of my friends are now - like I have my best friend Tiffany. I have my best friend Frank. I have Eva and Jacqueline and Steph, and I just stan them all. I love my people, and I'm really, really fortunate for them. They're all really cool and unique and different and then they're all, like, intelligent and hilarious in their own ways. I just, I love them.

During this time, I feel like my videos got even better. I started to incorporate music more in my videos. Like, I started to do my little ukulele songs and stuff and it made me really happy and I was even getting more comfortable. My videos essentially were no longer DIY-based at all, because I had such an incredible mental health journey and I wanted my videos to be a portrayal of my life. I started to discuss mental health more from what I had learned on my channel and I wrote my book, which is so incredibly cool, and I just started to talk about identity through my own personal experiences and even things like Stranger Things. I became even more proud of my videos and my videos just became happier, and I think one really cool thing is that I always used to talk about mental health and they would be these sad, sad videos, but then I realised that the video, the tone doesn't have to be sad for it to be impactful. I became super comfortable and happy and I had so many great friends in LA and even people were meeting me and telling me, like, they thought I was extroverted which is so crazy. Never in a million years did I ever think I'd hear that.

I was so confident going into 2018 and then eventually I had a lot of issues happening. So, I had a family issue that was incredibly harmful and then I also went through a breakup, and I also had my puppy pass away within three weeks. Having that much heartbreak in three weeks. It was insane. I didn't know my body could cry so much. After that happened, I took a little break from social media and I didn't know how I was going to portray myself online afterwards, because my whole entire theme on my channel, it's all about being authentic and real and promoting positive mental health. And I decided that I would show myself recovering, and I thought that could help a lot of people that were going through similar things. So, I decided to make videos all about recovery.

My blue hair that once made me incredibly happy started to remind me of a lot of negative energy in my life, and it wasn't that I thought dyeing my hair blonde would make my life better, but I thought that it would just feel like a new era. My hair colour just really genuinely reminded me of a time in my life that wasn't happy. And also my mum and I hadn't talked for a while and we really, like, reconnected after I went through all that heartbreak, and she was just an incredibly strong person to me and she's blonde but I've never looked like her daughter growing up, but I've always just felt like her daughter and I really identify with her, so I just I wanted to externally show that. Growing up, because I always thought my mum is so beautiful internally, I also thought she was the most beautiful externally. Like, whenever people were like, who do you think is the most beautiful woman? I'd be like, "My mum!" So, because of that, I wanted to be blonde because I viewed looking like my mum as being something beautiful, because I thought she was beautiful.

And since then, I've been getting so much happier. I've been taking care of myself a lot and I've stopped crying every day, and I've started to recover, and my friends have been there for me so much. I'm so grateful. And after I found out

about my puppy, I didn't even think I'd be able to go into a puppy store. I tried actually and I almost threw up - fun fact! And then about a month and a half later, I was visiting shelters with my mum and I fell in love with this one puppy, and I decided to adopt him. And I named him something symbolic to the whole situation that I went through, but I view this puppy as a spiritual successor. And for me, puppies are just, they really are a legitimate way of healing. I remember when my mum had breast cancer, my dad got her a puppy and I really do truly believe it affected her mental health, which could have potentially affected her physical health? Yeah. I don't know. He makes me really happy. Currently he's with my mum, and she's taking care of him until he gets all the shots and I was also super, super happy to be able to give a puppy at home from a shelter.

And now I'm in a really happy place. I feel the most confident I have ever felt with my videos and I feel like I've such balance in my life. I love my audience so much. I got to love my people and I tell you all the time, and I've stopped overthinking everything. I'm just going to keep working really, really, really, really, really hard so that we have an amazing 2018. I'm just proud of us, okay? I feel like this journey, it's not about me - it's about us, and no matter when you came in, whenever you subscribed, you're just as much of a part of this as anyone else. That's really important to me. Thank you for giving this little Hufflepuff girl from New Jersey a chance. It's so incredibly, incredibly cool. I'm just really, really, really, really, really, really appreciative. The world, like, it can be so incredibly negative and I hope that one of my videos even just brightens your day and I hope my videos allow for you to be comfortable and happy with your identity. I hope that seeing myself become comfortable within my own identity hopes you. I always tell people my channel's essentially myself being the advice that I wish I had growing up when I was sad and insecure. I don't know, I just love my people so much and I just appreciate you all and I don't want to get corny, but I never felt like I had people that connected with me growing up. It was really hard for me to find people to connect with and I hope that I can give other people that connection that I wasn't able to have. Just know, if you're super lonely or insecure or shy or anxious or you're not comfortable within your own identity, whether it's sexuality, gender, anything - just know that life's a journey and it's going to have its ups and downs, but I have in faith in you and I know that you're incredibly strong and I didn't think I was ever strong. I would never have described myself as being strong. But now that's something that I proudly say - that I am. I feel strong.

I hope you guys enjoyed. I grew up loving hearing just even like stories from Troye Sivan or draw my life videos from Bethany Mota, so yeah, this video really just hits hard to home, and it's for all of you. Ah, I'm so soft and shy in this intro and outro. Jessie, what's going on? I love my people a lot. Hello, I stan you all. I basically could make a fan account for all my people, and I met so many of you guys this weekend and you were all so kind. I'm just, like, constantly proud. I just want you to know I'm proud. Proud of you. We stan in this household. I might be a broke father from giving so many things away to my kids - probably spoiling my kids a little bit too much, but it's all out of love. Aww. I'm going to feature your pages. I stan your usernames, and also some of your Instagram and Twitter posts. Thank you. Thank you Thank you, and I will see you guys in the future. Yay!

4692

#### FDML #66

Hey guys! A lot of you have been wanting to know how I got into this holistic way of living, so today I thought I would do a draw my life video and just share a little bit about my journey with you.

So, I was born on June 14<sup>th</sup> to Ken and Heather Nagel, who are the best parents in the world. They are loving and caring and would do anything for me and my brother. So, here's my dad, here's my mum, here's my brother Simon, who is two years older than me, and he's just the coolest guy I've ever met, and here I am - little old me with my long hair. I grew up in a small industry town in northern British Columbia, Canada. I had a forest as my backyard which I shared with bears and squirrels and it would be raining or snowing all the time - it was really, really cold up north. And, I mean, I don't really care for the cold or the snow, but sometimes I do miss putting on my snow suit and playing in the snow.

I really enjoyed my early childhood. I was very flexible, so my parents put me into gymnastics which I fell in love with right away. I spent probably 50% of my childhood upside down. I was training, I was competing, and everything I did revolved around gymnastics. It was, it was my life. However, soon I developed tendonitis in my ankles and my knees were having a lot of issues, so I was in a lot of pain all the time, and my physiotherapy appointments were becoming too frequent, so I eventually had to give up gymnastics to prevent further damage to my body.

I was also a very shy and sensitive girl and I had a very hard time making friends. Nobody wanted to be my friend for some reason, and the kids at school were quite vicious, and they would bully me. I was sort of a nerdy girl. I was really into my schoolwork. I had big glasses, braces and I would make my mum put my hair in 50 braids, and I would actually stay in at recess with the teacher and just read or draw because I was absolutely terrified to interact with the other kids. And it got so bad that I switched schools twice in hopes that I would just fit in somewhere, but I always ended up being the outcast. But, you know, I had a wonderful family to go home to at least, and my mum was always there to comfort me and when I went home, I would just love to lay in my bed because I felt so safe and I could dream. And in my

dreams, I could be anything that I wanted, and now I'm actually really thankful that I was bullied because I feel like it made me into a very kind person, because I never want to make anybody feel the way that I felt.

So then came high school, and in high school I was determined to be popular. I got into makeup, I got into fashion, and high school ended up being a lot better for me. I became best friends with a girl named Kirsty, and we had this big gigantic notebook which we would take turns writing notes in to each other during class, and we were total weirdos together. I love people who I could be weird with. We would make music videos together and match our outfits for school and it was just really nice having a best friend. But as high school went on, my fellow peers started partying and drinking, and I kind of felt uncomfortable about it. I went to a few parties, but I never really truly felt like I was being myself and I eventually started to feel really weird. I felt like I couldn't talk to people who were once my friends, and I started to avoid people. I started to feel very socially anxious, and that's when things started to change and my health journey began.

So one day, I woke up and I looked in the mirror to find my face was covered in spots - and not just one or two, but a full breakout on my skin, and I had perfect, porcelain skin that never broke out before, so this was really strange to me. And within a week, every square inch of my face was covered in acne. In red, deep, cystic acne. And soon, my back and shoulders started to break out too. I was really, really anxious. The social anxiety had skyrocketed. If someone would ring the doorbell at my house, I would run and hide in the closet and just have a panic attack in there. And I ended up graduating high school a semester early, and I didn't go to my graduation because I just couldn't handle interacting with people, and also, I didn't really want to be in any pictures because my skin was so bad. And I became really self-critical. I would just sit in front of the mirror for hours and tell myself I was a monster. Tell myself that nobody's going to like me with my skin looking like this. It was just really, really bad of me to do. I was just so ashamed of myself - the way my skin looked; how socially awkward I had become. It was just really devastating for me. So, I began trying out the conventional ways of treating acne - so Proactiv, different benzoyl peroxide things, and then I went to a dermatologist and right away he's like, "You should go on Accutane. I'm going to prescribe you Accutane" and right when he said that, it was like I had an epiphany.

All of a sudden, I knew that I needed to just cleanse myself and go the natural route. It just felt so right to me and in my heart, I knew it was what I had to do. So, I began cleansing myself, having green drinks, taking infrared saunas, just researching all I could about holistic health and about natural ways to treat acne. I started to do the oil cleansing method, I started using sea buckthorn seed oils - I just dove into the world of holistic health and I absolutely loved it. It was like a whole new world to me, and it was so special. So, I ended up cutting out refined sugars, dairy, gluten, any processed foods, I just cut it all out of my diet and I really focused on a healthy whole foods diet. And I saw such a big change in my skin. And I knew I was on the right track.

So then, I eventually moved away by myself to a new city and the anxiety was so bad at the time that I would just go to school and rush home. The social anxiety had gotten so bad, everything felt like a chore for me - even going to the grocery store terrified me because I knew that I was going to have to make the small talk with the cashier. And I just felt so awkward, like, I, it was almost like I forgot how to walk normally when I was around people, I didn't know where to put my hands, I would avoid eye contact if someone would talk to me, and I would just sit at home and research about natural acne cures and just go on YouTube and watch videos all night long. And in my head, I wanted so badly to make a YouTube channel all about holistic health, and I had the Holistic Habits name picked out, I had all these video ideas, but I just didn't have the courage to make them. I still felt so self-conscious about my skin and I felt like if people looked at me and saw that I had really bad skin, they wouldn't want to take my advice, so I was really just putting my life on hold because of my acne. So, I eventually moved again to Vancouver Island to study herbalism, and about a week in, I just decided that it wasn't for me. The classroom sizes were really, really small and there was going to be a lot of group work involved, and I was still dealing with some social anxiety, so the thought of doing group work really freaked me out, and I was also more interested in holistic nutrition rather than herbalism. So that's when I decided to move yet again to Vancouver and attend the Canadian School of Natural Nutrition and become a holistic nutritionist. And I really wanted Vancouver to be a fresh start for me, so I kind of forced myself to do stuff. And I had always loved acting and performing. Even though I was shy, I just felt like it was a great way for me to express myself, so I decided to take an acting class. And I remember the first day of class, I took a bunch of calming herbs, I got some acupuncture to calm me down. I just went in there so prepared, and it ended up being a really good day for me.

So, I was out in the hall rehearsing my lines, when this guy came up to me and started to talk to me. And it was the weirdest thing because I couldn't seem to talk to anybody, but with him it was just different. I felt like I could be myself, I felt like I could talk for hours and he later walked me home and basically from that point on, we were inseparable. We basically began dating the moment we met. We moved in together very fast and at that point, my life kind of revolved around this relationship. And I was really scared to be without makeup in front of him, because I always wore a lot of heavy makeup to conceal my acne scars and acne. And I realised that the people who care don't matter and the people who matter don't care. And he also kind of forced me to socialize with people, so that helped me overcome the social anxiety a bit. And I also started working in film to make a bit more money doing things like background, photo doubles, stand-in, commercials, and that was really great for me because it's a very social job, so it really got me out of my comfort zone and helped me meet new people. And yeah, everything in my life was starting to fall in place. The

anxiety was going away, my skin was clearing up. I felt like I just had this whole life ahead of me and I was so excited, and I just felt really happy.

Now this next part I really didn't want to add in because I just don't really like talking about it with anyone, but this is definitely one of the biggest challenges in my life, and I think it's really important for me to talk about it, because if I can help one person, that's enough for me. Because I know when I was going through it, I felt really, really alone and when I found out other people had this problem as well, I felt like I had hope again, and it really helped me get through. I'm not going to get into too much detail, but basically, I have dealt with something in my life called pure OCD which is a form of obsessive-compulsive disorder, which is just another form of anxiety. And basically, I woke up one day to these OCD thoughts and my life was completely changed from that point on. These OCD thoughts were stuck in my head 24/7. Even when I slept, they would be in my dreams. I just couldn't shut my mind off and it caused me to be in a very high state of anxiety. This was by far the most difficult thing I have ever dealt with. I can't even explain to you what I went through. I couldn't think anymore. I would just stay in my bed and cry. I couldn't really go to school anymore. I couldn't work anymore. My brain felt like it was just completely fried from these thoughts, and I was seeing a cognitive behavioural therapist who specialized in pure OCD twice a week, but I really didn't see that much of a change and I felt extremely hopeless. I just didn't know how I was going to live my life like this anymore. I just wanted my old life back, but then once again, I had another epiphany, and I knew that, just like with my acne, I needed to find an alternative way of healing, and I needed to deal with this holistically. And basically, I did all the things that I talk about in my "how to reduce anxiety and relax naturally" video, so again, I did things like connect with nature, aromatherapy, sunshine therapy, exercise, eating healthy, collect crystals, different forms of healing like Reiki, positive affirmations and meditation, just really anything that would bring positivity and light back into my life. And very, very slowly, my anxiety started to get better, and I would go 3 or 4 minutes without having the OCD thoughts, and those were the best three or four minutes of my life. I just felt so amazing and I was trying to find out what the root cause was for the anxiety and the OCD, because I think it's really important to address the root cause instead of just the symptoms, and I also just felt it was really strange to me why I struggled so much with this, so I just wanted to find out some more. So, I took some tests and I found out I had really high levels of lead and mercury in my system. Lead is a neurotoxin - it can cause major anxiety, depression, and that just made a lot of sense to me. So, it just took some weight off my shoulders, because I felt I kind of understood a bit more about what was going on. So, I started to gently and slowly chelate my heavy metals alongside my naturopath, and I definitely noticed a difference. And I also learned about the gut-mind connection, and how our digestive system is sort of like our second brain and what we eat greatly affects our mood, our anxiety levels and just our overall brain health, and I personally noticed a big difference with my anxiety when I eliminate gluten and pasteurized dairy from my diet, so I'm very passionate about the gut-mind connection and learning how food can affect our brain, our mind, has really helped me along my healing journey.

And honestly, today, I feel so happy because I feel like I have a second chance at life. I can't really explain to you what it was like going through that OCD. I just felt really, really hopeless, but now I feel like the experience has made me so much more of a stronger person, and it's made me appreciate life more. I believe everything we go through, we go through for a reason. Even if it seems horrible at the time, we can learn from every experience and come out a better person. It's really our choice. We can dwell on the negative, or we can find a positive in the situation, and it can be challenging to be positive sometimes, but I rather just focus my energy on the positive and try to live my life to the fullest. Live the best life that I can and, you know, just learn from everything - everything that happens to you is just a learning experience.

So, I felt like I had nothing to lose anymore, so I decided I really wanted to give YouTube a shot. I mean, I would watch so many YouTubers and just wish that that was me on the screen, and I finally realised that that can be me. That's the beauty of YouTube - anybody can do it. And the only thing that was stopping me was myself and my own self-doubt. So, I began creating videos that I felt passionate about and I felt could help others, and to my surprise, I got a pretty good response. People didn't hate me! And I'm a bit of a perfectionist, so sometimes I will reshoot my videos a couple times because I just feel like my videos are almost like a piece of me. I don't want to sound corny, but every time I share a video, I make sure to put my heart and my soul and just everything I've got into it, because it's really just a way for me to express myself and I really just have to say that you guys have helped me build my confidence so much. Reading your sweet comments just puts the biggest smile on my face, and I'm so grateful for you guys, and I really don't want to let you guys down. And I really do feel bad when I don't upload for a while, but it's really not because I don't care. It's because I only want to put up videos that I feel are really inspiring and that I'm a hundred percent happy with. So sometimes when I'm going through something, I just need to take a break and need to reconnect with myself.

So, things were looking up again in my life. I started to get that passion and spark back, however, the relationship that I was in was completely falling apart. I'm not going to go into too much detail, but it just became a really unhealthy relationship. I was in denial because I wanted it to work out, so I was ignoring things that were happening. I tend to avoid situations I don't like and pretend that they're not happening, and it was really hard for me, but deep down, I knew it needed to end. And once I was able to remove myself from that situation and start focusing on myself again, and getting my confidence back, great things started to happen and I learned one of the most important life lessons from it - and that is, self-love. Instead of trying to find happiness and love in someone else or something else, find it

first within yourself. Be your own best friend and love yourself unconditionally, and then happiness will follow. So, going through that was extremely stressful and took a lot out of me. But at the same time, it really gave me that drive to succeed on my own and be someone, and just regain my confidence and regain my happiness.

I'm doing things to make me happy, I'm living my dreams, I'm able to be creative every day and make videos that I'm so proud of. I'm able to make my jewellery and share my beautiful crystals with people all around the world. Having a way to express myself creatively is so important to me, and it's helped me so much, so I'm just extremely appreciative that I'm able to do that. And I hope you guys can all find something that makes you so happy. So, if I could ask you to take one thing from this video, it would just be to never give up. Whether it's on your health or on your dreams and aspirations, on anything in your life - if you put your mind to it, you can achieve it. And also know that everything happens for a reason. If it wasn't for my face covered in acne and trouble with anxieties, I may have never made this YouTube channel. Holistic Habits may have never existed. So, I hope this gives you a better understanding of who I am and my healing journey. So, I am back. I am back with more videos. I love you guys so much and thanks for watching! Bye!

3365

### FDML #67

Look, I know it's not 2014, but shut up. Yeah, I wasn't doing YouTube in 2014 and this is iconic. I was born in Oakville, Ontario, on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1989, at 10:57 a.m. My parents are Fred and Claudia. My dad used to tell me this emo story that there was the quietest, most perfect snowfall that morning. I can still picture his face when he would tell that story and it makes me cry.

I'm the youngest of five kids. My mum had four from a previous marriage and my dad had one from a previous marriage. My mum and dad dated when they were in college, but my mum broke up with my dad. After her first marriage ended, she went to church and she heard a voice, bitch, that said, "Go see Fred!" She listened and they got married. They wanted a child, but they were told my mum wasn't able to have any more children. Then I was born, because fuck you doctors; I do what I want. We lived in this cosy suburb that lots of people think is lame, but I liked it. I spent a lot of my time alone. My brothers and sisters were all in high school and were mostly getting drunk in bushes and being brought home by cops, while being nice to me in between. I would have adventures in the forest and create elaborate and complex social structures between my beanie babies. I would say that I wanted to be an actress but mostly what I meant was "I just want attention". Ew.

I went to an all-girls private school until grade 5 because my mum was a teacher there and we got a discount, but after grade five they got rid of the discount, so I went to public school. Middle school was weird. At different periods I was at different positions on the social ladder. Someone guys wanted to bone, someone guys didn't want to bone. Kind of popular, kind of desperate. Bullied and bully. But I also made my oldest friend Wilson.

In grade 9, things got more dicey, and if I'm being honest, my therapist brings up this time period a lot. My parents got divorced, then an adult we were living with was inappropriate with me and someone I was living with became mentally ill and had to go to the hospital for a while. Because of this, I lived with my friends for a while. It was kind of cosy living with my friends. I saw Garden State with one of their families during that period and it greatly affected me - don't judge me, it was cool in 2004!

After this period, I couldn't listen to sad songs anymore. High school progressed on. My friends and I hung out in the art hallway. No one but the druggie kids dared to venture past the halfway point of that hallway. We would do Ritalin in between the doors and show each other our overly long body hairs. In grade 11, Wilson and I met Jenny and we became a trio. We called ourselves the trouble trio, and shut up, it's adorable! I also started throwing up my meals and after some time I started starving myself along with throwing up. Then I got skinny and slutty and started doing coke - great! In grade 12, I got a boyfriend. He was exactly what I thought I wanted - beautiful, creative, cool.

When I was 17, I visited my sister in Montreal and that trip told me I'm supposed to live here. I called Jenny and told her, and we decided to move. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, I took a bus to Montreal with two suitcases and I didn't look back. Jenny and I got an apartment and I got a job as a cook, and then that summer I realised I had accidentally fallen in love with a girl in Montreal. And the fact that I masturbated to girls in BET videos wasn't changing. I broke up with my boyfriend and what followed was an exciting but complicated period of gayness. Until I started dating a guy again, which lasted for five very dry years. He was a smart, driven, passionate guy who made really good Bearnaise sauce but after this relationship, I realised I was being with people romantically not because I loved them, but because I felt it made me more valuable and that they filled a role that was meant to be filled. I promised to myself that I wouldn't be with someone again romantically until I met someone I genuinely wanted to be with and who genuinely wanted to be with me. I've been single and celibate ever since.

In 2014 my dad died. My dad had been sick for most of my life. And it was something that struck a lot of fear at me. Since I was 13, a part of me had been constantly living in anticipation of my dad dying, but that anticipation didn't

prepare me for the reality. For whatever reason, **dad dying made the hurt that I had buried from the past come to the surface** and I couldn't subside it anymore. **I wanted to die, but instead I tried. I tried to help myself** and after a lot of trying, **I started feeling connected with myself**. I moved into an apartment by myself. I got in touch with some kind of divinity I can't explain. **I could listen to sad songs again and I remembered what I dreamt about when I was a kid**.

I started doing YouTube after watching Shane and Trish and Drew for years. Before making videos, **I thought I would never like doing anything. I thought I was debilitatingly lazy and I would work as a lonely cashier at a grocery store by the sea** because it was the most realistic yet romantic future I could imagine for myself. But it turns out that **when you find something that you genuinely care about and makes you feel like you have purpose, you are capable of more than you think you are**.

There is a lot of my life that I didn't draw out of respect to my family and out of respect to you for it being exceedingly dull. Some highlights include **a lot of mental illness**, great, going to university for creative writing, **sweet and precious moments with my dad and my mum, my sisters helping raise me, my sweet Marty who I lived with for five years until we became lifelong family**, my revolutionary style progression, etc. You can't tie a life up into a bow or lay it cleanly on a whiteboard. Life is messy and painful and full of joy and magic that can't be drawn. **I am grateful for everything that has happened and I am grateful for everything that will. I love you**.

1150

### FDML #68

So, today I'm going to attempt to draw my life. So, my name is Christine Riccio and I became a living, breathing thing August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1990. I was born in New Jersey, which is one of the states in the United States right next to New York. Some people don't know. And I was born in a town called Livingston in a hospital called St. Barnabas. I was an only child for the first three years of my life and to be honest, I don't remember too much about that. I was a Disney child. My parents used to be able to put me in front of the TV. There was one of those Disney sing-along movies and I would shut right up. My first word was actually, was "Mickey". When I was 2 years old, my parents got pregnant again and when I was three, just like that, I had a sister and I was no longer the only child here - **thank the Lord**.

This is also around the time that I started taking dance classes. I started out just taking ballet but before I knew, I was taking ballet, tap, jazz, acro. **I just loved learning the routines, I loved dancing. Performance has always been something that I really enjoyed**. This is also around the time where **my obsession with dinosaurs** became a thing. I remember watching Jurassic Park with my dad when my mum was out because she thought it would give me nightmares and I wasn't allowed. I mean, it might have given me nightmares but, dude, **it was worth. It was so awesome!** My dad and I used to actually put together dinosaur models. I mean, I was five years old so I couldn't do much, but he let me dictate the colours, which resulted in some pretty interesting looking dinosaurs that I displayed **proudly** on my shelf in my room till I was maybe 14.

When Olivia got a little older, she sort of became my shadow. She went through this stage where she would copy everything, and I mean everything, that I did and eight-year-old me? **Not amused!** I remember we would go to McDonald's and my mum would ask us what we wanted. I'd hesitantly tell her chicken nuggets because I knew Olivia would copy me and then she would and I'd want to be original, so I'd be like, "No, I want a burger!" and then Olivia would be like, "I want a burger!" It got to the point where I'd wait till very last second to tell her what I wanted. But having Olivia around had its perks too. **I used to be terrified of the dark** and my dad used to send me downstairs in the basement to fetch stuff for him a lot, and I found that I could easily manipulate five-year-old Olivia into coming down with me. "If you come downstairs with me, I'll make you a cake!" Sold, sold on the cake. There were never any cakes.

The Christmas that I was seven **I got my first real camera and I'd been obsessed with them since I knew what cameras were, and I was just so ecstatic**. Olivia got one that year too because of course, if I wanted one, she wanted one. She was irresponsible and broke hers though. **Idiot**.

When I was eight, my little brother Pauly was born. Cutest baby ever in the history of babies. I do not take that lightly. I was constantly taking pictures of him and we were constantly talking to him and, I swear to God, by the time he was seven months old, he was speaking in full sentences. And that Christmas was the year that we got our Nintendo 64. Before Pauly could actually play the games, he wanted to play the games with us. I used to give him a controller and tell him he was Mario, when actually Mario was computer player. Genius - **best thing I ever did. Olivia and I lolled ourselves silly**. 1999 was also a year that **I really discovered reading**. I mean, not just reading things for school, but I started going out of my way to get books. I actually remember lugging Goblet of Fire back and forth from school in 5th grade. It was this huge book that I used to carry instead of putting in my backpack because I couldn't go to school and not have it for dear time!

1999 was also the year **I met my two still best friends** - Kristina and then Jenna, and **we've had each other's backs ever since**. I've never been the sort of person who had tons of friends, but **these two wonderful ladies have been at my side**



since we were eight years old. And in the year 2000, I finally discovered the internet. AOL was hot stuff back then and I made my first screen name, Poland Bananas 20.

Then came middle school. I was super late to grow, so at eighth grade all the girls were 13, 14 years old, and I was maybe 4'8. I was this little tiny awkward anorexic looking midget with crazy teeth. I couldn't get braces yet because my teeth hadn't all fallen out. In 2006 for my 16th birthday, I actually finally got a video camera which I had been wanting for so long and I made a YouTube account. My dad owns a copier fax machine company. In 2006 he told me I should start working for him and so I did. Filing papers, inputting numbers, it wasn't most exciting, but it paid well.

In 2008, I got accepted to Boston University and I was super excited and in fall of 2008, I moved out to Boston for school. That first year was interesting. I mean, I liked school, but I didn't love, love school like everyone described when they came home from college during the holidays before I went there. I was in a quad freshman year, so I was in a room with four other girls and those are really the only people I made friends with. I mean, they were great people, but I didn't end up really having that much in common with them.

Sophomore year, two of my roommates went to go live off-campus. Me and my other roommate Kat and her friend Abby went to live together and that next year, Abby and Kat got really close and a lot of times because I didn't have that much in common with them, I ended up feeling like the odd man out. Around the same time, when I went home for winter break, I mean, my family life is complicated and messy. Growing up, my parents had always gotten into really loud, heated arguments. Things always went on, when it was done, it was done. And it wasn't till my late years of high school that I even thought about the possibility of divorce.

In December of 2009, when I came home for Christmas break, I could tell something was off. And that night there was a really scary loud fight and I just remember being huddled upstairs in Olivia's room with the dog and Pauly and I was crying because I could tell that this was it. My parents were locked in divorce lawyer hell for a good long time and I would go to work to where my dad was, and a lot of his anger and frustration with my mum would end up a lot of times being pushed onto me. I mean, I was technically an adult but that didn't stop me from being their children. I was an impartial party that they could vent to and it took a little bit for that to become a parent. Looking back, I'm grateful that this fell during the time I was away at school, because being home was really hard. To escape to Boston was a huge relief.

Toward the end of sophomore year when it came to get housing for next year, right before we went to the housing meeting, Abby and Kat actually told me that they both were going to live with other people in two-person apartments next year. And I just looked at them. It was one thing to do that, it's another thing not to tell me so I couldn't even try to prepare. I mean, I didn't really have any other close friends I could ask, but now I couldn't even try to find someone.

So come junior year, I found myself pretty sad a lot when I first got to school, but this is when I really came into YouTube. Because I was living by myself, I had more time and that time ended up being put into YouTube and I discovered vlogging and I just, it made me so much happier. And I'd comfort myself with the fact that I would hopefully be in London next semester because I was planning to study abroad. So, I applied and when I was accepted, I was over the moon excited.

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, I flew in to London. I was super nervous but I was super excited, but the nervous side was winning out until I got there. I'd never travelled alone. I didn't know anyone who was going on the program and I'd never been out of the country before. Hands down going abroad was the best decision I ever made in college. When I was abroad, I met my friend Allison and it was abroad that I started making YouTube videos on a weekly schedule and Allison and I and a rotation of our other flatmates travelled all over the place. It was so much fun and it's an experience that I would just, I would totally do 2011 over again just so that I could do that again. It just changed me completely. I came out of Europe so much braver.

When I got back to Jersey, I was broke, so I went back to work for my dad's office, and I decided that I wanted to go to VidCon that summer. Second best decision, 2011, went to VidCon anyway. I flew out to LA and that's where I met Katie Strange, I met Evan, I met Morgan, Emmet, Savannah and for the first time I realised how big the YouTube community actually is. Going back to school that fall, it was the first time I'd ever been excited to go back to school. I usually dread it, and I want to go back. Allison invited me to room with her and I got to school, and not only did I have a wonderful friend in Allison, turns out my other two roommates were just as fantastic. One of them was my friend Julia and the other one was my best friend Katie. At BU, they have this program for film TV majors called Study Abroad in LA - almost all the film seniors go abroad second half of their senior year, but I had just gotten back and I just, I really didn't want to go. And I found out they have a summer program. Best decision. I moved out to LA during the summer, they had an internship there. I made friends who were my major. I went to VidCon again.

So, now I'm back in New Jersey. I'm living in my mum's house. I mean, my relationship with my dad is still pretty tense, but it's better than it was last year, so, by steps. I'm taking improv classes and I'm saving up so that I can eventually move out of my parents' and hopefully make my way back over to LA. See where life takes me. I don't

know where I'm going but I hope you guys stick around to see how things pan out. Thank you for watching. I'm Christine and I'll talk to you next time. Bye!

1994

### FDML #69

Today I'm going to do a draw my life video. It all starts at my aunt and uncle's wedding because my aunt invited her sister and my uncle invited his brother, and that's actually my mother and father. So, my mum, who was in her 30s, kind of saw him and thought, "Oh he looks like he has good sperm and I want some", and he said "Okay!" But my mum was a feminist and she didn't want a husband, so she decided to raise me by herself and we lived on a farm and I didn't have any brothers or sisters or friends, so I just played with my cat. I used to feed him raw hot dogs and sometimes I'd play in my playroom by myself and it was lonely, but I got by.

I was really happy when I started school because I finally got to meet other kids my age, and I had friends for the first time, and that was really cool but it didn't last long because we were always moving. I was moving schools, moving cities. It was hard, and I wasn't that happy about it. I didn't like change at that time. So when I was 15 years old, we had to move again and I really liked where I was living at the time and I didn't want to go, so I decided that I was going to run away and I waited until my mum had a party so she couldn't chase after me, and yeah, so she threw my cat out the door and said "Don't forget your cat!" and I left. I think she didn't chase after me also because she knew I didn't have any money and I'd probably come home, which I did. And we moved to Ottawa, which is the capital of Canada. And I hated it, and spent most of my time, you know, staring out the window listening to Bob Marley and smoking weed and thinking there's got to be more than this to life.

So, I, I asked my mum after I graduated from high school, "Can I move to Jamaica?" and she said "Ok". And she let me go with love. So, I flew to Jamaica, and when I arrived, it was an amazing feeling that I'll never forget. Complete freedom and I knew that I was in for some big adventures. And I was. I went to Kingston, Jamaica, because it was probably a major inspiration for Bob Marley. He was from Kingston, so I went there to get these experiences, that made him so wise, hoping that one day I would be wise. And I went into this park downtown and I would pretend to read the newspaper, meanwhile I would be staring at these Rastas in the park thinking, like, what are they saying? What are they doing? You know, and I was really curious about them. They, on the other hand, were more suspicious of me. They thought I was a CIA agent, you know, like trying to destroy the black people or whatever, because they're quite racist there actually against white people. And so, one of them came over, checked my ID. I said I'm not at a CIA agent, I'm just a 17-year-old and I'm curious about you guys. And we had the same birthday and at that moment, he realised that oh my god, like, we're both just humans. And he left his friends and he invited me to his shack. And it was really, really poor, man. The bathroom was a bucket with water in it and he'd poop in the bucket and instead of, like, you can't flush, so you just take the bucket and throw the poop into the garden. I mean this is, like, really, really poor, poor stuff man, and it was really amazingly shocking for me to see that coming from Canada. Anyway, a lot of people in the community didn't like him dating a white person, so they trashed his place, they beat him up pretty bad, broke his feet and cut off his dreadlocks. And so yeah.

I actually went back to Canada for a month and when I came back, we met in Ocho Rios, because Kingston was too dangerous, and he said, "Sash, I'm so glad you're back because I've been living in a tree", and yeah, so I guess I dated a homeless man, and that was a very interesting experience, and yeah, an interesting part of my life. I started selling stuff when I was in Ocho Rios. I was making candles and I was making necklaces and I would walk up and down Ocho Rios and sell my stuff to souvenir shops, and I didn't really make that much money but I made enough to eat and I could stay there, so I was happy. But, you know, my boyfriend's enemies weren't that happy, you know, the white/black relationship thing and they called the police and told them that I was a prostitute, and I was arrested and I spent a short time in jail before my mother could get me out. I went to court and I proved that I was innocent, and I was let out, but I was deported back to Canada, which sucks, because my mother was already living in Sweden. And yeah, so I had to go to Canada first and then eventually I went to Sweden, but I didn't like it so talked to my mum and arranged for me to go live with my aunt back in Canada.

And while I was living there, one of her friends suggested that I do a Tesla course which is a course for, like, teaching English, and yeah, so I became a certified English teacher and I could work anywhere in the world that I wanted to. So, I got a job in Taiwan and also in Indonesia, and I looked on the map but I, I don't know, I don't know why but I was attracted to this Indonesia. But I didn't know anything about it. I didn't know if, like, Indonesians looked like they were Chinese and, like, speak like Chinese or like what kind of Asian country is this? I have no idea. But you got to take risks in life, and so I did. And I arrived and to my surprise, it was absolutely monstrous! It was like traffic and, like, pollution, and, like oh my god, people everywhere. It was so different. But I also realised that I was going to be an English teacher and I can't even spell because I grew up with spellcheck. I'm going to be a horrible teacher, but I was still excited and yeah, and I liked being a teacher because I didn't like having a boss and now, I was the boss, so that was fun. And these kids, I learned a lot from them. They kind of taught me a few simple Indonesian words and it was

fun for a while. And it allowed me to see this beautiful country. I saw things here that I had never seen before in my life, and I can't express to you how valuable Indonesian, like, Indonesia is to me.

I started learning about Islam because I was hearing a lot about it and I was curious about it, like, what is this Islam? What is Islam? What is culture? What is what? And I got really deep into it, really, really deep studying Islam, started wearing hijab. And I went back to Canada actually and I was wearing nicab at this time, and I would, you know, stay with my mum and I'd go down in the basement at night for Tahajjud prayers and I would pray because I was trying to memorize the Quran and I would read like sura al-baqarah in my Tahajjud prayers, and I would be crying, and, like, my mum was up on like, you know, two levels higher in the house, and she could still hear me and she was starting to really worry about me but she was supportive and Ottawa was cool because there is a kind of a large, you know, immigrant Muslim community and I met Muslims from all over the world really, and it was, it was kind of interesting to compare, like, how they think about Islam in each, you know, culture and it's a very interesting community because Canada is a big melting pot.

Anyway, but eventually I came back to Indonesia because it's my true love, and figured I'll just try to get another English teaching job, you know. I have experience - it's going to be easy to get a job, lots of schools need teachers, but they're kind of racist here too against bullaes in a hijab, because, you know, they said no. Eventually I did get a teaching job and on the side I was learning Arabic, which was kind of fun. My dad - you remember him, right? And he remembered me too and he said, "I'm coming to Indonesia to visit you" and so he did, and we went traveling to Merapi and I really got to know him for the first time, and it was absolutely amazing. And I thought, I really want to hang out with him more because he's a cool guy, really.

I used to really love drawing and music and acting and stuff like that, and I was getting really bored teaching. I quit my job and started studying at Sakti Actors Studio. I was still wearing my hijab but I wasn't wearing nicab anymore. Fun, but when I went to casting, it was like "No, no, no". The hijab is not really acceptable in, like, a casting room and I'm like, "Why can't I just be myself?" It's really hard to wear a hijab, follow Islamic rules, when you're a woman, especially if you're in the arts. So I followed my gut and I just stopped following the rules so that I could chase my dreams and so I could reach my full potential and find out what I'm really capable of as the super woman that I feel I am, who doesn't need a hijab to protect herself from men, because I carry pepper spray. So I did take off the hijab.

And I did, I got a job. It was like a kind of a comedy travel show with two really cool Indonesian guys. But in 2008, when my dad was going to come back and visit again, he died and that really broke my heart, and I didn't get to see him after that. In other areas of my life I was getting kind of bored of watching myself on TV. I wasn't really satisfied with my career and I didn't think I had much of a career.

I bought rollerblades and I decided I was going to be something great - something different than I was already. And I decided I was going to rollerblade from one end of Java to the other and go all the way to Bali on rollerblades and be the first person on earth to do so, and I did it. You know what? Like, I can make a difference in this world, but it makes me really poor, and I kind of figured, well, how can I do good things if I don't have any money and I don't have a chance? So yeah, I was kind of sad and I was down on Jalan Jaksa, and I saw this little boy who was sleeping on the street and he used to sleep in front of Alpha Mart asking for change and stuff and I thought, you know what? That could be me. Why don't people care about others, and how come nobody sees my pain? And that made me recognize other people's pain. And so, I kind of took him in, but it didn't work out, and it didn't work out for me. He's off the street by the way. My friend took him in.

But I was depressed thinking about the weight of the world on my shoulders and I spent about a year crying and in a deep, deep depression and I wasn't doing anything during that time. I was pretty useless. The only friend I had, you know, that kind of understood me was my dog Marley. I'm really glad that I, I had him, because, yeah, he was my only friend at that time. And I had a really sad time. But eventually, some friends came along and I, you know, thought - wait a minute, I'm still alive. There's still life to live and I started to be happy again, and then once I was happy, I started doing things more productively. And I started doing my videos and uploading them to YouTube and, and sometimes they watched and sometimes they didn't watch but I think things have kind of turned around for me. And now I kind of live for YouTube and it's all because of you guys and I really, really love Indonesia. And thank you so, so much for my life up until now. Really, really thank you.

2214

## FDML #70

Hi everyone! My name is Julia Graf and today I am going to draw my life for you, so I really hope you enjoy and maybe learn a few more things about who I am. I was born on April 27<sup>th</sup> in Nuremberg, Germany, to my swiss mother Elizabeth and my German father Werner. I was a second child for my parents. My sister Anna had preceded me three years earlier. My earliest memories were growing up in an idyllic tiny village named Hof in the countryside of southern Germany, also known as Bavaria. My father worked in his family's business and I was lucky enough as a child to have my mum around to care for my sister and I full-time. My parents rented this adorable tiny heritage house that looks

straight out of a German fairy tale with a brown picket fence and I vividly remember my mum's beautiful flower garden in front.

Our village was only one short street with a few houses dotting the fields on either side. My sister and I grew up surrounded by a small but very close-knit group of kids all around the same age. We all played together in the fields and the forest by the creek running behind her house, or we would make up stories to play in one of our houses. I remember my childhood as being very carefree and spending a lot of time outside. When I was about six years old, my parents had finally saved up enough money to build their first house just down the street a little bit. I was so excited while our house was being constructed. It looked so huge to me as a little kid. It was even going to have an indoor pool.

When the house was finally completed, we moved in. It seemed too good to be true. I felt so lucky to be able to live in such a nice house. Basically, I was a very happy child. I loved our close-knit community in our village, my best friends from school and all the kids in our neighbourhood. I even loved to go to school in the neighbouring town. I was just starting second grade when my parents dropped a bombshell and my sister and I - we were moving. We were moving far away to another country - a country I had never heard of. It was called Canada. I don't think I realised what that meant at all. I didn't even know where this place called Canada was. I remember thinking, why are we leaving? We just got here. We don't have to go anywhere. We have a home! I was very confused. Well, the reason for the move was that my father wanted to start his own clothing company business and he felt there were more opportunities in Canada for young entrepreneurs than in Germany. I hated my parents then and I told them I was not going. I told them I was going to live with Grandma and stay in Germany and they could just leave without me for all I cared. It was an awful period of my young life.

But then, the inevitable day came when the moving truck arrived, and the movers packed all our belongings into boxes and then into a gigantic container. My parents had sold their beloved house and my mum sold a lot of our toys, clothes and things we didn't use or need anymore. At that point, everything happened so fast and the next thing I knew, we were in Vancouver. I was still really sad by the time we moved into our new house and missing all my friends so much. But soon, it was time to start school in this foreign place and I was so scared. I learned that my sister and I were going to be attending different schools because well, she was older and she had to be placed in an ESL class which is English as a second language, and since I was only 8 years old then, I was just going to be integrated into a regular third grade classroom, right along with all the other Canadian kids. I wasn't even going to have my sister Anna beside me for support.

My first day of school was terrible. I cried a lot and again hated my parents for uprooting me and throwing me into this foreign environment, but somehow put on a brave face and managed to get through the first day. I didn't understand anyone, but luckily, I sat next to a Canadian girl named Leah and somehow, we became close friends. I finally had my first friend in Canada. But it wasn't all easy. Since I didn't speak English and was still learning, I was ostracized by my classmates. I was a foreigner. I wasn't like the rest of them. I remember spending a lot of lunch times and recesses alone. Besides Leah, I didn't have any other friends.

Somehow things got easier over time, and after third grade, I was fluent in English and didn't have to go to special language classes anymore. I made a lot of friends in school and I was no longer the outsider. I was really good in school and actually English and art classes became my favourite and best subjects. I read a lot of books, even back then, and I became not only proficient in English but actually better than a lot of my classmates. I was pulling As in English and began to write my own stories in my free time. A few years later, I, along with my family, was naturalized and attained Canadian citizenship. I was now proud Canadian. I was happy to no longer be the foreigner. I finally felt like I really belonged.

In Vancouver, high school began in eighth grade and I remember the transition being kind of hard for me. Some of my closest friendships began to fizzle out at that time, and a few had gone to different high schools, so I was once again alone. English was still my best subject in school. I remember this one time I wrote an assignment for creative writing and it was so good apparently that my teacher sent it into a Canada-wide creative writing competition. I didn't win, but my teacher decided to read it out loud in front of a class. I was proud but also kind of embarrassed. After that, a few of the boys in my class began to constantly pick on me. They called me names and made me feel ashamed of my talent. In winter, they chased me down and pelted me with snowballs. No one wanted to be friends with me, and I guess they didn't want to be associated with the smart kid.

In ninth grade, things got a lot better. I changed classes and met some new kids and befriended a really nice group of girls and guys who were also good in school. I stayed friends with this group until I graduated high school and I'm still in contact with a few of them today. I continued my writing and attended an extracurricular creative writing workshop after school, so I met a lot of new kids who shared my hobbies, and my teachers encouraged me to keep writing so I thought for sure that I was going to be a writer one day.

The rest of my high-school career was pretty normal, I guess. I had my first serious boyfriend, my first real kiss, all that stuff. By 12th grade though, I was really bored with school and I couldn't wait to get out of there. My worst subject was math, and I hated it so much I started skipping a lot of classes. My relationship with my parents deteriorated

because they were worried about my academics. **Our relationship hit rock bottom** shortly before my graduation, and as soon as I graduated high school, I moved out from home. I was the first of my friends to do so, and I now lived in a basement apartment that I shared with a much older roommate shortly after turning 18.

**I supported myself** by working two jobs. I had had my first part-time job besides school when I was about sixteen at a bistro, and then after finishing high school, I worked double shifts at two jobs. I would get up and take the bus downtown to my first job at a juice bar, and then after working anywhere between six to eight hours there, I would take the bus to my second job at a coffee shop. **I had my own money, my own apartment and no one to set rules and curfews for me.** When I wasn't working, I hung out with my fun and adventurous group of friends, and we got up to a lot of crazy stuff. **I have so many good memories** from that summer.

My plan was then to go backpacking around Europe with my best friend Megan. I didn't feel ready to make any decisions about what I'd want to do the rest of my life, and I wanted to see the world. I saved up all my money for my various jobs over the years and bought a one-way ticket to London. I stayed with my sister Anna who was attending college there, and the two of us first toured around Eastern Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. It was my first foray into backpacking, and **I loved it!** After the trip with my sister, we returned to London where my best friend from Vancouver, Megan, flew in to meet me. We were going to spend the next two months backpacking around Europe together, living on the fly and using a Rail Pass to get around Europe wherever we want to go. Our first stop was Scotland and we visited the Highlands in the Isle of Skye, which was really beautiful but also super expensive for us. Since we didn't have a lot of money, we ended up cutting our trip short and headed to Southern Europe because it was so much cheaper. The next few months we backpacked around France, Holland, Spain and Portugal, and **had a blast.** We travelled on a shoestring budget, stayed in large dorms and youth hostels, had absolutely no luxuries. **We loved it. We saw so many beautiful places, spent our days sightseeing and our nights drinking cheap Spanish wine and meeting cool new people.**

So, after about four months of traveling around Europe with Megan, money was running out. My friend returned home to Canada, but I decided to stay in Europe until I had figured out what I wanted to do with my life. I decided to try to find work in Switzerland because I had the Swiss passport passed down from my mum, so I could legally work there without having to apply for a visa. I made a few pit stops in Austria and Italy on the way back, and finally arrived in Switzerland sometime in November. I stayed at my grandparents' house from my mum's side and looked for a job. Even though it was late in the season, I managed to snag a job waitressing at a nice hotel restaurant and a winter ski resort called Adel Boden. I was now 18, had a full-time job in a foreign country, lived on my own and didn't know a soul in this town. **I loved it. I was so excited to start this new adventure.**

On the first night, there was a staff party for all the hotel employees, and I spied this cute guy who was also working at the hotel. He had beautiful blue eyes, light hair and was really tall. We ended up talking and I found out **he liked the same music as me and he also loved to snowboard. He was Swiss and his name was Bjorn. Well, as luck would have it, Bjorn liked me too and we started to date.** After a while, **those feelings deepened, and we fell in love.** That winter season, my life consisted of working, hanging out with my new boyfriend, skiing and partying. Since things were **going so well** in Switzerland, I decided to stick around and work the summer season too, but at a different hotel where **I was much happier.** Bjorn and I moved in together to a tiny one-room studio apartment - it was so basic, we didn't even have a phone, but **we didn't care. We were happy.**

Meanwhile, I was saving up all my money again, not spending much at all, living with only the bare necessities. I was getting the travelling itch again and my dream was to backpack through Asia. I wanted Bjorn to come but he couldn't due to school, so **I made a big decision to go on my own.** I just knew I didn't want to be a waitress for the rest of my life and I just felt too young to give up my dreams for anyone. I made **the hard decision** to leave Bjorn to go traveling to Asia. I had never meant to stay in Switzerland permanently, but **it was still so hard to say goodbye and, well, we both cried a lot.**

I flew to Turkey in October of that year with my entire life savings that I earned during my two seasons working in the hotel industry in this resort town. So, it was with this money that I financed my year-long backpacking trip through Asia. I was 19, single once again, and about to embark a long journey by myself across Asia. My adventure began in Istanbul and I would spend the next year travelling across the entire continent. I saw Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Thailand and Myanmar. **It was the adventure of a lifetime.** Now obviously, such a long trip will change anyone, and **I definitely did so much growing up** during this time. I haven't met so many interesting, memorable people and made memories that I'm sure I'll be telling my grandchildren one day. **I learned a lot about the world, other people and also about myself. I became a strong individual who relies on herself and knows how to get herself out of a tough spot.** Well, this could be a whole video in itself, and it is, so if you want to know all about my trip to Asia, I would recommend you check out my video that I did about it. It has lots of pictures too, so I will link it right now and it'll open up in a window so you can watch it later.

During this journey, I kept a diary and recorded my life and experiences. These are **some of my most valued treasures** today. I also realised at this point that I wanted my later career to be something in this field. I wanted to be a journalist

or a foreign reporter or something along that line. I decided to apply to universities in Canada while I was on my trip. So, there I was, sitting in some coffee shop in the middle of nowhere in India filling out college applications. Well some weeks later, I got an email from my parents telling me that they had received a letter that I had been accepted to McGill University in Montreal. I was floored - it had been my number one choice and it's one of the best schools in Canada, so of course, I never thought I would actually get in. But somehow, I did, and I was so excited to begin a new chapter of my life once I returned home.

I returned to Vancouver thin as a wire from my long journey, overjoyed to see my family again, and hopeful about the future. I started university and began studying in the liberal arts field. I took a lot of classes that somehow connected me to broader world issues – economics, political science, sociology, world religion and such. After the first year, I decided to double major in Political Science and International Development Studies. I once again excelled at school and got awesome grades.

Somehow, my ex-boyfriend Bjorn and I got back in contact at this time. We had both moved on and were dating other people, but we would talk every once in a while on the phone. Somehow, I felt a connection, and so did he, so I invited him to come visit me and my family at Christmas break in Vancouver. He accepted, and, well, we saw each other again. It was as if no time had passed at all between us. Even though we'd both grown and changed as people, our love for each other resurfaced. At the end of those two wonderful weeks, we decided to give it another shot and try a long-distance relationship. So, I returned to university in Montreal and he flew back to Switzerland where he was also going to school. For the next couple years, we only saw each other at Christmas time and during the long summer semester breaks. He was going to school full-time and in the summers, I lived with him in Switzerland and worked different jobs before I had to fly back to Montreal. During the rest of the year, we kept in touch by phone or MSN chats, but it was really, really hard. We missed each other a lot and I often felt sad that he wasn't there.

It was my fourth year of university when things took a turn for the worse. I felt really lonely. A lot of my closest friends that I'd gained over the past years that graduated moved away and I just felt adrift. I felt torn between two places - one life here in Montreal, the other part of my life was in Switzerland. I became disillusioned with my programme and I was worried about the future. Where would I live? Where would I work? I had no one to talk to. My support net was far away. I fell into a deep, crippling depression. I was too ashamed to seek out counselling or professional help. I withdrew completely into myself. I couldn't concentrate on anything and my once excellent GPA took a nosedive. I began to take sleeping pills and dropped out from all my extracurricular activities, and distanced myself from everyone. It was probably the worst period of my entire life and it went on for a really long time.

After finishing up with school, I decided to leave Montreal. I just didn't want to be torn between two places anymore, so I decided to move to Switzerland for good. Bjorn had also finished up his school and we moved into a new apartment together. I still felt depressed, but the changes definitely helped. I found a great job in a field that I thought was going to offer me a lot of chances to advance my career. I worked in the area of international relations. After about a year at my new job, the routine of everyday life set in. After my crazy and ever-changing lifestyle over the past few years, I was just bored with the monotony.

I had gained an interest in makeup during my university years, and well, I saw it as my only creative outlet. I always loved to paint in my youth and makeup was like painting on your face. I began to watch a few makeup videos on YouTube and thought wow, well that looks like fun! I want to do that too. So, I uploaded my first makeup tutorial in 2008. I got a few thousand comments on it and a few people actually subscribed to my channel, so I decided to make more videos. Now, I was still working full-time on my job and doing YouTube in my free time as my hobby. I hadn't met that many people yet in Switzerland, so it was a great way for me to connect with other people who shared my interests. First, I didn't tell anyone what I was doing. I was kind of embarrassed about it actually, but then I began to tell my friends and my family, and they were all really interested, so they checked out my videos and they encouraged me to keep going. And I loved doing it, so I did.

I gained more and more subscribers and my channel started getting successful. Then I began to be invited to all these beauty and fashion events. I got to travel, and I even started doing meetups to meet some of my viewers. It was so exciting. I began to focus more of my time on YouTube because I knew this is actually what I wanted to do. This was me. This is what made me actually happy. I don't know where I'll end up in the future - if my career will remain in the beauty industry, or maybe back to political science, or maybe even back to writing, I think only time will tell. All my family and friends are incredibly supportive and, well, many of them pass on my work to others by word of mouth. I makes me both proud but also humble to think of all the opportunities I've had because of my work here on YouTube and my blog. All the doors it's opened, all the media attention I have received, and for that and, of course, for your ongoing support, I am truly, truly, deeply thankful.

I never imagined my life to take on any of the paths that it did. Bjorn and I are still together, and we recently moved into a great new apartment which I am enjoying immensely. We live in a beautiful country. In the winter we go snowboarding and skiing in the Alps, in the summer we have clean rivers and lakes nearby to swim in, lush forests for hiking and biking, and we've built up a really great group of friends who we love to spend time with. One thing that

still sucks is that my family is so far away, and I don't see them as often as I'd like, and well, I miss them a lot. But my parents and I were able to resolve our differences from my teenage youth and we have a really good relationship again.

If there's anything you take with you from this video, let it be that you are the key to your own happiness and success. Don't ever let anyone or anything stop you from pursuing your dreams and dream your dreams big. Think of what kind of person you want to be - what kind of life do you wish to have? Do whatever makes you happy and don't pursue someone else's dreams for you to make them happy. And then go out there and get it. Thank you so much for watching. I'll see you in my next video.

3844

#### FDML #71

Hello everyone, and welcome to my draw my life video. I really wasn't sure whether I would actually make this video because, as you will soon see, I can't draw to save my life, but I really wanted to do one anyway, so I hope you enjoy it! So please be nice about my drawings, because they're not very good!

This is me, and I was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1990, weighing four pounds and 14 ounces. And I was named Katie Frances, thanks mum and dad. My mum often says that on the day you were born, all my dreams came true, which is something I've always remembered. It makes me really happy because it's basically the nicest thing your mum could say about you. I grew up in the South East of England in a county, most of you think it's in Essex, but it's actually here in Kent, not too far away is it?

So, I was created by a beautiful lady called Tracy and a handsome guy named Pete. And pretty early on in life, I realised they were my mum and my dad. For the first nine months of my life, my nana and granddad also lived with us in our house, which is probably the reason that we're so close and they're two amazing people that I couldn't be without in my life, and two and a half years later, a little munchkin called Chris came along. And he kind of completed our little family, and I decided that I rather liked being a big sister. So, some of my earlier memories are going to the park with my little brother and going for walks with my granddad. And I just remember always wanting to see the cats that lived near us for some reason. And apparently, according to my mum, I used to enjoy pulling my brother around by the legs of his baby grow, so they would stretch a million miles and made him look like a 6-foot baby, but I think he quite enjoyed that.

As I got a little bit older, I started to notice more and more that my mum was in quite a lot of pain with their arms and legs, and this made me really sad because I didn't really understand why. I found out that she had MA which caused her lots of pains in her arms and legs and muscles, and it was really sad because she had to stay in bed a lot of the time. So, we ended up moving to a flat which was actually in a sort of old people's type of complex and some of them were nice and others were mean and thought that we would be really noisy and didn't want us living there. Living there probably sounds like it would be really weird, but as I was really young, I got used to it pretty quickly and started primary school. And it was a place where I really enjoyed being. I just really enjoyed lessons and liked my teachers and just generally enjoyed being there, right from the start to the end. I was quite a happy little girl and I really enjoyed being at school. I had lots of friends and one of our favourite things to do was make up dance routines in the playground to S Club 7, Steps and of course the Spice Girls, which were our favourite bands at the time. And throughout most of primary school, our dad would take us to school and pick us up because my mum was just too ill to do it. But we didn't mind though, because dad would buy us lots of sweets and Pokémon cards, of course, which I think my brother was more impressed with than I was, but I did enjoy the sweets and the odd Pokémon card.

One of my best childhood memories was going to Disneyland Paris, which was probably one of the best experiences of my life. I loved it there so much. I was honestly gobsmacked by how amazing it was because I'd always, always loved Disney. And even though my mum had to go in her wheelchair, we painted her wheels pink and my dad pushed her around and it was fine because they knew how happy we were, and we were mega, mega grateful for them taking us there.

Now, it feels like I'm skipping a few bits but as it got to the end of primary school, my mum started to get a little bit better and sometimes she could take us and pick us up from school and take us out, which was great, and I started to think more and more about high school, which was around the corner and really, really exciting for me. So secondary school, as we call it in the UK, was a big, exciting new place which I couldn't wait to start. And even though I would really miss primary school, lots of my friends were going to the same school, so I wasn't really scared because high school was going to be like Saved by the Bell and Sabrina the Teenage Witch, obviously. But as the days and the weeks and the months started to go by, every day I just couldn't wait till it was over, and I realised something really wasn't right. I just felt sick and anxious and scared every single day being there, and it just was the worst place in the world to me. All my friends seemed really happy there and this really started to alienate me from them because I didn't understand why I felt this way and everyone else was carrying on as normal.

I was at quite a low point when there was one particular lesson in school which I probably won't go into too much detail about, because it kind of sounds odd, but the teacher was talking about food allergies and this kind of started everything off in the worst way, and I had a massive panic attack which turned into lots and lots more panic attacks and nobody really knew what the hell was going on, basically. And I started to feel like I couldn't breathe. I was scared, alone. I felt like a weirdo and that I wasn't normal anymore, and I didn't understand what was happening to me. After that, every school day was a real struggle and I literally just felt like there was storm clouds hovering over my head all the time, and I had massive arguments with my mum because I just didn't want to go to school and I used to beg her to not let me go, but she was doing the right thing at the time and making me go to school like every other normal kid.

But when I was at school, I wouldn't eat or drink a thing, which obviously is pretty dangerous and really bad for you, which obviously set everybody else off whispering and wondering whether I had anorexia, which obviously wasn't the case but you can understand why people would assume that. All of my family started to get really, really, really concerned about me and they didn't know what was wrong with me and I couldn't really explain to them that I was so petrified to eat because I was scared that something was going to be wrong with me, and to cut a very, very long story short, I was diagnosed with health anxiety, which basically meant I was scared of things in particular but mainly I was worried about being ill or dying, and having panic attacks really didn't help those feelings at all. So, during this time, I was actually home-schooled, which wasn't really a pleasant experience because I didn't really like not being with my friends and being isolated.

So, after about two and a half years and cutting out what was quite a large, sad chunk of my life out of this video, I started at a new school, and this school had quite a big focus on performing arts. And as nervous and scared as I was about starting - I really didn't think I could do it - once I got there, it was almost like the sun came up on what had been a really horrible few years. I made some really nice friends, some girls took me under their wing, and I started to feel happy again for the first time in a very long time. And more importantly, I felt normal again. In 2004 to 2006, I was studying for my GCSEs, something after everything that happened, I thought I would never do. And even though I wasn't that academic and I didn't really enjoy maths and science, I loved performing arts and I entered lots of different shows, performed in talent shows and basically the second best thing to ever happen to me in school was getting the main part in the school play, Sweet Charity, when I was 16. And even though I wasn't totally better, performing arts really helped to heal what was wrong with me and it has played a big part in my life. And I'm so proud that I came out of school with some A stars, As and Bs, but so don't think I'm showing off, I also got some Ds and Fs because I should have paid a lot more attention in maths and science.

I loved being at that place so much that I decided to stay there for sixth form, which is kind of like college. While other people were going out and getting jobs, I was still studying performing arts which was my big, big love, until I met a certain boy who was obsessed with football and was there studying football coaching. His friends called him Pie but his real name was Rikki and I remember seeing him for the first time and feeling like I'd never felt before. Even though I'd had a couple of boyfriends throughout school, I definitely felt different about him. He nicknamed me Patches because of some rather dubious fake tan mistakes, but when I realised that he liked me too, we never really looked back and as luck would have it, my best friend Lauren and Rikki's best friend Kerry, that's a boy's name before you ask, were really starting to like each other at the same time well, which meant that we could go on lots and lots of double dates. And we ended up going on double dates basically every night that summer. We went on holiday together and we went to the beach and just generally had a laugh, and it was definitely one of the best summers I could ever remember having. And on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2007, me and Ricky officially became boyfriend and girlfriend, which made me happier than I ever thought I could be. That's really cheesy, I know.

So, it was time to say bye-bye to secondary school, and what started as a place with absolutely awful memories for me turned out to be a place with wonderful memories for me, and I managed to get AS levels in performing arts, drama, dance and media. So, what was next? I tried performing arts college for a while, but it just wasn't the place for me, and I felt like massive fail, and I honestly just thought, what the f is going on? Why am I doing this? I'm ruining everything I've worked so hard for by leaving, but I started to feel a lot of the anxious feelings creeping back over me, and I knew that I had to put a stop to it. During this time, I was teaching at a stage school and this made me very, very happy to see all of the kids' faces when we put on the shows, and it definitely put a smile back on my face too.

During this time, I started looking into what it would take for me to open my own online jewellery store, so I saved up a bit of money from working at a stage school, taught myself how to make necklaces and bracelets and little vintage hair accessories, taught myself how to build a website to put them all onto, and learnt how to photograph all of the pieces so that they looked nice on the website. And also around this time, I discovered this little thing you might have heard of called YouTube, and it was just this really amazing resource full of videos where I could watch things that interested me, and a couple of these things were fashion and beauty, which is something that had always been a love of mine. It was just a great way to talk to like-minded people that enjoyed the same sort of things as me, and I knew I wanted to start something like this up for myself.

So, in 2010, I decided to start my very own fashion and beauty YouTube channel and I decided to call it Dolly Bow Bow which was my quirky little name that just kind of stuck, and I was amazed when I got a thousand subscribers, so,



to be on 150,000 subscribers today is absolutely crazy. I was absolutely astounded when the orders started to pile up and the parcels started to go out almost every single day, and it's just something that I remain completely and utterly grateful to, to this very day, and I'm grateful that you guys have given me the chance to build up this business to what it is now. Knowing that even some of you guys enjoy what I do just makes me happy every single day and there have been lots of things over the last three years that have made me happy, including moving out with Ricky after being together five years and it'll be six years this August. We got our furry baby Miley a couple of months ago, who we love to pieces. And of course, Dolly Bow Bow plays a massive part in my life - something that I would never have expected a few years back, but they are all things that I am grateful for every single day. Also, my family still play a massive part in my life and they will always be number one to me.

Everybody has a story to tell and mine is no more different or exciting than anyone else's. I've had sad times in my life and amazingly happy times in my life, but I guess what I want to say in the cheesiest way possible, is you can become whoever you want to be if you just put the effort in and work hard, you can honestly achieve everything you want to, so this video is just basically a massive thank you to everyone that's supported me over the last few years and without even realising it, you guys have helped me with more than you will ever know. I hope this video has made you feel like you've got to know me a little bit better. Now you know my past, you're part of my present and hopefully my future too! So, let's see what it holds. Thanks for watching everyone. I'll speak to you soon. Bye.

2567

## FDML #72

YouTube. Take two. I am Lana McKissack, and now I'm going to really draw my life. Okay, so the first part was true. I was born in Los Angeles, California, to two loving parents: my mum, who was born in Japan, was a housewife, and my daddy, who was born in Florida, was a defence attorney. I grew up with two beautiful, intelligent and talented sisters who were 11 and 12 when I came into the world. As long as I remember being alive, I have wanted to be an entertainer, but my parents wanted me to try a little bit of everything before I decided to completely dedicate my life to performing. Throughout my childhood, I was simultaneously enrolled in acting school, singing lessons, dance classes, gymnastics, bla bla bla bla bla, and art school, which obviously I excelled in the most.

My parents were most concerned about my education. I was taking honours classes and at a certain point, it was literally impossible to maintain both my grades and all my extracurricular activities, so we decided to whittle them down to a more manageable load, and I focused on school, acting and singing only. My whole life can be described as a series of high highs and low lows. I was a moderately successful child actor, but I found it much harder to break back into the industry as an adult. I signed a recording deal with Sony records in Japan when I was 15 - Japan apparently looks like a jalapeno or a semicolon - anyway, I released four singles and I toured the country, but I never really made too much of a splash, and that experience was a bit of a mixed bag for me, because while I was lucky enough to be able to sing and perform, I was also traveling back and forth and back and forth every few weeks from Tokyo to LA while I was in the middle of high school dealing with high school stuff and battling exhaustion, stress and this little addiction to diet pills that I somehow developed. Don't worry, I'm fine now.

I graduated from high school two days after my 17th birthday, and I spent the summer questioning my life choices and my drawing abilities, ah, don't judge me. Was I really happy in Japan? Would it be worth it to disrupt or a delay college just for a shot at something I wasn't even sure I wanted? I decided in the end to go with my gut and I stopped my career in Japan and moved into the dorms at UCLA that September. College was amazing. I really, really loved it and made some awesome friends, including a floppy haired ball of energy named Chester C, who became like a brother to me. I also learned a lot about both my craft and myself, and I met a very sweet and brilliant English boy who I ended up dating for seven years, most of which was long-distance. We were in love, but, you know, sometimes things just don't work out.

2009 to 2010 were an emotional rollercoaster for me. One of my sisters, who is my best friend in the entire world, gave birth to a beautiful little boy named Alex who apparently looks like the dog that I drew in my last draw my life video. I'm sorry, Alex - you're beautiful. He was a huge blessing to our family, and we all love him so much more than we ever thought was possible. But just a few months after he was born, my family received some devastating news. My dad, who was the most important person in the universe to me - my rock, my hero, my everything - was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme, an extremely aggressive malignant brain tumour. His doctors said that even with treatment, he probably wouldn't live more than a year and a half. I felt like I'd been run over by a truck. My dad had always been incredibly intelligent and witty and youthful and so funny, and he had a photographic memory, a thirst for knowledge, and he was the greatest storyteller I have ever known. Most importantly, he was my daddy. The tumour quickly progressed, and my family and I had to watch him mentally deteriorate before our eyes. He soon became unable to speak properly, and was bedridden, first at the hospital and then at home. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010, I held his hand for hours and I sang him every song I knew. He was in a coma and I had no idea if he could even hear me, but all I knew is that I wanted him to know how much I loved him, and I wanted to bring him peace. He passed away a few hours later, only five months after his diagnosis. And my heart was broken.

The only thing that saved me during this time was meeting the man of my dreams – a loving, compassionate, hilarious and talented genius named Nathan Moore. We'd only been dating for three months when he sat beside me at my father's funeral holding my hand and comforting me. He's really tall, guys, seriously, like a giant. From the beginning, I knew that he was the one. On our first date, we went to a midnight showing of Avatar and we joked and laughed throughout the first hour, but at a certain point he stopped responding to me entirely and I was so irritated until I realised that he had fallen asleep behind his 3D glasses. I guess you could say it was love at first sight, or sleep. At the end of that year, we went on a short-lived game show called Million Dollar Money Drop and we ended up winning a sizable amount of money which enabled us to pay off the debt we both accrued in college. We were able to devote more time to pursuing our dreams, and since we were both actors and writers, we decided to work on my YouTube channel together. One day, we hiked up a mountain to shoot a sketch about lumberjacks. A handful of our close friends accompanied us to play various roles and as we began to film the final scene with the sun setting in the background, Mr. Moore got down on one knee and asked me to marry him. I said no. Just kidding. We made it official on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, and for those of you who are wondering why I've never publicly discussed it, it's because some things you want to keep private, at least for a little while.

But now I want you all to know, because I am truly the happiest I have ever been and I want you to share in my joy. I owe you guys so much for making it possible for me to do what I love with the people I love - the talented friends I made on Internet Icon and the other amazing creators I've met since my dear friend Chester introduced me to the YouTube world have made my life the crazy, fun journey that it is today. And I can't wait to see what happens next. Thank you, guys, for watching my videos and for always supporting me. I love you so much! And I'm just going to colour that in there.

1231

### FDML #73

Hello, I'm Emily, and I live in England with my hubby Matt and our three sons, six-year-old Fraser, three-year-old Caleb, and one-year old Jackson. I'm so grateful for all the love and support that I get from doing this channel, so I decided to do something special when I reached 100,000 subscribers. So, I thought now would be a good time to tell you a bit more about myself. My story is quite shocking in places, so I'm going to give a trigger warning here because I will be talking about abuse and suicide. So, this video is not for children. There are parts of my story that I have never told anyone. I've kept them locked away and I finally feel ready to tell my story, so here goes.

Now I was actually born in Canada, Toronto to be exact. My mum was only 20 when she had me, and I was lucky enough to already have an older sister, Charlie. My earliest memory was waking up one night to a loud bang. I went to see what was going on and I found my sister picking up lots of little black plastic keys off of the floor. I was tired and confused, but it turned out that my father had thrown my mum's typewriter at her during a late-night argument. My sister was trying to pick all of the keys up. We must have gone back to bed because the next thing I remember is being woken up by my mum and telling me that we were going to get on a train to go see my grandma and grandpa. My abusive, alcoholic father had passed out on the couch, and we were leaving.

We lived with my grandparents for a while in a very nice neighbourhood, but somehow our dad still had partial custody over us, meaning that we had to visit him on the weekends. I won't go into specifics, but on those weekends, away from our grandparents, away from our mum, my father would abuse me and my sister in every way possible. We were just three and five. Those memories will always haunt me, and I still struggle to sleep when the images come back of him sitting there in his filthy living room, naked mostly, stinking of tobacco, and always drunk. I still have a scar on left arm from where he burnt me with a cigarette once. I couldn't say if it was an accident or not - I was too young to remember. But whenever anyone has asked me up until this point, I have said it's a mark from an injection. Out of everything, the worst thing wasn't the abuse, it was being kidnapped. This happened a few times. On one occasion, he collected us from school and just took us. Luckily, though, it didn't take long for him to get drunk again and my sister somehow managed to call home on a pay phone and tell my mum that we were in a cafe and read out the letters on the street sign of where we were. The police came to take us home, which was pretty terrifying. I was five years old when this happened, and I remember panicking about getting into the police car that had a cage in it. My older sister finally told our mum about what was happening with our dad, and after a long time with my mum fighting in the courts and providing medical evidence of the sexual abuse, the authorities finally intervened. We still had to see him though, except now the visits took place at a special centre under the supervision of social workers. I remember being so scared that I'd often throw up in the car on the way there. Thankfully, most of the time he would forget to turn up because he was so drunk. I used to feel relieved but then also in weird ways somehow sad that he didn't want to see us or that he had forgotten about us. It was all so confusing that the courts sent us to see a shrink. My way of dealing with everything that was going on was complete shut down; I wouldn't say a word. They'd try to get me to draw pictures instead, but I also refused to do that. The irony of me now drawing my life for you!

When I was six or seven, my schoolteacher found me shivering alone in a coat closet at school. At the end of the day, she sat me down and asked if there was anything that I wanted to tell her, anything at all, but the words just wouldn't

come out. On the street where we lived, there were three sisters and we used to play at each other's houses all of the time. And eventually their dad and our mum hit it off and got together. We rented a little house with him and his daughters and although we had no money, I really loved having so many sisters around all of a sudden. I didn't think much of my new step-dad though - he was incredibly strict. He'd recently been in the Navy for 10 years of service and I guess it'd given him OCD. The beds had to be made this way, clothes had to be folded just so. I remember him screaming, "Where are your slippers?" And then when we found them, he would hit us with them. Yeah, I guess he was a total fruit loop, but he was way better than my actual dad, so I kind of just went with it.

When I was nine, we moved again, and we were finally able to stop seeing my real dad. We were still really poor, but my mum always said it was better to have the worst house in a good area than the best house in a bad one. So, there we were, all seven of us, in the smallest house you ever saw, but in a really nice part of town. My three stepsisters lived with us during the week and would visit their mum every weekend. Then, one Sunday evening, the eldest of the three telephoned to say that she wasn't coming home. She wanted to stay and live with her mum; I was devastated. A few weeks later, the middle sister did the same, and then finally the youngest one left too. As if that wasn't enough, our stepdad was also being sued by his ex-wife for child support, which of course we couldn't afford. To avoid being chased for Canadian child support, the best option was to move again.

And at the age of 14, you'd think it would be really difficult to move countries, but I was so excited to have a new start, especially in a place that had the Spice Girls and Oasis and the Queen. We rented a house in Essex, just outside of London, and my mum got a job at a local supermarket. She had worked really hard in Canada before we left, doing night school and courses at college. With her new qualifications, she was eventually able to land herself a job in banking in London, and things were finally starting to look up. I'd started high school as well, and I was busy making friends, discovering makeup, music, and boys. I even dated one of those boys for five years, but things didn't work out. I couldn't really talk to him about my past or even my present. To be honest, I never really opened up to anyone.

It was around this time that my sister started acting really strange, and I found out that she had accused my stepdad of sexually abusing her. He'd never done anything like that to me, so when my mum asked me, I told her that. Charlie had become a bit of a rebel, she was drinking heavily, and no one really believed her. Everyone sort of dismissed it. Even our family shrink said that she was lying. Things got so tough for Charlie that she ended up moving back to Canada to live with our grandma. Where I once had four sisters, I now had none.

When I was 17, my mum went back to Canada on a business trip, leaving me alone with my stepfather for the first time. It was then that he started acting really strange. He became nice. He was normally so mean, but when my mum was away, he was completely different. He began offering me lifts to school, and even said that I could drive the car, and I didn't even have a license. But then he turned nasty, saying inappropriate things. Things you simply don't say to your 17-year-old stepdaughter. And he hated me having a boyfriend. With my mum still away, I went into my bedroom one day and I immediately sensed that something was different. I realised that my display of handbags had been rearranged. I reached up onto the shelf where they sat, and I found a little black box and what looked like a lens on the front of it. As soon as I touched it, my stepdad burst into the room, and I knew right away that it was a camera and that he had been watching me. I acted like I believed his lies and excuses of whatever he claimed the camera was, and I just went to bed, scared and confused. The next day, I waited until he'd gone to work and then I began looking around the house and it didn't take me long to find it all. Hidden inside a closet, and stacked outside in the shed, I unearthed all sorts of recording equipment. Cameras, cables, wires, all sorts of things. I switched one of the cameras on and I saw a video of my mum in the shower. She clearly didn't know that she was being filmed. I called my mum in Canada and I stayed at a friend's house until she got home. The day she arrived, after my stepdad had gone to work again, we gathered everything up and went straight to the police. They arrested him that day, but he wasn't in custody for long. Because I was over 16 years old, because it was our family home, and because he was a legal stepfather, they claimed that we couldn't prove that my mum and I hadn't consented to being filmed. I assured them I had not consented. When he was released, he was homeless. He began drinking heavily and became depressed about what he'd done to Charlie. My poor sister had been telling the truth all along. Shortly after that, he tried to commit suicide by gassing himself in his car. Maybe it was a cry for help, I don't know, but then he was put in a local care centre to be monitored. He then got out after just a few days; he could always turn on the charm when he needed to. And knowing that he was still in the neighbourhood scared me so much. What would he do if he found me? I had ruined his life. Walking home from school each day, my heart would jump out of my chest. It was like living in a horror movie, but the movie only lasted three weeks. When I got home from school one day, my mum was at home, and I could tell just by looking at her, that he was dead. He'd gone to a local park and he had ended his life, unable to live with what he had done. It might sound horrible, and any suicide is a tragic waste of life, but I felt a huge surge of relief. Relief that he couldn't come after me; he was gone. This all happened when I was 17 years old, right in the middle of my senior years of high school. It's amazing that I learned anything at all. But the next year I managed somehow to pass my A levels with decent grades, and go off to university when I was 18 to study marketing.

Those three years at uni were the best of my life up until that point. I made such wonderful friends, and I loved that no one knew my full history. We slept too little; we drank too much. I was even FHM Student of the Month once, which made me a minor celebrity around campus. I graduated from uni and I got a job as a marketing assistant at a paper

company. It was just like the TV show The Office, except **much, much more boring**. **I decided to run off and travel the world**.

To help fund my trip, I got a second job as a waitress at a bar in Essex called The Sugar Hut. So yes, as well as being in The Office, I could have now been in TOWIE too. Late one night after working nonstop at my two jobs, my friends came to the bar and suggested we go to the nightclub together. We were traveling into London the next day to book our round the world flight tickets, and they wanted to celebrate. I was really tired and I didn't have a change of clothes, but for some reason, I went anyway, and **I'm glad that I did**. There was a group of guys at the club that night and I recognized one of them. He and his family used to come into the restaurant where I worked when I was 14, back when I arrived in the UK. We'd never spoken, but I'd always fancied him, and yes, you guessed it, his name was Matt. That night, that night that very nearly didn't happen, I was finally introduced to my future husband, **my angel** that was in disguise as a model, Matt. We ended up swapping numbers and having a snog outside the kebab shop, as you do. And I told him straight away about my travel plans. I was going away for seven months in total, taking in the USA, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, and Southeast Asia. I still had five months until I left the UK, so Matt and I started dating and **we soon fell in love**. It was really hard not to - **he was so funny and handsome and just genuinely kind and honest person**. During my childhood, for obvious reasons, **I'd always had trouble trusting men**, but with Matt, **that all went away**. As my trip got closer, I considered cancelling to stay with Matt, but I knew I'd regret it forever if things didn't work out between us. **It was such a sad goodbye**, but off I went.

After we landed in LA, I called and emailed Matt every day, but it wasn't really enough. Just two weeks in, during one of our phone calls, I came out with it and I suggested that he come and join me. He didn't waste any time. In the space of two months, he'd quit his job, sold his car, and dropped everything to fly out to Australia to be with me. I guess it was a bit of a risk for both of us, but **we had such an amazing time**. We were young, **carefree**, and **falling in love more and more** with each new day in each new country. We drove four-by-fours on Fraser Island in Australia, we camped under the stars, we scuba dived on the Great Barrier Reef hand in hand, we swam with pink dolphins in Singapore. We stayed in bamboo huts in Thailand, and watched the sun rise over Angkor Wat in Cambodia. We cuddled koalas, we met random locals, we even got chased out of a hostel by a crazy Vietnamese man. It was and still is **one of the best experiences I've had in my entire life**. **I grew up a lot and learned so much about who I am**. I think we both did.

I was 22 when we returned to the UK, and my mum was preparing to move back to Canada. So, Matt and I decided to buy a flat and move in together. It was an easy decision after so many months of living in each other's pockets. **I got an amazing job** working in beauty PR in London, and Matt set up his very own business, the first ever male grooming salon in Essex. Then, after three years together, Matt proposed. We were in Venice, standing by the gorgeous Rialto Bridge. He got down on one knee, and I couldn't quite take in what was happening. **I didn't understand, and I still don't really, how such a wonderful man could want to be with me**, so I said yes immediately. We got married and I became pregnant soon after. We named our first son Fraser after Fraser Island in Australia, and we bought our first house together. When Fraser was born, I was surprised **at how much I instantly loved him**, and I actually became a very protective mother. Too protective, really. I think it had a lot to do with my childhood. I began experiencing **anxiety and panic attacks**, especially if I couldn't see Fraser, or if other people were holding him. I also found it **hard to trust** Matt with our new baby. After all, my dad harmed me. And I knew I was being ridiculous, but at the same time it was true, and I guess **it's hard to let go of memories like that**. It wasn't until Fraser was about five months old that I was finally able to leave him for an hour to get my hair done. Matt and Fraser sat in the Starbucks next door to the salon, but **the anxiety was immense**, and **I cried the entire time**. Our friends and family even started noticing how bad I'd become, but **I really didn't want to tell anyone about my past - it was too painful**. When Fraser was 10 months old, I had to go back to work, and putting him in nursery was **the single hardest thing I have ever done in my whole life**, but **I had no choice**. I made it through the first tough months and then I changed jobs to a flexible, more kid-friendly role.

Then when Fraser was two, we found out we were expecting again, and along came our second son Caleb. Caleb was born, and again, so perfect. Even the second time around, I couldn't believe **the sudden rush of love**. As they say, your heart doesn't split when you have two children, it doubles in size. In 2014, when Caleb was about six months old, I decided to make my first ever YouTube video. **I'd been enjoying** other parenting videos, so I thought, why not? And I was **also feeling a little bit isolated** in motherhood, to tell you the truth. I made a little video about how I was weaning Caleb and I got some really positive comments. **I quickly fell in love** with the YouTube community and I have uploaded videos every week since, recounting my parenting experiences, and sharing tips and tricks with other parents to try.

When Caleb turned two, we found out we were pregnant again with our third son, and I documented my pregnancy on YouTube week by week. And we gave birth to Jackson at home, while updating on Facebook Live. Again, **he's just the happiest and most amazing little guy**, and **he has fitted right into our crazy little family**. While on maternity leave with Jackson, my YouTube channel grew to a point where I could give up my job and focus on making videos. It has been **a dream come true, and I feel so privileged** to be able to work from home and see my boys grow up every day. **My boys are my world**, and maybe it's fate that it is now my job to raise three honest, caring, and respectful men, rather than the poor excuses of fathers that I had.

So, there it is, and as for the rest of the story, well, you'll have to keep watching my channel. So, you see, I told you there would be a happy ending. But you know what? I wouldn't change anything about my life because it has all led me to Matt and our three wonderful boys. In so many ways, **Matt has saved me, and I don't know where I would be without him.** **I have a lot to be grateful for,** and I'll admit that **sometimes I feel very lonely,** especially with all of my family living in Canada. **But I'm so lucky to have such amazing friends in the UK and of course, all of you guys.** It would be easy for me to let the bad days and the flashbacks get me down, but I only have to look at my boys to remember how far I've come. **The future, I think, is going to be beautiful.** If you've been affected by watching my story, please remember you are not alone, and I will leave some links in the description bar of places that can help you. The last thing I wanted to say is that you define your past, your past doesn't define you. If my story can provide strength and inspiration to just one person out there, then it has been worth sharing. No matter where you are right now, no matter how hard life might seem, things will get better, and hope is a very powerful thing. If you have any questions, please put them in the comments down below, and **thank you so much for watching. I love you guys.** Bye!

3632

#### FDML #74

Hey guys! So, I got a lot of requests to do the draw my life tag and I thought great, but it wasn't until it actually started doing it that I realised how labour-intensive and **emotionally draining** it could be, but to start my story off I was born in Virginia in a town called Norfolk. I was a cutesy woosy little baby. I was actually premature. I was only about four pounds when I was born, but **I was born to an amazing, incredible, talented, intelligent, gorgeous woman** and my mum was in the military. She was a sergeant. When I was little, I remember just having to get up really early because my mother worked. It wasn't until I got older and had my own kids that I realised the sacrifices she had to make. Every single day I was dropped off at a day-care or a babysitter. I just remember just getting up at like 6 o'clock, 5 o'clock in the morning, just to be ready.

But **my childhood was pretty awesome.** I can look back and say, you know, **unfortunately there are some things that happened to us that, you know, we can't change,** but despite that, **I had a lot of friends, there were people around me that loved me.** I remember climbing up trees, playing tag and, just, saving caterpillars, and we were like the animal rescuers of the neighbourhood. **I've got really fond memories** of my childhood and growing up with my friends. I remember just going to church. Like, Christianity was just who you were. It's like, you were either a Montague or a Capulet - you had no control over it. You just were born and you were a Christian - that's it. So, my aunt would take me to the church, and **I would listen to all the wonderful music** and, and all that. And the older I got, the more people started realising I was a little different. I talked a little different, I was chubby, **I was a little bit more introverted,** but, **the one thing that I really did excel at,** **despite the illustrations in this video,** is art. **I love to read, I love to act and I just loved art.**

But I was pretty intelligent when I was a kid - precocious if you may. I remember, uh huh, getting in trouble a lot because I would finish my work early and I would just talk. **just felt like I was above the law.** I remember I had this awesome pair of leggings that my mum bought me, and I begged and I pleaded, I said, "Please, please, please let me wear these leggings in school", and she, for some reason, she just did not want me to wear them to school that day, and I was like, "You know what? That's cool!" So I put them in my book bag and I, as soon as I got to school, I changed into them and everybody was like, "Oh my gosh girl, them leggings, you look so good!" and I was like, **I know, know I look good in these leggings!** I was stunting, okay. I was stunting - all three feet of me. Anyway, I looked at the clock and it was almost time for me to catch the bus home and I was like, "Oh man! I got to get out of these damn leggings before my mum kicks my butt!" So, I was like, "Miss Finch, can I please be excused and go to the restroom?" And my teacher, **I swear she hated me. I swear she hated me,** but I don't know why. **She just did not like me, and I think she even smiled when she told me no.** And it's like she knew - it's like she knew I was going to get killed by my mum if she didn't let me go to the bathroom. So, I, my devious little mind concocted a plan and I said, "Well Miss Finch, if you won't let me use the restroom, I'll guess I'll have to use it right here" and I did. I peed on myself. Listen, if I didn't change out of these leggings, my mum was going to kill me, okay? Plus, **I hated Miss Finch anyway so that was my revenge.** Yeah. Moving on.

My mum was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and I have very few memories of her walking when I was little. The older I got, the more her ability to walk was just decreased and she went from walking with a limp to walking with a cane to actually being in a wheelchair. My mum needed help for everything. I, would help her get dressed, I would help her bathe, I would cook meals and I would clean. I just basically did everything, and it was my normal. I didn't, **we didn't have anybody else.** I mean, dad wasn't around, we didn't really tell people that we needed a lot of help. **I never really was allowed to have friends over the house,** you know? I, I just learned to not ask for help from my mum. My mum was a very prideful woman and I, I learned, I learned a lot from her and those, that was one of the hardest things to unlearn - is how to ask for help.

So, we moved from Virginia to Pennsylvania because of my mum's job. And it was just, **I hated it.** I, **I had no friends.** **I was just an outcast. Nobody got me. I was just, you know, just different.** I was doing the grocery shopping and keeping

the house clean and, I mean, that was **that was tough for me**. I was about 10, 11, and, I just, I just saw my mum just needed so much more help than I could provide, and you know, we were far away from family and, and just one of those things happened where we got a call from one of our family members and that just made everything, everything different. They found out that we needed a lot of help and my mum was really sick, so sick in fact that she had to be admitted to a hospital and my aunt and my uncle took me in and enrolled me into high school.

And, you know, **everything was going great**. I was back in Norfolk, my grades were doing great, **I had friends**. **I discovered drama, my love for a theatre and acting and art**, and just one day, I looked up and got I phone call from the hospital, and they said that my mum had an aortic aneurysm in the middle of the night and that she was gone. And I, **I just felt like somebody had sucked all the air out of me**. It had always been my mum and me, ever since I was little.

After I graduated high school, I went to college, I bought a car. I just, I just did, I didn't know what I was doing. **I was just alone, I was confused. I didn't know how to ask for help**. When I got to college, nobody cared about what we were really going through. Everybody just wanted to party, and **that was my escape. I never really grieved, I never really dealt with losing my mum, I never really dealt with, you know, having to go through so much at a young age, and I kind of just turned to partying, and that kind of became my priority**, and the more I hung out with people who just didn't care about me, you know, **the more sad I felt**. I remember checking my phone messages and seeing that nobody called me and I know that a lot of people don't know this part, **how deep in depression I got**. I would, was in **a bad relationship with somebody who was just treating me terribly** and I **had pushed my family and I pushed my friends away to the point where I really was alone**. And I just, **I was just so sad. I was so sad, and I didn't know how to ask for help. I was done. I was just ready to, to leave. I did something stupid and I wound up in the hospital**. And I'll never forget that day. And this beautiful, this beautiful nurse whom I didn't know, came right up to me and she said, "Michelle, you're not supposed to be here".

When I first got my car right after high school, it was my independence and I got into a car accident and **I wound up losing my car and with it, I lost my independence. I lost my so-called freedom, crappy friends I was hanging out with and I just felt stuck. I hated it**, and I, I didn't realise at the time that that was the turning point - that that was God's way of getting me out of a situation that I couldn't get out of myself, you know? I started to spend more time with my family.

**I started to learn how to love myself again, have respect for myself again**, and I met this guy, and looking back now, I see that, you know, his heart was just as broken as mine was, but, you know, God just yoked us together and just set us on this journey where **we didn't have to walk alone anymore. We could, we could do it together, and we could carry each other and help each other through**. And all the lies that I have believed before that were taking me to an early grave were lies. **I am worth something. I'm important. My life matters. I'm not alone. My family loves me. I had to learn how to love myself** - I, you know, I can't be this person who has all this pride and be on this island alone and never cry out for help, you know? Help, asking for help, doesn't mean that you're weak. **I'm stronger for realising that I need help**. And, you know, **I just been this insecure person, and I couldn't understand why, why, you know, would this God love me? Who am I? I've learned how to love myself through how people treat me. It's transactional love**. I couldn't understand what this unconditional love was, you know? And it's not like I have the answers. I don't know. I don't know how I changed; all I know is I have proof because I'm not who I was. I'm different. **I am happy and I know that I'm loved** and if you knew me back then and you know who I am now, you would know that something changed, and it wasn't from pure will. It wasn't something I did - it was inside out. It was like the whole time I was crying out, I was, **I was already being comforted** and I didn't even realise it. You know? And I'm not perfect. **I can't boast about anything**. Every single thing I have in my entire life was given to me, you know? My marriage, my children, my talents, they're all **gifts from God above**. I know that I shouldn't be here, but **I am by the grace of God and His mercy on my life**. And **I know that he'll never give up on me, so I can't give up on me**.

So, that's my story. **Thanks**, guys, for watching. I mean, I started out just **this lonely, grubby little worm crawling on the dirt** and, you know, **God is changing me and bringing me from glory to glory, and I think it's awesome to be able to share that with you guys. So thanks** and I'll talk to you later. Bye!

1975

#### FDML #75

Hi loves, it's Sam. Today, I'm going to do the draw my childhood because I just haven't been able to do the draw my life yet, so this is what you're going to get up until now. And **hopefully** I can do a part two.

I was born in Coventry, England, on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1985, and that's me with blue eyes. My star sign is a Leo, however I don't feel like I'm very much like a Leo at all. I'm more like a Cancer, I think. When I was born, my mum went into labour, like, super-duper quickly, and they rushed to the hospital and literally she got a bed and 20 minutes later I was born. I had massive blue eyes and I looked up at my dad and he said that was, like, super crazy, because I just stared right at him. In my family, there was my mummy, and she has long, or had, long dark wavy hair, my daddy, and he has dark longish short hair, ah, then there's me and I just drew a massive big head, I don't know why, and I had really long,

stringy blond hair, and then two years later, came my brother. And he has brown short hair. And then two years after that came BS, known as baby sister or Cristiana, if you want to go by her real name. Mum and BS always liked purple and I always liked pink, and I don't know what the boys liked, so I just drew them as blue.

When I was young, I used to like singing. I did karaoke with my grandma all the time and I used to make up stories a lot – you know, my own stories about cats or people or whatever. I was quite the imaginative little thing. I used to talk about this little girl who fell in a ditch and I would say, actually, I think it was a cat now that I remember, I would say, “Ickle cat has none dinner but she will be surprised because her will have some cake and then her will have some pudding, but then her will fall in a ditch!” And that’s basically all I remember, but it was a pretty good story.

I went to a private school when I was younger and it was called Emscote Lawn, I’m pretty sure, in Lemington Spa, England, and it was super-duper evil. There was this little boy one day. I had to go and get my schoolwork out of my backpack in the coat closet, and this little boy came up to me and he bit me on my arm, and it hurt really, really bad, so I went crying into my classroom and I told my teacher. When I said, “Oh my gosh, that little boy bit me!” and she said, “You’re a liar, you’re making it up!” And I got in big trouble and I used to hate that school. And then one time, there was a bunch of girls, and they were drawing on the, there was like a big brick wall and the headmistress came out and said, “What are you doing?” and they quickly ran away before, because I wasn’t paying attention, and they blamed it on me. So, my mum wrote a letter to the school and she said, “I’m taking Samantha out because this is ridiculous”. Then we moved from the UK over to the US because my dad always wanted to live in America, so we went to Colorado. And all of us went over - my sister and my brother and my mum and my dad, and it was pretty, pretty exciting. We lived in this big pink house and inside of the house, there was like a cubby hole next to where the TV went, and we used to put our doll, my dollhouse in it, and we played and it was my favourite thing. And in kindergarten, I lost the most teeth in one week and I basically was toothless, so I won a prize. Then, my mum and dad got mad at each other, which we didn’t know at the time, but we moved back to England without my dad. They told me it was because we missed, or she missed my, my Grandma and Grandpa, but now that I’m older, I know it was because they were having issues. I remember for Christmas, my dad sent me this red and white polka dot dress, and it was from Macy’s, and I was so excited. It was my favourite Christmas gift ever. And I loved it. I wore all the time and it was super soft and it would, made me feel very special that my dad bought me a special dress.

Then, my mum missed my dad and we moved back to America. And all of us, me and my brother and my sister and my mum, moved back over. My grandparents were very sad. I think they wanted us to stay, but my dad was very happy because he was like, “Yay, my family!” This time, we moved to Washington, the state. And we had like a ranch house farm and when we bought it, there was a bunch of cats that were already there and there was 21 cats, to be specific. Honestly, they kept on having babies because we didn’t fix them because there were so many of them, and they all lived on the porch, but we kept five of them inside of the house because they were our very favourites - the kittens. We also had 14 chickens, and it was on a lot of land. It was like humongous. I don’t even know how many acres, but there was a little chicken house in the back of the yard, and every day I would go and collect the chickens for my mum - not the chickens, the eggs - and it was really fun and I felt very cool. I had a best friend named Veronica and I loved her very much. She had long, blonde hair and she’d always wear it in a braid, but I’m showing it wavy here because I couldn’t draw a braid. And we used to hang out all the time. She was my best friend. And we used to always talk that we would, when we would grow up, we would own a pet shop - that was my dream job - I wanted to own a pet store because I was obsessed with animals. And that’s me and Veronica looking out the window, and that was our dream.

Then we moved back from the USA over to England once again, because my mum and my dad were having issues. They, the good thing though, is that they never told us that it was because they were having issues. They always just said it was because my mum missed my grandma and my grandpa. But, you know, you know how that goes. So, my grandma and grandpa were very excited. We lived in a little house and had a little kind of stream going through the backyard, and in the back of the yard was a little kind of playhouse or, you know, kids’ little shack. And we used to hop over this tree, me and my brother and my sister, and we would go and peek in the house, but there was tons and tons of horrible nasty spiders. And that is where my scaredness for spiders came. I don’t know the right word - my fear, my fear for spiders. Yes, that’s what I’m trying to think. We also had bed bugs in our bed, and it was pretty gross. So yeah, that’s quite disgusting, really.

At school, there was this amazing dessert and it was basically just chocolate pudding with like this chocolate kind of sauce over it, and that is where my love for chocolate cake started. It was seriously the best cake ever. Then, my mum missed my dad, and we went back to America. And this time, we went to California and my camera shut off there. We went to South Lake, Tahoe, and this was when I was in the third grade, so I was about seven, and there’s lots of mountains there and it’s up, it’s just super beautiful there. It’s really, it’s like in the northern part of California. And then we bought this house and it was really cool. It had a big wraparound porch, and it was really beautiful, and I loved it. It was my favourite house of my childhood because we had some really great memories there. And I had a really huge bedroom and I basically loved it a lot, and my mum used to garden all the time and we would help her. I used to help her plant all the flowers and water them, and I just have some really great memories, because my mum was, she, that’s the house - can you guys believe it? Isn’t it so cute? I found it on Google. Anyway, I used to rollerblade all the time. It was, like, a really nice neighbourhood and there was a bunch of kids and we would all hang out, like, we just

spent every single moment that wasn't cold, even when it was cold, we were always outside catching frogs in the stream and riding our bikes, and we used to play cops and robbers and we had a trampoline in our backyard and I had a best friend and her name was Jenny. And we were like peas and carrots. We did everything together. We were totally BFFs, but not forever, because we're not friends anymore. I don't know why, but you know how that goes.

I got the first "student of the month" in my school award, and they put me in the newspaper and it was a humongous big deal and I had really good grades and everyone was super excited for me, and so my dad asked me what do you want for being so good and so, such a hard worker? So, I thought long and hard, because he said I could have anything, and if you say "anything" to a child, that means anything. So, I said that I wanted a little dog. My own little dog. We always had big dogs and I wanted a little dog, but my dad doesn't like little dogs, so he said no, and so I said, "Well you said anything" and my mum said, "You did say anything" and so he had to say yes, and it was great. So, I got a little dog at the Animal Shelter and he was a Lhasa Apso terrier mix and I named him Pips and I loved him. He was the best thing ever, and he used to sleep on my pillow, in my bed, every single night and sometimes he'd actually pee on my head and on my pillow. He basically peed everywhere, but now that I look back, I probably was the little girl at school that smelled like dog pee because I did not even care. I loved him so much.

One of our neighbours and a boy at school had a major crush on me and we actually were, like, super good friends. We used to hang out, like, every day and every single day on the school bus ride home, he would always ask if he would go, if I could go out with him. And I always said no, but do you want to jump on my trampoline? So, we used to jump on the trampoline all the time and one day, we were jumping, just minding my own business, and he pulled down his pants and showed me his winky, and I screamed and I was really scared and I ran inside the house and locked him out.

When I was in middle school, the, the really super-duper cool thing was an Adidas jacket - it was black with white stripes and all the popular kids had it, and I wanted it so bad, and I begged my mum and dad for it all the time. I just, it was like, the best thing to have ever. I finally got it. I was so excited, and I basically wore it every single day of my life. And when I was in Middle School, the cool thing was to wear, like, super massive wide like pants and the big huge, like, platform sneakers like the Spice Girls, and so I had some Vans and they were baby blue and white, and they were really humongously tall, and I was obsessed with NSYNC and my boyfriend was Justin Timberlake. He doesn't know it, but he was at the time.

Then, I had incident at school where I had a couple of friends, but one of the girls, she sat on some dirt in PE and she had white shorts on, so I told her, "Oh my gosh, you have dirt on your butt!" And in middle school, girls can be a little bit ridiculous and she got super mad at me. And so, she did not want to be my friend anymore and she turned basically the whole entire school against me. So, I had absolutely no friends, and it basically sucked a lot and I wanted to cry. Actually, I probably did cry all the time. There was this field trip, and everyone was going on a camping trip with school, and it was for a week, and it was, like, I don't know, you could do zip line things, and I was super stressed out because I was like, oh my gosh, I have no friends. I do not want to go to this. So, I told my mum and she said, "Well, you can stay home with me". So, I took the whole week off of school and I didn't go to the field trip and I stayed home with my mummy and it was amazing.

Then we moved back from California back over to England. This time we all went, including my dad, because my mum had found a lump in her breast and we didn't have insurance and if you know what it's like in America, if you don't have insurance, it's basically a complete, like, ordeal to go to the doctors because it's super-duper expensive, so we went back to England because health care is free over there. I had some really great friends that I loved. I finally fit in after, like, my whole entire life. There was a group of us, and I loved them so much, and this is where my childhood ends because now, I became a teen, and this is all I've drawn. I haven't had a chance to do the rest of my life yet, so I will definitely, definitely finish this. I don't know when, but I wanted to get something up before I didn't put anything up at all. So, I hope you guys don't mind. I hope you liked my childhood so far, and definitely stay tuned for the rest of my life. I couldn't fit it all into 15 minutes! It's just too many exciting things to go!

2559

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Hi my loves, it's Sam, and welcome to my draw my life part 2. I'm so sorry it took me so long to get done. I just want to warn you, this one is not going to be nearly as happy as the first one, so be prepared to maybe, possibly cry. I don't know. I'm just warning you.

We ended up leaving off where I had met my new friends in England. I had a group of great girls that I loved. We hung out all the time, we were constantly having sleepovers, we were very, very best friends, and I was just so happy. At school, I was the cool kid because I was from America, and so everyone was always asking me to say burger and tomato and "hi guys" and all these random things that they thought were really cool because I had an accent.

We took a school trip that year to Switzerland and also France and Italy, and that is where I got my first boyfriend and I actually had my very first kiss underneath a tree in France and it was by a little river and you would think, "Oh, how



romantic!” but it was not. He was super tall, I was super short, and I basically did not know what to do with my tongue, so it was pretty embarrassing. A couple weeks later he said, “I love you” and I said, “thank you” and everybody laughed because I was supposed to say “I love you” back, but I had no idea. Then, one day at school, he dumped me out of the blue. He told me that it was because his grandpa was going to die the next day and he had to spend time with him, when really it was because I wouldn’t let him touch my boobs. It was my very first heartbreak and I was very, very sad. I cried basically for days.

That Christmas, my dad sat me and my brother and my sister down and told me and my brother and my sister that my mum had found out that she had breast cancer - the lump in fact was breast cancer. My heart was broken. I was so upset. I remember that night I cried and cried, and I just didn’t understand why. You always see it in the movies, but you never think that it will happen to you, and it really hurt. It was so hard. She had to have a double mastectomy and I don’t know if that’s how you say it or if that’s how you spell it, but I don’t know. That, I remember that day in the surgery, we were all waiting super nervously for her to get out of surgery.

Luckily, I was really enjoying school at the time, so it kind of took my mind off of everything going at, going on at home. I had a really great art teacher I was really, really inspired by, so art was my favourite subject, and I really just had a great time with my friends and, luckily, I had a new boyfriend who was really sweet, so it really helped me to feel better about the situation that was going on with my mum. My mum started doing chemotherapy and radiation, so she started losing her hair in big huge clumps and it was really sad to see her go through that because she had always had really beautiful hair. My dad was working really, really far away at the time, so he would have to drive hours really early in the morning to get to work and he would be back really, really late. My mum struggled with cancer for just under two years. She was constantly in pain, she lost her hair, she was always sleeping, she was always in the hospital and she was really, really sick most of the time. Eventually, the cancer went to her brain. She couldn’t really talk anymore. She kind of just stared off into space. I remember coming home from school most days and trying to tell her about my day, talking to her, and she would just stare right through me, right past me. She never replied to what I was saying and she never really even, I just felt like she wasn’t even there. She just didn’t even know that I was existing. I used to cry myself to sleep all the time. I remember after her being in the hospital for weeks, they brought her home so that she could kind of be like at home and be comfortable her last few days of life. All of our family came round the last night of her life. We knew that it was going to be the last one. And even though I was surrounded by family, I felt so alone because she had always been my favourite person. In June of 2000, I was 14 years old, my mum passed away. We had a beautiful funeral for her, and I know that a lot of people showed up. I don’t remember how many, but I was basically crying the entire, like, that whole period was just a blur for me because I was so upset. And I just felt so alone, and I didn’t know what to do, and it was a really, really hard time.

In August of 2000, my dad decided to move us back to America. He, I think he wanted to kind of escape the whole reality of just the memories of having my mum there, so he wanted to kind of start fresh. I was really depressed at the time. I ended up gaining about 40 pounds, I got really, really bad acne, and I basically just sat in my room all the time and cried myself to sleep and listened to Eminem. Like, that’s really all I did. I was so, so depressed. At school, my grades started dropping. I’d always been an A student and I was kind of just, I didn’t really care anymore, and my dad was really disappointed in me. I remember him being so upset when I got my report card. At lunchtime, I used to sit in my teachers’ classrooms and eat lunch with them because I didn’t really have that many friends, and I just wanted to be kind of quiet. And I remember one time at school, I was standing up at the top of the classroom and I fell all the way down the stairs in front of the whole class. It was so embarrassing. Everyone laughed at me. I was teased. I got called saddlebags and pizza face. It was a really, really tough time.

When I was 15, I got my very, very first job at a 50s drive-in and it was really fun. I used to flip burgers and make chocolate shakes. The not so fun part was that my dad worked all the time, so I had to ride my bike seven miles there and seven miles back every single day in the hot, hot sun for the whole entire summer. But luckily, it worked my booty off and I saved up \$2,000 that summer and bought my very first car. The brakes used to squeak every time I pressed them. It had purple window tint and it was a Dodge Neon, but I loved it very, very much.

By the beginning of my senior year, it was getting a little bit better for me. I had made a, really, group of good friends the end of my junior year, and we were really close, and we had a lot of fun together. Unfortunately, I ended up meeting a boy and I lost a lot of my friends because I was always hanging out with him, so I once again felt a little bit alone. Things weren’t going so well at home. I wasn’t getting along with my dad’s wife at the time, so at the, at the middle of my senior year, when I was 17, I moved out. In exchange for paying rent, I looked after one of my friend’s little boys, and I used to take him all sorts of places in my Dodge Neon and I lived with them. I ended up getting three jobs - I worked at a tanning salon, in a hair salon sweeping hair, and then I worked at a marina so that I could pay for myself to go to beauty school, and I worked a whole lot. Eventually, I saved up enough money to get my own place. It was a two-bedroom apartment and it was pretty crappy. The people above me were super loud. They always used to stomp on the ceilings at 3:00 in the morning and it drove me crazy. And eventually, the same boy from high school moved in with me.

When I was 19, I went on the South Beach Diet. I had been struggling with my weight and was kind of tired of not feeling good about myself, so I went on that and I ended up going from 165 pounds down to 112 pounds. And it was the first time in my life that I had ever really felt pretty or, you know, felt happy with my body, so it was really a nice accomplishment. For two years, I drove to Sacramento, California, to go to beauty school. I did an apprenticeship so that I could still keep working while I was going to school. August 21<sup>st</sup>, which is actually my mum's birthday, I got my date for a state board to take my test, and I was so stressed. I was so nervous. I stayed up all night that night studying, and I was just a complete wreck going in the next morning. I remember during my practical I dropped my comb while I was doing my client's hair and I said the "shit" word really loud and it was silent in there, and the teacher or instructor told me off, and I thought for sure I was going to fail, but luckily, I passed. I don't even know how, and I honestly think it was because my mum was looking out for me that day. And I finally got my State Board of Cosmetology license and I was so proud of myself for working so hard.

In the meantime, in my spare time I was always on MySpace. It was the cool thing back then, and one day, I got a message from, now you guys know, Jay. And it was a really sweet message. He didn't even have a picture, but we ended up talking back and forth over the phone. After a while, we decided to meet in real life, and we met at the mall on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, just in case he was a murderer, I figured there'd be people around to witness it, you know? There was a person driving behind me in a big truck and I thought, oh my gosh, that guy's so cute, and it actually turned out to be him, which, I had no idea, but it was quite lucky. I remember the first time that we actually, like, met, like, in, you know, out of the car, he said, "Damn girl! Give me a hug!" and I of course laughed because I was so nervous and I thought he was so funny and cute, and it was literally love at first sight. I was so just obsessed with him from the very, very start and I was so excited to finally have met someone who I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. The unfortunate part was that he lived in Reno and I was living in South Lake, Tahoe, at the time. My sister and her boyfriend were living with me and he was living with his uncle, so we would go back and forth driving on our days off to see each other and it was really tough, you know, having the long-distance relationship, so after a few months of dating, we decided to get our own place together in Reno. And we got a beautiful little apartment. It was really nice and brand new, and it was on a little lake, and there was always little ducks around and we used to go for walks all the time with Moo, and it was really, really beautiful. We loved it very, very much.

At the time, I was still working at a salon in Tahoe, so I was commuting every day an hour there and then an hour home, doing hair, and it was getting a little bit hard commuting all the time, especially during the winter because the snow is a lot in Tahoe. Luckily, Jay was a personal trainer and he worked for himself, so he could kind of schedule his own appointments. It was a much more flexible schedule than me. November 7<sup>th</sup>, now I've written the 11<sup>th</sup>, and this is really embarrassing guys, because Jay corrected me and was like, "Babe, it was the 7<sup>th</sup>", so I feel like a total dummy, but November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Jay finally proposed to me after almost a year of dating. I was so surprised and so excited and, of course, I said yes. I was so, so happy, and for the first time since my mum died, I was, like, really, really truly happy and so excited for my future. I loved my life, I love Jay, I loved myself for once, and of course, I loved my moomy and things were really, really looking up.

Eventually, after the commuting was getting a little old, we decided to move to Tahoe. And we got this tiny little, like, shack. It was really, really horrible. We had a neighbour who was kind of crazy and he always used to yell "Ahh". After a really, really hard winter, Jay actually got offered a job in Hawaii. My brother and sister were already living there at the time, so we thought it was the perfect opportunity to be able to spend time with and he also got a really great job there, so we ended up moving over there, and it was really, really an exciting time, except for the fact that we literally lived in another shack, but this shack was much smaller. It didn't even have a bathroom or a kitchen or anything - it was literally, one, it was like a shed. Me and J slept on a beanbag and my brother slept on, like, this wooden bed that he had built, and we showered outside, which was actually quite nice now that I look back, you know, it was real kind of out in the wilderness and kind of romantic. Although when you had to wash your bits, you were like nervous that people were going to spy on you, so you had to do it real quickly! In the mornings, we used to go and watch the sunrise and look at all the turtles and the fish, and it was really, really beautiful. It was just a really kind of fun, it was a fun time and I have great, very fond memories of it. Eventually Jay's work moved to a different part of the island, so we moved to Waikele. My sister, she was in the middle of a breakup, so she lived with us and we just had like a little two-bedroom condo, and of course Mooshie was there with us. The problem was that we had no air, and it was so hot and humid and, oh my gosh, I felt like I was always sweaty. I worked at Macy's. I was the counter manager for Clarins, and I didn't like the job very much because my boss was really pushy, and she was always, like, out for sales and it was just like, I'm not that kind of person - I don't like being pushy, and so I didn't really like that job very much. Jay had still, was working construction, building houses, so he was enjoying his job, but he was basically sweaty all the time working outside in the heat too. Eventually we moved back to Tahoe, and we got a little studio with a bed and a couch and a kitchen and a dining room table and a bathroom, and that it. It was real small, but it was super cute and I went back to the same salon doing hair again. We didn't have much, but we were really happy and we enjoyed our life very much.

Jay got a job as a property manager, so we actually lived on-site at a really big condo complex, and Jay took care of, like, all of the, the vacation rentals, the property and it was kind of fun, except for, at the middle, in the middle of the

night sometimes, people would sneak into the hot tub and it was right by our bedroom, and so we'd have to get up at like 3 o'clock in the morning and go and tell them to stop "you know whatting" in the hot tub. Now that I look back it was actually quite funny, but **we were kind of annoyed** at the time.

Eventually **that got kind of old**, so we ended up getting our first house. We rented, but it was like a first house - we'd always lived in apartments or shacks up until then. It was beautiful. We ended up getting married in the backyard of that house. It was kind of out in the country, and it was a really small, just intimate wedding. We had a few of our friends and family members and **it was the best day of my life. It was so beautiful. It was so relaxed** and I just absolutely **was just so happy in my life**.

When I wasn't working at the salon, in my spare time I would watch videos on YouTube, and **my very favourite person to watch was Candy Johnson. I was obsessed with her**. I was constantly telling Jay, "Babe, come look at this girl! She's so pretty, she's so talented!" And so, Jay was like, "Well, why don't you try and make videos?" and I was like, "No way, **I've got crooked teeth! Everyone will make fun of me!**" And you guys know where that went - I did actually start making videos. About six months after we got married, we took a trip to England to go and visit my family. We stayed there for six weeks. It was kind of like a really late long honeymoon. One day while I was over there, I sat in pee - someone else's pee - on the bus, and **it was horrible**, and it was warm, well actually it was cold and my grandma and Jay thought it was absolutely hilarious, and I did not. But **we basically just had an amazing time** there, and we ate all the time because **I love English food. I miss it so much**. And **I wanted to introduce Jay to all of the delightful foods that I missed**.

When we got back from England, we decided to move back to Reno. We got a little one-bedroom apartment and we found out that we were pregnant with our first baby. As you guys all know, with Phoenix, and **we were so excited**. We were, like, so oh! It was, was, like, **the most exciting time**. We ended up doing pregnancy vlogs to kind of track the pregnancy and my symptoms and everything on YouTube, and everyone really, really enjoyed them. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011, our little angel Phoenix was born. He was a beautiful healthy boy and he was seven pounds, seven ounces, and **we were overjoyed. It was so nice** to have started our own little family - we had little Phoenix and Moo, and it **was just a really, really beautiful time in our life. We were so, so happy, and it was just nice** to look back and, at the hard times I'd gone through and look at my new family and think, like, how well I had done so far.

We started doing daily vlogs. All of our subscribers had kept on mentioning them - we were like what were they? And then we found out and so we started doing them, and **it was really nice**, because we got to document Phoenix growing up and we had so much footage. Eventually, we decided to move to Montana from Reno because my dad and his wife Shelley were living there, and we wanted to be closer to Phoenix's grandparents. At first, we got, like, a little house and it was called the Spider House and eventually the basement flooded, and **it was horrible**, so we ended up moving to a nicer condo. It was new and it was, like, really updated and modern my sister ended up living with us again and **that was really nice** to have her around and she got to see Phoenix all the time. And one day, I was watching Mickey Mouse Clubhouse with Phoenix and the giant was having a sugar cookie, and I was like, whoah baby! That sugar cookie looks amazing! Which was weird because I never normally liked sugar cookies so I was like, hmm, I think I might be pregnant. Like, whenever I have a random, a really cray, like a crazy craving, it's because I'm pregnant. So, we got a pregnancy test and it came out positive and **we were so excited** to know that we were going to be expanding our family.

That summer, at the beginning of the summer, while Jay was at work one day, our air conditioning broke and that summer was crazy. It was a ridiculously hot and it, **it was horrible**. We had no air. Phoenix was miserable - he was, like, always crying. I was, like, super-duper sweaty and hot from being massively pregnant. I kept on calling our landlord and she would not get it fixed. **It was so frustrating**. I would call her all the time and she never ever got it fixed. So, we ended up having to go and buy a, like, small, portable air conditioner. We moved our bed and Phoenix's crib into our living room and we literally lived out of our, our living room that whole entire summer, because the house was so hot and the, no air was getting anywhere other than that tiny little area in the front room. So, I was **basically annoyed** with my landlord, but it's okay because we ended up, **it kind of gave us the push to buy our very first home. And we had worked so hard saving up our money**, and **it was so exciting** to be able to finally have a home that was ours, that we could do our own touches on, and it was the perfect timing and the perfect house for babies, because 12 days later, Lily bug was born. And **we were so excited**. She was a beautiful healthy baby girl. She weighed seven pounds, six ounces and it was a really fast labour. **Everything went super smoothly, and we were so excited** to now have a little family of four, and with Moo five, and now, this is kind of where my draw my life ends. You guys watch us every day on the Schuerman Show - we do our daily vlogs and you guys all know I'm a stay-at-home mum. I spend a bunch of time with my kids and Jay. I do my beauty videos on YouTube and I also have a mummy channel where I do kind of like more home and mummy things. And I just want to say **a humongous thank you, because without all of you guys watching, this wouldn't even be possible. I wouldn't even be doing this video for you guys right now**. And **I just appreciate you guys so much and I thank, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart**. And that's a butt that I just drew - it's pretty nice. Yeah, if it wasn't for all of you guys watching, it just, **I, we just appreciate you so very much and we just want to let you know that dreams do come true**. If you really set your mind to something and just stay positive, you can do whatever you want to do. **I have had, you know, a harder life**. It hasn't been the hardest life, but I've definitely had moments in my life that were difficult, that I wanted to give up, that I just thought, oh my gosh -

this is never going to get better, and it does. It does. It always gets better. At the end of the day, you just have to remember to be yourself and you will go far in life. And I just want to say again, **thank you guys so much for watching. I hope you guys, guys have enjoyed this video.** If you like it, please like it, favourite it, share it, if you haven't already subscribed, subscribe, and also, I will have all the links to my other channels in case you are not subscribed to those in the down-bar. **Thanks again** guys for watching. Bye!

4250

## FDML #76

There are thousands of new-born babies every day, stories to be told in many corners around the world. My name is Queenie Chen. My dad was a Shanghainese and he was an architect. Mum is Taiwanese. They're Virgo, clean-freaks and perfectionists. Dad was 22 years older than mum. Dad took mum's virginity and moved to Hong Kong after they got married. And I was told his tricks were conventional - writing love letters which could potentially make you diarrhoea and it worked well apparently. I almost split my mum's vagina with the head coming out the other way around - my head that is! Mum was screaming how painful she felt, and I was screaming how tight her vagina was which almost suffocated me.

Dad named me after his daughter at his previous marriage, who passed away from drug overdose. One night, two months after I was born, I got locked from the inside my room. Mum and dad were both like, "Oh my god! It's the end of the world!" **I was crying my ass off** louder than the thunderstorm outside the windows. Dad just got back from a dinner meeting, went straight ahead to the kitchen and grabbed a chopper, then start banging a doorknob. Dad managed to crack open my door, but he also cracked a few of his blood vessels at the same time and passed away. Mum lost her first love and **I lost a lovable dad** on the same night. I hardly remember how my dad looks apart from the picture mum shows. I haven't had a chance to talk to either Bruce or my dad, but **I admire them both.**

There was no Dummies for Widow or How to be a Widow in Five Days book available back then, so mum flew back to Taiwan with me and my grandparents took over mum's duties, so mum gets to go search for love. Because I was the only child, I got all the attention and love from my grannies, and **the feeling of being loved has been deep-rooted in my brain** ever since.

I left Taiwan to Hong Kong when I was four to attend preschool. My grannies were so upset, and they weren't able to eat well for days. **It wasn't easy** for me to adapt new environment, and I was so used to be around my grannies. Mum were like a stranger to me then. **Too bad** being a child of four years old, I didn't have to say at all. But wait - that wasn't it. I only then found out there was another man at my new home in Hong Kong. My mum's second husband. He was in jury business. Mum was still young. She gave loads of attention and love to her new husband, and **I started to become a world destroyer.** I tended to break anything comes in my way. I guess **I was just trying to seek attention from my mum** and being an attention whore was one of my jobs. I remember I once stole my mum's jewellery in exchange for many erasers with my classmates. I have to thank mum that she didn't send me to an orphanage. If I had a daughter like myself, I probably would have put her in a microwave already.

Mum loved spanking me in the ass with a clothes hanger and bamboo stake as it built up. **I kind of got used to it and didn't give a shit at all.** With that much of spanking at early age, my skin got thicker and so is my courage. **I was a loner when I was a child but I enjoyed being one.** I learned that happiness were not given by others but to yourself. Barbie wasn't my favourite back then and Lego was my best friend instead. I was so used to being alone and **making myself happy was one of my specialties.** **I loved going to school** and I was a very talkative kid outside but a quiet one at home. Some say we all have speaking quota of the day, and I guess I got no one to talk to at home so I was forced to save up all my quota until school time.

Possibly due to **the lack of love from my mum and dad since I was little,** I guess somewhat affect my perspective towards love as I grew up. My special friend gave me a surprise party at the age of eight. **My dream came true** one day. My mum finally divorced her second husband, but this short-term happiness didn't last very long soon because she met her third husband. My stepdad was a Taiwanese, so we all moved back to Taiwan again. I was sent to boarding school, studied hard with top grades **to prove to myself** and get attention from others. **My first love** and kiss were given to a girl at boarding school. It wasn't much of a choice because it was an all-girls school. Not sure if there's something in me or mum, mum's third husband died from cancer not long after we moved back to Hong Kong.

**I didn't enjoy** as much during senior high to university. **I felt like a prisoner,** lived like a zombie. I wished to start making money or find a wealthy boyfriend so that I can move away from my mum and take control of my own life. At the age of 23, I was nominated to 1995 Miss Hong Kong pageant by my boyfriend. **I wanted to make a name for myself hoping Miss Hong Kong can open different doors and opportunities for me,** but the thought of being famous only lasted for about a month and that's when I realised I cannot sit there and hope for things to happen at right place in the right time. **I have to create those opportunities for my own.** Well, **my dream of being Miss Hong Kong didn't come true and my relationship with my boyfriend then also came to an end.** I see myself quite a positive and confident person, but **when it comes to relationship, the emotions took over the battle.**

I didn't handle well on the break-up. Back then, love was everything to me and all of a sudden, without love, my life became empty. I spent a period of time clubbing. Karaoke and alcohol are my source of happiness. To see and to be seen. Socialize with different people, making use of my youth and beauty to get on the bandwagon. After a good six months, I had enough being a parasite. I wanted to see the world. My next adventure was being a stewardess. I got so much free time being a stewardess. I was able to use my spare time to be a part-time model, MC, columnist, TV host, writer, acting in dramas, movies, my own cooking show host and first web show on TVB.

During my early 30s, living in the massive house, driving sports cars, enjoying life without a care. The more I spent, the less satisfaction I get. I went, studied law, became a qualified yoga instructor and learnt how to cook to kill time. I was a selfish bitch and I totally forgot my granny in Taiwan. I spent so much time and effort seeking for love, but love is actually all around us, and the love from my grannies have always been here with me. Sadly, I only came to realise that after they both passed away.

This was my life-changing moment. I step on a road to search for long lasting beauty. Writing beauty columns became one of my favourite ways to share my beauty thoughts. I've tried tons of beauty treatments - laser treatment, radio frequency, carbosic therapy, mesotherapy, whitener injection, Botox injection, placenta injection, Ishay injection, braces, acupuncture, PRP, CoolSculpting, skin peel, IPL, CTU, fat graft, laser hair removal, therapy thermage, micro needle, rhinoplasty - you name it, I try them. Yes, I have to admit I was hooked, but is it a sickness? Yes, I think so. I have sheer obsessive-compulsive disorder and beauty gallbladder hypertrophy and want to look effing good.

I started my own blog in 2006, filmed my first YouTube video in 2009. I get to understand myself better during my sharing on the online platform. Learned a lot of new stuff and gained a lot of satisfaction. To me, beauty is not everything. My philosophy is a woman can be a rich and beautiful bitch on the outside but cannot be a retarder and shine from the inside. Knowledge, wisdom, are a gift in itself. You can't buy it and it is definitely not given. You have to experience; you have to spend time to learn and understand it. Looking back in time, I was fortunate enough though I was raised in a single mum family, and because of that, I became a very independent, self-efficient person today.

Everything happens for a reason. The past helps shape a better me. The past helped me to become who I am today. It's easy to blame. Try to appreciate what we have. Nothing's more important than health and family's love. See the world with naked eyes. The world as beautiful depends on how you look at it. Be grateful, love life, spread love, less talking and start doing.

I'm Queenie, 41 years of age, right now, skin a bit loose, butt a bit saggy, no property, no cars, but what really matter is I love what I do, and I do what I love. Happiness is not given. Happiness is an attitude, and it can be DIY. Always try to give your very best in whatever you do. You're not living to please every single person on planet Earth. Don't waste time. Make use of every second because we only live once. If I can live for another 40 years, I would definitely make draw my life part 2. Hope you all enjoy my sharing. Good luck and see you soon. Bye!

1674

#### FDML #77

Hello everyone! Thank you for clicking on this video and thank you if you're a subscriber. Welcome to this video today. I'm going to be doing a draw my life. Now I'm only 21, so it's a draw my life so far.

So, I'll start with my birth. I was born on January the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1997, in the United Kingdom in a little town called Perry, which is in Greater Manchester. And I was born to my mum and my dad, Michelle and Simon. My mum and dad met in Chester, which is a big city in between Manchester and Liverpool, and they met at a party where they were the only two single people there. They were completely set up to be together, and from that day, they were completely inseparable. I think they told each other that they loved each other within three days of knowing each other. My mum would tell me how at 6 p.m. every single night, they talked on the phone about that day and they'd share everything with each other.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 1990, they married, and they settled into their first little home. Four years later, they had their first child - my big brother James. James was a very poorly baby and he struggled with feeding, which resulted in later life to him being so protected by my mum. My mum was back and forward and back and forward to the doctors with James. She knew that something was wrong and eventually James had his tonsils out, which made things a little bit easier for a while. My dad worked for my grandpa's family business making pizzas, which he worked very, very hard at. Him and my mum decided to move to Bury so my dad could be closer to the factory. My mum stayed home so she could look after my brother. My dad sometimes worked 80 plus hours a week, so he was so, so tired. He made little money and my mum didn't bring any money in herself and it started to make my dad very ill.

Their first year in Bury, I came along. I remember my mum telling me that when I was born, my brother came into the room and insisted I was a boy, and said, "I want to hold him. I want to hold him!" And I was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, so New Year's Day, and I am the first baby born in 1997, natural birth, in the UK.

Both my mum and my dad continued to struggle - my dad with the business and my mum being away from her family. Eventually, we moved back to Chester where I grew up. I was always very cheeky girl - she loved her handbags and her Barbie dolls. **My brother was my best friend** growing up as we were only two years apart, so we would do everything together. We would go on holiday every year to Brittany in France and play the pool for hours at a time. We'd have those little sticks that you could throw in the pool and we'd dive down to get them. He even helped to teach me how to swim whilst on holiday. **My favourite part** of our French holidays was our chocolate hunts. The owners of the villas would hide the chocolates around the wooded area they owned, and we would chase around to find them. The little ones like me always had a head start but the bigger kids would always race around and win. My brother won almost every single time, but **he would always share his prize and his chocolates with me**.

I started primary school when I was five. **I was so excited because I always loved to be praised**. Even then, **I wanted to be the best and to do well in class. I always wanted the teachers to like me**. When I started school, however, it wasn't long until **two girls decided to pick on me**. They would get me to do things to get me into trouble telling me that I would, if I would do them, then they would be my friends. **After school was my favourite time of all**. When I had just started school, I also started my dance lessons. We would do ballet, tap and modern, and this is where I met my **very first best friend**, Rebecca. I remember us telling each other ghost stories and one time, she told me this one about the china doll. How this china doll would climb the stairs and say, "Sophie, I'm on the second step. Sophie, I'm on the third step. Sophie, I'm behind the door. Sophie, I'm on your bed". And **it would scare me so, so much**. Then my dad had to lock away my dolls so they couldn't get me. We still have that doll to this day, and **it scares me even now**.

When I turned about eight, **I started to get bullied badly** for my weight. **I would cry** because I couldn't get a pair of jeans to fit me, and jeans were very, very popular in the early 2000s. I remember me having to buy adult clothes when I was still so young. **The bullying made me sad and in response, I would sneak even more food because it made me feel happy**. At this time in my life, my grandpa passed away after battling with Alzheimer's, which was really, really tough on my dad, as they had such a love-hate relationship throughout their life.

By the time I was in year six, about 10, 11 years old, my mum and my dad had a new job. My mum was a new preschool manager and my dad drove cars for BMW. Both my mum and my dad never made much, but every penny would be put towards having a nice home and making sure that me and my brother had a promising future. At this stage, my mum started becoming aware of a mole that had grown larger on her leg. As a family, we have very fair skin, so we were always so careful putting on sun cream and not sunbathing. My mum went to the doctors and she found out that it was skin cancer. I didn't know it was cancer at the time because they wanted to protect me, however, I do remember her having a mole removed on her leg and another on her forehead, which has left her with somewhat of a Harry Potter scar.

When it was time for me to go to high school, **I was so excited. I love to learn, and I couldn't wait** to do higher maths, as **I was very good at it**. I started high school with my two best friends, Emily and Kiera. We would make dance routines in the playground, sing High School Musical and talk about **how much we loved Zac Efron, and I still do. All three of us were inseparable**, until some confusing incident happened which led to some childish cyber bullying on MSN. Do you remember MSN? And as a result, **we lost our friendship with Kiera, which was a shame** looking back. Both Emily and I made a new group of friends **which I love** to this day, although **sadly**, we're not in contact with them anymore.

**I was very shy** back at school, something that **I totally regret** looking back. **I used to think that everyone was laughing at me** because I was overweight. And some of that was true, but most of it was just **me telling myself that I wasn't good enough to talk to the popular people**. Year 10 is where everything kind of changed for me. It was time for us to choose which GCSEs we would take. I took French, History, Art and Drama. Until now, **I had always dreamt of** being an interior designer - designing shop windows and floors for big store events like the Christmas in London, but when I started my Drama GCSE, **I fell in love** with acting more than anything else in the world. **I was scared** to start my drama class because none of my friends took the subject, so I had to make a friend quick - that's where I met Sky. **Sky was like my left arm. We did everything together and became inseparable**.

Whilst doing my GCSEs, my brother had just turned 17 and started learning to drive. My dad had always promised us that when we turned 17, he would get us a car to learn to drive in. James had a 2006 black Vauxhall Corsa. One weekend, while I was out with my friend Sam, my dad took James out for a practice in the car. Whilst he was driving, he started to have a fit. He lost control of the car, but **luckily**, with my dad's driving experience from work, he managed to stop the car without any damage. My brother was rushed straight to the hospital, where he was initially tested for epilepsy. That's when a brain scan showed he had what's called an AVM - a non-cancerous tumour on his brain. From this day, James had multiple operations to try and shrink the tumour, but it kept growing back. Ultimately, my mum and dad had to make the decision to have open head surgery for James, as if it wasn't done, he most likely wouldn't live past 40.

At this time, I finished my GCSEs and **had done well**. I stayed at the same school to complete my A-levels and I gave up my dancing classes **because of stress**. At this point, I had lost all of my childhood weight and I **started getting some attention from boys - would you believe it? I was very, very shocked**. James had his open-head surgery while I was

studying. I started to struggle focusing on school because my family life was difficult and instead, I started to party and drink. I saw a few boys here and there, and I met my first boyfriend at 17, through a friend, when doing the National Citizen Service Programme. Things were good between me and him for a while, until he started to show signs of anger. He was very controlling, and I lost quite a few friends because of it. Coming to the end of our relationship, I had just passed my driving test and he'd failed his theory. He threw things around the room and at that point, things kind of clicked for me that maybe he wasn't the man that I thought he was. Anyway, I just started a job at Marks and Spencer's in the cafe for a Christmas temp job. It had just turned our six-month anniversary and I had just finished my shift and planned to meet up with him. He turned up outside of my house and he had his scarf around his neck. He pulled the scarf down and he had multiple hickeys on his neck. He had been out drinking the week before and told me that he didn't love me and probably never did. Stupidly, I stayed. Now he'd gone out again and woken up in his ex-girlfriend's house with hickeys all around his neck. He swears that nothing happened but it's fair to say things didn't go any further after that day.

Even though that relationship kind of crushed my confidence, I still had my acting to go back to. I was part of a group that did the National Theatre Connections, where you could put on a play and win the chance to perform it at the West End - the National Theatre in London, which we won! I played the part of Lisa in a production called Drama Baby. I started going on dating apps, shamefully, and that's how I met Matthew. Turns out we had mutual friends and we met and hit things off straightaway. We've now been together for three and a half years.

My previous boyfriend had convinced me not to go to university, so I declined my application for that year. When it came to the summer, I was panicking about what I wanted to do with my life. I had failed my A-levels, I had no job, so I decided to get a job at Etsy diner working as a waitress. I enjoyed my job for a while but then I felt like I needed to be on stage. That's when I found my university I'm at now. They had a performance degree that I had enough UCAS points for, and it wasn't too far from home. I was so excited to move into university halls and make friends. I must have spent hundreds on bedding and decor for my room and kitchen. Turns out, university halls was not for me. I lasted about 36 hours before giving in a cancellation fee and moving out again. I'm definitely a home bird and being near my family and Matt is what's most important. Luckily, I was close enough to where I could just commute every day.

When I first started university, we performed Alice in Wonderland for the Christmas production. First years are always chorus members, but I met my most beautiful friend Olivia whilst there. We're like sisters, and although she now lives over three hours away, she's still my family.

I finished my first year of uni, and did well, but now being back at home, I was bored and was on my own a lot. I'd watched ASMR videos since James had his first crash and I'd always kept it a secret from everyone. I wouldn't subscribe to people because I didn't want it to show on my YouTube recommended feed. Finally, one day, Matt asked what it was, so I introduced him to a few of Doctor Dimitry, Gentle Whispering and Articulate Design's videos. He was fast asleep after the first one and insisted that I should make videos of my own. I got my camera out, sat on my bed with my Harry Potter book and made my first video. I fell in love with talking to other ASMR lovers and making videos.

When I went back to university, everyone found out I was on YouTube. Some people's reactions were negative but, on the whole, I got a great response. Starting back my second year was lonely as Olivia wasn't there anymore. However, I found out we were doing my favourite musical Blood Brothers for our Christmas production. I was so excited, and I knew I had to audition for the role of Linda. And I got it! Fast forward a few months and I've just finished my second year with a first, which is like top marks. I've just had my first YouTube anniversary. Me and Matt have got the Disney World trip coming soon and I feel more loved than ever in the ASMR community. There's been ups and down so far in my 21 years, but I'm so fortunate to be where I am today. Things aren't always straightforward, and my anxiety does get the better of me most days, but all of you and all of my family by my side. I'm learning to be stronger each day and love me for me, and I thank you for that. Thank you for watching this video. I love you all. Lots of love, Sophie. Good night.

2582

#### FDML #78

Hey guys! It's Lizzie and this is my life. My birth name is Elizabeth and my parents named me after Elizabeth in the Bible. I was born in Kentucky on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. I was supposed to be born on the seventh, but I was born two weeks late. My heart was racing and being weirdly irregular when I was first born, so my parents thought I was going to die. Not really, but they were a little nervous when I had to have an oxygen mask. I'm really glad that baby Lizzie eventually decided to breathe. My older sister Christine was 2 when I was born, and she was very excited to have a baby sister.

When I was 2 weeks old, we flew back to Russia because my parents were missionaries there, and my family lived in St. Petersburg until I was 3 years old. I don't remember any of it, and unfortunately, I can't speak Russian. We moved back to the States to Ohio in 2003. On the first day of kindergarten, my dad knelt down to hug me goodbye, but I walked right into the classroom and didn't even look back. My favourite subjects at school were math, writing, reading,

science, history - I loved school. Every part of school. My dad was doing his Ph.D. program when we lived in Ohio, so we had a stay-at-home dad for five years. I started ballet when I was six and I loved it. I went to Bible Camp for the first time when I was six and I loved it. I remember sleeping on the top bunk and learning worship songs in sign language. I published my first letter to the editor when I was seven. It was a persuasive piece on passing this referendum to ban smoking in public places in my city. Referendum ended up passing because of my article - not really - but this was when I learned that writing is power. I also won my first poetry contest when I was seven. It was comparing Earth Day to a ballet performance, so obviously I loved writing from a very early age. At my elementary school, we had these journals that we wrote fiction stories in every day, and that's what got me into loving writing.

We moved to Indiana when I was eight. At my elementary school in Ohio I had been friends with mostly guys, so my mum asked my third-grade teacher to seat me next to a girl so I could have friends who were girls, and it ended up working because I met my best friend Madison. We were inseparable. We both did ballet at the same studio and shared our secrets with each other, and we had these epic sleepovers together. I loved our church in Indiana. I started staying for the sermons rather than going to shine time or the children's worship when I was 9, and that's also around the time when I started reading the Bible on my own and started a prayer journal.

We didn't have TV or Internet growing up, so my sister and I played with our bears. We had over a hundred bears and would create these epic storylines and then just improv it. We also played outside a lot with our neighbourhood friends. We played foursquare and kickball and freeze tag. We had this amazing vegetable garden in our backyard and a pond with our first family pet – Heidi. We named her that because we never saw her, because she hid from us.

When I was in elementary and middle school, I wanted to be exactly like my sister. She was the person I looked up to and I adored her. I think she got a little annoyed by how much I copied her. When I was six, I remember cutting my hair really short just because Christine did, and then I hated it and I've been growing out my hair ever since. My sister played violin, so I started playing viola in fourth grade. I had a private tutor and I started going through the Suzuki books. I joined a bunch of activities in middle school - math counts, math super bowl, two different orchestras, choir, cross-country and track. And surprise, Christine was also in all these activities!

In middle school, Madison and I had almost every class together and we had 4 other best friends and it was perfect because the lunch tables in her cafeteria had six seats. We would play basketball at recess with some guys who were also sort of in our group, and it was so much fun. I also read a bunch growing up. To me, being a rebel meant staying up past my bedtime reading under my covers with a flashlight. I was always reading fiction novels and that was a huge inspiration for me being a writer.

We adopted Christmas from my viola tutor in 2007 when I was 12. I was so happy because I'd wanted a cat since I was five. He's named Christmas because he came to my viola tutor's door on Christmas Day and he was so cold because it was snowing outside so she took him in.

I continued going to Bible Camp in Indiana and our Bible camp had this huge rec field where we played volleyball, a lake where we went canoeing, this beautiful outdoor Chapel - I loved it. At the end of fifth grade, I got captured, which means my church youth group came into my house, carried me on to the youth group bus and then we had this epic overnight lock-in at church. I was so excited to finally be in youth group! We had this youth group pew for church that I got to sit on now, and a youth group house next to the church where we met for Bible class.

I continued doing ballet, and Madison and I ended up finally being in the same ballet class in seventh grade and that year she was Goldilocks for our dance recital, and I was a pig. And at first, I was really annoyed but it ended up being a beautiful dress and it was a thousand times prettier than this failed illustration. One of my favourite parts of ballet performances was getting to put on makeup, because my mum never let me wear makeup.

The summer before eighth grade, my family moved again because my dad was finished writing his dissertation, so he officially graduated with his Ph.D. and he was hired at a better professor job in Florida. It was awesome because we were five minutes from the beach. It was horrible because I had to move away from my best friends, and I hated my new middle school. We had a school uniform and it looked like and felt like a prison. Being the new girl, I sat by myself at lunch for a few weeks and they changed my schedule eight times, which didn't help with making friends. In 2008, so spring of eighth grade, my family started going to a new church that was 40 minutes away, but it had the most epic youth group. A couple weeks after going, my sister and I attended winter camp, this weekend retreat with the youth group. I met my best friend Kelly there, and I had the best memories of us being crazy at all the random youth group events, that Taylor Swift song "I'm Only Me When I'm With You" is my relationship with Kelly. We used to be rebels at Bible Camp and sneak away and have Bible studies in the gazebo instead of participating in the random rec activities. Kelly is amazing at doing nails, so whenever we hung out, I got these epic manicures and pedicures, and her zebra print is much better than this.

So back to eighth grade, and I know a lot of this is kind of out of order – sorry. One good part about hating eighth grade is that I got so much closer to God, because I was lonely. I didn't have friends that I hung out with outside of school, and my sister was busy studying for all her AP classes, so I prayed a lot and read my Bible a lot and that made me



happy. In February of that year, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, I got baptized. My dad baptized me on Sunday morning, and I took my first communion that day, and it felt so wonderful becoming a Christian. And I still remember standing in front of the church, and it was, like, way early, so it wasn't full, but I just remember saying, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God" and I believed it, and I still do.

At the end of eighth grade I auditioned for this arts high school called Dreyfoos for Creative Writing and I got accepted! Summer of eighth grade, I went to CFBC for the first time - best Bible Camp! Pepperdine's A Cappella group One by One performed a concert one night and their songs were so amazing, and this is how I found out about Pepperdine. In the fall of 2008, I started on point, which is every ballerina's dream, and it was amazing, but then I ended up quitting ballet in December for different reasons. It was six hours a week and it was just way more intensive than I wanted. Also, I was in a different ballet class and the new teacher hated me. If we were doing a routine in the centre, she would call me out and be like, "Liz you should go to the back row because you're not good at dancing". I cried so much when I decided to quit ballet because it had been my identity since I was six. I was a dancer, but now I wasn't.

So, I went through this weird identity crisis thing where I was like, "Who am I?" And then I finally decided that it's not who I am, it's who I'm of, and I'm of God. On my 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, the summer before starting high school, I got contacts. And as my mum had promised me back when I was eight, I was finally allowed to start wearing makeup. I learned how to do makeup by watching YouTube videos and this is when I started actually caring about how I looked. On the first day of high school, I didn't know anyone. I ended up meeting a lot of awesome and inspiring people. I attended an Arts High School, which meant that there were different art areas. I was in the Communications Department and my art classes were Creative Writing, Debate and TV Production. I started winning plaques and trophies at debate tournaments and awards for my writing, so I found out that I not only love writing and speaking but I'm actually good at those things. I also fell in love with film and editing which is something I've never done before coming to Dreyfoos. I learned how to edit on Final Cut in TV class, and I wanted to just spend hours in the editing room, but I had to go to my other classes.

And debate was my life in high school. I prioritized it over all of my classes, and I would spend 30, 40 hours prepping for each tournament. Freshman year I did Student Congress, then sophomore year I started doing LD, which is philosophical debate. So basically, LD was my life in high school, and competing in debate changed my life. I became hyper aware of political issues and injustices in the world. I learned about targeted killings, the racism in our criminal justice system, political lobbying, Just War Theory. I basically got to debate every controversial issue. Through debate, I learned that I love reading through and annotating 30-page think-tank articles or UN studies, and I probably sound like such a nerd right now, but philosophical controversies and political issues are my favourite things to talk about.

So I haven't talked about my parents much in this video, but they were super involved in every part of my life and encouraged me in my writing, and my mum was even a judge at debate tournaments, and they came to my cross-country and track meets and my ballet performances.

This kind of started when I was 13, like right when we moved to Florida, but I especially remember sophomore year of high school where there was so much drama going on to my family that really hurt me. Lots of arguing, and I remember crying so much. A lot of times, I hated being at home and I would lock myself in my bedroom and cry, only I didn't even have time to cry because I had so much studying to do. Some days it'd be fine and then other days I just felt so unloved and unhappy. My parents took me to a bunch of different psychologists. I even went to a psychiatrist once, so I thought that this was all my fault. I didn't tell any of my friends what was going on, because I was really bad at being open and honest with people. And what I was good at was pretending that everything was great when it wasn't. Advice for anyone going through stuff like this at home - forgive over and over again. That's the only way. Sorry this got sad - I'm such a happy person, so I was happy during this time. I just cried a lot.

I continued running cross country and track in high school. I kept getting all these random injuries and I was always having to miss weeks of practice and miss meets because of that. Most dramatic running injury - junior year in track I did hurdles which was so great! Felt like flying, until my foot caught on the hurdle and I fell. I didn't break anything; I just pulled a muscle, but I was on crutches for a month and a half. Glad that awkward picture is over.

And coming up, this is way out of order again - there's just, like, so many layers of my life since I've been over involved since I was 11. When I was making my schedule for junior year, my art classes conflicted and so I had to choose which art class to drop out of. I decided to quit TV, which meant no editing and no filming for a year. So, at the beginning of summer, I created Lizzie's Answers because of how much I missed film. People started messaging me and commenting questions and I answered them in videos. It was therapeutic messaging people back and helping them with their problems because it took the focus off of myself. I didn't tell anyone including my family about my channel until around March of the next year when I became a YouTube partner! And then everyone in my school found out and unlike every other YouTuber, no one made fun of me for it because my high school is amazing.

My sister graduated from high school in May 2010 and this black marker is dying. Kristine is really smart and talented and beautiful, and I wish I had more time in this video to talk about her life, but a few months later, she flew off to Rhode Island to study Computer Science at Brown and she loves it! I was taking this philosophy class junior year in

place of TV and almost everyone in the class was atheist or agnostic and relativist, so I was the person in the class who stood up for God and explained why I'm a Christian and why I believe that evil exists and that truth exists. That was when I started hardcore doubting everything about what I believed, and I grew so much in my faith because of being in an atheist environment at my high school.

Towards the end of junior year, I had this phase where I tried to lose weight which was not a good idea because I was a size zero, but I have my illogical moments. I was viewing myself as overweight and I started skipping meals to reduce my calories. I think a lot of it was me being really stressed out because of the end of the semester and studying for AP exams and also, I was still getting in random arguments with my parents which made me really upset. The night before my AP English exam, I passed out in my bedroom because I hadn't eaten all day and then I woke up on the floor and I started sobbing because I realised I wanted to get help, but I thought through people in my life and didn't feel like I could tell anyone what was going on. This is of course nothing compared to what most girls who deal with this sort of thing go through, but I'm glad this month of insecurity helps me understand it a tiny bit, because some of you have messaged me about how you're struggling with something like this and I love that I'm able to help.

Somehow, I got through my APEs, and I bounced back to solid self-esteem that summer because of Bible Camp, where I was finally able to open up to two girls about the eating thing and what had been going on at home. Also, I was seeing a Christian psychologist that summer and she really helped me sort through things. After this, my relationship with my parents became so much more stable and right now, home life is amazing. I tell my family everything and my parents are so encouraging and loving, and my sister keeps me grounded by being apathetic about my YouTube videos. The reason there's a line between us is because we're calling her when she's at college.

Summer before senior year of high school, I dual enrolled and took an intro to philosophy course at a local university. Best class I've ever taken and everything about it made me so excited and happy and I love wisdom. We read this essay by Peter Singer called *Famine, Affluence and Morality* which talked about third-world poverty and presented this argument. I was already donating some of my YouTube money to aid organisations, but this convinced me that it was wrong for me to not be giving away a lot more. A few months later, I read Singer's book, *The Life You Can Save*, which went into even more detail on this topic, and I was reading it as research for the November LD topic during senior year debate, which I ended up winning that tournament. Because of reading Singer's arguments, wanting to end third-world poverty and alleviate the hunger crisis became an even stronger calling and conviction for me. This is an emergency and I cry about it sometimes because I feel so helpless in saving all these lives, and the worst part is that only a few people I've met understand how I feel. So, a lot of the time I just feel crazy and alone for feeling so strongly about something that most people in my life do not understand.

Senior year of high school I loved my schedule. In January of 2012, I became vegetarian because I researched animal rights for another LD topic and that convinced me that I hate factory farm torture and I do not want to be a part of all the injustices that are occurring in the meat industry.

So, I haven't talked about boyfriends in this video, because I haven't had any. Actually, I had a boyfriend for about a month when I was 13 but that doesn't really count. So, it's probably obvious by now that I've been overinvolved since sixth grade, but that was especially true in high school. Between YouTube and debate, I didn't really sleep. Also, my high school had a three seven guy-girl ratio, so I didn't meet any guys there who loved God and liked philosophizing with me. I applied to seven different universities and didn't get rejected from any of them. One night in March, I was praying that God would help me decide what college to go to and then the next day, I got a call from admissions at a certain school and I got accepted into Pepperdine! The day I got in, before they even released Scholarship info, I was already making my 4-year plan and all the classes I wanted to take and I was so stoked to be away. I couldn't even sleep that night, that week, but I did not get senioritis because I loved the classes I was in and I wanted fives on my AP exam. The end of senior year was a blur though – prom, grad bash at Universal, AP exams, graduation. Then, the week after graduation, I went to debate Nationals for LD in Baltimore and even though I didn't win anything, I had so much fun competing. I met Nicole, my future Pepperdine roomie, on Facebook and we had this epic Facebook message conversation going on all summer and I felt like we were best friends before I even met her.

I flew up to California for the first time at the end of August with too many suitcases and I fell in love with Pepperdine campus, and everyone does because of the Pacific Ocean view. It's breath-taking. I finally got to meet Nicole and my other suitemates who I had also met on Facebook over summer. We planned our suite out and we planned well. For the first time since seventh grade, I had this amazing group of best friends who understood me and I felt like I could completely be myself around. The first night of NSO, I remember we stayed up really late talking about God and throughout the year we had so many late-night talks and I was just so happy with all the amazing friends that I met.

I was officially a Philosophy major first semester, but I kept changing my major unofficially in my mind. And it's so hard to decide what to major in because I have so many interests. I started learning Koine Greek or Biblical Greek first semester and Greek became my favourite class. I carried my Greek flashcards around with me everywhere and I would annoy my friends by practicing my Greek declensions out loud. Another amazing class I was in for both semesters is called SAAJ, which is perfect for me. We talk about injustices going on in the world and two of the guest speakers they

brought in were attorneys who had worked in India for IJM freeing slaves. This kind of cemented my career plans because it was merging my calling to help people suffering in poverty along with being an attorney.

At Pepperdine, I got involved in campus ministry, Young Democrats, our IJM chapter philosophy club and Let's Start Talking. Through campus ministry I joined a house group, and looking back, **that was what helped me grow in my faith the most**. At house group, we had **the coolest** theological and philosophical discussions and **it was like a family atmosphere**. I still refer to the couple that hosted our house group as my house group parents. In January, my sister invited me to join her church in attending the Passion Conference which was in Atlanta. Worshiping with 60,000 other college students in the Georgia Dome was **the best experience of my life**. **I loved my family group** so much and the best aspect of Passion was its focus on modern slavery. The IJM founders spoke to us and we started the End It movement, which you guys might have heard of. I got to write a 12-page paper on modern slavery for my SAAJ class second semester and I read several books on modern slavery for research, which made me **even more passionate** about ending slavery and maybe one day working for a IJM.

In May over summer session, I started learning a fourth language, French, because I'm studying abroad in Lausanne, Switzerland, in the spring semester of my sophomore year at Pepperdine. I'm going to Thailand for five weeks starting in July on my Let's Start Talking missions strip. I'm going to be helping people learn English with the Gospel of Luke, and **I am excited** for it because it's my first ever missions trip and **I love sharing** God with other people because I believe that Jesus' resurrection from the dead is truth, and because I believe in that truth, **it inspires every part of my life**. Right now, I feel so blessed because **I am extremely content with where I am in life, while also being so excited about all these things coming up in my future**. Getting to share my life with you guys on YouTube through all my videos has been such **an amazing experience**, and **I hope** this video specifically inspires you to be more honest and open with people, because it's scary, but also mega refreshing and freeing. **I love you all so much and feel excited** because you are a part of my life and I promise to keep making videos forever. Bye guys!

4231

#### FDML #79

Hey everyone, so today I'm going to be doing a very requested video - draw my life. I've seen this tag going around everybody. So, to get started, I was born in Washington and I lived there a couple of years probably until I was around five. We lived in a neighbourhood next to my, our family friends, Michelle, and you guys probably know her, she has a channel - Beauty Tips by Michelle. And we would, Alex and I and Michelle, we would hang out all the time, we'd spend our childhood together. And **we have a lot of fun** playing with our toys and just hanging out whenever we could on the weekends, and I just remember always playing Polly Pockets with Michelle, and that's what Alex remembers too. **We had a lot of fun and we were a very close, happy family**.

But my parents and I, **we were all getting tired of the rain**, and it rains constantly as you guys probably know in Washington. So because of the rain, we ended up actually moving. So, we moved from Washington to - guess where? A sunny part, so we moved to Northern California, and we had to leave Michelle behind, and **we were really sad**. But **we're still connected** nowadays and still see each other, so, we lived in a beautiful neighbourhood in a really nice house. It was **our dream home**. We actually built the house ourselves, and **we loved it**. It was like no other, and **we were a big, happy family**. We were always together, and I don't know. **We just felt way more connected** when we were in California. It was different.

And then a middle school started, so I ended up going to U-prep, which was a university preparatory school. It was very fancy, was like a charter school and **I loved it** there. In eighth grade, in sixth grade actually, **I met my best friends** and in eighth grade was like the year where **me and my best friends were the closest**. So, I had Gabi and Madison, Emily, and we always hung out. **We did everything together and we thought we'd be BFFs forever - we wanted to go to college together and everything** like that. But over time, me and Gabi got really close, and **we just became best friends**. We were the closest out of the whole entire group, and we'd hang out all the time. We'd talk about boys, we'd chat on the phone all the time and call each other and text each other, spend time with each other non-stop. We'd be together all the time, and we'd go to dances together. **I loved going to dances during middle school**. I don't know about you guys, but **dances were so much fun, and we just have a lot of fun**.

But then in 9th grade, we ended up moving, and we moved from California to a different state, where I live in today. And **it was really sad**. I had to leave my best friend Gabi and I just couldn't imagine life without her. So, I was starting high school in a new state with people I'd never knew, and I was going to be the new kid and **I was really scared**. I didn't think I was going to make friends, but after a couple months **I met two very good best friends** I still talk to today. I met Taylor, as you guys probably know, and I also met Gunnar, and we became, instantly just became best friends, and then I ended up moving again. We ended up moving to a new house, to a better high school. This high school is very renowned where we live, so we wanted to have a high education. We ended up moving there for us and I did have to leave my friends and **it was really sad**, and when I ended up going to this high school, the girls didn't really talk to me. **I was all alone and I had nobody**.

But this year, I actually was starting high school with Alex and Alex was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, I was in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and we were, this was the first time we were finally together, and we became best friends. Alex and I have been best friends and inseparable since we moved and, you know, that's why I'm really happy that we moved, because it brought me and my sister really close and before, we weren't as close. I had other best friends; we didn't really hang out. But me and Alex became, she just became somebody that I know I can't ever imagine without, never I can't imagine life without her. I just love her so much and she was everything to me.

Did I forget YouTube? Yes, I did, so I'm adding YouTube in. I started YouTube in eighth grade, but it became very important to me in ninth grade when I started high school and I was alone and all I had was you guys. So, I created SabsBeauty and it was something that was amazing. I'm so glad I did it. You guys were, you guys were there for me, and I made videos for you because you guys watched me. You liked my videos, you supported me, and I needed somebody then when I had nobody else. So, I love you guys.

Then in the summer of last year, there was the NYX Face Awards, it was a very important part of my life. It changed my perspective on like makeup and YouTube, and it just made it so much more important to me. And I got to create three looks and there was one winner, and in this competition, I got to meet amazing girls. You guys voted for me, you guys supported me, you guys did everything, and you brought me to the top six, which brought me to tears because it was the most amazing experience of my life and I'm so thankful that you guys did this for me. And makeup became my passion. I discovered something that I loved doing, and that summer, I got to go and compete against five other amazing girls and all of them were just, I met amazing YouTube friends during my time there. And I got to meet Karis and Angie and Bethany and Chelsea and Lisa, and they were just amazing, and then Karis ended up winning and it was just the most greatest experience for me. I got to go to LA IMATS. I got to meet a couple of you guys, my fans, I got to just experience, you know, seeing all this makeup and it was just beautiful. And that summer, I got to go to Romania and Spain, and it was one of the best summers of my life. The first time that Alex and I went alone on an airplane, and we had so much fun, and we got to see our grandparents, we got to travel, we got to eat good food, we got to see our family, our friends, and we got to go to the beach. And we just had a great summer that time.

And now in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, 11<sup>th</sup> grade started. I was just ready to end the school year - I couldn't wait to get out. And in Spanish 3, my life kind of changed. Me and Alex, we met Aaron and he became really good friends with us, and the reason why I became friends is because he would, like, put forks in our backpacks and then kind of got mad at him, but we started talking and he actually was a pretty cool guy, and, you know, we just started off as good friends and we had, it was nice to have a friend, you know. And this year, I actually made a lot of friends, and it was a different year for me. And then, December 20<sup>th</sup>, we ended up dating and he asked me to be his girlfriend, and then my life kind of changed. And now, now I am waiting for graduation. It's coming really soon. I am really sad that I have to go, and I have to head up to, head off to college away from my family, and will I be making videos? You guys have been asking. Yes, yes. I really will. I will continue to make videos for you guys on YouTube because I love it. And this is my life – well, parts of my life. As much as I could fit. Thanks for watching, you guys, and I hope you found this video fun and interesting!

1451

## FDML #80

Hi, I'm Kat Blaque and this is Draw My Life. On September 14<sup>th</sup>, I was born in a city called Linwood. And I've never met my birth mum. I was adopted by two loving parents named Sharon and Warren, and they loved me, and they raised me. They raised me in a very Christian home. Put me in Christian school and gave me the biblical name "Matthew". I spent most of my childhood at the park. It's where I used to make up stories in my mind. I used to pretend I was a warrior princess and I used to hit the trees with a stick that I found on the floor. And I used to think about my life, my future. I used to look into the creek and wonder who I was going to be. But honestly, I never really came up with a good answer. To a certain degree, I always knew I was different. But I really didn't know what that meant.

In preschool, my favourite activity was art. I loved to draw, I loved to paint, and I just loved to create. Unfortunately, this was kind-of more of a girl thing. But the teacher really liked what I did and told my parents that they needed to foster my artistic talents. When I was in fifth grade, my mum took me to an animation expo for kids to colour. It was there that I heard a guy talking about a school called Cal Arts. So, I instantly turned to my mum and I was like, "Can I go there?" And she was like, "Maybe". But I knew from that day on that was the school that I wanted to go to. So, I put that on my back of my mind and decided to devote a lot of energy and time into getting into this school. I was so dedicated that I kind of had tunnel vision, to be honest. I really missed out on a lot of really good friendships and I kind of had a hard time understanding why I couldn't really connect with people.

When I went to middle school, I became a really dark kid. I wore hoodies that covered my entire body because I really did not like way I looked. I was really depressed, and I would spend all my time in the library and I absolutely had no friends. It wasn't until I joined Drama that I kind of started to be a little more confident and I started to come out my shell, just a little bit. This is where I really started to question myself. I started to wonder whether or not I was a boy or a girl. Because, at the time, you know, there were things that I kind of liked about the idea of being both. So, I kind of

decided that I was somewhere in between. I kind of accepted that I was genderqueer. And so, I started living kind of androgynously, well, at least at school.

Things really started looking up. When I was sixteen years old, I applied to Cal Arts. And when I was seventeen, I had found out I had gotten in on my first try. I was so excited. I was finally going to the school of my dreams. I really, honestly couldn't believe it. I was even more excited because I had actually, recently came out to my parents as gay. Even though I knew that's really not what I was. And I thought that going to school would mean I would be able to find some cute guy to – you know – be in a relationship with. So, at this phase of my life, I kind of dressed a little crazy. I used to wear, like, splatter painted clothes and I would always wear a handkerchief and had, like, this red bag that I thought was just absolutely fabulous. But, you know, turns out, not so much. So, I decided I would change my look up a bit. So, I had like a basic uniform; I wore like a plaid shirt, usually short sleeved denim cut off shorts, and I used to take those Arabian scarfs and tie them around my head, and it kind of looked like long hair. And people called me Kitty. Well, some people did. See, cause I kind of was living a double life. Some people only knew me as Matt. Some people only knew me as Kitty. And it kind of became really confusing, and really frustrating.

One of the things that I probably should've mentioned earlier in this video is that when I hit puberty, I started to develop breasts. And this was basically why I had so many issues with my body when I was in middle school. So I wasn't really, you know, whether or not I was queer, whether or not I was gay, or maybe I was trans? Either way, my body was definitely telling me something. In the second semester of my first year of school, I met this guy named Rob. Rob was this really cute artist and he was really nice, even though he was, like, thirty. Me and him spent Valentine's Day together. And we ended up dating four months after that, but deep down inside I really was dealing with a lot of issues because honestly, I really didn't like being seen as a guy in a relationship. And, not that I define my gender off of who was attracted to me or interested in me, so don't get me wrong, but – it was kind of recognizing that he wanted a man and I couldn't necessarily be that for him. That helped me realise that – I'm not a boy. I'm not queer. I'm holding onto this old identity because other people want for me to be this identity. And I just needed to be honest with myself and accept that I'm a girl. And I knew that I couldn't be happy in any relationship unless I was absolutely honest with myself.

So that's when I made the decision to go full-time at the end of my freshman year. And when I went full-time, I really started to love myself. So, each year at Cal Arts, we had to make our own animated film. The first year, I did a film about a cannibalistic prostitute, my second year I did a film a little boy who wanted to be a pretty princess, my third year I did a film about a nymph and a bard, and my last year, I did a film about a girl who learned to play the ukulele to impress a boy who lives in San Francisco. So, I was full-time for over a year, and in my junior year, I knew that I had to take 'mones. I needed to take an oestrogen and an anti-androgen. So, I did some research and I figured out how to order hormones online. And I began to self-medicate. I was really nervous about self-medicating. At about six months, I really started to see the changes, and I was finally really happy with how my body looked.

Senior year was my best year. Because by then, I had already my name legally changed to Kathryn. I was even more excited, because I was going to be moving into the MFFA dorms. And no one would know me in the MFFA dorms. So that meant that I could be stealth. The first week of my senior year, I went out and I partied a bunch. I got very drunk and I met a bunch of people and I definitely got a lot of male attention. So, being stealth ended up being way more complicated than I initially anticipated. So that's when I really turned to YouTube to kind of tell my stories and honestly vent and say things that I just couldn't say because I was stealth.

In my senior year, I turned 21 years old. And to celebrate we went to a bar. And it was at that bar that I met my friend Arin. Arin invited me over to a party that was the next day. And at that party, I met a very, very fancy gay man with a bag full of beer. And I knew instantly that we were going to be friends. His name was Arturo. Me and Arturo became best friends. And I thought that I should tell him, you know, just assuming that, you know, that he was gay that he would maybe be able to tell, that I was transgendered. And to my shock, he was completely surprised by it. And I told him, "Don't tell anyone about this". And he was like, "Okay, I promise". Arturo had this roommate that always used to flirt with me, and sometimes I would flirt back. And, well, apparently, so I found out later on, Arturo really did not like this and since he was really friends with his roommate, he decided it would be a good idea to tell the roommate that I was trans. And in turn, he told another person who told another person, who eventually told basically all the friends that I had made my first few weeks of school. I was pretty devastated. I was so mad with Arturo that I didn't talk to him for at least a month. But he popped up one day and said, "I'm sorry" and had a new pair of shoes for me. And I said, "Well, you know, I guess I'll forgive you".

Honestly, being stealth was pretty stressful and, in a way, felt kind of relieved that people knew. I had worn wigs through most of my transition, but in my senior year, I started to really wear my real hair. Cause I, finally, I was kind of confident to have short hair and not care. Though, unfortunately, toward the end of my last year, I went out with a guy that was really abusive and I ended up cutting off most of my hair and leaving just my bangs. And I kind of did this to – you know- repel the male gaze, but honestly, I, kind of, being way more confident about myself, because I feel that if you can rock a bald head, like, you can rock almost no hair, it's like – I don't know – it's a huge accomplishment.

My final film got into the open show, which was an accomplishment for me because I never really finished my films until then. And I graduated with my Bachelor's in Fine Arts in 2012.

After graduation, I was really, really depressed, because I moved back in with my parents and I had no job, no money, and no friends. Ultimately, I kind of felt like I was a failure at Cal Arts because I really didn't have a chance to focus because I was so distracted by transition, really. In hopes of pulling myself out of a rut, I started my own fashion illustration blog and I started to pursue some children illustration gigs. But I really wasn't getting the amount of success that I wanted to, so, I, still kind of depressed. And my life honestly really changed when I met my boyfriend Nicholas. He accepted that I was transgender and he respected and loved me. And on top of that, he also encouraged me to work really hard, and I started to focus myself a lot more. I got my gender marker legally changed, and I just really started to look at my artwork and my career in an entirely different way.

One day I got a phone call from FOX animation studios. They were having an internship at a subunit called ADHD. I was really excited because they gave me the internship. The only downside to this was that I had to take a bus ride every day from San Dimas to Hollywood. And that's basically a six-hour round trip. Sadly, my internship came to an end. But honestly, I was kind of relieved because the trip was really stressful, and I really didn't get a lot of time to do anything other than my internship. But luckily, I was approached by an English professor who was trying to write a children's book and he wanted to work with me. He gave me complete creative control over the book, and that's basically where I am now. Right now, me and my boyfriend, we're both working on pursuing our dreams. He wants to be a chef - he's part Japanese so he wants to have like a Japanese fusion food truck. And I am pursuing my dreams in animation and children's illustration, fashion, all of the above. For once in my life, I can say with a hundred percent certainty that I know who I am. And I'm really happy with who I've become. I have a clear dream for the future, and I know that I'm going to reach my goals. I really wanted to thank everyone who's been subscribed to me for the past three years on YouTube. And that you guys continue with many more with me. And if you're just checking in, my story is not yet over. There is still so much that I didn't say in this video. So, subscribe! Thanks for sitting through another one of my long videos. Bye guys!

2239

#### FDML #81

My name is Kati Morton and I'm going to draw my life. I was born in a really small town in Washington State, really small. To my dad, who is bald on top, and my mum, who at the time had curly 80s hair, which was actually straight on one side for some reason for a while, and they were in love and they had my brother, Nicholas, and three and a half years later, they had me. And we lived in a house, on an acre lot, next to my Grandma and Papa's house, and they had a Christmas tree farm, which growing up, I thought was so cool and I loved playing in the trees, and so my brother and I used to spend all our time outdoors because we didn't have cable TV, my mum was like "Get out of the house" and so we would go out and play and we'd build all these tree forts and we'd play as long as we could until we'd hear my Dad whistle which I still can't do properly, but it's something like whistles and so we'd have to run home in time for dinner because if it took too long they'd be all pissy like, "Where were you?" "How far away were you?"

And so, my brother was my first friend but my next first friend was when I rode the school bus. Her name was Jamie. She had long Rapunzel hair and I was really jealous and it was crazy long and she had a Dad who was really into sports, and was like "Work harder!" and he had two daughters and I think he wished he had a son who could play sports because I was like, "ugh" and we played baseball and he made it really intense. But then we found soccer. Hurray! And so, we would play soccer together and her Dad didn't know anything about soccer or how to play soccer really, and so he could basically just cheer from the side-lines and we were like, "Yay!" Now we can have fun like kids are supposed to have. You know. So, that was cool. And one time we bur team was really good! Our girls' team and so they put us up against the boys and the boys were like "We're going to kick your butts!" We were like "Haha, we beat you bad! Girls rule!" Sorry guys, but I was really excited.

And so, one of my favourite memories growing up with my Dad is he used to put me in the backseat of his Bronco and take me out in the trees. I had no idea where we were going, he'd wake me up really early and we'd go hunting and shooting quail, and I know that sounds really nasty and people are like, "Oh my gosh Kati - I can't believe you hunted!" But I still own guns and I don't really hunt anymore as much, but it was kind of more about the experience I had with my Dad. It was our bonding time. I was a total daddy's girl. I'd do anything, you know, my Dad wanted to do.

And next comes high school. Dun dun dun! And by this point I kind of got tired of my little town. And, I mean, I had a good time, I was really involved, I was working really hard in all these AP classes and I was studying my butt off, because I was like, "God, I got to get out of here". So, I played baseball or softball and soccer. And I also discovered choir. And the reason I discovered choir was because I accidentally forgot to sign up for band in time. I played the clarinet, and so I ended up joining this thing called West Singers, and we had to get up at like, really early, before school started and practice. But I really enjoyed singing, so that's the lesson learned there. And then I was like, "Oh my gosh, I want to go to college. I have no money. Maybe I'll sing for my money". And so, I did! I applied to many schools and I sang to get in and I got some scholarships and so my mum and I went to California to go see schools, and

to see which ones I liked and OMG, so many lines on the freeway! And I was like, "Oh my gosh", remember I'm from a small town. I was so confused. But we made it, we got between schools and everything and we navigated our way as we laughed and cut people off and people honked, and we were confused and scared. And then, I checked out Pepperdine. Oh my gosh. I was so excited. I fell in love with it. I was like, "You're amazing! Please take me. I hope I get accepted." you're by the beach. You're also very, very expensive". And so, I remember talking with my Mum and her Dad used to work at Kraft Foods oddly enough, and he'd saved up a bunch of money, worked with financial aid, and made it work, hurray! So, I was able to go to Pepperdine. And I was so excited, and I was so ready to leave. And then after one year in school, I came home for the summer, hanging out with my mum, and my grandpa called and he was like, "I'm going to be mean. I'm going to be a total jackass, not going to help you with school anymore". He was getting old and senile, but it made me really sad, and then I couldn't go back to Pepperdine and I was like, "Oh my God, my life is over! What am I going to do? I worked so hard to get out of this town and here I am back".

So, I moved to Seattle. Which, you know is really hilly for any of you that have been there, tons of coffee. But I was unhappy, I was, like, angry. And I remember, I had my best friend Ashley at the time was like, "Kati, I can't stand you" and I was like "What am I doing? Who am I? What the hell is going on with my life?". And so, I had to make a change. And the only thing that made me happy, is that I had to get back to Pepperdine. And so, I called one day. I remember it was a summer afternoon. I was out to lunch and I was like "I'm going to make this happen". Went out to my car, sat in my car, and called financial aid and I was like, "I have to get back" and they were like, "Well, we can help you out with this scholarship and if you sing in the choir, we'll give you some money for that" and then I took out some personal loans of my own, because I really needed to get out and I wanted to go back, so, I made it back. And that's when I met my friend Liz. And Liz is from Hawaii, and we became fast friends, and she's actually the one who makes all those bracelets that you guys buy, so thanks Liz, you're the best, thanks for all your help.

And then I graduated from Pepperdine. I got my bachelor's, I, so excited. And I was really proud because my brother and I are some, like, the first in our family to go to college, so that was a big deal. And then I started work! In the real world. And it sucked! Like, I felt like I got sold out. Somebody was telling me, like, "Oh, this is a mental health thing and you can work there", but really people just called in and complained. And I'm supposed to make things better for them? It was a horrible job and I was like, "What the hell Kati? What's going on?" And so, I ran back to Pepperdine. Haha, up the hill, to graduate school. Because I was like "This undergrad degree is not getting me the job that I want". So back I went. And graduate school is two years long, and so after one year, you have to apply for internships. And I went to so many interviews and I was like, "I'm going to change the world! Please, I'm a hard worker - you'll love me!" and they're all like, "We don't believe you!" And finally, I went to an eating disorder clinic who was hiring and there was this wonderful woman named Karen and she was like, "You know, I get a good feeling from you, and I'd love to hire you". And I was like, "This is amazing, I'm going to change the world. I finally know what I want to do, I have a purpose, I'm not some lost puppy wondering around", so thanks Karen, you changed my life.

And then, I went down to Orange County, which I'd never been to before because, for any of you Los Angelenos, we don't really go down there that often. And I went with a girl who I went to graduate school with, and I met this guy who was like, deep voice, "Hey, my name is Sean". And I was like "Huhuhuh, you're cute and I'm embarrassed". And we ended up dating! As you all know, he's my camera man. We fell in love. We've been dating ever since. And so, I went back to school. And I was studying, studying really hard, I was working really hard. And one day, I got a really, really shitty phone call from my Mum. And she was like, "I'm sorry Kati, your Dad is in the hospital, and, he just had a heart attack, and they don't think he's going to make it". And he didn't. And I cried. And I still cry sometimes, cause it's sad. And so, I got on the first plane, which Sean actually booked for me - thanks Sean. And I cried the whole way there with my headphones on, not wanting people to talk to me, like, don't look at me - I'm sad. And I had to go to the funeral and I was so pissed at my brother because he was in the Peace Corps, you know, helping others, it's amazing, but he wasn't there with me and I felt really alone and it was really sad and all of my friends and family showed up, you know, and they were like, "I'm so sorry" and I just wanted to crawl in a hole and I was like, "Go away!" and I just hung with my mum as we cried and it was really sad. It's hard to lose a parent. It's still hard.

But then, about six months later, I had to go back to school. I finished. I could only take a week off, and I got my Masters. And I was so excited after all these years, but I had student loans, remember? I had to take those out. And those people wanted their money back and I was like, "Whaa! What do I do? My eating disorder clinic job doesn't pay me enough". And so, I took a bunch of odd jobs where I, like, waitressed. What am I drawing? What is that? Well anyway, people are getting food and drinks and stuff, and I was bringing it out to their table. And then I was a salesperson, like, "Hey! I have this thing. Will you buy it from me, please? Because I don't know what to do and I need to pay my student loans back". And then I was like, "What am I doing? I'm not even focused on what I want".

And then, I found YouTube and I was so excited. I remember talking to Sean and I was like, "Oh my God, I can actually reach a lot of people! This is going to be so exciting". And it was just the best discovery ever. And Sean and I go to Mammoth a lot, as a lot of you know, and I go snowboarding, and one day, he, at the top of the mountain, after we'd been snowboarding, he asked if I'd marry him. And I was so excited, and I said "yes", and I cried like a baby. And then, we decided to start filming, cause Sean is my camera man, as many of you know. And I created my first YouTube video. And I remember I was so excited, I was like, "Oh my gosh, people are watching, I have 4 views". And then I

was like, "Wow! You know, I'm touching the world! But it's probably just my Mum". Or maybe me, 'cause I probably watched that video a lot 'cause I was really nervous. And then I had my first few followers - Mags, Mondy, Lis, Punk. And you really ran katimorton.com when I first started it and gave me a lot of feedback. And you helped my dreams come true and I love you all very much, and I'll never forget you. And then, it grew! Things got crazy! People on YouTube, more followers, more subscribers. And it's not even about the thousands of followers - it's just the fact that we interact all the time. I feel like I know you - you're, like, part of my family and my friends and I remember you and I know your questions and comments, and there's a lot of questions and comments. And it just kept growing, and I was so excited. I was like, "Wow, this is getting really cool and there are a lot of people that need help". And so I started joining other things - Facebook, Tumblr, which I always spell wrong which is why I did the t, and Twitter, which I can't draw a bird, so we're just going to do that, and katimorton.com, and then Pinterest, which, sorry, I forgot the e in that, but, you know what I'm talking about, and there were people all over! And people had questions and they were on Twitter which they'd never heard of me before because they weren't on YouTube as much and then, you know, there's people on Pinterest and then Facebook and then katimorton.com and then, oh my gosh, it's getting so busy and people are from here and there and ones on Tumblr are also on Facebook and then were also on YouTube and Twitter and, oh my gosh, I'm back to my website and holy moly, it was so overwhelming but I was so excited and so happy that I'd reached out to you guys, and we all know that you're not alone.

And so, I felt very excited and I had some good ideas for the future, and I'm so excited. Like, HeyKayli reaching out to me was the coolest thing ever. And so now, I have some other collaborations that I'm hoping could happen, maybe DailyGrace, if any of you watch her, she's hilarious. Jenna Marbles, another favourite of mine, and as well Glowzel, which is always good for a laugh, and Hannah Hart who does My Drunk Kitchen. I'm hoping that, you know, sometime in the future I can do some different collaborations, because I think it's really cool, and YouTube is really amazing.

And, I finally feel like all the work and, all the school, and all the money that I took out and the times I'm paying back. You know, you've given me a purpose and a drive, and I look forward to hearing how you guys are doing and reading all your comments. I believe in this - I believe in what we're doing. I believe in our community, and we're working together, right? We can do this. It's just so exciting and so powerful. We'll work as always. We're working towards a healthy mind and a very healthy body. I love you all and know that I will keep doing this for as long as I can. As long as the internet allows me to, and as long as I can keep typing and reading, which hopefully is for a really, really, really long time. So, thanks for watching my video.

2723

## FDML #82

I am really bad at drawing, but I still think this would be a fun video idea, so let's start. On 5<sup>th</sup> November 1992, I was born to the two most amazing parents one could ever ask for. I was born in the city of Surat which is in Gujarat. I spent the first few years of my childhood here before finally moving to Ankleshwar, a really small town almost a village in the state of Gujarat. This is where I spent the majority of my childhood.

So, quick facts about me growing up - I was an annoyingly extroverted kid who participated in all school activities and also conducted so many of them in my society. I love dancing and I loved watching cartoons; I was almost addicted to them. But most of all, I really enjoyed playing WWE trump cards. But, but I was the best at fancy dress, yes, that lame competition that we all took part in as kids? I was awesome at it. My mum and I would come up with new ideas to dress me up every year and I was just completely unbeatable. I was also pretty good in my studies. I almost always topped my class. My favourite subjects were Math and English, and my parents, both of them actively took part in ensuring that I was always doing well in class.

My mum, dad and I weren't the richest of people and mostly lived within our means but we were the happiest of families. Both my parents kept me as the centre of their lives and provided for all of my rational needs. Soon, I grew up and I gave my class 10 exams and I did decently well and then moved to Delhi to live with my Bua and study in a better school. To everyone's shock, I took Commerce, even though I was really good at science but I think, I actually don't know what pushed me to do that, but I still think it was the best decision of my life because this is there I found economics - my first academic love. Life in Delhi was different because I had never lived in a big city. To make things awesome, I made the most amazing friends here and together we had a really great time.

Just a few months into my move to Delhi, an incident really shook me. I lost my Tati who I was very close to. It was a big loss for me, and it took me a lot of time to get over this loss. I know that if she was here today she would have been the biggest fan of my YouTube channel. Anyway, so two years in Delhi went by really quickly and it was time for me to pick college. I chose Symbiosis in Pune to pursue a BSC in the subject that I loved the most, Economics. From the moment I landed in Pune, I fell in love with that city. It was calm and green and beautiful and most of all, it was surrounded by hills - they were so beautiful! And it was my first time living in a hostel, so I was really enjoying my newfound freedom. Wasn't all beautiful - a big realization hit me soon that I was a small-town girl. Most people in my batch had grown up in big metro cities or even abroad and I? I couldn't even speak English properly, so I started practicing my English skills. I used to stand in front of mirrors for hours practicing my English and even started



watching a lot of English TV shows to understand how people conversed in English. Soon I developed a decent command over the language, and I also started doing really well in my exams. Economics as a subject just made more sense to me than it did to others, a lot of others - not all, but the majority. And I started doing well in exams and I was almost doing, almost getting top grades in most subjects.

Three years in Pune went by in a blink and I remember going and sitting on the Symbiosis Hill the last day of my college just before graduating. I sat there thinking how much this place changed me - I came here a small-town girl, a **really meek** one, and **grew into a confident young woman**. So, after my graduation I moved back to Ankleshwar, my hometown, because this is where I found my first job. My first job required me to teach BCom students. I was teaching maths to first year BCom students and **it was an amazing gig**, but this was also a time full of confusion. I was looking at so many options. I didn't know if I wanted to do an MBA or a Master's in Economics. There were just too many options, but just one day while I was randomly surfing the internet, I landed on this website and it spoke about this program called the Young India Fellowship. This program sounds like the most amazing thing in the world! And I instantly knew that this was it - this is what I wanted to do, so **I worked really hard to apply for this program** and soon, I made it.

I moved to Sonapat to pursue this program. From 2014 to 2015, I was in Young India Fellowship and it won't be wrong to say that this was **the best year of my life**. It was here that I started watching a lot of YouTube videos. I used to watch Mimi Icon, Zoella, Kaushal Beauty and so many others, and I distinctly remember thinking this was such an amazing idea. I always wondered if this was something that I could possibly do, so in the fellowship, I almost realised that marketing was my true calling, and I got a job as a marketing manager, and I started working for that. The job was **keeping me very happy and excited and everything was going well**, and this is when my parents, like most of the parents, started considering shadi. I didn't know if I was grown up enough for that, but one day my parents asked me to meet this really nice guy who they, who they personally really liked, and I went for that meeting. Enter Peritosh. I met this guy and **we had the most amazing conversation. Both of us were such similar people** - we loved eating, we loved sleeping, and I remember mentioning YouTube to him. And he didn't even laugh at me. He said he actually thought it was a really cool idea and that's when I knew that this was it. In July 2016 we got engaged and January 2017, we got married.

After our marriage, we moved to Bangalore from Delhi. Both of us were initially working in Delhi first and then both of us found a job in Bangalore, and we moved here. This is where we found our first home. We built our first home together, and in May 2017, we realised that it was time to give my dream a shot. We decided to launch our YouTube channel and together, **we worked so hard** to put our first few videos. There were very few viewers then, very few people watching us, but **it was still so much fun**.

So, this has been the story of my life so far, and of course, there are so many more stories to come. So, I am just going to sign off by saying "to be continued". If you like this video, don't forget to give it a big thumbs up and do let me know in the comment section how you liked it, and of course, if you're new here, please don't forget to subscribe. We're so close to 10,000 subscribers. See you next time! Bye bye.

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### FDML #83

What's up guys? It's Red Jewel and today I'm going to be bringing you guys a draw my life, but before I start that, I want to tell you guys that I'm doing a giveaway for El Gato, so if you want to enter into that, there's a link in the description. It's called a Gleam link, and basically, it's really easy. All you have to do is follow the links, it's either to subscribe to my channel or follow my Twitter or follow El Gato. It's really, really easy, so if you want to do that, you can pause the video and click the link in the description and enter and it would be really cool if you won, so you might as well do it. So, we're going to get right into the video. **I've always been afraid** of making one of these videos, so go easy on me guys.

I was born in the Sunshine State on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1995, and if you don't know what the Sunshine State is, it's Florida. I was born into **a happy family** - my mum, my dad and my big brother. And my mum says I was her best and easiest child. She said I hardly ever really cried. At just the age of 1, we moved to Georgia because my dad got stationed there, so I wasn't really in Florida that very long. But I did get to experience a different state, so **that's kind of cool**. Growing up, I went everywhere with my dad. My dad and I **were really, really close**. I listened to all of his 80s rock, I **loved** fishing and I **loved** getting really, really muddy. Apparently, my mum said I would come home really dirty all the time - every time I went out with my dad, just covered in mud because **I loved it that much**.

At about 4 years old, my sister was born, and **my brother and I were not happy**. When my mum told me that she was pregnant, I actually ran away with my brother. That was quite an experience. I actually have a video about her on my YouTube, but yeah, we ran away because we did not want a little sister. Since my mum was pregnant again, we moved back to Florida because she wanted to be closer to her family. She thought it would be a lot easier raising three little kids with her family rather than, you know, just all alone. I don't remember a lot from being about four years old, but

I do remember going to preschool and I got a lot of trouble for wanting to use the boys' bathroom. I don't even remember why I wanted to use the boys' bathroom, but I do remember going in there and then getting caught. I don't know why did that.

At nearly five years old, my parents got a new house. It was really big, and it was really beautiful, but just because we had a really nice house and we were doing financially well, my parents weren't doing well. I remember I started to realise a lot with my parents, they argued so much, and I remember waking up in the middle of the night and even as a kid, I knew I didn't want them together. They just were too toxic for each other. They just would argue about anything and everything, and in, even in my five-year-old brain, I was just thinking to myself, why are these two together? Even though my parents had a lot of issues, they stayed together for a little while longer, and while that happened, my grandfather died and that was my mum's dad, and to my mum, that was her hero. That was her everything. She loved my grandfather so much and she was really devastated.

At around 6 years old, my mum decided that my dad and her weren't working, so she took my brother, my sister and I and got a really, really cute, lovely apartment. During that time, we were doing really, really well. Things were fine and we really liked the apartment. It was beautiful and it was homey, and we still got to see my dad every other weekend. This is when things get a little confusing, so let me just start it from here.

I have a cousin and my cousin had a mother who died at three years old, and she didn't know her dad. So, at 3 years old, my grandpa and my grandma took in my cousin. So, when my grandpa died, my grandma wasn't fit to take care of her because she has cerebellum disease. Cerebellum disease basically makes it so that the brain doesn't function well with the body, so that that person cannot move very well. They can't, you know, walk around like a normal person, they shake, they just, their motor skills aren't, you know, perfect. So, my cousin moved in with us. Due to the loss of my grandfather, my cousin got on kind of a shaky wagon and she was kind of wild and she ended up throwing a party when my mum wasn't home, and it was kind of crazy - crazy enough to get us evicted from the apartment. So, then we all had to move in with my grandma. When my grandfather died, he left 300 thousand dollars to my grandma, so my grandma basically had a lot of money, so she ended up buying her own home. The home had three bedrooms - one for my grandma, one for my cousin and one for us. This is where things really turned around for us, and it was just all around bad. Since it was four people to one bedroom, we had to share two beds, so my sister and I shared a bed and then my brother and my mum shared a bed. And they weren't big beds - they were twin beds, so it was pretty uncomfortable. We had no TV, we had no games and we had no toys. So, it wasn't very fun for us. My grandma didn't allow us to watch her TV. We weren't allowed outside of the room and we weren't allowed to eat her food. She also hid the food from us. I would go into her bathroom and I would find food in the cabinets - cheez-its, snacks, cereal - anything just to keep it away from us. My mum at the time was struggling, which is why we were living there too. We couldn't afford to get our own place, so this was what we had to live with.

I remember this one time we were really, really hungry and my mum was at work, so my brother stuck, snuck into the kitchen and he found a chicken broth and if you guys have ever seen chicken broth, the picture on it looks like it's, like, this big meal but really inside of it, it is just broth to, you know, season the chicken. So, he showed it to us and we were all really excited because we were really, really hungry, and I remember how disappointed we were when we opened it up and it was just broth. That was a pretty distinctive moment. You know, I remember being so hungry and we weren't allowed to eat her food, so we had to try and steal chicken broth. That's how just greedy the situation was. My brother ended up moving out and living with my dad, so it made it a little bit easier on my mum, so it was just my sister and I with her.

During that time, we didn't really see my dad much and we were pretty sad. We didn't have any friends and the only family we had really was them, and, you know, it didn't really feel like they were much family to us, so we felt kind of alone. My mum was working but she wasn't making enough to get her own place, but through that year my mum was still someone I still saw as a hero. She was doing everything she could. Even though we didn't have a lot and we were pretty sad, we still were close to the family, so that was okay.

Remember that big house that we owned when I was five years old and it was really nice and that was when my parents were together? Well, we still had that house. We just weren't living in it because we couldn't afford it and it wasn't selling, so we decided to go back to the home and fix it up, because it was in foreclosure. If you don't know what foreclosure is, it means basically that the bank is going to take your home because you can't afford to pay the mortgage, and if you can sell it in time, then you're lucky and it doesn't end up making you go into debt, but if you can't sell it in time, then it's a big, big deal. So, my mum, the hard-working woman that she was, went outside of that house every single day and fixed it up. Fixed the yard, painted, she did everything that she could to sell that house, and just right before the bank was going to take the house, we luckily sold it. Since we sold the home, we had enough money to get our own place and this was one of the best years of my life. I loved school and the kids that went to the school, you know, they weren't rich like the other kids that I went to school with, so I didn't feel uncomfortable around them. I felt like I could be myself and I didn't feel like I needed to fit in. This was when I started playing Runescape and I still went outside. I just did so many things - I played Runescape, I played outside, I went to after school. I had so many friends - life was really, really good for me.

The only downside to this was visiting my dad. You see, my dad has struggled with alcohol his whole life besides my very young age when we were close. When I went to his house on the weekends, I was never happy. Not that I didn't like him, but I didn't feel safe. He was drunk which left me taking care of my younger sister, and this left me very angry at him. I was stressed out at such a young age and it just left me not wanting to be there and not want to be around him. And honestly, I was so angry at him and I resented him so, so much. So, you know, I was so happy that I was away from my grandma and my cousin, even though to this day, my cousin and I are close, and I don't blame her for anything that happened. But we got a phone call from my grandma and she was crying on the phone and she was telling my mum that my cousin maxed out all the credit cards and that she couldn't afford her house anymore, and my mum, having the huge heart that she has, she decided to take them in. At first it wasn't too bad. My grandma didn't get to really set the rule since it wasn't her house. We were allowed to eat, we were allowed to watch TV, and we could leave our room without sneaking out, but it was just a little crowded because there were so many people to one house. So, it didn't really feel like our home anymore.

At around ten and a half, we moved to a different house, and this house wasn't under my mum's name - I was under my grandma's name. She still had some cash, so she was able to get a home, so she got a big enough house for all of us to live in. Everyone had a room except for my mum, and, you know, my mum always gave up anything for her kids, so that's why she didn't have one. Since we were under grandma's roof again, we couldn't watch her TV, we couldn't use her dishes, we also couldn't put our dishes in the kitchen, and we weren't allowed to decorate. Since we moved, my mum had to get a different job and at this point, I had literally no clothes and I was going to a different school, and I remember the kids saying to me, "Didn't you wear those pants yesterday?" Because I would wear the same pants all the time, and I would lie and tell them that I just owned multiple pairs of the same pants. Lucky for me, I made a lot of friends there, and I would go outside all the time, so I kept my mind off of bad things. So, during this time, I basically turned to friends to get my mind off of things and my brother and my sister turned to video games to get their mind off of things. It worked out.

So, some time goes by, and we finally get away from my grandma again. We moved to an apartment and it was really nice just to be us again - just my mum, my brother, my sister and I. It felt good. We were very happy once again and even though our house was empty with little to no furniture because we couldn't afford it, we had each other, and it was really all that mattered. As long as we were away from the toxicness, everything was okay and everything was going to be okay. This girl who lived across the street knew that we were kind of poor so she would take food and put it on a stick and actually stick it outside of her house to rub it in our face. During Christmas time, her mum said right in front of my face, "All she got for Christmas was a phone?" Her kids got loads, but I was happy to have a phone, so I wasn't really offended. I was just kind of surprised that her own mum would judge that.

After being there for about six months, we got another phone call from my grandma, and, what do you know? They couldn't afford to live there. So, you know what my mum did? She took them in, because, like always, she had a huge heart. The apartment was too small for all of us so we moved back to the house we came from and hoped that maybe things would be different now because my grandma had no credit cards and no cash, so really what power did she have to just hold it against us? We lived this way for about two years and my mum still didn't have a bedroom. She would either sleep in my sister's room or she would sleep on the couch.

And during this time was the first time I ever tried Xbox. At first, the whole Xbox thing started as a joke. My friend and I would go into my brother's room and we would get on the headset and we'd play Halo and we just talked loads of shit to the people on the microphone because we thought it was funny to hear them rage and get mad because I would just say, "Haha, a girl killed you!" and some cringy stuff, but it was hilarious to hear their reactions. I started to tell the kids at school that I play Halo and they all told me to try COD. Coming from a family who only played Halo and talked so low on CO, I really didn't think this was a bright decision. I mean, my mum, my brother and my sister all would talk about how shitty Call of Duty was, so I was kind of iffy on the whole thing, but I was like, "Hey, okay, I'll try it". The first map I played was wasteland on ground war so you can just imagine how much I really, really enjoyed it - not. I hated the nuke tubes and I raged even at that point. I was like, nope, I'm never playing this again. I hate that game and I'm going right back to Halo. About a month goes by and my friends convinced me to play Call of Duty again, so I tried SNDM for two and I actually loved it. I was hooked and I could not get enough of it. I remember going to school and bragging about my fall candle and everyone being like what the fuck? How did you do that? You must be using mods, but of course my nerdy ass didn't. I used my ACR with an ACOG and it was the ugliest thing ever, but it was my favourite class during this time. My friends would Quickscope and I thought it was the dumbest idea ever. I would talk so much crap to them about how pointless it was. I played COD as much as I could. I mean, it was my brother's Xbox, so if he wasn't playing, I would get on, but, you know, it wasn't very easy, but I did play a lot for someone who was using someone else's Xbox.

So, since we were still living with my grandmother, it was still a little eh, but then my mum told me she got a new job and the new job was in another city and I was just so excited, because it was a new time. It was a new life and I got to start high school somewhere else and it was just amazing news - I was so happy and again, we were going to go live by ourselves again, just me, my brother, my sister and my mum. And it was going to be amazing. The house that we moved into was the house that I made my first set of videos in, so if you want to go back and look at that, that was the

house. Again, we had little to no furniture, but **we were happy**. We didn't care - **we were just glad** to start over and besides, what did I care? I was just going to borrow my brother and my sister's Xboxes so I could play Call of Duty all day. **The only downside** to this whole move was the school system. They had so many issues with the bus system and my mum couldn't drive us to school and go to her new job, so we had to enrol in online school, which meant I had more time to play Call of Duty, so **I was okay with it. My brother and my sister were really nice** for letting me use their consoles all the time. Since we're on the topic of that house and that time in my life, I want to just admit something. In that set of videos, I showed so many Xboxes and I want to admit that they were mostly all broken. I showed them to impress people and make them think we were doing super well and were rich. Even though behind the scenes, my mum was struggling to afford beds for us, and **things were rough. But I just wanted to make people think that things were really good.**

And then grandma called again. Grandma at this point couldn't take care of herself and no one would take care of her. She couldn't really clean herself or cook, and she was falling a lot, so we again took her in. This time, my cousin didn't tag along. My 15th birthday happened this year and my mum asked me what I wanted. I asked for an HD PVR, an HD recording device. She tried countless times to get me to want something else, but I was stuck on the device. I **wanted so badly** to be able to record in good quality. I ended up getting the device and after a long time of making videos, improving my skill, Optic Predator and Optic Midnight talked to Hex about getting me a personal recruitment challenge into Optic. **The challenge ended up working out** and I joined Optic and during this time I found out you could make money off of YouTube and **I was just like what? You can do that?**

And of course, here comes the moving. We moved to another house and this house was so beautiful and **we were doing really well** besides the fact that my mum gave up her room and she had to sleep on the couch again. She gave up her room so my grandma could have a nice safe comfortable place as she could go to bed and she could get to the bathroom easier and faster. This was when my channel got partnered and I actually started to make money and got a good PC and monitor and slowly started to build my set up. I started school there too. I was no longer home-schooled. **It wasn't really my cup of tea.** I preferred being online with my friends - **it made me feel happier and I just felt better with them. I just felt like we related on so much more** than the people I, you know, met in school.

After a year of being in this lovely home, **things with my grandma weren't good.** We couldn't leave my grandma home alone while we all went to school or work. She would try to walk around, and it would result in her hurting herself. She would try to use the bathroom by herself and would get faeces all over. She would try to cook and almost start a fire. And we couldn't lock her away, because that was abuse. So, this was when I decided to **unfortunately** drop out of high school to help take care of my grandma. **This is something I've always been afraid of telling people** because **I didn't want them to judge me** that I didn't finish school, but that's the truth. **Unfortunately**, this was such a huge job that my mum and my uncle and my brother decided it would be best if we all moved in together to take care of my grandma, which resulted in my mum having to quit her job and move to another city. Through all of this commotion, **moving didn't really affect me that bad because I was able to still bring my close friends with me**, because after all, they were online.

So now, we're in this new small apartment and **it was just so depressing.** We were just all stuck in one little small area and my mum had to sleep on the couch again, and just, it was **overall such a bad situation.** My mum and her brother often argued over their mum, my grandma. We couldn't afford to put her in a facility and my mum had promised her dad that she would never do that, but my uncle had other ideas in mind. He wanted her gone, so he ended up taking her to the hospital and never went back for her and the hospital ended up putting her in a home pretty, pretty quickly. To this day, my mum visits her very often and she just worries about her and feels really bad that she's in a home, but we just weren't able to take care of her. I think she's better off there. I haven't seen her, and I think I should go see her, but honestly, **I just have a lot of pent-up anger towards her** and the whole situation. I know it's wrong, but that's just how I feel.

But back to the story. So, my brother and my uncle moved out and we got an eviction notice, and we had nowhere to go. The only person we had to go to was **a family friend who I basically consider family.** She's basically my aunt to me. My aunt had a really bad internet connection, so I was unable to upload, play or stream. The internet was that bad. Even though I couldn't play, there was this guy named David I was talking to at the time who lived really close. I asked my mum if I could go meet him at a theme park, but my mum said she needed my money for the weekend, and that I was too young to go meet him. I was 17 at the time, so ultimately, it was her decision. **I was really mad**, at, but I had to respect her wishes. After all, she just wanted me safe. So, I just continued to talk to David just with the idea of us seeing each other when I was 18. A couple months go by and my mum, my sister and I decided to go visit my brother who had his own house. While we were there, my brother asked me if I wanted to move in with him and I took it in a heartbeat. My mum was very upset because she didn't want me to be away from her, but it was something I had to do, and she knew that. She knew I couldn't upload or move on with anything just living in my aunt's house.

So, I moved in with him and I was able to upload and stream again, and my brother never asked for much. He was just happy to have company and **I was happy to have his company, so it worked out really well. I appreciate what he did for me.** Time goes by and my mum and my sister end up leaving my aunt's house. They clashed too much and argued

with her too much, and so then my sister and her moved in with my brother and I. Four people in two bedrooms was pretty rough, but we had faced worse before. My mum didn't have a job and I wasn't helping enough around the house with bills at that time. Believe it or not, YouTubers aren't really rich, so my brother decided to make a healthy decision and move to Montana, which left my mum, my sister and I to figure out what we were going to do.

At this point, I really stepped up and started paying for a lot of things - bills and food mostly. I won't lie - it was really, really stressful. I couldn't afford a car, but I was still talking to David and even though, you know, we didn't see each other, he helped me through a lot such as with my dad. Like I told you guys before, I had a lot of pent-up anger towards my dad because of his alcohol problem, but at that time, around 18 years old, I ended up dropping all of my anger towards my dad because David helped me get through that. David made me realise that, you know, there was no reason to be mad at my dad. My dad did do what he could, and alcohol abuse isn't easy. My grandma, actually, my other grandma, died from alcohol. She died from it, so I had to realise that even though my dad, you know, he has his issues, my dad still loves me and still means well, and David made me realise that. David made me see it, and now my dad and I have a lot better a relationship and I love my dad and I see things from his eyes and his point of view now.

Things continued to be this way. You know, just helping my mum and all this situation just kept going the way that it was, and I was okay with it, but it came to a point where one day I told my mum I was going to save for a car. I told my mum I wanted to try and save \$6,000 to put down on a car, which meant I was going to be budgeting a lot more with food and bills. She agreed and supported my decision. To my surprise, the next day, I streamed and received enough donations to get a car. The next day. I didn't even mention it. I didn't tell anyone that I wanted a car - no one knew. Maybe it was just meant to be.

So, I got a car and went to see David and now we're here. I'm 20 years old and I live with him. My mum and sister still live in the house and my dad helps a lot with the bills. From where I am, I still try and help them here and there. I know my family is going to watch this video, so to my dad, I want to say that dad, I love you, and even though we had a rocky lifestyle, and we didn't always get along, I want you to know that I accept you for who you are and I love you, and I will always be here for you and I'll always support you and I will always, always, always hope that you get better and I know that it's an addiction and I know it's not going to be easy, but I believe in you and I think you're strong enough to get through it. I really do, and I know mum, Thomas and Samantha all think it too. Mum, I think you're strong, I think you're incredible and I think you can do more than you even believe in yourself. You gave up so much for us and you showed me how to be strong and how to get through things and you showed me everything I know and I love you so, so much and I'm so proud to call you my mum. I really am. I love you mum. I love you so much. Thomas, I'm so proud of you. I think that you've come so far. You have proven so much - you've proven that you can be so low and get so high. You, every job you ever take, you get to the top because you're so dedicated and you're so amazing at everything you do. You're so smart, and you can do anything you want. You really can Thomas. I believe in anything that you want to do, so, I love you Thomas. You are amazing and, I just, you are incredible. You're an incredible person. Samantha, do I even need to tell you how strong of a person you are? Samantha, my sister, you are always yourself and you're not afraid of what anyone thinks of you and you're so confident in that way, and I'm so proud of you for finishing school. You've got, like, two more years to go, and you're going to make it through it, and I'm going to be so proud of you to watch you finish and I just think you're amazing and you're so smart and you're beautiful and I love you to death Samantha.

And now for you guys - my supporters, my fans, my viewers, my subscribers - you guys. Yeah, where do we even begin? It's funny, because you guys make me the most emotional. Okay, you guys made my life. You guys changed my life. Believe it or not, you watching my videos, you being at my streams, you commenting, you saying nice things, your tweets, see, you guys got me through so much. You made my life so much better. You may not know it, but you changed my life. I'm sure there was so much of this that you had no idea, you didn't know this so much about me, and without you guys, I don't know who I'd be. I, I don't know. It's weird, because I think about that. I'm like, wow, like, they, they made my life so much better. You know, there was times when you guys, you guys put the food on the table, you guys paid the light bill, you guys did that - not me. I didn't do it, you guys did it. And this isn't even about, you know, helping my family, this is about, you guys kept me mentally happy. I didn't have a lot of friends. I didn't go out a lot and you guys, your comments, you boosted my confidence, you made me feel good. You, you made me so happy. You guys make me happy - you still do. I'm so thankful. And I'm talking directly to you - whoever is listening. You changed it. You, if you're new, you're still changing it - you're still making my life, so thank you. Thank you for everything. Thank you. I love you guys - you guys are my family.

5497

#### FDML #84

Hey guys, so today I'm going to draw my life, so let's get started. I was actually born in the Midwestern state of Illinois. I was born in Chicago, Illinois, on September 6<sup>th</sup> 1991, and I was a little hairy baby and I came out of my mummy's belly all purple because I didn't want to get out of her belly, and she had a tough time pushing me out, but I came out anyway. And I have a small, very close tight-knit family. I have my mum, my dad, my older sister, who's about 10

years older than me, and then me. So, we lived in Chicago, Illinois, in the northwest side and we had a really pretty little house in a really quiet, nice neighbourhood just full of a lot of young families with little children and a lot of old people too. So, **it was really nice, quiet and I really enjoyed living there**. I lived there for 17 years of my life, so that is my childhood home. I will never forget it.

So, growing up, **I had a really good childhood. I have an amazing family and luckily, God has blessed me with a really great family. It's always been very tight-knit and very close. So, I had a really awesome childhood. I loved doing so many different things**. I was a super active kid. I mean, if I wasn't outside riding my bike or rollerblading or swimming or playing tag or just doing something, I was probably, like, eating ice cream because ice cream has always been my **guilty pleasure** since I was a child. Like, I would make my parents go out and buy the ice cream. Like, it was crazy, but I wasn't a super spoiled kid, I promise. At least I don't think it was. But yeah, so I was always pretty, you know, pretty good kid, pretty good student - got As and Bs - and **I loved singing** growing up. **It was just something I loved** so much. My dad's a really good singer, so I guess I kind of got it from him. **I loved** to record myself singing on my karaoke machine in my room. **I also loved** to act. **I always dreamed of**, like, you know, being on a TV show like on Disney Channel or something. **I also loved to** dance too. Me and my friends would choreograph dances together and post them on YouTube once we were older - we were like 13, but yeah, I don't think they're on YouTube anymore. So, like I said, **I loved** performing and I would always like dress up and I loved Britney Spears and growing up, I had this weird imagination and I believed that she was actually related to me. **I loved her to death**. Like, she was awesome, and so I would dress up and I would sing her songs and record them on my karaoke machine and perform. And I thought **it was super cool** and I would do all this stuff alone in my room. Nobody really knew. I think my parents knew I liked to sing, but they weren't super, super aware of how much I really liked to perform. So when they would leave the house or I would stay home by myself, my parents had a family video camera, was like a camcorder, one of the really old ones, and I would take it out and I would put it somewhere and I would start filming myself and I would record myself performing to Hilary Duff songs or, you know, things like that, and pretend I was in a music video, and I was just really, really creative with that stuff. So, **I've always really liked** being on camera, but like I said, I would do it on the down low because **I was a little embarrassed** and **I hated being put on the spot**.

So anyway, that's me and my mum, and so when I was about 4, this is kind of backtracking a little bit, my mum wanted to put me in kindergarten, because there was a Catholic school about two blocks away from my house, and my mum thought it would be a good idea to try to put me into kindergarten but the teacher didn't accept me because I was too young and she said that they could put me on a probation to see if I caught up with the kids, and **luckily**, I did, so she was like, "Awesome! Welcome to kindergarten - you are ahead of the game", so I ended up going straight to kindergarten and in kindergarten, I was like "Whoa!" I was, like, really, **I was outgoing** but at the same time I was like, "Yeah, I don't know. I don't know these kids". I was super used to being at home, like, with my sister and **it was different**. It was like a different feeling, but **luckily**, I ended up meeting someone on the first day and honestly from what I remember, one of the first things she asked me was, "Do you want to be my best friend?" and I felt like I had no other choice. I was a little kid and I was like, "Best friend? Obviously, yes!" And so, we ended up becoming best friends and **we ended up being really close** and our mums knew each other, and we would always talk and always hang out, and we ended up being friends for many, many years. We actually found out we had the same birthday on the exact same year, and **it was pretty awesome**. **We bonded over that** and we were friends until we were about 18 or 19, and then, you know, life takes its toll and stuff and people drift apart, so we're not friends anymore, but **it was an awesome time being her friend** for that time period.

But now I'm moving on, I'm a little bit older. This is about maybe second grade, and I was still at my Catholic school and I talked to literally everybody. Anywhere my teacher would try to move me, I would always end up talking to somebody. And **I was just a very, very social child**. **I loved being at school - school was everything to me back then**. I was just like, **it was awesome. I loved every kid in my class. We were just all such a tight-knit group and it was really great**, but my teacher found my talking to be a problem, so she decided that it would be okay to call my mum and I was like, "Oh crap!" So, she ended up calling my mum and I went home, my parents got home from work, and my mum and dad did what any parent would do and yelled at me. And they told me I need to fix it because if not, there would be severe consequences, so I was kind of like "Crap!", but I went back to school, **I knew what I had to do, and I ended up changing**. I stopped talking as much, I listened to the teacher more and I was still friends with the kids, but, you know, I had to stop talking in class, so I did what I could and actually from doing that, my grades boosted up a lot more, so I actually went back to normal. But, around fourth grade, I found out that my school would be closing for good in a year and my mum wanted to get me out there as soon as possible so that I could have a school ASAP. So, my mum actually applied for me to get into a magnet school which was a school for, I guess, gifted children. It was an academy, they taught you foreign languages, **it was a really, really nice school** and a school bus picked me up and it took me, and the school was so big. **I was so overwhelmed, and I was so, so scared** that I wasn't going to make friends and I missed my old friends, and **it was just a really harsh time**. And I turned into kind of a different kid. I used to be super outgoing and then I got here and **I ended up being really shy and nervous** and I thought that maybe all the kids didn't really like me and they would make fun of me, and **I just felt like I didn't really fit in** because the kids were really different from the kids I went to school with when I was younger, so I went to this school from fifth through eighth grade, and I don't know, some days **I felt out of place** even though kids would still talk to me and stuff. I don't know, **I went through a**

weird phase where I felt like I had some kind of social anxiety disorder, because, I don't know, I would get nervous for everything - even speaking in front of the teacher. It was just a really hard time. But I ended up making friends nonetheless, and this is one of my friends. Actually, he ended up going to college with me which was really cool. So that's Christian on the right-hand side and he told me to put him in this video, so that's him.

I cannot draw so probably looks really bad, but anyway, so also, another thing I should let you guys know is that when I was in sixth grade, I ended up getting braces because my teeth were really, really bad. So, my mum decided I should get braces ASAP, and I had them for about three years, but I actually loved my braces so much. I kind of miss them just a little bit, but I had them for three years, so then once I graduated from eighth grade I went to high school and I didn't have braces anymore, and my teeth were straight, so nobody in high school knew that I ever had braces which was really nice. But in high school I ended up cutting my hair again. I cut it like a little bob with, like, some side fringe just like Nicole Richie because I loved Nicole Richie back then and her hair, that was when she cut her hair like that so I wanted to do mine like that and I did, and I ended up finding a friend who basically had all the same classes as me freshman year, and we ended up becoming inseparable for the next four years, which was nice. But one day in freshman year, I saw there were cheerleading try-outs and I knew that I had to turn out because I'd always wanted to be a cheerleader and I kind of did some cheerleading when I was in grammar school, so I tried out, and guess what? I ended up taking the team, which was awesome and we would cheer at football games and all this awesome stuff. It was just so great. Me and my best friend ended up becoming captains our junior year and senior year, which was really nice, and one of the most amazing parts of cheerleading has got to be competition. Getting on that blue mat and just all of us running onto the mat and competing, it was just the most amazing experience. I'm never ever going to forget it, and I really, really honestly do miss cheerleading still. It's one of my passions and it will always be for the rest of my life.

But next thing, junior year of high school, something else happened. Something that I never thought would happen this early in my life, but I ended up meeting a boy, which was crazy. Actually, he went to my school but I didn't know he went to my school and we found each other kind of on MySpace which is a little weird now that I think about it, but yeah, so he was really great and he ended up being my high school sweetheart, and we were together for about almost four years. And we actually ended, ended up going to college together too which was really cool. We went to college together for about the first two years and then he actually ended up leaving to go to another school, but we're still really good friends and stuff, so that's nice. But going back to that, it was me, my boyfriend and it was my best friend who was my friend for like those four years, and then it was my other friend. So, my junior and senior year, if you saw me, you'd basically see my two best friends and my boyfriend - we were always together, and it was just a really great time.

So, my senior year of high school, my dad would always drive me to school in the mornings and actually something pretty bad ended up happening one morning in December. A car ran the red light and ended up hitting us in the intersection and our car rolled over and it was just completely totalled, and we ended up being rushed to the emergency room, where they found that I had a small skull fracture. Luckily, my dad and I were okay but it was just so hard on us because I felt like everything was going really good and then this happened and it was just a very tough time, but I kept my faith and everything ended up being okay.

So, then my friends and I finally graduated, but unfortunately, I lost contact with two of my friends, but my boyfriend at the time and I ended up going to college together, which was nice. So, the night of my graduation we actually ended up picking up and moving away from Chicago and we moved to the south western suburbs of Illinois. And my parents decided to get their dream home, so we ended up getting a very huge home for just three of us, because my sister had already moved out, but I also ended up leaving that home because I ended up moving away to college, and I lived in a dorm and I had a roommate my freshman year. But my sophomore year, I decided to get a dorm to myself. I really didn't like the whole roommate idea and I wanted some peace and quiet, so I did that and on top of that, I had a lot of spare time sophomore year, and I was feeling a little down, so I would go on YouTube and watch the beauty community and just watch different beauty gurus and I loved what they did, and I wanted to do the same thing. I figured this would be my chance to perform, just like I'd always wanted when I was a kid. So, I made my first tutorial and I put it up on YouTube and then I went on YouTube and I saw I had 60 subscribers and I was like "Yes! This is awesome!" and then one day I woke up in the morning decided to check my YouTube channel and I found a video with AndreasChoice in it, and she started talking about me and saying all these really nice things, and all of a sudden, my subscribers just started going up, my views started going up and I can honestly say that was the day my life changed.

So then, from that point on, I ended up continuing to do YouTube and school at the same time, and YouTube actually really helped me with my confidence in school, and I ended up loving to do public speaking and I joined so many groups and I became, you know, a leader in many different aspects of my life. And it was just really awesome and, you know, recently I actually graduated college with my bachelor's degree in Political Science, and I'm super, super happy, you know, I couldn't have, you know, done it without the help of my parents and everything, and now I'm going to be going to law school in the fall and I hope that one day my law career as well as my career with YouTube and makeup and all that can cross paths and, you know, so I can create the, the career of my dreams but until then, this is my life as of right now. I'm the happiest I've ever been in my life and I just want you guys to know that you guys can do whatever it is you want to do, just like I did. I mean, all it is, is a matter of being active and going for your dreams and making them reality. So, although I didn't include everything, this is my life as of right now.

## FDML #85

Good day guys! Today I am going to draw my life for you, because you guys have been requesting this like peanuts when you try to open it on the plane and they just go fucking everywhere, like, had that ever happened to you? I'm just putting it out there. That's happened to me one time. Anyway, this is my life, I hope you like it, not that I care, like, it's a life, like fuck!

Anyway, this is my mum and my dad, and they're awesome. They're both very much in love, and they met in this place called the Philippines, ah, Manila to be exact, I'm pretty sure. And then my dad was like to my mum, "Yo sexy lady, do you want to go to Melbourne, Australia?" and then my mum was like, "Fuck yeah!" Not really, she didn't say that, but something along the lines of that, and then they made babies and these babies consist of my older sister, my other older sister, my older brother, and then my other older brother and then it's me. I'm in purple because, you know, I like purple. We all have very unique names if you haven't noticed – you can read that. But yeah, we all start with the letter D because we like the D, Dictionary. Lots of that dictionary. Anyway, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 1992, I was born, hello, and what the fuck is that face? I don't know.

Growing up in my family, I never really felt alone. It was so, I have like two brothers, two sisters, it's like, you know, I liked it. There's never like time for yourself really, but like, I, I love my family very much and there's so many good memories of my family and like, you know, because we're Phillo, we had, like, karaoke and stuff and we didn't have a big enough family, we had to have pets, like guinea pigs and rabbits, and growing up was just was just cool with my family.

When I was a child, my interests was arts. I really liked to draw, especially on the walls at the rental house, because, you know, that's what I did actually. Whoopsy. I really liked music and I liked drama. I liked playing sports growing up and I liked to dance. I don't know how to dance properly but whatever. My mum was like, "Hey, you used to be really quiet" and then my sister was sort of the loudmouth. I think I, like, sort of looked up to her, like, I wanted to be louder. Dying.

I went to four schools, and the first school I went to was a Catholic Primary School, and I went there for two years but the priest was like, "Yo! give me more money!" and then my mum's like, "Oh hell no boy! How dare you ask for me money?" So, my mum didn't bring me to that school no more, and then we went to a state school and I, no joke, I, I'm pretty sure I became a rebel at that school, and so many Aussies at that school. It's tense, like why my accent is so strong, I made a lot of friends but the first year at that school I became sick. I had a guinea pig that was sick and then I scratched my head and then I was growing a lump and I had to take it off and I was wearing a hat for like the rest of the year. I wasn't really phased, it was, like, awks, but whatever, then I went to secondary and everyone was like, "Oh my god, like, you have a bald spot, like, what the fuck?" and then I was like, "Bitch, not a bald spot. I'm fucking Harry Potter, like, my scar burns, motherfucker!" But yeah, I'm very grateful that I went to that secondary because I meant Alexa and she inspired me to play guitar and then I met Stephen, and they just they both inspired me to, like, follow my dreams really.

Year 11 was alright, year 12 I sort of fucked up because I was like, where the fuck am I going? Everyone knows what they want to do, and I don't. Like, I wanted to be a superstar - I wanted to entertain, but I was like, that's not realistic. So, during that time of my life, I was working part-time at this place called K F, something - you guess. I love you Kylie. Yeah and yeah, I loved working there, like, it's alright guys, alright. Like, I love the people there, more like. I became a manager, like, a couple of, couple of months ago. What up gangsters? And also in that time my life, I was playing World of Warcraft and I just used to kill people and fucking, I used to die, like, so many fucking times. I think in that part of my life, like year 11 and 12, I thought it was like, fucking what am I doing? Like being a superstar isn't like very realistic, like, what are you doing? And I went on the internet and I know, like, probably, like, the only thing that sort of made me happy was watching other people on YouTube, and I just used to laugh, like, oh my god, like Shane Dawson, Jenna Marbles, fucking and JP Mint, it was like, that's a sick idea, like who the fuck? Whoever made this up was, like, awesome and then I started making videos and then people were like, "Yo, this chick's not bad!" Like "Check it - check it out!" And then, yeah, I just sort of went up. My YouTube stuff sort of just went up and for my future, fucking, I don't know. I, like, I want to know but I really want to just pursue my YouTube and I love to sing, like oh God, you don't understand. I wanted to be a musician, a part of like, a superstar, but I just love entertaining people. Yeah, penises, lots of it. This is my manager, Damian, I probably wouldn't have met him obviously. That's not what he looks like but, wouldn't have met him if it wasn't for YouTube, you know, I just really, really feel like my YouTube stuff is going, and going up. I wouldn't know how to play guitar if it wasn't for YouTube and I wouldn't have met Luna and Chopper and Karmar and all my other friends and I, I wouldn't have pissed off a balcony in Sydney, like, shit! So, I love you guys so much and thank you for stuff, yeah, for helping me, yeah, okay, it's awkward. Goodbye. Thanks for watching my crap.



## FDML #86

So, I was born February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1993, in San Francisco, California, to both my mum and my dad. I don't remember much about this time until my little brother was born three years later. His name was Scott and I really wanted him to be a girl, so I used to make him play dress-up with me and, miraculously, 16 years later, he doesn't hate me. When I was five, we moved to a new house where I started kindergarten and **I met the people that would become my best friends and even my extended family.**

**I had a really happy childhood - a lot of friends and a really great family.** I liked to draw a lot and I'd look forward to Saturday mornings when I could watch cartoons and log on to AOL and spend hours on dial-up internet. In the second grade, **I met my very best friend Joy and we were inseparable.** It was also around that time that I discovered you could actually make cartoons for a living! **I became obsessed with the idea of becoming an animator** when I grew up and I spent hours learning everything I could about animation.

In fourth-grade, Joy moved to Arkansas and **I was devastated,** but **it was okay** because that summer I flew all the way to Arkansas all by myself. It was my first and definitely not my last long-distance relationship. Graduating elementary school and starting middle school was **such a weird time** for me. **I felt like all my friends were growing up without me because I so desperately** wanted to be a kid as long as I could. I basically continued to feel this way until high school, but my 7th grade year, I discovered **the wonderful world** of theatre by auditioning for my middle school's production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Little did I know that by doing theatre throughout middle school and choosing to do it in high school would be **the best decision I made in my entire life.** Through theatre, **I met some of the best friends I've ever had.** After high school ended, I decided to go to college in New Orleans. It was the furthest away I had ever been from home and the longest time I had ever been apart from my family. **Luckily, I had the best roommate anyone could ask for.**

While being away, I had to face the fact that this dream school I had chosen just wasn't the right school for me. During that year, I met a boy who lived in Seattle. Long story short, **we started dating.** I spent the majority of last year hopping back and forth to Seattle where I build my own little home up there with so many of my friends that I'd met through YouTube. After moving back home, I spent a year at Community College and **chose to pursue my passion.** **I faced getting denied from my absolute dream school and learned that pursuing a career in animation will be the hardest thing I will ever do.** **Juggling that and a long-distance relationship really took a toll on me.**

Recently, I had to end the longest and most serious relationship I had ever had and **take a giant step in carrying on my dream** by moving to LA. I guess though these 20 years, I've learned that life is changing constantly and ultimately, everything does happen for a reason, but keep doing the things you love and surround yourself with people that make you happy. And you'll be okay.

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## FDML #87

Hello everyone! So, this has been one of my most requested videos ever, so I went out and got myself a whiteboard and now I'm going to draw my life for you guys. It all started on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 1994 in a little country located in Central Europe, and the country is called Austria. **I hope my geography teacher doesn't see this!** And I was born in the capital city of Vienna.

So apparently, **I was a really, really happy baby.** I never cried and everyone thought I was a doll because I was just so cute. But I was born prematurely, I think about two months early, but I already had a lot of hair, so my mum told me that I look like a monkey when I was born. Yeah, that's my mother. **I love her.** So, in my family, there was me, I am an only child. My name is Jeannie by the way. I had sleek black hair that I got from my mother - she has really, really beautiful Asian hair. And her nickname is Thai because she is obsessed with pearls, I got to Thai, nicknamed Kai Mook, which basically just translates into pearl. And then there's my dad who had crazy curly hair and his name was Jimmy. Either way, my mum is Thai and my dad is Austrian for everyone who has been asking what I am. I know I look Chinese, but I'm half Thai and half Austrian.

I really can't remember much of my childhood. All I know is that I always had my mum do my hair because she was a hairdresser and she used to play around with my hair. But **I had a best friend - her name was Carmen and we were besties for life.** We hung out every day and we played with our dolls and with our teddy bears and we sang songs and we made up songs, even though we couldn't even speak English at that time. I don't know how we did that.

Fast forwarding to the year of 2000, my dad was rushed to ER because he had a stroke. When we arrived at the hospital, he was already in a coma which **totally freaked me out** because I had no idea what was going on. Also, I was **really, really scared** of doctors when I was a little kid, so **I almost had a panic attack** just being in hospital. My mum told me to go say "hi" to him or hold his hand but I, because **I was so scared,** I stayed outside and looking back at it now, **I**

really regret it because the next day we got the call that he has passed away. Seeing my mother cry almost every day literally broke my heart and was probably one of the most horrible things I've ever experienced in my life.

After my father's death, we had to face a lot of challenges. My mum asked herself if she should stay in Austria or go to Thailand to raise me there. Whether I should go to school here in Austria or go to Thailand and where we should get money from, because the first few months after his death, she wasn't allowed to touch his bank account but she made up her mind and decided to stay in Austria so I could get the best education possible. To me, she's my hero because she is such a strong woman for being in a foreign country raising a child all by herself. I'm so grateful for everything she has done for me, so thank you so much, mum. I know you're going to watch this so look at my fancy Thai handwriting!

And then it was time for me to go to school. I was really, really happy and excited. Don't judge me, I was young and stupid, but elementary school was a really, really great time. I met a lot of people, made a lot of great friends. One of them is Laura, who you guys all know. Yes, we met in first grade. She does ballet so I draw a tutu on her, and then I met Vanessa, who also did ballet for a short time period. And we three were best friends. We were like the three musketeers and we did everything together. Secondary school came around and Laura, me and Vanessa decided to go to the same school, and we were even put into the same class. But there, I met a little girl - her name was Connie, and at first, I didn't even like her. I don't even know how we became best friends, but we did, and I'm really, really glad about that. We discovered that we share the same interests and we were both obsessed with high school musical, Camp Rock, Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, Jonas Brothers, the original JB baby, and we quickly became besties for life. We talked about everything and anything, and we still do, and I love her to death.

9th grade came around and we all split up, but we still went to the same school, just not to the same classes anymore. Laura and me decided to go to IT class and we have this really cool teacher called Mr. Hoover - he is really, really funny and more like a friend than a teacher, but he always wears black leather pants no matter what the weather is like. Laura and me had a lot of fun there but most of the times we were like what is going on? What is this shit? Anyways, we were 12 boys and five girls in our class which meant almost no drama which I think is really, really great because I don't like girls anyways. So, because we only had five girls in our class, Laura and me hung out a lot more often and we discovered that we are basically the same person split into two - that we are best friends are meant for each other and I'm sorry Laura, your hair looks ridiculous. I don't know. I just can't draw. Anyways, we shared the same passions, such as music and art and we played guitar together and we even recorded cover songs and uploaded them on YouTube but that's the whole other story.

Most of the times, I didn't know what was going on in class, so I went on YouTube and by accident I discovered Bubz Beauty and then it expanded to all of these amazing other YouTube gurus, and I was just like what is this? This is amazing! My interest for makeup developed and I fell in love with everything fashion and beauty. After watching beauty videos for so long, I decided to create my own channel and upload videos as well. I created xxx and if you guys want to know how and why I started YouTube you can check out my website xxx, where I wrote a blog post on how I came up with the name and everything. So, I uploaded my first video and overnight I gained about ten subscribers which I was so excited about. I decided to upload more videos and a slowly gained more and more and more subscribers, and now I'm here at over 10,000 subscribers, which is just amazing. So, thank you to everyone who has subscribed to my channel. It really, really means a lot to me.

Now I'm here. I graduated school and I'm in the process of taking my A-levels. I'm really excited to leave. It's a bittersweet ending but I'm happy for a new chapter of my life to begin. So, this has been my life so far. Now I'm 18 years old and after a long time I can finally say that I am truly happy again. I'm excited about graduating school, going away for the summer, meeting my family again - just doing awesome things such as going to concert with my friends. I'm even excited about going to university, doing a lot more YouTube videos, meet a lot of you guys, go to Playlist Live next year maybe, and just, you know, like, do a lot of awesome things and enjoy life. And what I've learned from YouTube or from Zoella is to just say yes and open my heart and my mind and do a lot more things that maybe I wouldn't have done in the past. So, this is it for now. Thank you so much for watching. I hope you guys enjoyed this video and I'll see you guys next time. xoxo Gossip Girl - just kidding. I love you guys! Bye!

1450

#### FDML #88

Hey guys! So, today I'm going to do the draw my life, because it was much requested. I'm not going to sugar-coat things. This is my first time opening up to you guys and yeah, so, I guess this is the xxx edition.

Okay, so I was born on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1993. I had a lot of hair, and I was born in Montana, Billings, to be exact. And my mum gave birth to me. She was a single mum and she was only 20, so she's my age now and she, you know, wanted to go to college and things like that, so I moved in with my grandparents, my grandma and my grandpa, and she moved down to the city, and she only lived 30 minutes away and she would come visit me all the time, of course. And I just remember living with a huge field and it was in this town called Broadview - tiny town. And I grew up with just so

much love and they showered me with toys and they all, they spent their hard-earned money on me. And it was like they were raising another child, so I think my grandma secretly loved it. I'm like her favourite. And I just remember one Christmas was bomb. I had a huge tree, all the presents under the tree were for me, there was like 20-something presents and they were all for me, and it was literally straight out of a movie. Like I was freaking Eloise at the Plaza or something. And my mum was there and so were my uncle and my aunt, and it was just a great - there was tons of love and I could not be more blessed, obviously.

So when I turned five, actually, my mum was more settled in the city and I moved back in with her. And I know that my grandma and grandpa were really torn up over it because, you know, I was like their pride and joy, and I really said she, you know, really wanted me and she was like, "Of course I wanted you!" So, we actually moved into a trailer. That is correct - I am trailer trash. And I just remember this deck, and this deck was a great hiding spot. Literally like, that was my spot. And my mum and I moved in and we had a cat and it was awesome. It was a good time. It was like a party for us.

Then, as luck would have it, probably a half a year later, maybe a year and a half later, my mum found love! And they got married and I was their flower girl and now, I mean, back then people would consider him my stepdad but we've grown so close that he's my father - he's raised me and taken care of me and loved me, and since I have no contact with the biological side, he's, he is my biological side.

So I went to an elementary school called Washington Elementary. I don't really remember much about kindergarten to be completely honest with you guys, but I remember I had a really cool lunchbox and there was a tetherball court and Foursquare and that was my jam. So first grade, I actually met one of my best friends to this day, Mary, and we became BFFs, we did, and we have this awesome, beautiful teacher named Mrs Paris and I just remember her always reading to us and having super long beautiful blonde hair. She was gorgeous. And this girl Tiffany in my first-grade class wouldn't pass the stickers to me so I told her I would put glue in her hair, and she didn't believe me, but I put that glue in her hair. I was pretty evil to say the least, and I got in tons of trouble. Actually though, my mum doesn't even remember, so that's great!

In second grade my grandma got diagnosed with breast cancer and I was sad. I couldn't really comprehend it, but the thing that made me the saddest was that my grandma and grandpa ended up getting a divorce and she moved to Florida, and Florida from Montana is very, very long ways obviously, so it was sad but this became really good bonding for my grandpa and I. We got to spend a lot of time with each other and it was good, but this was the time when I was still depressed and eating my feelings and so I always ate fast food and I just, this is the start of me being an emotional eater for sure and kind of what spurred me to overeat.

Then for third grade, we she had moved into a different house and my new school was called Broadwater Elementary and it was basically my old school on steroids - double the tetherball, double the Foursquare, three floors. It was like sideways stories status - like, the super tall building. But nothing really happened in third grade and then for fourth grade, I cut my hair and I moved back to my old school. We moved to a different apartment, sold the house, and I met a boy named Jared. He asked me out on the field. We started dating and then he broke up with me on the last day of school. Well, he didn't - his friend Tanner did. And I didn't know why, but he said it was because I was moving to Vegas and it wouldn't work out. He was really mature, so, I did. I moved to Vegas and for fifth grade, I went to a private school that my dad taught actually. And it was cool. I only stayed for half the year because I ended up telling on a teacher and my mum thought it would be best if I didn't continue at that school, so I switched to a public school up by where we lived, and since it was half the year, obviously everyone had already made friends and I couldn't find friends, but I did find two girls who were just like me. We became best friends and I call them M&B, and then slowly we dwindled and when we got to middle school, we were not all together at school anymore, and there were just so many kids in middle school. There are so many opportunities to meet people and I love meeting people, so literally it was like heaven for a social butterfly like me. And I ended up meeting Karina who is one of my best friends still and I drew big teeth because she's always smiling and then from her I met LeeAnn and then we also had another friend Ashley, but we kind of all drifted from her and then it was really sad because LeeAnn had to move to Tennessee during middle school and then Karina and I just stuck out middle school, and then high school, her freshman year, she actually was moving to Washington and I was in Vegas still so I had to make new friends. I met three girls, we'll call them E, C and K - E&C were sisters, biological sisters, and then K just joined them and they would always leave me out of stuff, and I always felt left out from them, and they would always say they were busy, but they wouldn't say they were with each other when they were.

At the beginning of my freshman year, my mum was pregnant with my younger brother, and I was an only child, so for me, you know, I had only child syndrome, and I didn't want to share her. So, I was really nervous about that, and then of course and my mum gave birth to him and all of the attention was on him now, and I was pretty jealous and sad. And I'm pretty sure I cried a lot that summer, but, you know, I learned to love him and now he's my, he's my baby bro for sho.

But, as luck would have it, I met other girls. One of my really best friends, Annette. Karina ended up moving back and I also met my friend Rachel. Well I kind of met her in middle school but we kindled our friendship in high school. But really it was just me and Karina through all of high school.

Then, when I was 16 years old, my mum was like, “Surprise! We’re having another baby!” and of course, I was fully adjusted so that was fine with me, and it was a little girl and I always wanted a little sister with pigtails. She’s my little mini-me but not so much because she’s blonde, white and green eyed and I’m black, brunette and brown eyed. But it’s okay - I love her still so much and that’s it. This is our happy family - that’s the end of it. We’re just all so cute and happy and we love each other, and of course we fight, but at the end of the day, we’re a big happy family.

And then we get to graduation, and we graduated, and we were like, “Holla, we got our diplomas, yo!” and we’re going to backtrack for YouTube. But then it was sad because she moved up to a different college 800 miles away and I miss her so much. But anyways, backtracking to the summer of 2008 - my freshman year. I didn’t know what to do - I was bored. so I found YouTube from my friend Rachel, and she told me to make YouTube videos, so I started filming them and, in my bedroom, like a creepo with my Naked palette, just kidding - the Naked palette wasn’t out yet, but I started uploading to YouTube and my channel started to grow, and I was like, what is this? And I figured out that I love YouTube so, so much, so flash forward to now. Well, last year, two years ago, I took a year off and LeeAnn ended up moving back and our friendship is better than ever. I freaking love her. I rekindled things with K and I met two awesome girls for my college group, W and D. So, I’m currently at UNLV as a broadcast student. I hopefully will be moving to LA soon. Just being happy and pursuing YouTube, my passion. So, I love you guys and would not be here without you at all. Kisses and sorry for my art that sucks. Bye guys!

1769

#### FDML #89

What’s up YouTube? This is Lindy Link and today I am doing a draw my life. I’ve gotten a lot of requests for this and I decided to do it for my 100,000-subscriber special. I am so excited that I have finally hit 100,000 subscribers but I’ve got to warn you that I cannot draw to save my life, so these drawings are going to be really bad, but hopefully you still get the picture. Alright, so we’re going to start with my parents. This is my mum - mama Link - her name is Sonia and she lived in Abilene, Texas, where she met my dad. His name is Mark and he was in the Air Force down in Abilene flying C-130s, and she was working at NBC and they went to the same church and they fell in love. There’s NBC and there is my poor attempt at a C-130. That just does not even look like a plane, at all.

So, the air force moved them out to Arkansas, middle of nowhere, where I was born. Most random place ever and that’s little me and I was bald, I had no hair, and now I’ve got a lot of hair, and I cried a lot. I was a colicky baby - they never let it go that I cried a lot. Oh, and then his job moved us up to Minnesota. I don’t remember a whole lot about Minnesota because I was so young, but I remember it was very cold and my little sister Lacey was born - little redhead. And I remember being really confused. I guess I just didn’t understand what it was to have a little sister and I didn’t understand that she was staying, and she was really loud, and I didn’t know why she wouldn’t stop crying. But we love each other.

Then, we moved down to Texas. My dad got a job at Delta. Wow, that is the state of Texas – yes, it is. And then my little brother Marcus was born, and then shortly after that, my little sister Maddie was born. So, there were four of us in a matter of like six years. Wow Lindee, that is just really bad drawing. So, I was the oldest of four. I was in charge of everyone. I got to make the rules. No, I’m just kidding! But anyway, I always loved to sing. I’d sing a lot in church and at school - it was just something that I always really loved doing. And when I was little, I watched this show called Star Search all the time. I was obsessed with it, and I wanted to be on it so bad, to the point where I seriously sat there with a pencil and, like, wrote down the number and gave it to my mum and I was, like, “Mum, can you please call this number? Like, I want to be on the show”, so we finally got an audition in Nashville and I became a sessions singer on things like VeggieTales and Praise Baby, and there were various Disney projects and Kid Picks Hit-Mix, and I loved it so much. I sang in the studio all the time. It was my favourite. I made so many friends and then my dad’s job took us to Georgia. And that is our car. That is, doesn’t even look like a car. What is that, Lindee?

So, we moved to Georgia when I was about 10 years old and it was my first time in public school, and I had a really hard time fitting in. I didn’t really have a lot of friends, I kind of became really quiet, and didn’t really talk to many people. So, I found that writing kind of became my outlet. I started writing songs and I wrote my first song called New Kid in Town which was about moving and being the new kid in town basically and in seventh grade, middle school, I decided to home-school and I’m going to sing, and I went to Nashville and I recorded my first album called New Kid in Town, and it was actually playing on Delta Airlines for a while and Build-a-Bear and Kohls department store, and I got to sing at so many cool places, I got to sing at Delta Airlines and I got to open for Raven Symone and Mitchel Musso and Hot Chelle Rae, and it was really, it was such a cool experience and I was having so much fun.

As much as I loved that, I decided when it got to high school that I was going to go back to school. And yes, that is a backpack - that does not even look like a backpack, but, so I went back to public high school, and I made a lot of really great friends. This time around it was much better. One of my best friends, Julianne, I think she’s been in a lot of my

videos, and then my friend Maddie, and Medgine, Sarah and Lindsay and Victoria and Haley. And we call ourselves the Breakfast Club, and don't ask us why, because we've never even watched the movie, but for some reason we call ourselves that, and I'm still friends with them today.

And then we got my dog Buddy, and I was really excited about that because I love dogs and he's a golden retriever and he's, like, the best dog ever and I love him so much. Then I met Mattie B Raps. We both live here in Atlanta and he kind of took me under his wing and started my whole YouTube channel with the Price Tag video and really, I have him to thank for me even doing songs on YouTube. I didn't really know that doing covers was a thing until I met him, so he really got me started with that. And then the Minecraft community took me under their wing - so many people reached out to me and asked me to do Minecraft parodies for them, and I hadn't even heard of the game at first and then I got really familiar with it and the whole community was just so welcoming and so nice, and I just loved it so much. And because of that, so many opportunities have presented themselves. I've gotten to sing at Minecon and You Cube and I've gotten to meet so many linkers - it's been absolutely amazing.

Then, I finally graduated high school and decided to go to college in Nashville, and here's my guitar - not even what a guitar looks like, which is sad because I play. My roommate, her name is Aliyah, is one of my very best friends. I love her so much - perfect roommate. But again, the whole year I just felt like I didn't fit in, you know, my music was pop and everyone else was either country or hipster, and I just wasn't fitting in, so I decided I was going to take the next year off from school and focus on music. And I have been so much happier writing and recording my music. I just can't see myself doing anything else. I'm still on my journey and I still haven't found my path, but I'm getting there, and I have hope. Just know that whenever you feel lost and unsure, you're not alone. I'm definitely right there with you. But, you know, when one door closes, another door opens, so just don't stress and keep doing what you love, and the right path will eventually unfold itself for you. So, keep having faith, and thank you so much for letting me do what I love to do.

1296

#### FDML #90

Welcome to my draw my life. So, it all started on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1990. Before I came along, my parents moved from Nigeria in Africa to London in the United Kingdom. It was just my mum, my dad and my older brother when they moved here, but then, four years later, boom, my mum was pregnant and whoosh, there was an Abi, on May, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, and it was me, my mum, my older brother and yeah, in London. So it was just the four of us and we were like a little happy family, and then four years after I was born, on 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1994, my younger brother Solomon was born, and it's funny enough because his name is Solomon but my older brother is also called Solomon, so they have the same name, which is kind of weird.

So, I started primary school, elementary school, and I had lots of friends and it was fun, and my closest friend was Lizzy, Elizabeth. She lived, like, across the road from me, so we used to go to school together and I was kind of smart and she was, like, my really close friend. At ages 7 to 8 years old, I went on this school trip to maybe the Science Museum - I'm not quite sure - and there was this, like, sky thing where it was like a green screen, and you could climb up this wall and it would make you look like you were flying in the sky. And it was me my older brother, we went together, and I had money - I had one pound coin, which is British money for some snacks but I didn't have any pockets, so smart Abi decided that, yeah, this is a great idea, I'm going to put it between my lips and I'm go and try and climb this wall. So here I am, going up the slope and I get to the top and I start choking. It falls down my throat, and I'm crying and I'm choking, and they call the ambulance, so they take me to hospital where I'm still choking, and then I eventually get to hospital and I go in for an operation. After I come out, I can't talk, my family come and visit me, which is really nice, I foggily remember them. I was pretty drugged up, I think. My dad was working in Manchester, so I didn't get to see him which is sad.

I forgot to mention that from the ages of, I don't know when, maybe 3 to the ages of 8 years old, I used to wear glasses, and I used to have double vision. One day, God was like "Abi, you're healed!" and I was like, "What? Really? I don't have to wear glasses no more?" So that was great - I didn't have to wear glasses from the age of 8, and my vision is so perfect right now, which is so crazy. Anyways, when my brother was about between 4 and 8 years old, I think he was four years old, and I decided that I would help my mum to take him down the stairs in his stroller or pram, so here I am trying to be good intentions, you know? Trying to be nice and it was a terrible idea, so I had these stairs with concrete, and I decided to try and take him down. I was about 8 years old and I pushed him down the first set, ok, but then the second set he just tumbled, and he fell down, so they had to call the ambulance and take him to hospital. It was really sad, and I felt so bad and I think he had a broken arm, but he had a, I'm not sure, he had a bandage on his arm, and I was really upset. I didn't mean to hurt him, and he got better but he will never forget it. He always makes fun of me for that.

Anyways, back to school. People used to ask me things like, "Why is your nose so big?" and I was like, "My nose is big?" It really confused me, and I couldn't understand why people would think my nose was big, and they also used to ask me, "Do you bleach your teeth?" because my teeth were super white, and I didn't, I just ate a load of candy, so my

dad used to brush my teeth a load. So, **it really bugged me**, and they also used to ask me if I was Asian because I had tiny eyes. So, **it was really nasty**. People can be so mean, but it was me and Lizzie, and **we were cool**. So, **I had so much friends**, and then Denise came along around year 6 and **we became best of friends** and we used to hang out together because she lived across the road from me too. So, I started secondary school, high school, in year 7. It was an all-girls school, and some of the girls from my old school came there and I had some friends that I would hang out with on a regular basis, but then one day, I was at the DLR station waiting for Leonie and Tanya, the girls that I go to school with that live near my house, and it came to 8.00, it was 8.00, it was 8.05, Leonie turned up but Tanya was nowhere to be seen, so Leonie was like, to me, "Did you hear what happened to Tanya?" and I was like, "What do you mean?" She was like, "Well, she got run over". I was like, "What?" And she was like, "I don't know if it's true though", but then when we went into school, it was obviously true. **I was so shocked**, so we went to visit her at hospital one day. I still remember everything, and **it was so sad**, and she was, she wasn't awake, and she was just lying there. She had a bandage around her hand, and **it was terrible**. She never did wake up. And it rained on her funeral. And we went together, me and Leonie, and I remember exactly what I was wearing - this black skirt and this black shirt that I owned, and we had to say goodbye to her. **It was very sad, and yeah, never did really get over it**.

So, I was in A1 at school, which meant **was in the highest-level classes**. **I used to love** English poetry and I wondered if I was cool, if I was a dork, and **I loved** listening to music and after Tanya died, **I got really into poetry**, so I started writing a lot to express how I felt, and **I loved it** but **I wasn't completely happy**, I guess. And in school, **I was really bored**, and **I was just fed up of** studying really, so I just concentrated on poetry and writing stories a lot more than anything else.

I met this bad boy who was really bad for me, but **he was so much fun**, and we were together for a few years. **It was all roses**, then eventually, **it fell apart, so I had to say goodbye to him because bad boys equal trouble**. From year 7 to year 9, my best friend was girl called Jade. And she had blonde hair, blue eyes. **She was really fun, and you know, we were really best friends** for, like, 3 years. From years 9 to 10, I met a bunch of other people that I started hanging out with, so there were all these mini groups that I would go with. I was, like, kind of like a rebel. Used to hang out everyone and my main group of friends was like Shena, Denise and Suliet, and some other people from my school and we'd all hang out with other people. So, **I had lots of friends and lots of fun**.

GCSEs came around, and **I was really bored** at this time. **I didn't want to** study anymore. I used to put on makeup in math class. I really didn't study much, **which was bad**, but **I had lots of friends and I had lots of fun, which was good**. So, I met this boy, this guy, he was really sweet, but he wasn't really my type, but he was super sweet, so **we started dating, and he saved me one day**. Some guy was crazy and he saved me from that guy, so since then, we kind of started dating, but **it kind of fell apart** and I don't know, **I didn't like the way he was acting** - he was trying to show off to his friends so kind of broke up, **which was sad**. I got a B in English, C in ICT, a C in Maths and some random other grades. They weren't great but they weren't terrible.

2006 came along and I went to Nigeria for my first holiday, and I had never been to Nigeria before, so **it was really cool**. We rode on horses. **I don't know if that's a dinosaur or a horse - looks like a dinosaur. It's not supposed to**, but we rode on horses on the beach - **we had so much fun**. I got to meet all my family members - my cousins, uncles, grandpa, aunt. Loads of my family members. But six weeks later, we had to go home. **It was really sad, because I loved it and I wanted to stay forever**.

Anyways, I went to sixth form, which is kind of like senior year of high school, and I studied English, Media and Film and **I loved all of them because I was really into them**. **And I met my first love**, and we did so much stuff together. We went to the movies, Pizza Hut, we had Valentine's together, Christmas - so many things together, we spent a lot of time together.

September of 2006 came around, and Big Bang. **I fell in love** with Big Bang and Korean dramas and KPop and Full House and everything, and **it was amazing. My life just took off**, you know? I just was exposed to this new culture that I did not understand and **it was just amazing**, so I'm, like, singing, and people are just like, "This girl is hella weird", and there's my friends Ida and Minh, and they were like, "We love Kpop too!" so we were like the Kpop lovers and they were like, "Let's go see Big Bang one day!" and they thought we were so weird, but we didn't care. So, there was Kdramas, **which was my real obsession**: Coffee Prince, Full House, My Girl, a ton of Kdramas. I watched them all and **I loved studying English**. It was my thing.

But anyways, I went to church a lot and, you know, **was super into, like, the youth group and, you know, singing and just worshipping God**. But 2008 came around and I went to New York, and I experienced so many new things. It was like my first trip to America. I went with my sixth form and we saw open mics and did lots of shopping, and **it was really great**. **I tried to study a lot so that I could get into a good uni**, so results day came along and these were my results: in English, I got a B, Media got an A, in Film I got a B. I was so close from As on both of my other subjects, but I was top of the class in Media. And before my exams, I asked my teacher if I would do well and he said probably not - I'd have to get really good grades. Even though I had already calculated, and I wouldn't have to get really good grades, but **still tried my hardest and I got so far above it, and I went above and beyond** that and **I was so happy about that**.

So I moved to University of Southampton where I would start my new life and I was really excited to get into the flow of things and to start studying what I really enjoyed but when I got there I really had no friends because I didn't really socialize, so my boyfriend decided that he'd come and visit me and we'd hang out, but then later, I did meet three new friends, ah, in my film class and they became some of my really good friends over the time. I did a joint honours in English and Film Studies. One day I was at the Student Union's kind of club you could say, and I met Glenda, and her username was Glenn Star on the Student Room, so I was like are you from TSR? And she's like "Yeah", and I'm like, "Oh, I'm blah blah". Through her, I met Nasreen because they were friends from school and we moved in together, which was amazing. We got a house together and it was a really great friendship.

In 2010, I did Camp America and I went to California to teach at a summer camp, or not to teach, but to work at a summer camp. It was in the Redwood Forest, and it was amazing - the best time I've ever had in my life. Seriously, you guys, I could say it was better than Korea. And I met so many amazing friends there that I will never forget and I'm still in contact with most of them. So, that is really great. I wish I could tell you guys more about it because it's such, so many stories, got so many stories.

Also that year, things were kind of starting to fall apart with me and my boyfriend. After travelling and realising that I really wanted to travel and things weren't ever the same anymore, so sadly, we broke up, but somehow after that, when I went back to university, I made a load of friends and things really started to change. The last year of uni was the best year of uni because I socialised, like, so much and I had so much fun. In my last year of uni I did meet a guy in London who was single, and we were together for a few months and it was too fast, and eventually we broke up, which was kind of sad but, yeah, it's what it is.

In 2011, I started to really concentrate on my poetry, and I met some really awesome people who I still speak to now and I wrote in excess of 50 poems and published a few of them which was a really great accomplishment for me. I decided to apply to live in Korea and teach here, and I had my interview and I was really psyched and really excited and time passed. It came to July. I met up with my ex-boyfriend, and we decided to give it one more try, even though I was leaving. We'd been broken up for a year, I was leaving to go to Korea, but we decided we'd try anyways.

So August 16<sup>th</sup> was the day that I moved to Korea. It was the best day of my life. It was, I flew with Virgin I think, I can't even remember, but seriously guys - it was a dream come true. And I was so excited to move out here like you would not understand. And me and my boyfriend decided to go a long distance, and you know, try it out. So, orientation, I got my apartment, all that good stuff happens, you've seen all the videos. And in 2012, me and my boyfriend broke up because it just wasn't working out. And we roll, we roll, we roll. Do you know what song it is? Comment below.

So, anyways, after we broke up, I started to socialize more and get out and start partying and I met Justin and Waiye from orientation and I had so much fun and I made so many new friends - Ray, Ufay, a bunch of my friends that you guys have seen in my videos - Korean hip-hop, Korean hip-hop, my love. I got really into Korean hip-hop. It became a big part of my life, BTS, apparently there are eight members. I think one of them is me. There are only seven members in BTS - I don't know why I drew 8. I was really into it. I'm still into it so much. It's become the massive part of my life and there's so many more artists. Here are a few CDs that I own that I've bought since I got to Korea and I love them. They are my, like, my favourite CDs and I enjoy listening to them. I enjoy listening to them and you can see some of my favourites in there, and that's only the beginning, really. I'm pretty sure that it's only going to get better and things are only going to grow more. Once again, I'm listening to that same song. Comment below if you know what song it is and you're awesome if you know.

I met some really cool people while I've been here - Lady Gaga at the airport, Leonardo DiCaprio at the Django Unchained premiere, Will Smith twice - whoa, After Earth premiere, and Robert Downey Jr., the Iron Man 3 premiere, B2B, Big Bang and lots of other cool people that really kind of change how I see life and inspired me a lot. And now who am I? I am Smiling Seoul and I make videos on YouTube about my life in Korea and I love doing it. I really do. I have 10,000 subscribers. Thank you, guys. I have 780,000 plus views, 150 uploads, and it's been amazing. You guys are amazing - thank you so much for subscribing and getting me up to 10,000. You don't understand how appreciative I am and how thankful. So, thank you, yes, you, thank you. I love you guys so much, even more than BTS. So, I'm really grateful. It all started with my parents who gave birth to me and I'm really happy and grateful for them, because they've been so supportive and they've helped me through and they've just, I've just been really blessed, to be honest, to have them. And I hope I can keep growing, you know, more and more. One day maybe from 10,000 I'll turn into 1 million - you guys can get me there, I'm sure. So, like, share and subscribe and comment to support me. It's been two years. I've had the most amazing time in Korea, and I guess this is nearly the end - if you haven't subscribed, please subscribe. And I guess for now, this is Annyeong. Bye guys!

3173

#### FDML #91

Hey guys! Today's video is quite an exciting one. I thought I would do a draw my life because I've never actually done one of these on my channel before and they have always been highly requested, so I hope you guys enjoy, and let's

begin. Here's me as a little wee cherub at the hospital. My name is Sally Jo Hickey, as you guys may or may not know. That's my last name and Jo is my middle name. I was my mum's only child and my dad's fourth child, so it's his second marriage.

And I was born on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1993, in Auckland, which makes me 22, if anyone's wondering. I always get asked how old I am and as of right now, I'm 22. I don't know about you, but I'm feeling 22 - me right now. So, this is a beautiful drawing of a TV. When I was young, maybe two or three, I used to watch my dad on the news and I just thought it was super normal. I thought everyone's dad was on TV, so it's really not a big deal to me. The only thing was I didn't get to see my dad that often because he would work really long days and when he would get home I'd already be in bed. But on the weekend, I got to see him. This is us having our spaghetti and sausages on toast every Saturday morning. We would sit in my little pink plastic table and he would squeeze in with me - I don't know how we even fit on it, and **that is a good memory I'll always treasure**. Oh, and I wrote Johnny Bravo because we would always watch that together too.

So, at this stage of my life, I lived in Auckland with obviously my mum. Moppy was her nickname because she's got a mop of hair, that's what my dad calls her. Obviously, my dad was there too, and many of you will know him if you're from New Zealand because, like I said, he was on the weather for about 26 years, I think. So, most people do know him and will say "Hey Jim!" in the streets. My dad also has three other children from a previous marriage, so I've got two half-sisters and a half-brother, and my brother Jamie lived at home with us while I was growing up, so **I'm really close to him. I think he was the coolest brother ever. He would always hang out with me and I just thought he was the best. He had a funny sense of humour**, hence the t-shirt. He has so many shirts like that, it's kind of embarrassing in this day and age, but he's awesome. And that's me in one hundred layers because my mum used to always worry about me being too cold and I was dressed up like a little Eskimo all the time.

So, we lived in Auckland until I was about nine and then we moved to New Plymouth to be closer to my grandparents, so dad quit his job and we moved to New Plymouth, and **I was super, super shy**. I'd had my one best friend all my life called Amanda, and **we were really close**, and I just didn't really know how to make friends with all these new kids. All I got on the first few weeks was "Oh my gosh, your dad is Jim Hickey!", but after a while people kind of got over it. **I got less shy. I managed to settle into that school**, took up the piano in Auckland and I continued playing it in New Plymouth. **I had an awesome teacher** - her name is Jeanette - so if you ever watch this, which I highly doubt, hello Jeanette! I also did jazz ballet which **I really liked**, but I was really naughty both with playing instruments and dancing. I barely ever practiced unless it was something I really liked doing, and I seemed to mostly get away with it and my teachers would say, "Oh, good work - you must have practiced hard!" and **usually I would just wing it, which was really bad**. **Another good thing** about New Plymouth was that my family visited often because my grandma and granddad lived right next to us and I always got to see my cousin Antonia who's really close to me in age, so **I was always so excited** to see her and we would play lots together.

Then, as I got older, I went to intermediate and one of the main things I remember is I would try to do worse in school and **didn't want any attention drawn to myself** because if I got an award or if I did something well, everyone would just say "It's only because of your dad that you've got the award" and boys would ask me out and then I would say no, and they'd be like "Oh, I only wanted to meet your dad", so **I got quite low self-esteem** at that point in my life and **I just wished that my dad had a normal job**. I didn't really understand a whole lot still about his job, I mean, only that he was away a lot and that people would make fun of me, so I was like, "Oh, I wish my dad had a normal job", but then he went back to work at TVNZ and I saw how happy it made my family, there was a lot less stress on us all because he was back working, so then I was like, **okay, it's a good job**.

So then, when I went to high school, **I had a lot of really cool friends** that I made throughout the time being there. I was at Spotswood College, New Plymouth, if anyone was wondering. **I was worried** that people would be mean to me like in intermediate, **but I actually made some awesome, awesome friends**. I had a massive group of friends in high school and everyone would hang out together. **It was so much fun** and a lot of those people I'm still friends with today. So, **it was just a really good time and I enjoyed all the subjects** I took for the most part. **I was happy to put my 100% self into trying and I wasn't worried about people teasing me or anything**, so those are all the subjects **I liked**, but **I would always hate** Science, Maths and PE. Science was okay, **but I wasn't very good at Maths or PE**, so those are my two subjects and I was like "Oh! Get me out of here!" **One of the highlights** of school for me was when I got to go on a Japan trip, because I took Japanese for four years, and I still to this day want to go back. **I had the best host family. It was just such a fun time**. As you guys probably know by now, **I love** Japanese culture and kawaii stuff.

**One of my most heart-breaking moments** was when we drove past Disneyland and we didn't have time to go in because it was a school trip. I couldn't just go in by myself, so **that's one of my life goals** - one day I want to go to a Disneyland, but **that definitely crushed me inside** that we had to just drive straight past. I also found a YouTuber in high school and I would go on and on about it. All my friends from high school will know! I also couldn't get anything she mentioned in New Zealand but it kind of opened the idea up of YouTube to me and I was like **this is so awesome, because no one wanted to listen to me yarn about makeup all day, so I thought the YouTube community was really cool**. Worked part-time at a supermarket also - this is me redoing my hairstyle because we had to have our hair up for work and as you



guys know, I hate to have my ears stick out so I used to do these weird, like, pigtails which my supervisor would let me. And I'm glad that I had to work at a supermarket. I also wasn't allowed a car till I was 21 - my parents were very strict but, looking back, I'm glad because it taught me the value of money, so I loved working there. Allowed me to buy makeup and OPI nail polishes and all the things I loved.

So, things were going well but my grandparents actually passed away when I was in high school, and it was really sad. I didn't see my family as much anymore because no one came to visit them, and I just still miss them to this day. It was obviously a really hard time for my family. Fast forward a few years, my parents moved into a new house. I finished up high school and I moved to Auckland, which was very exciting but also scary. I got accepted into the AUT Bachelor of Communications degree. There was only 300 spots so I decided that was the degree I was going to do. Mum of course was really sad that I was leaving home, but dad was in Auckland a lot already for work, so it was kind of cool. He was just like, "I'll see you soon!" and we had a lot of coffee catch ups and stuff while I was at uni which is always cool.

Moved up to uni by myself. Moved out of home. I lived in a hostel kind of thing for AT, and I found it difficult to settle into uni to start with, because not only did I have a lot of different ideas to people, like, I didn't really care about designers and all that kind of stuff. I would just wear my hospice clothes. And everyone already knew each other because they were all from Auckland already, so they had all been to the same schools and stuff. No one was mean to me, but I just didn't really find many friends for quite a while. So, while I was still at uni, I managed to find a job at a Life Pharmacy and I loved working there. I would assist on the fragrances counter and also the Lancome counter, and I just loved playing with all the makeup! I also was lucky enough to get a job at The Body Shop while I was at uni, so I would put makeup on people and just play with all the beautiful, smelly products and I just loved it and it really assured me that I wanted to work somewhere in the beauty industry, because I just really enjoyed that field of work.

So, back to uni - I had no free time on my hands, so much to do. I couldn't even go out for dinner and stuff with my flatmates because I was so busy. And midway through the year I got super sick. So, I've got a history of tonsillitis. I get it at least a few times a year. Sorry about this spelling - I feel like it's not the right spelling but you guys know what I mean. And I could feel a bout of it coming on, but I had so much to do with uni and I'd also started YouTube and people were starting to request regular uploads, so eventually, I rang my mum and I was like, "Mum, I need you to take me to the doctors" and basically the doctor was an asshole for lack of a better word, and he would not give me antibiotics because he was on this rant about having given away too freely and my mum was like, "Look at her medical history - she needs antibiotics, you know?" and he was like, "No". So basically, long story short, I ended up in A and E twice and they couldn't find out what was wrong with me. I couldn't swallow my own saliva; I couldn't eat and drink, obviously, and I just felt like I was dying. I was like this big puff and I was in so much pain and the worst part was when my dad came to visit me the second time in hospital. I think he left work early and he was very visibly upset, and my parents were just beside themselves. They didn't know what to do and that's when I really realised how serious it was and it was just really scary. But in the end it turned out to be a throat abscess and I started spitting up puss, so they actually had to slice it open while I was awake, and then a few months later I got my tonsils out and now I'm a lot better, so it was just really lucky that, like, doctor at A and E was onto it and noticed the throat abscess and that it was about to pop, and so I thank goodness that's all over now.

So back to YouTube, and obviously at university, everybody is a struggling student and instead of buying groceries, I would go into new markets with all my money at Mecca Cosmetics and MAC and I just loved it, because being from New Plymouth for most of my life, we didn't have MAC or any of these big makeup stores and I would just go nuts and buy lots of products and then use them on my YouTube and it just astounded me that people kept watching and watching, and I made some awesome friends. And granted, I'm not the best of makeup artist or anything out there, but my favourite type of comment to get was from people saying, "Hey, you helped me out so much!" and I just found it so rewarding and I was like, "Oh my gosh - this is what I want to do!" but there I was at the same time trying to finish my bachelor's degree. I was doing an internship and my dad actually discouraged me from doing YouTube, and he was like, "No, focus on your studies!" which is funny now because obviously he's supportive, but most parents don't really understand the whole concept of YouTube.

This is where the bae comes in - yes, I say the bae because most people find it really annoying. So Tye and I were friends in high school, school, and he was actually part of that group of friends I was talking about earlier and we just stayed in touch throughout university and we were always calling each other, chatting, joking. I just got on with him so well and after a few years of becoming best friends, he asked me out at Rhythm and Vines which is a music festival next to Kim.com's fireworks and we were kind of like, "Oh, should we give it a go?" because we liked each other so much, but, you know, when you're like really good friends with someone there's always that chance that it might not work out. We were like, "What the heck? Let's just give it a go" and as most of you would know, we're still together now, so it was one of the best decisions we've made, definitely.

So that's a pretty brief overview of my life but that brings us to today, where I got 100k subscribers button from YouTube and I was mind blown. It's still super surreal that that many of you watch me - I cannot believe it. I got my bachelor's degree so that was done and dusted. We have a gorgeous little fluffy butt, Mavey, you guys will know if

you follow me on social media and I'm living back in New Plymouth now with Thomas. So, we can be near our families and it just works out well for our jobs right now, so there is where we are at. And of course, I'm over the moon. Thank you guys so much for everything you do for me and it just incorporates everything I love, which is helping people, beauty, entertainment - it's just fantastic and you guys are amazing. I can never ever thank you enough. So, thank you so much for watching my draw my life. I hope you enjoyed it. Leave me a fact about you down below, because I want to get to know you guys as well. Have an amazing day and I'll talk to you again really soon. Bye!

2778

## FDML #92

Hey guys! So, today's video is going to be the ever-so-popular draw my life video and I was really excited to film this for you. I didn't go too in-depth into my life. Just kind of the surface, but hopefully you guys can take away something from this video and learn something that you didn't already know about me. I was born on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1995, to two amazing parents and I was actually born in the capital city of Canada, which is Ottawa, Ontario. I was, also came into this world with two amazing stepbrothers - Justin and Wes - they were much older than me and in current times now, Justin has a wife, Charlene, and a son Cale and then another daughter Claire, and they're absolutely amazing. And then Wes also has a wife, Michelle, and Emily, and they're also expecting a little boy coming in May. But I always lived super far away from them and it made me really sad because I was never super close to my brothers and that still affects me today, actually.

Anyways, when I was two years old, I moved from Ontario to BC with my family, my parents, obviously. And my mum and I flew by plane and my dad drove across the country in a car with all of our belongings, and I honestly had the best childhood growing up because my parents are fantastic. And it was absolutely amazing. I actually grew up with my dad as a stay-at-home parent and I definitely found that that made a difference in my childhood and everything. My dad is actually a professional clown, so that was why he was able to stay home with me. Everyone always asked me if I was going to be a professional clown when I grow up and I said, "No freaking way", but I'm definitely a daddy's girl.

When I was going into kindergarten, I went from one school for one day and then I switched to another elementary school the next day. And then we moved again, and I found a neighbour that lived right across the, kind of in my back yard, basically. We always used to hop fences, but this was one of the very first friends that I made in my new kindergarten, so the third kindergarten that I've been in one year, and her name was Kendra and we are still friends today. We're very good family friends and everything.

When I was in grade one, I had this huge stomach-ache in my stomach, obviously! And I was actually in and out of the hospital for a very long time, and my parents were getting super worried about it and everything and I was really scared because I had no idea what it was. It took the doctors a really long time to figure out what it was - it happened to be two hours before I was supposed to go into surgery that one of the doctors noticed red dots on my ankles, and they figured out that I actually had this sickness, but it was reversed, because normally you get the dots and then the stomach-ache, so basically I'm a freak of nature but it was cured by some medication. And then I remember a couple weeks after that, my family and I went to Mexico for my brother Justin's wedding, and it was such an amazing time because I had never been to a tropical place before, and the wedding was beautiful and I was just really excited because I actually got to be the flower girl, which I had never experienced before, so that was a really awesome opportunity. And while I was there, I was super skinny from being in the hospital, so I was actually allowed to eat, like, everything I wanted, so I had lots of pizza, pasta and ice cream. That's basically all I remember from Mexico, was just eating my brains out, so that was a really good time!

Jumping back to school life, I went to one elementary school for k to 4, fourth grade anyways, and then five and six I went to a different school, and this school was actually a fine arts school, so I got to experience dance and drama and, like, music, which I'm not talented in, but I always remembered in kindergarten having this evil dance teacher that I was so afraid of that I never wanted to dance again. But at this new school I learned that dance was my new favourite thing and I became quickly obsessed with it. I used to put on the music and choreograph all the time that I actually started a group and won a couple awards from it, so that's really cool. And when I got to a studio, I actually did some exams and got pretty good marks for dance exams, and I was actually on point for a couple years as well. But dance soon became stressful for me and I just decided to quit and take it easy and do it for fun.

Back to my neighbourhood and stuff, I actually had a friend that lived across the street from me and her name was Jasmine, and we quickly became best friends when I moved in, and we also found Hannah and Olivia, which are sisters, who are sisters, sorry, and we became the neighbourhood girls and are still best friends to this day. I remember always wanting to film videos with them and make music videos and stuff, because I absolutely loved editing, that type of thing, and from, if you ask any one of them, I was kind of the director and the bossy one, because I always got very angry at them if they didn't do it right and yeah, so that's just a funny memory. And we all quickly became best friends and started talking about the future and everything. It was really nice to have a solid group of friends and still to this day, they're the girls that I count on the most. But it was actually really sad, because Jasmine had to move. She didn't

move far away - she just left the neighbourhood, so **we were all very, very sad** and she still wishes that she lived here. And then came time for middle school, which I was only actually there for two years because high school in this district started at grade 10 whereas I went to high school in grade 9, and I remember having **a really good group of friends that I had a lot of fun with**. I remember middle school being **really fun**, but Nicole and Britney **were my top friends**, I would say. And we actually all went to high school together so we all left middle school a year early to go to this new high school, and even though we weren't as best friends as we were, **we are still really good friends** today and they're actually in my Spanish class, so **that's pretty cool**. And while I was at high school, I met a ton of amazing people and so right now, **I have a very large group of friends which I'm very lucky for and they're absolutely amazing, because they're always there** and it's really fun to have a really big group of friends and then it came, the dance class, and Lynn and Leah have been the best dance teachers - almost like second mums to me - and I've also met a lot of amazing people in my dance class and, like I said, they're not a dance class, **they're like family**, and they're so talented, and it honestly made my high school experience **that much better**. There's five girls that stand out, or I guess four, not including me, that stand out to me because we were kind of the young group of dancers that, I don't know, hung out together, and we did a lot of things together. And it was in high school that **I started watching YouTube videos about makeup and I became obsessed** and so I was like, "Hey, I can film myself doing that", so thus, MissMikaylaG was born and I started YouTube and **just went really persistent with it - I didn't want to give up. I was so excited** when I reached 10,000 subscribers because it just kind of ensured me that people actually like my videos and everything. In the beginning, **I was really self-conscious of my videos, just because I didn't know how the girls at my school were going to react or my friends, and so I didn't tell anyone for a very long time actually**, and then when I did, they, **everyone seemed to be really awesome about it and, like, really proud of me**. I guess.

And I didn't want this video to be negative in any way, even though I have gone through quite a bit in my life. These are all the names of the people that I've lost, which stands out a lot to me because I've dealt with a lot of deaths in my life compared to someone else my age, and I deal with them all differently, but I didn't want to focus on that for this video because that's not fun to watch. So, in the current moment, I guess I have curly hair but I'm focusing on graduation. I'm **doing dance as for fun** and not stressing about it, because that's what dance is supposed to be - it's supposed to be fun. I'm focusing on YouTube because **it's been amazing and I've had already so many amazing opportunities**, and something I didn't mention more in depth was I actually do have two jobs and I have had two jobs for about a year now, and then I'm also focusing on next year going to college. But obviously my life is very much to be continued because I'm only graduating high school and I still have a lot of living to do left, but **thank you guys so much** for watching this video, and I will talk to you guys in my next one. Have a great day! Bye.

1709

### FDML #93

Hey guys! Welcome back to my channel. My name is Marina for those of you who don't know who I am and if you already know who I am, well then welcome back, hermosa. So today's video is going to be a my draw my life and I'm telling you now it is probably a good time to grab some tissues, grab a cup of coffee, go grab your concha or whatever you need to get make it through this video because it is kind of a long one, so let's go ahead and get right into it.

My life actually starts in California, Southern California to be exact, and in a really small desert town called Lancaster, California. I was born on July 2<sup>nd</sup> of 1999. I was born when my mum was only 16, so I was for sure, obviously, her first kid and the first girl. I don't really know much about me when I was a baby, but I do you know that **was the spoiled grandkid** because I was the only one, and that I was a cry-baby, which I think I've been my whole life. I was born when my parents were actually already split up, so my mum already had her own boyfriend and my dad was doing his own thing, so I only lived with my mum and her boyfriend, so I lived with my mum, her boyfriend, which was really the only dad I had in my life and **we were a happy little family of three, and I seriously love being with them - they were really my best friends**.

Then on October 25<sup>th</sup> of 2000 is when my mum gave birth to my little brother, and **I was seriously ready to be the best big sister ever**. Growing up, **my brother was for sure my best friend. Being a year apart made us literally inseparable**. All we did was play together, and I remember playing with Barbies and him with his Hot Wheels all the time, and even though we fought a lot and he used to bite my arm super, super bad, **that was really my only best friend and I loved him to death**.

When I was three was the first time that I met my biological dad **which was super, super hard for me** and not because I had never met him before, but because I was only, like, three years old and I didn't really understand what it meant to have another dad because I knew my stepdad as my dad, so **meeting my dad was really confusing for me and I had a really hard time adjusting** and figuring out really who he was and where I was going all the time. **Not only was it really, really hard for me to understand who my dad was but he was also already married to his wife by this time and I didn't really understand anything that had to do with it. Literally, what little kid would? So, it was really confusing for me and I didn't really know how to fit in with his family or who he was, or even with his wife**. As you could say, **I was pretty sad and pretty confused and I really, really hated** leaving home at this point. Growing up, I immediately realised

that there were a lot of difference between my mama's family and my biological dad's family. My dad's family had a lot of money and they were all business owners, while at home, my family struggled with even buying groceries and we were always trying to get help from welfare. My biological dad's family businesses made a ton of money for him and his family and at home, my dad was just a mechanic. I didn't really understand how poor we were and how much this really sucked for us, but **because I never understood, I'd say I had the best childhood ever.**

At my dad's house, they all had huge two-story houses and really, really nice homes while back at home we always rented rooms from random people and would literally fit all of us into them or apartments, but **it was where I was happiest when I really felt like I had a good family dynamic.** The money on my dad's side and the big houses and the people I didn't really know **didn't really make me attracted to it,** and **I was always more attracted with a family I had back at home.**

When I started school when I was five years old, **I was actually super, super good at it** and **super excited.** I don't know why I've always been really good at school, but **I just remember being so excited** every day to leave to school and reading books and seeing my teachers and my friends. I was seriously such a little nerd in school. Even though school was going really good, back at home, my mum and dad were always arguing and I didn't really understand why they were yelling at each other, but I for sure knew something was wrong and **I would just try my best to help my brother with it, because he would get really, really scared. I remember always trying to help him and comfort him and just try and let him know that everything's going to be okay.** Years later, we moved into our apartment complex and I remember **being super excited about this,** just because **I was really looking forward** to having my own room with my brother and being able to play and I still remember pulling into my apartment complex the day we moved in and waving at a girl that actually ended up being **my best friend for a really long time.** Not only did we move into a whole new house, but I also had two more new brothers and **the three of them seriously made me the happiest. My brothers were always my best friends growing up and I loved spending every moment with them. Being a big sister is seriously my favourite thing ever.** In this new apartment, I actually started helping my mum a lot more than I used to with just making bottles and helping her clean up around the house and helping her cook and clean, and any free time I had, I was always outside riding my scooter or riding my bike with my brother. Even though my dad was a mechanic, it still wasn't really that much money to be supporting the six of us in our little apartment, so my mum and me actually started selling candies outside the window in our apartment, and I remember **having so much fun** doing this. She would literally send me door-to-door asking kids to buy things and I remember feeling like my window in my living room was a drive-through, because everybody would come through there to pick up their candy.

I never really understood just how poor we were until little things like this would happen, like one time we went to Little Caesars and even though the pizzas were only five dollars, I remember my mum going back and telling them that the pizza we got was burnt and didn't taste good, just so we could get a second one and all of us could eat. Once we started not having that much money, **I remember things getting really bad,** like I remember finding out that my dad was doing drugs and I got in really big trouble for knowing and he was drinking all the time and my parents were always fighting. Like, if they weren't fighting before, they were for sure fighting now. It even got to the point where social workers are being called to our house by our neighbours and I remember my brother and me literally lying through our teeth and telling them that everything was fine, and even though our dad was beating us really bad and there were holes in our wall that my mum had literally covered with our pictures. **We were so scared of getting taken away** so we just always told him we were fine, and he literally had no idea and would just leave.

At this point is when things really started to get bad. I mean, **me and my brother were literally crying ourselves to sleep every single night listening to our parents argue and always getting hit by my stepdad and everything just felt super horrible** and I remember **just trying to comfort my brother** and make sure that he knew that everything was going to be okay because **I knew we were both really scared** and I just didn't want him to be as scared as I was. On July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008, is when my whole life changed. I remember my stepdad had this sword in our house and he used to always say it was only for protection, but one night, my mum and him got into a really bad argument and he killed her right in front of my brothers and me. I remember before walking out of the apartment seeing the time 2:12 a.m., and that's just something that's always stuck with me. Even though **losing my mum was one of the hardest things I'd have to go through, I'm glad that it happened when I was only nine** and not now that I'm 19, because I feel like if I would have gotten closer to her and gotten to know her better, it would have been way harder for me. Because my stepdad fled the scene after everything, he was on the run for another five years and really my story became known as a Sword Slayer or the dad who killed mum, and I even got interviewed by America's Most Wanted.

On top of being bombarded with news journals and news stations, I also had to go live with my biological dad and **I remember it being really hard** because I never had the chance to get to know him or his family good enough, and my brothers didn't come with me, so **I didn't have anybody to comfort me** and was, I was just in a totally new environment. Over the next few years, I jumped from house to house and from family member to family member. I honestly probably didn't even stay with the person for more than one year, just because a lot of my family was affected by alcohol or drugs, or my dad's family - I just didn't really know them so **it was really hard for me to get along good enough with them and to feel comfortable.**

Once I started high school, I was totally looking forward to it and just finally getting closer to being able to get out of the environment I was in, and this is where I actually met Poncho, my boyfriend now. And we were just friends when we first met but we started dating pretty soon after and he really helped me through a lot of my hardest times. In 2014 is when my stepdad was finally caught in Mexico, and I remember my whole high school dynamic changing again and I was literally balancing going to class and sitting in chemistry and then bouncing to court and having to testify for hours and hours on end. I started doing really bad in school and I just felt really bombarded by camera crews again and the whole trial and just everything going on in my life. This was probably one of the hardest years I'd ever have to deal with after my mum passing away. I just remember feeling really, really sad all the time and really upset and just depressed about everything and I just really didn't feel like I was in the right place.

Soon after though, I learned to drive, and I was at Ponch's house every single day and his family was always so welcoming to me and they made me feel like I finally had that family dynamic again and like everything maybe was going to be okay. In 2016, my stepdad was sentenced to 36 years to life in prison for first-degree murder, four counts of child abuse and four counts of child endangerment, which, even though I had a lot of anger for him was really, really hard for me because he was still the only dad I really ever knew.

2018 is when things really started to get better. I mean, I graduated high school and my family was really proud of this because I was the first one in my family to actually graduate on time and finish on time, and I remember walking out graduation day and seeing my grandparents on the side-lines, just so excited. It was seriously the best day ever. In fall is when I started on my college CSUN and I was totally looking forward to this because I'm the first person in my family going to college. Not only that but I'm a pre-law student and majoring in law, so I can hopefully become a district attorney someday and help people with cases just like mine. My life is totally at a different place than I ever thought it would be, and me and Poncho are going on five years this year, and we got our first apartment. We bought our first brand new car and we even got a puppy. Looking back, it's just so crazy to me to think about how I literally used to cry myself to sleep and just pray for the life I live now, and I'm just so, so thankful for it. I think about my mum every day and I know she's my guardian angel and she watches over my brothers and I.

I haven't seen my brother since everything happened 10 years ago, and I just really look forward to the day we get to meet again and share all of our memories of her. It's just so crazy to me to think about this social media life I'm pursuing and how much love I receive from you guys and how much I inspire you guys on the daily because literally when I say you guys mean the world to me you mean the entire world to me and I really never thought my life would get to this point. If there's anything I've learned in the last 10 years, that is for sure that forgiveness is greater than hate, and I would rather live with the positive mindset going forward into the future rather than always thinking about the negativity. Not only that, but I know that I come from a place that statistics say I should have stayed in and I should have continued the cycle of domestic violence and drugs and alcohol in my life but I'm so determined to get out of that and make something of myself. And I know that if I keep chasing my dreams, I'll get there. If my story has taught you anything, I hope that it inspires you to keep going and to keep pushing for your dreams. I know that sometimes life can get really, really hard, but trust me when I say that these things only make you stronger for the future, and everything I do now is for you, mum.

2570

#### FDML #94

And why haven't I done a draw my life video yet? Sit down, have you been living under a rock? Have you been living in the dark ages? A lot of people ask me, Suzanne, tell us a little bit more about your life, about your history. That is why today I'm going to draw my life. My story from my heart to your eyes - let's go.

I was born on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 1993, in Somerset West. That means I'm a Sagittarius, which is a) loyal, b) very honest, c) creative, obviously. I'm an only child. I grew up with my pa, who taught me everything I know. He's the gardener or landscaper as they call it today. He's got green fingers. He's also very handy. We built a rabbit hutch together when I was a little girl. I didn't know at the time but that was my first DIY project - the first of many. The rabbits dug a hole under the fence and ran away. Shame.

Our luck was good at best. At school I was a bit of a loner but all that changed in sixth when I went to high school where I met my best friend, Marianne. We were in the queue for the tuck shop. She was ordering knickknacks and I was ordering a hot dog. Since then, we have been inseparable. We did everything together. We played first team hockey, for example. We talked on the phone for hours. My favourite subjects were art, economics and woodwork. Marianne was a goalkeeper in the hockey team. She was really good.

After school, I decided to travel. South, I went Oudtshoorn to spend some time on the oupa's home. I got to ride an ostrich. It was a bit weird. After I got back from the farm, I got a job at a guesthouse as a receptionist. I had some time on my hands, so I started making my own DIY projects to keep busy. On the weekends, I worked at an expo demonstrating cool kitchen gadgets. One day, my neighbour Hennie showed me how YouTube works and I had an aha moment. A light bulb switched on in my mind and I realised I could share my creativity online in my own DIY show.

I started making videos for my YouTube channel. I showed people how to drill a hole with a bucket, how to make bobotie in a pumpkin and get fluff of a jersey. Save it.

One day, I made the Braai Pie, and I accidentally set an umbrella on fire. The video went viral and all sorts of doors opened up to me. I decided to quit my job and do YouTube full-time. I moved out of my dad's garage and into my own DIY studio. I made a book, then I made another book. I even got to travel and see the world. I went to Amsterdam, Hong Kong and Australia. I got to 100,000 subscribers on YouTube and they sent me a silver play button. Here it is. Oh, I love this thing. Oh gosh, there are just so many exciting projects around the corner and I can't wait to share them with you. So, there we go guys - my life on a page. DIY because anybody can. That's it. Oh Suzanne, this is a masterpiece, hey. This is so stunning. You could put this in a gallery. Special thanks to my friends at Posca for sponsoring this video. I love you guys!

588

#### FDML #95

Ah, alas - another somewhat depressing and not too uplifting draw my life video done by a YouTuber. Are we surprised? Not too much, but this is me. I'm MeghanRosette and this is my life.

I was born on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1993, on a very hot summer day in a tiny little town near San Francisco. That's a failed Golden Gate Bridge. And I was a cute little baby, but I swear I wasn't a ginger. I don't know why I did it like that. I was blonde. I was born to two completely and totally amazing parents and I'm so lucky because they're awesome and I was raised in a house with so much love.

My best friend when I was kid's name was Marisa. I met her on the day that we were born and we're basically like sisters and I love her to death. I was a really dramatic kid and once, when I was three years old, my mum caught me practicing crying in front of the mirror and thus, Meghan the actress was born. I wasn't even really crying, lol. So, I went to alternative learning for elementary school which, I love school, but it may sound like I rode the short bus, but I swear it wasn't. It was for super smart kids. What, what? In third grade, I got to do my first school play and it was The Wiz, and all the boys were flying monkeys all the girls were munchkins and everyone got one line except they forgot to give me a line, so they gave me two to make up for it, but I just thought I was really good, so I got cocky and decided I wanted to be an actress.

So, my parents enrolled me in acting classes and dance and voice lessons, and I loved all of that. And then it was time for hell. I, oops, I am at middle school and I was so awkward. I wore all Limited Too, I was really chubby, I had transition lenses and I just felt so out of place at this brand-new big school. And I thought all my friends from elementary school and I would stay friends, but they were popular now and kind of just left me behind. But I found a girl who was just as chubby and awkward and friendless as I was, and her name is Sydney and she's still my best friend to this day. And we bonded over how awkward we were, and the rest is history.

So, I loved boys. In eighth grade I was obsessed. I really only had boyfriends to change my MySpace Top 5, but obviously I had to keep dominant and I thought I was hot shit, but I really wasn't. Eighth grade, I became a complete sassy bitch. I blame the clique books. I swear I thought I was massy block and I talked back to everybody, which landed me to detention quite a few times.

So for Thanksgiving break that year, I remember typing on AIM and eating pie after Thanksgiving and my mum came into my room and she was running for office in our town, and she told me that when I was in fifth grade, she had cancer but they didn't want to tell me because they didn't want me to worry, and suddenly I had all of these memories flowing back of seeing my mum in the hospital. And she's okay now, but I was so angry and hurt just because I almost lost her, and I didn't even know. I don't know what I would do without my mum and I was furious, and from that point on, my mum and I did not get along. We were constantly fighting, but I was just really hurt and really sad. And middle school really was hell.

And then it was time for high school, and if you've ever seen 21 Jump Street, that's basically how my high school was. No one wore shoes and everyone was a crazy hipster, and everyone loved gays and saving the planet and Priuses were the cool thing to drive. There were no cliques, so I actually really loved high school. We were all kind of friends with each other, probably because it was so small, but there was no, like, set group of friends. I mean it was Sydney and I, but we kind of hung out with everybody. It was really nice. And I still was in my complete awkward phase with transition lenses and all, but I kept doing plays and I loved it - just not musical theatre, not a fan. So, I think my awkward phase trumps everybody else's awkward phase. I had bangs with curly hair, really chubby cheeks and I dressed like Peter Pan for some strange indie reason and my huge transformation happened before my junior year of high school, and I got boobs, which, who doesn't love boobs? And I grew my hair out, got contacts and finally started looking like a presentable girl and I started dating again or I guess you could call it dating - no guy actually really wanted to date me, they broke it off before it got that far, but my love life just sucked.

In my junior year of high school, I accidentally fell in love with my best guy friend Kenan. Turns out he fell for me too and we started dating that spring. It was like that full-blown Nicholas Sparks Katy Perry Teenage Dream kind of first love and to this day, he is the only boyfriend I've ever had and the only guy I've ever loved. The summer before my senior year of high school I got mono. Just from drinking from a soda can with my friend Gracie, so, you suck Gracie. And I was put on bed rest, so I hung out with my parents and my mum and I patched things up and my parents are my best friends and they still are my best friends to this day. And all of my friends were all over the world doing different study programs and I was stuck in bed. So, when I wasn't forcing Kenan to watch the Polar Express, my mum suggested I make YouTube videos like my friend Shayna, and I did. I thought it was a really good idea and I created my channel. And that summer, MeghanRosette was born. And the name comes from my middle name, which is actually Rose. Rosette's not even my real last name, which I guess is surprising for some of you guys.

The spring of my senior year, Kenan and I broke up. It was a really bad breakup, and not only did I lose my first love, but I lost my best friend too. To this day, we don't talk at all and we're not friends. I guess sometimes the people we love the most know how to hurt us the worst. And despite all the harsh words we've exchanged, I really do wish the best for him. I quickly rebounded with this guy that we'll just call "rebound", and he ended up asking me to prom a couple days later, considering prom was basically a week after Kenan and I broke up, and I said "yes", but the couple days before prom, he stole hundreds of dollars' worth of the alcohol from the grocery store by riding it out in a grocery cart like they wouldn't catch him, and he got suspended and couldn't go to prom with me. It literally sucked. So now it was senior prom and Kenan was with this girl, not even his date, and they made a pact to kiss in front of me every time they saw me, so I hid in the bathroom and cried by myself. I'll live, senior prom. It was probably the worst night.

I finally got better after having mono for nearly a year, and it was now party time or at least that's what my friends and I thought. So, one of my friends in high school had a beach house and he used to throw parties there over the summer and there was a whole bunch of us who used to go. It's like our beach house party crew and we always had a ton of fun. So, one night of the summer, we were at one of these parties. Me and rebound boy, we were all listening to music and basically everybody there was drinking. So, I thought everybody was just drinking alcohol, but I guess they were drinking absinthe too, and rebound boy overdosed. He turned blue, stopped breathing and started barfing unconscious, and I just remember screaming "Wake up!" It was an out-of-body experience and I had no idea what to do. I thought he was going to die, and I called 9-1-1. He just got his stomach pumped and he was fine, but I, he and I did not last, and I can't date drinkers after that.

It was now graduation time and high school was over. Everybody was so excited to go to college and that's the norm where I live, so even though I didn't want to go, I kind of had to - it's just the thing, so, I was not that excited. I moved nine hours from home, from Northern California to Southern California, and I was terrified. My first week of college was absolutely miserable, but then I made a friend - let's call her Dee. We were inseparable. Wherever she went, I went, and we joined a sorority together, and we loved it. Joining a sorority instantly made my huge school seem super small and I was introduced to a whole community of people and I made tons of friends and even met a few frat boys. I had a quintessential freshman college experience. I dated the frat guys - the douchey ones, not even that cute, and I definitely gained the freshman 15 as much as everyone's like, "No you didn't!" Yeah, don't judge me for that too. And I had awesome best friends - D&J. Everyone called us the Barbies which we kind of took offense to, but who cares? It's just because we were tall, white and blonde. And we decided to get an apartment together for our sophomore year.

Summer between my freshman sophomore year of college, I was crazy busy doing tons of super fun YouTube stuff and travelling and I tried to reach out to the Barbies, but it didn't really seem like they wanted to stay in touch, so, I brushed it off and got excited to move in together for the fall. But fall rolled around, and things were just different. Suddenly, it wasn't the three musketeers. It was them and then me. It started off as me just feeling left out. Within a few weeks, it turned into these girls I considered my best friends bullying me. I'd never experienced bullying before or mean girls, so I had no idea what to do. I tried so hard to fit in, to get them to like me again, to get to where it was before, but nothing worked and suddenly, the Barbie Dream House was absolute hell. I became really depressed and I developed extreme anxiety problems and OCD tendencies and stopped talking. I didn't get in bed for days - I'd just lock myself in my closet and finally I'd cry and cry and cry. I stopped eating, I stopped talking - I just wanted to sleep forever but I wanted these girls to like me, so I didn't tell anyone. I just kind of silently suffered with absolutely no friends in this hellhole. After a while, girls in my sorority started noticing that I was really different - that I was alone all the time and super skinny. One night, a girl in my sorority Rebecca invited me to come watch Vampire Diaries in her apartment and she said she'd be my friend, and a couple weeks after that, her and her roommates Shelley and Chelsey came to my apartment, packed up my suitcases and told me that I needed to move in with them because I needed to get out of this place. I'm still so thankful they did that. I didn't live on their couch forever and my parents helped. I moved a 57 second walk across the apartment complex from them.

To take my mind off of it all, I threw myself into YouTube and I was working harder than ever. And then here comes along this little last glass slipper beauty - AKA Allie, and we became fast best friends. YouTube friends become real-life friends, and we're actually getting an apartment together in Hollywood soon, and we've got big dreams, so you'll see our name in lights. I'm just so thankful I have her as a best friend - she's amazing. So now we get to the right now. Turns out I'm a third year with credit so I'm taking a break. Hopefully going to pursue acting and YouTube but really

focus on my mental health. I miss my family. I want to learn how to make more friends, but I have you guys. Through all of this stupid shit that's happened this year, you guys have changed my life, all almost 300,000 of you, but you're more like friends than anything else and I just want to say thank you. I wouldn't be where I am today career-wise or anything without you guys. If you want to see more videos a little more personal about my life, check out my second channel. I love you guys!

2292

## FDML #96

Hello everyone! Today I'm going to use the draw my life video. Some of you requested for this, so I hope you enjoy, and let's get rolling!

It all started on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1986. My beautiful mum gave birth to a tiny baby girl. My mum and my dad decided to name me Kristine Sarah. I was a happy and cute child. I had big round eyes, and my hair was always tied up and I always had a big bow on my head. At that time, my dad had a petition to go to the US. He couldn't turn his back at it, so he had to leave us here in the Philippines. So, he made a promise to my mum that he would soon take us there with him, so then he left for the US. While my dad was in the US, he would always send us letters and pictures and packages, until the letters became rarely and then one day, my mum just found out that my dad already found somebody else in the US. My mum was a very tough woman - she is until now - so she and I went on with our lives. She raised me and fed me, and we were happy, and I was also able to attend good schools because of her. But at that time, we were so poor since my mum was a single parent, so she could only afford to rent a small bedroom for the two of us. It was small, yes, but as a child, I didn't need a lot, but then I was happy with my mum. And then I remember when she bought this pre-owned television at a Japanese store. I was really happy at that time. And so, I finished elementary and had to go to high school. My mum wanted me to transfer it to a bigger school, so I transferred to a university. At that time, I was so excited. I thought I was going to meet new friends and new people, but I was bullied a lot. My classmates would call me names and would pick on me because of how I looked and my appearance. A child can only take so much, so I was really happy when my mum told me that I was going back to my old school. So there, I saw my old friends again and they were so warm and welcoming, and so I became happy again and those were my growing years. At that time, I was starting to mould myself, but instead of growing as a happy and confident child, because of all the experiences that I had, I grew up to be an insecure kid. So then, I unconsciously wanted to become different and to stand out because of my insecurities. At that time, I thought I was just a different, insecure kid, but I didn't know it was actually my God-given talents that I was starting to discover at that age.

Then I finished high school and went to university. My mum was very strict when it came to boys and tutors and having a boyfriend, so I didn't have a boyfriend at that time. Because college was so expensive, I had to stop studying and help my mum earn some money. I was only 18. I worked at McDonald's. At that time, I thought it was so cool - Wow! Free French fries. And I also worked at Nine West where I sold pretty bags and shoes that at that time I wanted to buy but I couldn't because they are so expensive. And then, my father's younger sister found out that I was working and stopped studying, so she told me that she would pay for my college, and so I went back to university.

When I turned 21, my mum became less strict on me, so I had my very first boyfriend and at that time, I was really happy, but then, you know, things happened so we parted ways. I had another boyfriend after that, but it wasn't a good experience, so I'd rather not talk about it. So, I just focused myself on studying, and luckily, I finally graduated and finished university. Yay! A few months after graduation, my friends and I tried for a Korean company and we got in, and I had to somehow connect to my students, so I had to learn some basic Korean expressions and googled some Korean singers. Next thing I know, I was totally into the whole Korean thing, so that's how it all started. Since I was online most of the time, I started watching YouTube videos. Some of my favourites are Ryan from NigaHiga and I also watched a lot of makeup tutorials by BubzBeauty, Michelle Phan, Promise Phan and so much more. And then my friend encouraged me to start my own YouTube channel. At first it was so awkward, so I just went ahead and uploaded other videos.

When I was preparing for YouTube and trying to get rid of the awkwardness, I noticed that pimples started growing on my face until I just woke up one day that I had very severe acne breakout on my face that hindered me from doing YouTube videos. I suffered acne for one year. March 2012, then when it started, and then by September, I noticed that it was already clearing up, and then now, May 2013, my skin is almost cleared up and I'm so happy. I still need to muster enough courage to show my now flawed skin and do makeup tutorials for you guys, but believe that I'll get there one day. For now, I'm doing nail tutorials, DIY videos and some hair tutorials for you guys.

With all of the things that I experienced in the past, I believe that I have all the right to be hurt, but I'm choosing to be happy. Never let something that happens in the past take away what you have in the future. Always choose to be happy because you deserve to be. Being on YouTube took me to places I have never been to. I have never been out of the country before, but because of this, I'm able to meet you guys. You're all truly a blessing. I may not have the perfect family, may not be the prettiest girl in high school or the richest person, but because I'm able to reach to the world, that



enough is a blessing to me. I want to thank you all for the support, from the 50 subscribers that I had and now to 50 thousand. You guys are so unbelievable. Thank you so much. Really - thank you.

1125

### FDML #97

Hi, I'm Lily Pebbles and this is my 500th video on YouTube. To celebrate, I thought I'd finally do a draw my life video and tell you a little bit about what's gone on so far.

So, the story starts before I was born, when a 30-something couple told their two daughters Jojo and Carly that they were expecting another baby – me! My lovely sisters who were seven and ten decided it was time to run away, but luckily, they didn't get far. With their suitcase full of cuddly toys and snacks, I think they just about made it down the stairs. I was born three weeks late in 1987 in the bath in a hospital. Being three weeks late meant I was born with very dry skin, so the Indian midwife gave me a massage with almond oil, and I'm pretty sure this is where my love for pampering began.

It's the people in my life that define me, so let's start with the two friends I've known since day one: Jake and Hannah. Hannah lived next door and only one year older than me, she likes to take credit for my existence. To be fair, my mum did go around to meet her and thought, oo, maybe I could just have one more. She was a very cute baby. Jake was my wingman. We'd do everything together and I love going on holidays with him. One night in Scotland when we were only three and four, we stayed up past midnight dancing, jumping up and down with huge smiles on our faces.

I grew up with a pet dog called Rugsy. She had really curly hair just like me and my dad, and when she was little, she had to have her hip removed. I'll never forget that because when she ran down the road in the wind, her leg would flap up in the air. That's supposed to be a leg by the way.

It was at nursery where I met my friend Debs. We used to lie to the teacher and somehow blag our way into the sand pit every day when we were meant to be taking turns with the other kids. We also used to steal the teacher's biscuits. We never went to the same school after nursery, but always stayed incredibly close.

I was very lucky, and I went on some amazing family holidays to France, America, Disney and I have some really special memories from a holiday in Antigua in the Caribbean when I was about six or seven. Now, looking back, I know it's a holiday we took after my grandpa died, but at the time it was just a really fun holiday and I got to miss some days of school. One day, we came across some washed up sea turtles and we helped get them back into the sea. Another day, my sister got stung by a Portuguese man-of-war, and it wrapped itself around her arms, and for years after, you could still see the marks under a UV light.

So, let's talk about big-girl school, or primary school as most of us call it. And this is where I met my next group of friends - Keisha was in my class, green class, and Jenny was in blue class where all the older more developed kids were. And SJ was in the class for slightly younger kids. We joke about how her class was still in nappies. We had so much fun together in school. We'd go back to each other's houses almost every day, laugh all the time and we'd get into trouble in the playground. We had a gang called "bad" and we used to fall over on purpose to get plasters from the nurse's room. Plasters were like treasure to us.

I was a shy girl but not with my friends. We'd stand on the steps and perform Spice Girls songs; we'd challenge the boys and try and beat them at sports. Girl power was literally our life motto. We started a girls' football team and our dads helped us get proper football kits for the school, and after training every Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m., we won the local league. We were so happy.

I was always writing in my diary before bed. I kept a diary from the age of 10 to 16. It's so funny to read now, but I love that it has so many memories in there. I remember having some great birthday parties. My dad had a video camera and he loved filming all of our birthdays and holidays, so I've watched them back many times. One year, I had an animal party where I had a Python snake around my neck, another year I had a swimming party and all my friends came – there were inflatables in the water, and one time I had an ice-skating party and I asked all my friends to come dressed as punks.

Secondary school was a weird experience for me. I never really felt like I fit in with the other girls, but I also wasn't great at the academic side of things, so I didn't really know where I fit in. I spent a lot of time in the art room, despite being terrible at drawing, clearly. And I loved being part of the jazz choir where we performed proper concerts once a year in a big London theatre. I always took part in school musicals and I had a couple of lead roles too. I still spent a lot of time with my friends outside of school. By this time, I'd met Gemma and we spent every summer and camp together. We have so many funny stories as we really went through the awkward teenage days together. This was my first experience of real bullying, not just teasing. But I admired Gemma's strength and always stuck by her and tried to be the best friend I could.

I couldn't wait for school to be over and I never wanted to apply for uni. My careers teacher convinced me to apply for one course at least, so I begrudgingly did and although I didn't get the grades I needed, I still got in! So, I had an unconditional offer to Birmingham City University, and I knew I wanted to take a year out. After 18 years of studying, I wanted to take time out to explore the world, grow up a bit and meet new people. I worked in Gap Kids for four months to pay for my flight around the world, and then set off in January. I travelled from London to Australia for a month, and then to Thailand for a month and then visited Fiji and LA on the way home. I met loads of people, ate the best food, learnt how to surf, saw amazing sunsets, snorkelled and visited some of the best beaches in the world. I got back just in time to see my sister and brother-in-law get married in the South of France.

So, then it was time to start uni. I was so nervous, and I didn't know one single person going to my uni, but my flatmates were really friendly and after a big cry, I let my parents go home. I was really homesick for the first week and nearly dropped out, but I'm glad I stuck it out. On the first day, we had to line up and register in a room full of desks. I sat next to a curly-haired boy with glasses. He looked fully equipped with a pencil case, so when I realised I didn't have a pen, I asked him if I could borrow one. My curly hair and gap year tan must have confused him as he heard Spanish and replied with "¿Qué?" That was just the start of Rich and his Richisms. Uni was great. I got stuck into my Marketing, Advertising and PR course and met loads of cool people. I built up my confidence presenting my work and I was excited to finally be doing well at something.

Rich and I became official at our University's Christmas ball. It also happened to be my birthday and my friend surprised me with a cake. I was so drunk that I cried with happiness. So many cool things happened over those three years - my first nephew Bailey was born, and I became an auntie. Hannah won a free trip to New York and took me! We had the best time. I moved in with my two friends J and JC in third year and never knew living with two boys could be so fun and easy. It was in that house that J helped me start my blog that I called "What I heart today". J was the perfect creative partner and still to this day, six years on, even though he lives in Germany, he helps me develop my blog design. He was the genius behind my Lilly Pebbles makeover. I left uni with a first, which was something I never ever thought could happen and I know I owe a lot to Rich for helping and supporting me throughout the three years.

I immediately launched myself into work experience and I wanted to gain as much experience as possible and add it to my CV. I'd worked in production companies in between uni years but now I wanted to try PR. I worked in PR agencies phoning journalists and sending out products. I also landed myself an internship in the Selfridges head office, although it wasn't for me, so I went on to try something else. I worked for a bit in music licensing, finding music to place in adverts. And then I found a job opportunity in a beauty box company on Twitter. This was my first jump into the beauty world, and I started as an intern and was only the third person to join the company, so I could really get stuck in. After a year and a half, I'd worked my way up to marketing manager, but by this point my blog was doing quite well and I was spending all my free time working on blog posts and videos for my relatively new YouTube channel.

In 2012 my nephew Acer and my niece Honey were born. I literally love being an auntie. I was going to blogger events about once a week and it was at a lipstick launch that I first met Anna. She worked in a job that was basically the same as mine and we instantly bonded over our split work blog life. I never thought I'd meet someone in my twenties that was so similar to me. It was at this point I saw a job opportunity on Twitter at Gleam Futures. I went to meet the founder Dom in a small office. It was just him and one other person working there. After chatting for ages, we both realised that working at Gleam wasn't for me, but instead he encouraged me to stick with the YouTube thing and I think this was the final push I needed.

I decided in October 2013 to leave my job and try blogging and vlogging full-time. I was living at home with my parents, so it felt like a good time to do it. Rich was very nervous about the decision and no one really knew what I was thinking. I started working really hard on my blog and YouTube, putting all my time and effort into it. I set myself a 3-month goal and told myself I'd find a job if it didn't work out. My stats grew, I started making a good income and it was the first time I felt really passionate about something. Anna had also been contemplating leaving her job and when faced with an ultimatum, she took on blogging full-time and we began this crazy journey together.

In summer 2015, Rich and I moved into our first place, and at 28 years old, it's fair to say I was more than ready. We spent a month or so doing the place up, and on August 14<sup>th</sup>, when I thought we were going to paint samples on the wall, Rich asked me to marry him in our new and empty home. Of course, I said yes.

So that kind of brings me up to date - working hard and enjoying what I do, planning my wedding and marrying my boyfriend of eight years. I'm forever grateful for the support from you guys and I genuinely feel like we have our own secret internet club that not everyone really understands. Who knows what the future holds? But life's been great so far, so let's keep going and see what happens. Thanks so much for watching guys. I'll see you in my next video. Bye!

2153

FDML #98

I began my life in the desert. Okay, well like not an actual desert. I was born in Alice Springs, Australia, which just so happens to be situated in the smack-dab centre of the outback. From the little that I can remember about my time there, my life sounded like something from an old book you'd find at the back of an antique store.

Right after I was born, my mum asked to see me in the hospital nursery, but when she and my dad got there, they looked in and saw a little Aboriginal boy poised over my crib just staring at me. We didn't know who he was or why he was there, and we still don't. I remember that my preschool had a backyard full of animals – bunnies, guinea pigs and peacocks - we spent recess running around the backyard pulling the tail feathers off the peacocks, which I guess in retrospect was pretty mean. Sorry peacocks! To cool off following an afternoon of shenanigans, we'd lie down, pluck up blades of grass and chew the water out of the roots. See, now you get where I got the little antique store thing from. I remember that one time at the zoo with my family I had a bag full of pellets to feed kangaroos with. One of the overzealous ones got a hold of the bag and he and I engaged in a few seconds of tug-of-war before the bags split open and the pellets fell everywhere. I can't remember if I cried or not, but at least now I can tell people that I fought with a kangaroo.

Fast forward to our move to Texas. Throughout my first few years at school, I was a bit of a nobody. I was in no way athletic. I wasn't yet into the arts and because I didn't like to talk, I think I was known as the "dumb" kid in the smart kid classes. Eventually though, I found a good group of friends who were like me. We didn't really fit in anywhere and to me, that's what made us cool.

I got my first tablet when I was 12 years old. I didn't have any notable drawing ability besides what I learned from anime and cartoons, so the first couple of drawings weren't exactly stellar. I spent the entire summer trying to teach myself how to draw as best I could, but I was still far from where I wanted to be. In high school, I figured out that art is what I wanted to do with my life, and the credit for that realization goes to my two art teachers - Sidle and Mac. Sidle, who was known for his hilarity and ever-changing facial hair, saw artistic potential in me. He managed to get me to stop drawing Anime which was an astounding achievement in itself. Mac, known for his worldliness and fondness of birds, was the bad cop to Sidle's good cop. He gave me massive amounts of homework, called me out when I was being lazy or not pushing myself hard enough, and gave brutal critiques. It was hard, but the rate at which I improved totally justified it. Under Mac and Sidle's keep, I became a bit of a rock star. I won incredible awards and recognition at local and state levels and for a few months, I even had a piece show in the Dallas Museum of Art.

Regardless of all the success I was having with art though, I still felt pretty alone in the world. But it was in Mac's art class that I met the best friends I ever could have asked for. They're the type of friends that you know you'll have for the rest of your life. We call ourselves the wildcat attack force and to this day, we're all still best friends. I guess I should clarify - they aren't floating heads.

My first year at college was incredibly awkward to say the least. Socially, it felt worse than grade school. I could count my friends on one hand, and I had so much social anxiety that some days, I couldn't even go to the cafeteria. Unfortunately for me, I also had a massive crush on this guy in my studio art class. When I finally gathered up the courage to ask him out, he flat-out rejected me, unfriended me on Facebook and never spoke to me again. Combined with the other social disasters that happened that year, this did a number on my self-esteem. But eventually, it made me a much stronger person than I was before, except without all the muscles and stuff.

Nowadays, most of my time is geared towards graduating college, watching TV, drawing and playing with my sister's cat. It's a simple life - I wouldn't trade it for anything, but you know, if I was to grade it on a scale of 1 to 10, I'd probably give it like a little goblin with a cupcake in its hand and wearing a little bowl of fruit on the hat on its head, but since I don't feel like drawing that right now, I'm just going to go ahead and give it an A+. Yeah, that's good.

877

## FDML #99

Today, I decided to do the draw my life tag, mostly because so many of you wanted me to do it and I'm afraid if I don't do what you want me to that you'll find out where I live and be like, "I'm going to hurt you!" but then when you get here, you'd be like, "Oh, I'm chicken - not going to do it". And here's Whoopi Goldberg wishing me luck on this endeavour.

I was born on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1985. I was birthed from my mother who had giant puffy 80s style hair. This is her on a hospital bed, not a pinball machine. There's me - I wasn't that big. I was like eight pounds, seven ounces when I was born. There was my mum having just some post-birth thoughts. The night I was born was really interesting - all of the nurses came up to my mum and were like, "Did you name her Gloria?" because there was a giant hurricane happening named hurricane Gloria that night and all the news reporters wanted to know if anyone named their kid Gloria. And my mum was like, "No" and then they walked away.

My family was my mum with giant 80s hair, my older brother John who was four years older than me and my younger brother Tim and my dad. When I was about four years old, my parents got a divorce and it didn't actually affect me and my brothers too much. **We tend to see the glass half full** - so full that there's two glasses. A few years later, my parents got remarried to awesome people. My mum married a guy named Bill and my dad married a woman named Maureen whose name I might have trouble spelling sometimes. And **I totally support these second marriages**. If it doesn't work the first time, second time is charming.

In fourth grade, me and my stepdad, my mum and my brothers moved to a new town and which meant a new school. We moved from Willbury to Willbury Heights, which made it sound like we were rich now when really, we just got a house with an extra half bathroom. **I was really happy** with the move. **I was starting to make new friends and having a great time** until one day I realised I had a tail. And I was really sad and all the girls I was friends with got really grossed out. I couldn't believe it.

Then I got into high school, and I didn't have a lot of friends until **I met this girl, Rachel, who was hilarious**, and we would do all kinds of comedy sketches and SNL spoofs as school projects. One time we made a bet with our friend and she lost, and we made her dress up like a tampon for Halloween. I made the costume. **It was great**. Overall, I was **so happy** until one day, my tail grew a tiny middle finger and I was so sad, and all the boys in my school looked at me and they were just like, "Ew". But eventually, through a lot of emotional repression, I made it through, and I got into college on a full academic scholarship. My school was dumb, but **I was thrilled** because I was going to school in North Jersey which is one step closer to New York, where I really wanted to be, but my tail and its tiny middle finger were coming too.

When I got into college, I wasn't totally sure what I wanted to do. I just knew I wanted to do something creative, so I took acting classes, I took screenwriting classes and I was having a great time being creative. I eventually started to binge on internships. I did about four different internships at MTV and one at Late Night with Conan O'Brien, actually five at MTV, I was able to do this because I forged my adviser's signature on my permission slip. Take that, the man that cares about that. In addition to internships, I was teaching tennis all throughout North Jersey and working at a server at an Applebee's. **I'm what you call a workaholic. It's a disease**.

I was having a great time being productive in college, but my tail wasn't. Somehow, she got tits and showed them to everyone and drank way too much and was hanging out with the wrong guys, and it just made me really sad again but thanks to emotional repression, I made it through to graduation. **I was so excited** - I had so many plans and my tail made it too, and so did **my good friend Michelle**. She doesn't wear a top hat - I just get drawing dyslexic sometimes. Together, we decided that we were going to move to the big city - not necessarily the big city, but Brooklyn. It's not all guns though. It's mostly just lesbians that are adorable. At least, where we moved. We moved to an area called Carroll Gardens, which is kind of an affluent neighbourhood except we lived in a really shitty apartment. Didn't have a sink in the bathroom - we brushed our teeth in the kitchen. We also had a drug lord landlord named Tony who would ask us for money all the time. **It was great!** And things got even better when I found out about the people's Improv Theater, aka The Pit. I took a bunch of improv classes and made it on to a house team. I was making people laugh once a week on stage. **It was amazing**.

Thanks to my internships, I got a job at MTV after I graduated but I quit to wait tables, so I'd have more time to focus on, that's right, a career in comedy. **I was so happy, and things were looking up**, until my tail turned everything around. She wouldn't pay rent and she was going crazy and she would yell at me all the time for no reason. And, it just, it made me really sad again.

To take my mind off of feeling sad, I had saved up all my waiting table money and bought myself an iMac and started to make little web videos about what it was like living in Brooklyn, and my roommate Michelle would come and make them too, and we started a YouTube channel called Grace and Michelle, all about our silly goofy lives in Brooklyn. Then, one day, a company called My Damn Channel called me and they were like, "Hey, we like your videos - will you make those videos for us?" **I couldn't believe it. Of course, I said yes**, and before I knew it, I was making a daily video 5 days a week from my apartment in Brooklyn. **It was a dream come true. I was so happy**, but things with my tail weren't happy. She was spiralling out of control and I think she was doing drugs with our landlord Tony, but it was impossible to know for sure. It was just horrible, and it made me really sad again, until one day, I was riding the subway and I saw an ad for something that would change my life - it was an ad for doctors Zizmor, a plastic surgeon. I called him that afternoon and an hour later, in an abandoned warehouse in Queens, he cut my tail right off and I was finally free. I felt so much lighter, physically. Before I knew it, I found myself chasing more of my dreams in Los Angeles, with a dog no less. But my dog has a tail and that makes me sad because it reminds me of my tail, and every time I look at my dog's tail, I don't know what to do. I can't stop thinking about her. What is she doing now? Is she drinking? Is she hanging out with Frankie Muniz? It was always a dream of hers. I just don't know, but I do know that this is the part of the video that I tell you that **I love you**. Yeah, bye. But I'm still sad, remember? So, this is now the end of the video. You guys know this ends late and all this jazz, but just don't forget, if there's one takeaway from this video, it's that I'm, I'm really sad, and I'm depressed and I'm sad, and I'll never be fully happy.

## FDML #100

Hi guys! Welcome to my draw my life video. This video was **really, really hard for me to make**. I said something that I haven't revealed to anybody else before, so **thank you for taking the time to watch it**. And **I suck at drawing** but enjoy.

Okay, so my name is Farah Dhukai. It's pronounced far rah, like a dungeon dragon, and apparently people with the name Farah have a deep desire for love. Farah also means joy, happy and traveller. My background is from the continent of Africa. My parents and their parents and so on and so forth, are from Africa and my mum's from Tanzania and my dad is from Uganda. So, in my family, there's my dad and my mum and my sister and my brother and they're both older than I am. And my brother had this really ugly Beatles haircut growing up, so that's why I drew his hair like that, and then I was born on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1987. I was the baby of the family and when I was born, my mum's mum moved from America to live with us and **I love her so much**.

For a large part of my childhood, I actually thought I was an accident because of the age gap between my brother and my sister and I, and my brother actually convinced me that I was an accident because he told me that one time, like, he had another sister named Farah and my parents actually sold her with a car that they had because she was so bad. So then he was forced to clean the new car that my parents got and he was cleaning it, and he saw this really ugly thing in the back, so he took me out and he washed me off and he was like, "Oh, what is this ugly thing?" and then he went in and showed my parents that it was actually a little girl, and he convinced me that my parents decided to keep me and call me Farah, and **I was so scared** that they would sell me again. I don't really remember much of my childhood, but I do remember when I was three years old, **I was obsessed with the Mario Brothers, like, obsessed**. My dad got us a Nintendo around that time and I always used to make my sister play it and get me the princess and like most little girls, you would think that I wanted to be the princess. Well, actually, my dad was Mario and **I wanted to be Luigi all day every day**, and if somebody asked me what my name was, I was like "My name is Luigi, like, don't get it twisted".

In front of my house we had this huge hill and my brother would ride his bike down the hill and **I thought he was just so cool**, so I actually tried it when I was on my tricycle and I ended up falling onto the sidewalk at the bottom of the hill because I was like "Yolo!", and then my mum came out and she yelled at me for copying my brother and doing dumb things, and then we went to the hospital and they put a huge cast on my arm and it was like the size of my body, but then I became like a little rebel because I survived that little incident, and I was like, **"I am so cool now"**. And I used to do, like, bad, rebellious things and get in trouble all the time.

So when I was like three and a half years old, my parents decided that they wanted to move more north and out of the Toronto area, so we sold our house and we packed up and we just went north because my dad already bought a house there, and **I really liked our house. It was really, really nice. I loved** the court that we lived in, but school was **a major culture shock** because we were like the only Indian family there and I was like the typical Indian girl. I had blunt bangs, I had hair down to my butt and my mum thought it was cute to dress me in sailor outfits like I was like the Indian Sailor Moon, but I was sailor uncool because **I was really, really shy and I talked in a whisper** and I remember, like, one time, this boy asked me, he was like "Did you play in mud?" because my skin colour was different and I was just like **really, really shy** and upset. I was like, **"Why am I so different?"** You know, and I was like, "I hope there's more like me out there". Yeah, because there weren't that many Indians around besides my cousin.

So, I remember one time in kindergarten, we were playing and it was picture day and I was just like running around and **this evil boy**, I'm not going to say the name, he tripped me and I actually fell straight on my face, like right on my nose, and I got the biggest cut on my nose. And if you look at my picture day picture, I'm like smiling and there's like this really ugly scar on my nose and **it's just really sad**. So while I was in kindergarten, like two months later, my family, well, me my mum and my grandma, we actually decided that we're going to go visit my mum's sister in Mumbasa, Kenya, which is in Africa. So, we went there in like Decemberish. **I was really, really excited** because I turned 5 years old there, and **I loved Africa, like, I love my cousins, I love my aunt and uncle and I just had such an amazing time there**. I remember, **I used to like playing** in the alleyways and I'd, like, play with all the stray cats and I'd feed them and **I saw one that I loved**, and I'm like, "You're mine!", so I took it home and I showed my mum and everyone kind of freaked out. My aunt and uncle spoiled me, and they let me keep it and they actually kept it for a really long time afterwards and I named it Dimuri. Don't ask me where I got that name from.

So we were in Africa for like two or three months, and then I had to go back because I had to go back to school and I remember I had to do like some presentation, and I did my presentation in a whisper and I basically didn't know my ABCs. I was like A B C D, line. And I didn't know, and, like, the teacher told my dad that I needed to stay back in kindergarten. My dad was like, "No, we're going to teach her at home, and she has to progress". So, for a large part of my childhood, **my brother was my best friend** because my sister was apparently too cool for school and I was too young for her. **My brother was evil**. I remember one time he said, "Kiss my butt – otherwise, I'm not going to play with you". And I actually kissed his bare bum. **It was, like, disgusting**. And I remember we used to play hockey. He used to put me in net with no equipment – nothing. I'd just stand there, and he'd take slap shots at me and he would just laugh. He was like, "Don't cry, be a man. Be a man! Don't cry or I'm not going to play with you again!"

And one time, we played David Copperfield in my basement and he tied me to the pole, and I was like, “He left me there!” and I was like, “Oh my god! What am I going to do?” And I didn’t really struggle and then my grandma actually came down and, like, saved me and untied me. And my grandma, **my Nanima, is my hero. I love her so much. Me and her, we’re like BFF, like, she’s my everything. My whole life we were just so super, super tight.**

So now let’s fast forward a couple years. I’m eight years old and I was blossoming into a hairy little caterpillar like most little brown kids. I got glasses that are too small for my face, I had like a unibrow, my moustache was coming in nicely and I hated showering, like, **I was so scared to shower** so I actually really smelled. Like, I was a real Disney princess. So, the summer before grade four started, I had some trouble breathing through my nose, so I actually had to go in and get surgery and **I felt really cool** about it because I got interviewed in the local newspaper and **it was so exciting**. I had my surgery on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> and the surgery went well, but the doctor told me to eat ice to heal the wound so I actually ate this jagged piece of ice and it opened up one of my wounds and **it was really, really scary** because all I remember is just throwing up so much blood and I don’t remember anything after that. So, like two weeks later, I went back to school and like school had just begun, so none of the kids really knew me that well, and I was kind of that girl who was gone for the beginning of the school year. So, **I was really, really shy** and **I didn’t really have that many friends**, and I actually, like, went home and I learned “yo mumma” jokes from my brother, so I’d be like “Yo mumma’s so fat!” I’d tell all these jokes, I actually had this booklet of mumma jokes and all the popular girls started liking me, like, “You’re so funny”, and I actually started getting so many friends and **I was so excited and that’s when I met my best friend.**

So, by this time, **I had a lot of friends and life was great.** The boys at school didn’t really like me and think I was very cute because, I mean, clearly **I had a moustache and my milkshake brought all the boys to the yard.** Check my Instagram if you want to see an ugly picture of me, by the way. But I didn’t really care, because I actually found the man that changed my life, and I vowed that I would marry him when I was legal age, and I know you’re thinking: “You met your husband? That’s so cute!” No, my friends. No, I actually met my husband. I was watching wrestling with my brother and he was like “Do you smell what I’m cooking?” I was like “Yes!” and that man is The Rock. At that moment, **I became, like, so obsessed with The Rock**, like I had his posters all over my room wall, I had his t-shirts, I had every magazine and I’d think about us getting married in the future and, like, running off together, and I was just a freak. Like, **I had serious hopes** that we would actually be together.

So, moving on to Grade 8. I was like 11 or 12 years old and **I was clearly blossoming into the prettiest girl ever.** I had this really ugly haircut, I cut my, short, I had this weird flipped out haircut, I had a unibrow, my moustache, my sideburns and goatee grew in just nice. My arm hair was just like, my arm hair like sleeves, and I wasn’t allowed to shave so I had super hairy legs too. Mum’s like, “No, you can’t shave” and all my friends had boyfriends and girlfriends and I was just like, “Man, I just want cake and The Rock”, and that’s basically all I thought about and I thought, like, he’d be like, “Oh, I love you Farah”. I was absolutely the biggest tomboy ever. I went to my grade eight prom in a Vince Carter Raptors Jersey, and **I finally got to shave my legs.** Well, not shave because my cousin Fahrin promised my mum that she’ll wax them for me, so they won’t grow so bad, so thanks Fahrin for that!

And then the summer afterwards is when I really started blossoming into a girl. **I became close with my sister** and I started borrowing her clothes and I grew out my hair and I started wearing her makeup, and I don’t think she was embarrassed to hang out with me this time because my moustache was gone. **wasn’t a hairy little caterpillar anymore** - I was actually a girl. And then high school started, and **I loved high school.** Like, I had friends that were from my old school and **I met so many new friends and I was making so many friends. I was so happy and actually met my best friend there and we’re still best friends to this day.**

I remember I used to wake up early and dress up every single day and then grade 10 started come around and **I started finding myself becoming a little more antisocial.** All my friends wanted to party and go out, and I was just thinking about my sister and thinking about, you know, my grandma and just thinking about going home. Like, **I didn’t really want to be there.**

So, around the end of grade 10, I met this boy who was older than me and **I actually didn’t like him at all** when I first met him. I was like, “Go away, you’re so annoying and obnoxious”, and I didn’t have a cell phone then, so he’d actually call my sister’s cell phone to talk to me and I’m just like “no”, and I just I thought **he was so annoying** but I couldn’t stop talking to him for some reason, so we finally met up at this place called The Scarbo Bluffs and **it was so cool, so pretty there and I actually had a nice time with him,** even though I still thought **he was pretty annoying.** So, we actually continued to talk for many, many years, but more on that later.

I actually found myself becoming more of a tomboy and **just kind of more antisocial,** and my best friend who I mentioned earlier, she actually became friends with these **girls who, like, hated me and they’d call me like “dirty Indian” and they’d call me gross and they still send me hate messages to this day which is, like, whatever.** I didn’t really care though because **I had my new best friend, I had my grandma, my sister, my mum, my dad and I forgot to draw my brother but I had my brother and I had this boy that I was talking to, and I just loved life. I loved everyone in my life and that’s all I needed. And I was just really content with what I had,** and I had really no idea what I wanted to do in

the future, and what really my other purpose in life was besides hanging out with everyone that I loved so much. And all my friends by the end of grade 12 were, like, thinking about going to uni and going to work I was just stuck in this bubble with no idea on what I wanted to do, and then graduation came along and I graduated from high school, and I'm still like, "Okay, now what?" So a little while afterwards, I was actually on the phone with that boy and he was like, "What do you really want out of life? Like, what do you enjoy doing?" and I was like, "I don't know", and then I thought about it and I was like I actually love makeup and I love hair and I love everything about beauty and it's just what makes me happy, so he was like, "Go for it!" and encouraged me. So, I signed up to the School of Makeup Art in downtown Toronto and it was a three-month program and I loved it. I loved playing with makeup and learning new things and it was just the best thing ever, but I was actually really, really shy so after I graduated, I didn't freelance and ended up just being at home and then I thought in my head, I thought, "Ok, I want to move to New York City". And I talked to my dad about it. My dad was like, "I don't know", but then I told him, like, "Dad, trust me - everyone will know my name", and I was really, really ambitious and he finally agreed to let me go.

So, in February of 2007, I moved to New York City. The move was actually really, really big for me because I'd never been away from home and I actually lived with a friend close to Manhattan and I enrolled in the Aveda Institute in Soho and I loved it. But when I went back home to my apartment, I was actually really, really sad and lonely and I really missed my grandma, and at that time, she had actually had an accident and she was in the hospital, and I was so sad and I just wanted to be at home with her. I used to cry every single day. My friend had a cat that would actually lick my tears away and it was really, really cute and in March of 2007, I actually went home to visit my grandma, and it was so much fun and I loved it so much, and I remember asking her, like, "Are you going to miss me?" and she's like, "No, because you're going to make all of us really proud". And I still remember that to this day.

So, while I was in New York, I basically had two personalities. Like, there was just two sides of me. Like one side was so happy, like I love New York, I was a dreamer and I was so confident in myself and I was excited about the future, but the other side was really sad and depressed and lonely and angry and I just wanted to go home because I missed my family so much. So, after about eight months, in November 2007, I graduated from the Aveda Institute and I felt great. I was so confident, I was a dreamer and I was like, "Hey, maybe I can actually do this?" but I was really, really happy to go home and see my family and life was just good. I went back really, really confident. I actually went to go visit my grandma in the hospital and I spent so much time with her there and I actually used to talk to her about that boy that I was talking to on the phone all the time, and I was like, "I really like him" and, like, she was the only one that knew about him because my parents were really, really strict and she'd, like, encourage me and be like "You know, if he's a good boy, go for it!" and she's like, "Yeah, get your license so that, you know, you can come visit me anytime and you can take me out" and I was like, "Okay!". So I got my license on November 30<sup>th</sup> and I called her and she was so excited, so on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, my grandma, she called me and she's like "The nurses didn't tuck me in properly - can you come tuck me in and see me?" and I was like, "Yes, of course", so me and my sister went and spent some time with her and it was just perfect, like everything was perfect that night. I was on top of the world - my grandma was happy, but then after a little while, she started getting tired, so I tucked her in like I always did for my whole life, I kissed her on her forehead and I said, "If you need anything, call me and I'll be here", and I remember that moment like it was so perfect, she looks so beautiful and she looked in my eyes and she was like, "You know, everything is fine now. Like, I can finally sleep in peace", and I didn't get what that meant at that time, so I went home, and I thought everything was fine, and then in the morning of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, my life changed. Like, my brother walked into my at eight o'clock in the morning and told me that my grandma had actually passed away in her sleep, and I felt my heart break and rip out of my chest, like it felt like I was stabbed with a knife in my heart. You know, I felt really, really lost for the longest time. She was like my purpose in life and I felt like my purpose was gone and, like, she had taken my heart with her and I just felt really, really empty and sad and depressed and just felt like I lost my whole life. I was really angry at myself for moving to New York and only having one month to spend with her before she passed away, and I felt like it was my fault and I just really hated myself. I felt empty and I felt like I could have prevented it, like, if I was here in Toronto, so I actually had two personalities again - like, one part of me, like I would smile and laugh and show everyone that I was okay, because I didn't want my family and, like, that boy you know I was talking to and everyone to worry, but really on the inside I was really depressed and really, really sad and broken hearted and I felt like a piece of my heart just went missing. Like it was just empty.

The next couple years just flew by, like, I was just at home. I would get jobs and only work for like four hours and then I'd quit. I had no ambition. I didn't care about the future. Just, there was really no point in life and I just kept thinking about her and, like, living in a memory of her, and I wouldn't appreciate that boy that I was talking to, and I couldn't see, like, what was right in front of me. Like, I had my family, I had him and my best friend. I had everything and, like, he'd try to help me but I just didn't want anyone in my life and I'd act happy, you know, in front of people but when the doors closed at night, like, I'd just think about her and I'd want her back and I'd cry and I'd ask God, like, why he took her from me. That was, like, the only thing that mattered to me, you know? You know, if you keep thinking about the past, you can't move forward, so all that confidence that I had in New York was gone. I was shy, I had no ambition, no future - nothing. I didn't really care.

Then three years later, I was just browsing the internet and I came across one of Michelle Phan's videos and I was, like, obsessed with her. I was like, "Oh my god! I really admire what she's doing. She has so much confidence and I just love that she's doing something that she loves". So, I called that boy and I said, like, "Look at this girl, like, I just admire", and he's like, "You should try it out, like, go for it, like, you have nothing to lose!" So then I got my camera and I started recording myself and I was still really, really shy and you can see that I wasn't confident on camera, so I was just like, "Okay, I'm not uploading this, making a fool of myself", but then after a little while, I got my sister because I feel confident around her and I filmed the video and I finally uploaded onto YouTube and I had like no views on it, but I was actually really happy that I was confident enough to actually put it onto the Internet and if I'm being honest, like, I really didn't expect anything from uploading my video onto YouTube. Like, I just wanted to do it for me just to get my confidence back and just, you know, get out there, but over time, my channel actually started growing and I started getting these comments about how I've changed someone's life or I've made someone feel beautiful, and just happy, and I was like, "Really?" Like, "I did that for you?" and, like, it started making me feel really happy, and it just felt really, really good.

So, time went by and I started getting more and more comments and started making more and more friends, and it was just, like, overwhelming for me. I was, like, crazy. I was like, "I can't believe, like, I make people feel this way", and it started making me feel really happy and started filling that little empty spot in my heart and I thought about my grandma, I'm like "Oh my god, she would be so happy to see this right now!" and it just made me really happy.

After that, I started letting myself be happy and I started thinking more positive thoughts and things in life just kind of started working out. So, I really believe that when you think positive, like, positive things happen too, and you have to focus on the positive. And shortly after, on February 14<sup>th</sup>, that boy actually blindfolded me and started taking me for a drive. And I was like, "Yo, are you going to like kill me? Like, I know karate bro". I don't really know karate but anyways, he was actually taking me to the first place that we ever hung out at and he waited a little while and he took off my blindfold and he said, "You know where we are?" and then he had a ring in front of him and of course I said yes. But, you know, it was just crazy to me that, like, I couldn't see what was right in front of me. Like, he was there all along trying to fill that empty spot in me and I just wouldn't let him. And over the next little while, I started wedding planning because we decided to get married in October of the same year and I started spending time with my family and life was just good, and I noticed a really big change in me, like, I started thinking really, really positive and I allowed myself to be happy. And now, when I thought about my grandma, like, it wasn't sad or angry that she was gone. I was actually really happy and thankful that I did get to spend that time with her and thankful that she was in my life.

So, on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, I married my Superman and I just feel so happy in life. Like, I see a complete 360 in the way that I used to think before and the way that I think now. You know, sometimes, you can think that life is over but really life is full of surprises and it's actually just beginning, because when one door closes or when you lose something, you gain so much. And that's exactly what happened with me – like, you know, I had my husband, my dad, my mum, my brother and my sister, and I gained a new family. Like, I have the most amazing in-laws, like, I love them so much and I even have a new brother – like, a little brother. Like, I've always wanted a little brother, and now I finally have one. And I'm just so happy in life and I know my grandma is watching down on us and she's happy and she's at peace, and I have all of you. Like, I'm so thankful to have all of you, because I feel like that empty spot in my heart is filled with so much love and so much happiness, and you guys helped fill that empty spot in my heart. And I know it's going to sound super cheesy, but seriously, from the bottom of my heart, you guys don't know how many ways you have helped me. So, I just wanted to say thank you for helping filling that void in my life. And if you ever feel like life sucks and there's just no purpose in life, just know that, you know, life always has a way of turning around. You just have to think positive and let yourself be happy and love and laugh and smile, because that's the meaning of life. And honestly, like, if I didn't get to say goodbye to my grandmother the way that I did, I think things would be really different for me and I'd be in a really bad place right now, so I just wanted to let you guys know that, like, if you love someone, don't wait to tell them, if that's your mum, dad, brothers, sisters, baby, cat, partner, sloth – anything. Just tell them that you love them. Like, don't wait.

And as for me and the future, I don't really know. Like, I'm still a wanderer. I don't really think about the future. I just like to live for today and enjoy every moment that I have today because I really believe that tomorrow is a gift, so maybe we'll have some babies. I don't know - we'll see! And I'm going to end this video off following my own advice, so I just wanted to tell you guys that I love you, like, you guys have truly changed my life in more ways than one, and I just wanted to thank you for that. Thank you for your love and for your support, and just always being there and thank you for helping complete me and letting me be me. So, thanks for watching guys!

5059



## Male YouTubers

### MDML #1

How's it going bros? My name is PewDiePie and welcome to Fridays with PewDiePie. I asked you bros this week for suggestions on what to do on Fridays with PewDiePie and many, many, many of you were saying draw my life and apparently it's a new thing that all the cool kids do and I haven't kept up with it as always but I tried and **I failed!** I didn't have a lot of time to do it bros, so don't be hating or skating. You can skate. Anyway, I'm going to show it to you bros and yeah, here it is!

Hey, how's it going bros? My name is PewDiePie. I'm going to draw my life for you today. My real name given by my mother and father was Felix. Felix is Latin and means happy. Since the day I was born, **I was living up to this name. I was always happy, I rarely cried** and my favourite word at the time was "gu". I'm still not sure what it really meant.

One day I went to kindergarten with my hair up and wearing a skirt. I told everyone there I was a girl. Needless to say, I was fabulous. I spent most of my time in kindergarten drawing. Teachers said I would grow up to become an artist one day. They were so right! I mean, **look at this masterpiece**. But I was actually drawing videogame characters. Yoshi, Sonic, Donkey Kong, Mario, Kirby. What? You don't know Kirby? Videogames was **my favourite interest** as a kid and has been ever since. Our family didn't own a console to play on because I played too much but every time I was sick, my mum would rent a Super Nintendo for me. Unfortunately, I was sick a lot as a child, quite a lot. Very sad.

I was also very short as young and I wasn't allowed to ride on the cool rides in the amusement park, but honestly, **I was too scared to ride on them anyway**. I was still **always the happy kid who laughed and smiled a lot** but once puberty hit, **I became quieter and more introverted**. **I was doing great in school** before but now **I lost interest in, well, everything**. **I lost friends, connection with family, I stopped being creative. It caused a lot of trouble for me** but despite all of it, I had **some of my best memories playing video games**.

Approaching the end of my teenage years, **I started to break out on my bubble a little bit**. I took a final attempt to fix my grades in school and I wanted to prove to myself that **I wasn't really an idiot**. **One of my physics exams I scored highest out of 200 students**. I got accepted to my first choice of university and **everything seemed fine**. I started to become more creative again and made artwork in Photoshop. It was just for fun, but I got the opportunity to exhibit them at an art gallery and **it was a big success**. I spent the money that I earned to buy a new computer so I could work better in Photoshop, but I also bought it to do something **I had been wanting** to make for years: gaming videos.

I started uploading videos on YouTube and **I fell in love with the feedback from my viewers**. Every day I would wake up excited to read the comments. Many told me I would become big on YouTube one day. **I never believed I actually had it in me**, and many said the opposite as well, but it didn't really matter. I was just doing it for fun anyway.

I eventually met this Italian girl online. **She was stunningly beautiful**, and we spent every single minute of our time talking to you each other throughout the entire summer. Her name is Marzia. At the time I was working in a harbour and after summer had ended, I had earned enough money to go visit her in Italy. Her English wasn't the best and I couldn't speak any Italian. **It was one of the craziest things I have ever done in my life** but it's also **one of the best things I've done in my life**. Once we met, we realised **we were perfect for each other**. At the time, my YouTube wasn't big at all and it was nothing I thought I could make a living out of. I didn't have any money left, so I had no idea how me and Marzia would stay together. Marzia came to live with me in Sweden. We stayed in a small apartment and I made videos from there. **It was nice; we were happy**.

My channel on YouTube kept growing a lot. **I still never really understood why**. The first video I made **I was even too shy to speak**, but **thanks to my fans, I became more and more comfortable** and I started opening it up to who I really was. It made the most important difference because thanks to that, **I became the happy guy that I had always been** when I was young. **I can finally proudly say** I'm living up to my name again, Felix.

All right, **I hope you enjoyed** that. I don't know; I really don't know. But anyway, **thanks for staying awesome bros!**

896

### MDML #2

So, I was never going to do a Draw My Life video, because to be honest, **I personally don't think my life is nearly as dramatic or interesting as some of the other Draw My Lives that I have seen**.

But because a couple of you keep asking, well, maybe more than a couple of you, I am going to draw my life, or **at least what I call drawings**. You'll see.

It all started off on June 6, 1990. I was born in Hilo, Hawaii, a small town where I grew up. **I was lucky enough to have two loving parents that I look up to even till today**. **I also have an older brother who I've always felt competitive with**

my whole life. He was always better than me in everything. He would beat me in challenges, competitions, video games and, of course, he was naturally gifted in judo. See, judo played a big part in my family being that both my brother and I basically did it our whole lives. Well at age 5, when I first started, I hated judo because I was terrible at it. My brother, on the other hand, was like a judo club star pupil. All of our senseis, or teachers for those who don't speak French, loved him. I was probably on the exact opposite side of the spectrum. Anyway, my brother would almost always win in every tournament we entered. While I, on the other hand, would be lucky to place third, out of three people that is. I remember specifically hearing in a tournament a man say, "Oh, this is the younger Higa, not the good one." But I couldn't even get mad because it was true.

Anyway, in elementary school, from kindergarten to fifth grade, I really don't remember much. All I can remember is that I hated judo. And I had the hugest crush on a girl. Not going to say her real name but let's call her Nicole. I was basically in love with Nicole, or at least what a 7-year-old thinks love is, but I was too shy and scared to say anything to her until years later. But we'll come across that later. After fifth grade, I moved schools for middle school. Sixth grade was specifically a terrible year for me. Not only did I lose all my friends because it was a new school but because it was a charter school, we all had to take tests to see where we would be placed, I guess. And for some reason, I got placed with the older kids. At the time, I thought this was a good thing because I thought older kids will think I'm cool because I skipped a grade, however, it was basically the opposite.

So, this is the part of story that most of you don't know about because I never really addressed it publicly, but I know a lot of you watching this can relate. So, I got bullied a lot. You know, nothing really crazy, just your typical getting pushed down to the ground, being made fun of for no reason. And yes, I remember every single one of them including the worst of them. Again, not going to use a real name, but we'll call him Richard because as you know, another name for Richard is Dick. See, Dick was such a Richard to me that I'd actually make excuses to my mum why I couldn't go to school or why I needed to change schools. So, I was hating life at the time and wondering why someone so mean could be so popular by picking on me. Even got to the point when I had some darker thoughts at the time that I think most, if not all, teenagers go through at some point in their lives or perhaps it was just puberty messing with my head. I don't know.

However, I was able to stick it out and I actually found a way to end the bullying on my own terms. I noticed that the reason Dick was bullying me was to make people laugh so I figured that if I could make them laugh and become the funny guy, they would stop treating me like I was less than them and surprisingly, it worked. Every time they made fun of me, I ran with it and I made fun of myself even more than they could. Kind of like that last rap battle that Eminem did in 8 Mile except that movie didn't exist at the time, so he basically stole my idea. It's all good though, me and Eminem are like best friends forever now. Not really. I still didn't have many friends but at least I wasn't getting bullied anymore. But from that point on, I wanted to be funny.

I started picking up my mum's VHS camcorder and recording little skits and videos for my family to watch. They loved it! Of course, some of my cousins would be like, "You need to get a life, Ryan." But it became a traditional thing. Every Sunday I'd have a new video for them to watch and laugh at. In eighth grade, I finally reconnected with Nicole. You know, the girl I had a crush on since elementary school? She was still at the other middle school where all my friends were, but I somehow became in contact with her again through MSN Messenger. A lot of you might not know what that is now, but it was like the Facebook of that time. Well, when I finally had the courage to ask her out, I got completely rejected. No explanation. No excuse. Just a straight up, "No." Nothing more. And I'm not going to lie, that bothered me for a long time. It didn't just make me sad, it made me very unconfident. It was devastating to me at the time.

Then high school came around. Up until that point, I considered myself a complete loser. I always saw myself as less than everyone. Nicole got a boyfriend. I was less than him. My old elementary school friends had found new friends that they became close with. I was less than them. My brother, who had just left for college, not only left high school with honours, but he ended up placing second in the state for high school judo. Which, as you know, in my family is a big deal, so yeah. I was less than him, too. I was back at square one. I had a few acquaintances but little to no close friends. Even the kids I considered nerds had friends. They had each other. In my mind I wasn't anybody. I was less than everyone. I looked forward to class more than recess and lunch because at least that way I could sit somewhere and not look like a complete loner.

And then it happened. One of the most momentous occasions of my life: I joined the wrestling team. And I know what you're thinking: "Wrestling is just a sport." Well, to me, it wasn't. It literally changed my life and, well, almost ended it at the same time. I remember this one time I had to lose roughly 16 pounds in a week to make my weight class. This was, by far, the most I've ever had to lose in such a short amount of time. So, I disciplined myself to survive on half a can of tuna and roughly 32 ounces of water a day. Pretty sure I would have died had my teammate Landon not found me collapsed on a run. Sorry, mum. You're just finding out about this now. It was probably one of the hardest things that I've ever had to do in my life, but it was by my own choice just to prove to myself that anything can be done with enough effort.

Sure enough, I made it to 102 pounds. A whole pound under my weight class. From that point on, I felt like a completely new person. I didn't feel like a loser anymore. I felt like I could get anything I wanted in life as long as I put the work in. By the time high school was over, I was lucky enough to earn a state championship wrestling title. And just like my brother, second in the state for judo, even with a dislocated elbow. I had lots of friends, most of which were fellow wrestlers. You might recognize some of them from my videos. I even had a girlfriend. No, not Nicole. Someone that I thought was even more beautiful and perfect for me. Oh, and those videos I made for my family every Sunday? I decided to start putting them on this website called YouTube so I wouldn't have to physically bring them a copy. And little did I know, a few other people found them and started sharing them as well. Before I knew it, I was consistently getting thousands of views every day and comments kept telling me to do it, so I did.

However, my parents really wanted me to get a college degree. So, for the first time in my life, I left Hawaii to attend UNLV for a Degree in Nuclear Medicine. I hated it. I was spending most of my days and nights learning about something I had no interest in. The workload between college and posting YouTube videos just became too much and my girlfriend remained in Hawaii, so the long-distance thing wasn't helping either. I realised that, once again, I was completely stressed out and unhappy. So, after about two years into college, my girlfriend and I broke up. And I finally ended up telling my parents that I'm dropping out to pursue this YouTube thing. It took a little while, but to my surprise, they became completely supportive. And because of that, thanks to my parents, thanks to wrestling, thanks to my bullies, thanks to not only the good but the bad experiences in my life, and, of course, thanks to all of you watching right now, I am who I am today because of all of you.

Like everyone, I still go through highs and lows, but ultimately, I'm completely happy. This is my real-life story. No, I'm not telling you this because I want to brag about my life or because I want you to feel sorry for me because I was bullied when I was younger or whatever. I'm telling you this story because I know for a fact that there are a lot of you watching this right now that are going through the same things I went through when I was younger. And I wanted to let you know that life will get better if you choose to make it better. It's okay to be sad and angry now and then. There are some things that may be out of your control like a bully that picks on you or a boy or girl that rejects you or even a sibling that outshines you. But the one thing that you and only you control is your perspective and your actions. Being depressed and feeling sorry for yourself is easy. I challenge you to change that today. Happiness is a choice. Choose to be happy. Choose to better your life because only you can make that decision. You're not less than anyone. There are only two things that can stop you: your own mind and your own body. Some might argue that there's a third and say your heart as well, but if you've been on my channel long enough you already know that even with heart, it's still less than three.

1960

### MDML #3

Hey everyone, I'm assuming that by watching this you already know who I am, but for those of you that don't, hi, I'm Dan from the DiamondMineCart and this is my Draw My Life.

So, my story begins on November the 8<sup>th</sup>, 1991, where I was born in a little town called Aldershot in England. To be honest, I don't remember much about the town at all and of course my brain was really, really small and I can't remember, but it also didn't help that I moved around a tonne as a kid.

Oh, I also forgot to mention that my brother joined the party two and a half years after me, but we'll get back to that later. Basically, my dad was in the army, which meant he had to go to different places around the country for his job which also meant that we had to follow him around and move houses. We did this so much that me and my brother ended up attending about ten schools by the time we were ten. Pretty damn crazy.

Moving around all this time kind of meant that we never really made too many long-lasting friends as we knew we'd always have to leave at some point in the near future. But something we always had were two things: one, each other and two, video games. This led to me and my brother having an awesome relationship, kind of like best friends, and we both developed a love for video games that sticks with us until this very day.

The first console we got was a SNES, which was awesome. Mario, Zelda, Bomberman, you name it, we played it from beginning to end. Then something big happened. What we thought was a happy family really wasn't, as my mum and dad decided to get a divorce. At the time, this hit me really hard as I go from seeing my dad every day to maybe just once a week, but in the long run it definitely turned out for the better.

So, me, my mum and my brother ended up moving to the town we still live in now, but it was that time again to start another new school. For some reason, this time was particularly scary, and I was painfully shy and straight up missed my dad. At the beginning it was very hard to make friends when I was so shy but eventually met a small group of people who would stick with me for a very long time and I also met a very pretty girl named Gemma who, unknown to me at this time, would eventually be the girl that I would marry, but more about that later.

Over my time at education I developed a lot of my personality, mainly discovering that I was still addicted to video games but also that I was a very creative person. Drawing and music became my two main interests at school and I also focused my studies around it when it came to choosing what to educate myself in. However, the art course was horrendous, and I lost interest quickly, but music was always there, especially because me and my brother had started a band. I learned the guitar, which I loved, and I was also the person who wrote the songs and sung too. My brother was the drummer and two other friends joined for bass and another guitar. This was great fun and we played a tonne of gigs together and helped me to get over my shyness a little bit by playing in front of loads of people. This was also the time when I turned a little alternative in style with spiky belts, skinny jeans and literally had my hair every colour that you can think of in tonnes of different styles.

Another thing I discovered during school is I'm not very academic at all. Music and art was what I was good at as I could express my creativity with whatever popped into my head but when it came to studying A levels, I just couldn't perform well when it came to tests and exams no matter how hard I studied. This was very frustrating as the pressure to get good grades or you'll end up with nothing was something schools drilled into you and I was unsure how on earth I was going to survive and get a job when I couldn't even do well in tests.

However, things started to look up. You remember that girl Gemma I was talking about earlier? Well she happened to be in every class that I was, and we even sat next to each other in them too and eventually we became girlfriend and boyfriend back in 2009. I then passed my driving test when I was 17 and me and Gemma moved into our own little flat at just 18 years old. The independence began and even though we had very little money, we were very happy. Then, university came, and all my friends moved away, and the academic bug came back to bite me yet again. Even though I chose to study music production, a subject I really enjoyed, there was a lot of writing and essays involved which I just found way too tricky and led me to not really enjoy it that much, but because the degree was still a degree and I could just about get by, I stuck in there.

It was around this time that I discovered the Pokemon Trading Card Game, a game I'm sure loads of you are familiar with but little did we know there was a whole tournament circuit and many people of similar ages played the game too. I learned the rules, bought the cards and started going to tournaments regularly which led to me making great friends and travelling all over Europe, which was pretty awesome.

This was also the first time that I actually felt smart at something as the game was full of strategy and thinking, and I was actually pretty good at it. I even still play it today. My love for this game eventually led me to making a YouTube channel completely about the Pokemon Trading Card Game. I learned to edit, create and narrate videos all by myself and it felt great. I made all my own music, all my own graphics by teaching myself Photoshop and was also making myself better at the game too.

On top of that, I actually got a nice little following on that channel, and with each video I became more confident with myself and my video making ability. The shy boy from before was starting to come out of his shell. Over the next year or so, the channel was a really nice hobby and me and Gemma moved into a slightly bigger house which cost a little bit more and meant we even had less money, but at the time we loved it even though in the winter it was so cold we had to wear multiple jumpers to keep warm.

By this time, we had been together for a very long time and we saved up for a little holiday by the sea, where I decided to propose to Gemma on the beach and to my surprise, she said yes! As soon as we got home, we both put in all the work we could in our little supermarket jobs to save for a wedding which was pretty damn expensive and we were very happy, content and looking forward to the future. This was around the time that my brother invited me round to play a brand-new game called Minecraft on the Xbox360. Both of us and Gemma were all very heavy video game players. He threw me into this amazing world that he had spent ages building and we played it for hours, and then I went home, bought two PC accounts for me and Gemma and we played it for hours, days and weeks on end. It was awesome.

With me enjoying making videos so much for the Pokemon side of things, I decided to make a second channel called the DiamondMineCart where I'd just upload a couple of videos every now and then and it was very casual but a different way of editing and commentating than I was used to. From the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2012, which is the first mod showcase I ever made, and following for it grew and grew until eventually it overtook my Pokemon channel, getting around 10,000 subscribers in about seven months. I was pretty astounded that this many people actually liked my videos and continued both channels, with the Minecraft one becoming my main priority.

Things had been going really well for a while in our lives and we were very content but in the later part of November, Gemma was rushed into hospital. In all honesty, this was one of the scariest moments of my life and I wasn't even the one in hospital. Originally the doctor said she had appendicitis which is actually quite a common thing and could be easily solved with a simple operation. The day of the operation came and instead of an hour, Gemma was in there for eight long hours where I must have called the hospital a hundred times to check if she was okay. I finally got the call to come and see her and when I arrived, she was asleep on the hospital bed with wires attached her which are attached to machines and it was just a horrible sight to see. It was at this time that we discovered that Gemma has a condition called Crohn's disease which is an illness that can never be cured but can be managed.

Luckily, after a good month or so resting, Christmas came and went and Gemma's health was getting back on track, just in time for our wedding day in March 2013. I can honestly say that this was one of the best days of my life and one that I will never forget as long as I live and we both had the most amazing time celebrating each other and our future, especially after what happened just a couple of months before.

Thanks to our wedding gifts, we were able to go to Orlando in America for a honeymoon for two weeks and this was a great adventure for the both of us. We had a great time and little did I know that my Minecraft channel had begun its explosion into the community which carried on right through the summer months and we hit the huge number of about 500,000 subscribers by the time September began. This was at the point in my life where the university degree I wasn't really enjoying was ending and I was ready for what everyone called the real world. I managed to finish my degree with the second highest mark you could get thanks to my practical work and I was feeling pretty proud of myself but seemingly my only option for a job was to stay in a supermarket, which I definitely didn't want to do, so it took me a while, but with a little help from Gemma's convincing, I took the plunge, quit my job and decided to pursue my dream of working for myself on something that I had built from the ground up, and that was the channel that you are watching this video on today.

To be honest, quitting my secure job was very, very scary and was a big risk that I'm so glad I took in the end. I was really happy to be working for myself on something that I was really passionate about and something that was actually transforming me into the person that I am today. Making videos every day and having people actually subscribe, comment and like all those videos gave me more and more confidence in myself that I always wished I had, and I guess I have you guys to thank for that. And here we are at today, where this channel has hit 1 million subscribers, a number that I could have only dreamed of when I started this YouTube channel and the channel is still growing in ways that I never even imagined.

Me and Gemma started to move again literally a few days ago to a house we absolutely love and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new pug puppy who I'm sure you'll all be introduced to very, very soon. As for the future, who knows what it has to bring? If you asked me what my future was going to be when I started University, the position I'm in in real life right now would be just the dream but thanks to you, my beautiful wife and family for giving me support, this is only the beginning. And before I go, if there's any message I would like to leave you with is if there's something out there that you feel you're good at or if you have a dream of where you want to be in life, at least give it a good hard try, because you never know what life will bring. Thank you.

2217

#### MDML #4

Hello everybody! Markplier here, and thank you guys so much for being with me through 1,000 videos. It's hard to even imagine how we've gotten from this point, and I really wanted to do something special for the 1,000 subscriber milestone. Or, not 1,000 subscriber, 1,000 video milestone. And I think this video is really going to explain to you guys how I got from point A to point B. And how you guys have helped change my life. Because, these things are really important to me because they tell how I became the person that I am. And I really do appreciate you guys for sticking with me. So, here we go!

I was born on an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean called O'ahu which is the third largest island of Hawaii. And home to the city of Honolulu, where I was born on a military base. My dad was a career army man, he'd been in the army 23 years before he retired. Apparently, while he was stationed in Korea, he met my mum. A pretty common story, I've heard. But the result of them meeting was me. A beautiful baby. That is not really beautiful there, but my artistic skills are lacking. Anyway, regardless of all that, I was born, and I was born awesome. And muscular. I was a gigantic baby apparently, which my mum reminds me of every once in a while. I was ten pounds and three ounces, and therefore they named me Mark. All muscle of course. Don't doubt me!

Shortly after I was born, my Dad retired from the military to pick up a job as a layout artist for a book company of some sort. But, either way, we ended up in Cincinnati, Ohio, of all places. Not really sure why, because I don't think we really have any family here. Ah, either way, we moved into this awesome home with a gigantic back yard that led into these really amazing woods where me and my brother spent most of our time. I mean, if we weren't on the computer, we were out in the woods playing in the creek, picking up tad-poles, cutting vines, swinging on them. I mean, we really bonded together in those woods and that's one of the things that I miss most about that house, but when we weren't in the woods we were playing on this magical device called the computer that my dad introduced us to at a very early age. I mean, seriously, this thing blew my mind at the time because I could not imagine ever living without it. I mean, he told me stories about how computers were ancient and filled up entire rooms, but I was just flabbergasted that it could do what it did. I didn't even know about the internet back then.

There were a few games on the computer but the real experience that I got from gaming came from the Super Nintendo system that my brother got for Christmas. I mean, this thing was the reason that me and my brother are so close today because we played so many games together with it. That's my brother over on the left. His name is Tom, and that's me

on the right as you can tell I'm still more awesome but **he's a pretty cool guy and I don't think I'd be who I am today without him.**

**Sadly, it wasn't all happy times back then.** My dad and my mum fought a lot. And by fought a lot I mean my mum fought a lot and my dad had to reciprocate. She wasn't happy where she was and, well, we didn't understand why, but me and my brother just tried to distract ourselves with video games. You know, try to ignore it when we can. But eventually that stopped working. It was pretty inevitable, but the divorce finally came. And **we were pretty sad but we were more sad to see our dad just kind of cave in,** I mean, we were out of money. Half of the income was gone so we had to lose the house and we couldn't buy as many games as we had before so we lost out on a lot of gaming but at least **we got to keep the computer and that's what really sparked my love of computers and technology.**

I should also mention that **I was a pretty dumb kid.** Me and my brother had a contest where we would try to jump as high as we could off the stairs and see who could land on a cushion on the bottom. I was going to win but I ended up cracking my skull open on the bottom step. This will make more sense later, but as I mentioned before, **I was a dumb kid.**

When we moved out of the house, I could no longer go to the private school that we were going to which was perfectly fine with me, because I didn't really care, but it's all that I knew. I didn't even understand what lockers were all about when I went to the new school. I mean, just everything was perfectly foreign to me and **I didn't have an escape; I didn't go to the woods anymore, and I lost basically all of my friends and had to start all over.** It was a pretty dark time for me because I had no idea what I was doing. But, anyway, **I made some friends** but I accidentally did something else stupid and I was having a "How far off the monkey bars can you jump contest" and I was going to win, but I ended up falling on the ground and breaking my arm really badly, both bones and stuff popping out everywhere but this is actually a good thing, (that's my brother there shocked), **but this is a good thing because this led to me finding some friends,** and you may ask, "Well, how did that happen?" Well it happened like this, I had a cast on my arm and couldn't do things like sharpen my pencil. So, **this really awesome guy named Drew decided that he was going to help me.** And Drew is a tall red head, but he was a cool guy anyway. He also got me more into band. Which is **where I made a bunch more friends.** And where I blew his face off with **my awesome trumpeting skills.**

Eventually after dating around for a long time, my dad found someone that we could all agree on; **she was basically the nicest person we ever met,** and her name was Dee. And, I mean, I agreed with her because she bought us a Playstation 2, and **I was pretty excited at the time,** but also, she did something that we couldn't do at that time and she made my dad happy. And that was basically the most important thing that anyone could do. And, from then on, **high school started to become a breeze.** I was moving through the grades, you know, doing fine, being a good student. **I made a lot of great friends,** both in band and out of band. **I got to play some great games,** you know. **I was really happy with what I'd done,** like, Half Life 2 and stuff. **And I had a few girlfriends here and there, you know. And that's always pretty fun** when you're just a young teenager and first experiencing the wonders of a relationship and making out and stuff. That was pretty cool. **And all in all, things were looking up from that period where we didn't really have anything and didn't have games again, and were kind of unhappy drifting through life, so, things were looking up all the way to going to college. I was really excited to finally be able to go out on my own.**

But then, my father brought me some bad news. He put a piece of paper in front of me and just let me read it without saying anything, and **I was a pretty smart kid** so I understood every word that it said, all the techno mumbo jumbo, but the main thing is that basically in big bold letters it said, "CANCER", and the really bad kind of cancer. So, **that was a really tough time for me because I kind of lost sight of what I was doing. Everything seemed kind of clear to me before but right now everything was kind of just getting away from me.** I thought **I knew exactly what I wanted to do, which was make video games. I wanted to do it,** and my Dad didn't agree with me, but I thought that was what I was going to do. However, I started to realise that games might not work, so I kind of put that off the table and focused on going to engineering. I was originally in civil engineering but moved into bio-medical engineering because they had a medical school program but that didn't work out either. **I didn't want to do that.** So, I flip-flopped back to engineering again. Then I thought, "Hey, if I'm going to do what I want to do, I got to do games. " And I really couldn't decide what I was going to do with my life. **I was kind of at a crossroads and just frustrated.**

Then one year later we were all home for summer and my dad was getting pretty bad with cancer and he wasn't himself anymore. But one morning we were all woken up by my step-mum, Dee, screaming and we went downstairs to see that my Dad was dying. And the last words that he said to me were "I love you, so much". And I held my dad's hand as he died.

After my dad died, I became more confused than I was before. Because I was so far into engineering that **I didn't think that I could get out anymore and I was stuck** in these mind-numbing co-op jobs that were literally me sitting at a computer eight hours a day doing two hours' worth of work and nothing else. **It was absolutely horrible, and I didn't want to do that for the rest of my life.** And I didn't have time for games. **I didn't have an escape.** I had no idea what I was going to do, so I kind of drifted for a few years. And I dated in and out from girl to girl, but I eventually met this one girl who **I kind of liked and she was really cool and really nice,** and her name will be Barbara. That's what we're

going to call her for now. Her name will be Barbara with a C. But anyway, I finally brought her to my Mum who I was living with because after my Dad died, I didn't have my own place and she did not approve, which made me mad. And she was kind of confused. I was very upset because my Mum got so mad that she eventually kicked me out. There's more to it than that, but that's basically the long and the short of it. So, I got mad and she got mad and then I went off and got my own apartment because I had a job at the time, that crummy co-op job, but it was still a job.

Unfortunately, after I got my new place, my boss told me three days before I was supposed to come in for the new quarter that I didn't need to show up. Which made me more mad, but I didn't yell at my boss, professionalism and all that, but at the end of the day I was running out of money and my girlfriend wasn't helping me and then she started getting mad at me for not being able to do something or other. I can't really remember why she was mad; she was mad so often, but eventually this caused a schism in the relationship, and the stress started to get to me. I was sadder and sadder than I was before and I just couldn't be in the relationship anymore but, after we left each other, I was stuck alone in my apartment and I didn't know what to do. And I had this suspicious pain in my side that turned into extraordinary pain in my side. And this extraordinary pain plagued me for a bit until one day I woke up in so much pain that I had to go to the hospital. So, I went to the hospital where they told me that my appendix was about the size of a beach ball and needed to come out immediately. They also told me that I had a tumour the size of a fist in my adrenal gland and that needed to come out too, but at a later date.

So, this was pretty shocking news and on top of everything that had happened already, I was basically stressed enough as it is, but I managed to truck through it somehow, thankfully for reconciling with my mum and my step-mum was still there for me. The surgeries went well, and I ended up recovering in the hospital for about two weeks and had a lot of time to think about what I'd done. And the more thinking I did, the more frustrated I became. Just, it seemed like everything in my life was completely out of my control and I had no choice in the matter. So finally, I decided that enough was enough and I was going to do what I wanted. But I was still stuck in the hospital, so I got angrier every day. Argh!

So, when I finally did get out of the hospital, I decided that I was going to do my own thing and what I decided what I was going to do was going to be sketch comedy videos. So, I ended up using my tax refund that I had to buy a camera. I ended up doing very little with this camera immediately. So, I decided to focus on a few things before I got started. I got better with my grades in engineering. I decided to dedicate myself to playing games that I wanted to play, and then eventually I decided that I was going to make my own identity, on the internet, and more specifically, on YouTube. Where I was able to start a channel that finally made me happy. I didn't even care that I didn't have that many subscribers in the beginning because even the few people that did watch me, I was more than happy to do everything it took to entertain them. But as I kept playing things started exploding. Like, the subscriber count went crazy and now I have more subscribers than I know what to do with. And I'm just happy that anyone watches my videos. And that's what really changed my life. And this happened very recently. Like, before I was totally out of control of everything. And now, I'm finally able to do what I love. So, thank you guys. Sincerely, I owe everything in my life right now, to the support that you have given me. I was lost before. I had no purpose before. But now we're able to change the world, do good, raise money for charity, do just everything we want to do to help improve the world. And I am so grateful that you guys decided that I was worthy enough to subscribe to. So, sincerely, thank you guys, so much. I owe you everything that I have now. And I wouldn't have it any other way. You guys are the best fans in the world. So, thank you again. So much. And as always, I will see you in the next video. Bye bye!

2669

## MDML #5

Hi, my name is Roy. Today I'm going to draw my life. Psych! I'm going to animate my life. Let's get started.

So, when my mum and dad got married, they, wait, wait, that's way too far. Let's fast forward just a little bit. It was August 21, 1991, and a new baby was born. His name was Roy. That's me. I was born in the Kupang City, Pangasinan, in the Philippines. I was a dark, big-headed baby, and I was cute, too. At least, my parents said I was.

When I was two years old, my parents and I moved across the world to America to a small town called Durham, North Carolina. My mum found a job there, and it was basically where I grew up. When I was four, my parents brought home a little baby. I said, "Yo, Ma! Yo, Pa! Who is this? Why is he in my space?" And they said, "This is your baby brother, Raymond". I said, "What? How'd you do that?" And they just said, "It's a secret".

When I first went to school, I was super shy, and I always hated it. I always wanted to be around my parents, because they made me feel so happy. One time in kindergarten, I had to pee so much, but the teacher was teaching at the time so I couldn't, and I was so shy to tell anyone. So, I just eventually peed my pants. I eventually took ESL, or English as a second language, because my English was not too good. It took me a while to get rid of it, but I think I fixed my accent, which was really cool.

And then I remember playing LEGOs with Raymond, and my parents came in with another baby. We both said, “Ew! Who is that disgusting thing?” They said, “This is your baby brother, Russell”. I was just freaked out. I said, “How do you keep doing that?” And I remember Raymond said, “Yo! I thought that was a girl”.

Eventually, my brothers and I moved back to the Philippines when I was eight. My parents left us there while they got really situated financially in America. I remember I was horrified the first time I got there. Like, being eight and knowing I’m going to be living there for a while, that was a huge deal. It took a really long time, but I grew to love the Philippines. Just basking in my culture and being around my relatives was just an awesome experience. It really taught me how to open up to others and appreciate things in life.

And just as I became comfortable living in the Philippines, my dad came back and brought us back to America. I thought, “What? I’m never going to be comfortable in my life!” Which is a good thing, because being uncomfortable is the best way to grow. When we got back to America, we saw this little baby hanging around. My mum was like, this is your baby sister, Ariel. I said, “How do you guys keep doing this?” P.S. I was only 10 years old, so I really didn’t know how they kept doing that. Anyway, I was in fifth grade at the time, and I remember going to school, and I just remember being extremely, extremely shy. Mainly because I got so used to the Filipino culture, and also, I had a slight Filipino accent, which I thought everyone would judge me. It also sucked because everyone knew each other because they’d been together all of elementary school. And there’s just me, the new boy from the other country. I guess that really explains why I get quiet and shy sometimes.

But it took me a while to break out of my shell. It wasn’t until the eighth grade where I met some friends I could be comfortable around. Turns out, they weren’t the best of friends, but they really broke me out of my shell, which I am thankful for. That was also around the time my parents bought a video camera they would never use, so I would always use it and I would post it on YouTube. This was also the same time YouTube was created, 2005. That was also when I created Wassabi productions. I didn’t think much of it back then, but I’m so glad I made it.

Then high school came along, and that’s really when I started figuring out who I was. I remember my friend invited me to this Catholic retreat called Couples for Christ Youth, so I went. And to be honest, hands down one of the best decisions I have ever made. I made a lot of lifelong friends there who are like brothers and sisters to me now. And being in that community, it really, truly helped me figure out my faith, myself, and it fixed me up.

With old friends gone and new friends made, I’ve never been happier in my life. I’ve gotten closer with my siblings, my parents, and it was just so awesome. After I graduated high school, I honestly did not know what I wanted to do. So, I went to community college and tried taking nursing classes. It turns out nursing is not my thing, so I transferred to North Carolina State University to pursue Computer Engineering. College was hard. I remember sleeping in libraries multiple times, because I was up all night studying for some electrical circuit exam or whatever.

It wasn’t until I posted a video on YouTube called “Call Me Maybe Parody”, when that video went viral, I saw a change in perspective in my future. I figured I would just focus on YouTube, because I was already good at it. So I changed my major to Film Studies. And guess what? I graduated. I don’t know how, but I did. Plus, I did it for my mum, because her dream is for all her kids to graduate college. So, I did it, mum. I don’t know how. I moved straight to Los Angeles right after college to see what I could do with this YouTube career. And Los Angeles really taught me a lot. Remember when I said being uncomfortable is what helps people grow? That’s what LA did to me. It really solidified what I truly wanted in life. Well, honestly, I still don’t know what I want, which is the greatest part.

I left Wassabi productions to create my own project called Guava Juice. Not sure where it’s going to go. But I know with constant hard work it’ll go somewhere eventually. Being successful doesn’t mean having the most money or owning a nice car or house. I just believe it means being truly happy with yourself and doing your best to inspire those around you. Honestly, if it wasn’t for everyone watching, I wouldn’t even be here right now. So I really want to thank everyone for supporting me through my journey. If you’re new to my journey, welcome. I can’t wait to share what I have in store for you. Anyway, I hope you enjoyed this Animate My Life. Stay humble. Remember you are amazing, and I’ll see you guys later. Bye!

1207

## MDML #6

My name is Denis and honestly, I am a pretty normal guy. This won’t be a story of how I dealt with extreme hardships or how I overcame some tragic situation, but rather a story of discovering who I am and my journey so far.

So, let’s get into it. I was born on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1996, in Canada, more specifically in Alberta and even more specifically, in the city of Edmonton.

At the time, I was the youngest in the family and before me was my brother who is two years older than me. My mum and dad both emigrated from Ukraine so they spoke both Russian and English to us. My parents didn’t have much money, but we were getting by just fine. When I was about three, we moved to Nashville, Tennessee. My mum was



working so my brother and I attended a preschool. This is where I had my very first memory. All I remember is me drawing all over the chalkboard with a red marker and the teacher got really angry at me. The memory immediately ends at that point which technically makes that one moment the start of my whole life.

When I was four my dad got a job as a math professor at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, which is back in Canada. We got a house there and I started going to kindergarten. This is where my story truly begins. I made friends with this one kid who didn't talk basically at all. Everyone thought there was something wrong with him, but one day, we were playing in the sandbox and just he started talking out of nowhere! After that, we became best friends.

Right from the get-go, I was extremely creative. Throughout Kindergarten and grade one, I would draw dozens of comic books. My teachers were really impressed with them and even asked me to share them with the whole class. About once a week, I would have a new comic book made and the entire class would come sit on the floor and I would read out loud and show them every single page. There was even a little box in the class that had all my books for kids to come and read one whenever they'd like. Eventually though, kids became too cool to read my comic books, so I stopped making them.

My whole life up until very recently has just been me trying to fit in. I've always had an obsession with being cool and fitting in and I would do things that weren't really me. Because of that, I became a pretty bad kid. I was constantly getting into trouble and given detention almost every week. When I was in second grade, every day at lunch time there was a milk stand where kids would trade milk tickets that they bought from the school for little cartons of chocolate milk. Me, being crafty and pretty good at drawing, made fake milk tickets and would give them to my friends so they could go get free milk using these little pieces of paper that I drew on to make it look like one of the real tickets. It worked for a while until someone told on me and I got detention for weeks.

Around this time was when my brother and I discovered computer games. My dad used this really old Windows desktop computer and he would let us play online mini games. For the most part, my brother would play, and I would sit beside him and watch for hours. Some of my fondest memories are my brother and I sneaking up at like 4:00 in the morning just so we could go play more games together. I started developing a passion for video games and pretty soon, I was on the computer for hours a day. It was around this point where I realised that one day I myself wanted to make video games.

When I was about 10 years old, I lost basically all my friends from Elementary school. There was no specific reason. They ended up becoming the popular kids, and I still had my best friend. We met a couple other kids that were a lot like us and we all stuck by each other. Throughout the next few years I was really quiet and kept to myself and so did my friends. When we hung out we would laugh and scream and make really weird noises, but when we were in public we were basically the exact opposite. We were never really bullied or anything, we just kind of kept away from any sort of drama or attention. The only thing people did know me for though was my videos and no, not my YouTube videos. I mean my video projects that we'd be assigned in class. If any teacher ever announced a video project would be coming up, kids would all be really excited to see what I put together. Some of my best memories from school were when kids would laugh and compliment me after watching my movies in class. Keep in mind, I was very quiet, so it was a pretty big deal for me to be getting this much attention.

Then high school came. My parents insisted I went to a private school which was really far away from the public school all my friends were going to. It really sucked at first, but it forced me to really step out of my comfort zone and meet new people. I didn't have anyone. It was one of the first times in my whole life I truly felt on my own. I had this idea that since nobody knew who I was; I could be whoever I wanted to be. It sounds like a bad thing when I say I wasn't truly myself, but really it wasn't. I didn't have to be this quiet introverted guy who always kept his head down anymore. I could finally build up the confidence to actually go and meet people. I know it's easier said than done. Stepping out of your comfort zone is one of the hardest things to do but all you got to do is take that first big step. You need to forget about everything else in the world, in the entire universe. Just flush out every negative thought and focus all of your energy only on that one thing, whether it be meeting someone or asking someone out, anything, you just got to take that first leap of faith and then the rest takes care of itself.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, I made my first YouTube video. At this point in my life, I watched YouTube videos for hours every single day. One day I decided I wanted to be a YouTuber too, so I downloaded a screen recorder on my slow, crummy laptop and made my first Minecraft Letsplay. After the first week it got about 20 views, but that didn't stop me. Over time, I started seeing the same people comment on my videos every time I made a new one, which meant I had followers, and this was enough to make me post a video every single day for over a year.

Through this I became a part of this small community of YouTubers who were just starting out and doing their own thing. This is how I met my friend Fletch who I actually still work with today, but we'll get to that later. Around this time, I also met one of my best friends named Braden. Some of you may know him as Coral. Little side note: this is the same time I met Sam and Gent. So anyway, Braden and I both had small Letsplay channels and decided to be in a few of each other's videos. Pretty soon we were talking and playing games together every day. After about a year it seemed

like I put my heart and soul into my channel, and it was simply going nowhere. I didn't know what to do, so I just kind of lost interest, so I stopped.

This was also around the time my parents divorced. My mum moved into a condo across town and my dad married his now stepmum and her and my now stepbrother moved into my dad's house within a year and the next thing I knew I had a whole new family. At first it was hard. This place that I knew inside and out and had lived in for over ten years, all of a sudden didn't really feel like home anymore. Don't get me wrong, I love my new family so much. It was just a lot to get used to. Constantly moving between my mum and dad's place which were both across the city from each other didn't really help. Since the dream of being a YouTuber was over, I focused my attention back towards making videogames and I took some programming classes in high school and actually got the highest mark in the class.

I was still very creative and around this time was also really good at Adobe Photoshop so the combination of all these things made being a game developer seem pretty promising. I applied to some universities and the next thing I knew I was one summer away from moving to British Columbia for school.

Like most people, I was extremely nervous. I was 18 years old and was moving away from home for the first time in my life. I prepared myself by joining some of the university Facebook groups and tried to get an idea of some of the people I would probably meet. While browsing, I found this one girl that especially stood out. She was gorgeous. She was also living on campus like me and the next thing I knew I moved to BC, met her at a party and quite soon, we started dating. She was my first serious relationship, and I learned so much just through my time spent with her. She helped me realise I should do what I truly loved and not work towards whatever career will make me more money or what is more accepted by society.

I was starting to lose a lot of interest in what I was studying and with distractions like video games and my girlfriend, by the end of the first year of university, I failed almost all of my courses. I was barely readmitted to the school. If you finish the year with less than a 50% grade average, you were automatically kicked out: my grade average was 51.

At this point, I didn't know what to do with myself. I wasn't interested in my degree anymore, I was so behind school and on top of all that my girlfriend and I were moving back to our homes which are in separate parts of the country, meaning we wouldn't be together for the next four months. We were still so in love and decided we would just get through it. We said goodbye and I flew back to Winnipeg knowing I was about to have to get through one of the longest summers of my entire life.

On August 20th, 2015, my entire life changed. I didn't know it at the time, in fact. I didn't realise the significance of this day until about six months later. So, you're probably wondering what happened on that day. Well me, Coral and Fletch, who is now our editor by the way, started making YouTube videos again. We decided we wanted to give it another try. We all agreed that stopping making videos a few years back seemed like such a waste and, after all, this is what we truly wanted to do. We decided to make one video and just see how it did. About a week later, I got a call from my girlfriend saying she wanted to break up.

My second year of university very nicely splits into two halves. The first half for the most part was basically dreadful. My future plans were constantly at a downward spiral since I was discovering more and more how little I wanted to do all the things I thought I was interested in. I also felt incredibly lonely since I lost most of my friends from first year because I was spending so much time with my now ex-girlfriend and everything just kind of sucked until an absolute miracle happened.

The video that we posted on August 20th, 2015, exploded. Out of nowhere it got hundreds of thousands of views and tonnes of people were asking for more. Coral, Fletch and I of course continued making videos. Every video we posted did really well and all of a sudden, the YouTube dream was rekindled. Sub and Alex, which most of you probably know, reached out to us and asked if we would like to make videos together. We all had unique talents that we felt used together could make a very entertaining channel, so we did it!

This now brings us to the second half of my second year at university. It was all about YouTube; nothing else mattered. I finally found what I truly wanted to do, and this was when I had the most potential to pursue it. Starting in January 2016, Sub, Alex, Coral, Fletch and I were working on YouTube every single day, and we haven't stopped since.

This video was made to celebrate us hitting 500,000 subscribers. I cannot explain in words how thankful I am for the last eight months. I was struggling during one of my lower points in life, and you guys changed everything. Each and every one of you watching my videos has brought me so much happiness. If this story has any moral, it's to never give up on what makes you happy. Your own happiness should be your top priority. You will face many situations in life, or you need to weigh your options and choose if what you want to do is what is easier or more accepted or did just do what makes you truly happy. YouTube is my happiness, and I hope I get to do it for as long as possible. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.

## MDML #7

56 episodes, 500,000 subscribers. One life you've changed forever. This is the story of Game Theory.

Hello, Internet. Welcome to Game Theory! Remember, if it doesn't say MatPat on it, somebody else probably made it. Wait, can we stop here? Because if you look at that old subscriber count there, half a million people have subscribed to this channel. Half of one million. Can I get real with you for a minute? I work with numbers every day. And that statistic, as a collection of digits, makes sense. But when you stop to think about what that number actually means, that there are hundreds of thousands of people, actual people in front of their computers, waiting for your next upload, it's humbling. And honestly, I couldn't be more grateful, because you 500,000 people, and growing, pulled me through the most challenging period of my life and have, without trying to sound too melodramatic, changed the course of my existence. Yeah. You. And I think it's important for you to know that story. The story of "What Happens When You Watch a YouTube Video". So, here it is. Game Theory's origin story told as a "Draw My Life" video. Because they're fun. And because I really like the way this girl draws. So, let's get started, shall we?

To really understand the origins of Game Theory, you have to know a little bit about me first. Hi, I'm Matthew Patrick, but you know me as MatPat. A nickname I got in 6th grade, and one that my elementary school friends were super upset that they hadn't thought of themselves. It seems so obvious after the fact. I'm an only child who grew up in Medina, Ohio. Two facts that are important for the following reasons: The first led me to video games. My first memories are of my Mario-themed bedroom, and of playing Castlevania, so video games have been a part of my life literally for as long as I can remember. My Ohio roots lead to my second passion: performing. In the mid-west when surrounded by cornfields you have two options: sports, or show choir. My glasses naturally dictated that I avoid option one, so I got involved in theatre. Really involved. I sang in five choirs before Glee made it cool, I was both president and dance captain. I played viola in the orchestra, and I performed in around six stage shows a year. Ah, what was that people called me? Yeah, there was some of that (Gay). Oh yeah, that's, that's the one. But there was one other title near and dear to my heart: nerd. I loved school! I loved to learn! And I studied, a lot. Overloading on classes, sacrificing lunch periods, so I could enrol in courses with names like Creative Cooking, and Survival for Singles. All just for fun! I even spent summers taking extra lessons on college campuses. Needless to say, I was quite cool, and was hanging out at all the parties!

But all the work paid off, as I was graduated valedictorian, scored a perfect 1600 on my SATs, received an academic scholarship to college, and this feels like bragging, so let's move on to the depressing stuff. But first! College. Which came and went, without too much excitement. I mean! I did meet my future wife in a video game programming course, where we worked together to make a "Legend of Zelda" parody called the "Epic of Stew", but you know, no big. Oh! And she totally thought I was gay for basically the first half year we knew each other. Anyway, video games were very much still a part of my life. As I was a resident assistant for the freshmen for 3 years, instead of frat parties, I hosted fondue Friday game nights where we played old school Zelda and DDR. Once again, very clearly, the cool kid.

I studied theatre because I wanted to act and direct after I graduated, and neuroscience because I needed a backup plan. And neuroscience was the "obvious choice", right? Anyway, after graduating in 2009, I moved to New York. Started auditioning, toured around in shows for about two years and had just about as much success as a starving actor could wish for. If you dig deep into this channel, and I mean really deep, you can find some videos from those early days. I've never had the heart to take them down because I think it's interesting to look at those old videos on channels and see just how far people have come and how much it's changed but, even though I was constantly working, it didn't change the fact that I was still a starving actor, and I quickly learned that for many reasons, theatre wasn't the life I thought it would be. Spiderman Turn Off The Dark, I'm looking at you. I was at a crossroads, I needed to change, but to what? Since preschool, I had known I would be in theatre. That was supposed to be my destiny. Neuroscience wasn't a backup, it was... Well, let's be honest here, it was just cool to say, "Hey I'm majoring in Neuroscience." Quite honestly, I was lost but the world was in no mood to help me out. You see, companies don't care about your string of perfect grades, test scores and countless extra curriculars. They don't understand what working as a director actually means. I was just a weird theatre kid with no real skills in their mind. At first, I didn't get it. I applied to creative, innovative companies, thinking they would love to have a fresh, independent thinker around staff. Maybe television, movies, games - nothing! And things got desperate in a hurry. For nearly two years, I was out of a job, sending out resumes every day and hearing nothing back. I went from the guy who breezed through life who was born and raised to think and indeed fully believed he was capable of doing anything to questioning my worth, my smarts, my reason for being. I was stuck, trapped. I needed just one person to open a door but no one would. Game Theory was born out of this desperation.

Recognizing that my theatre experience was meaningless, I needed a resume booster. Something that I could point to and say "Hey look! I can research and video edit and do math and understand the internet culture!" I was watching another web series, "Extra Credits", and it was around that time that they released an episode on tangential learning. Learning through gaming, and that gave me an idea. Why didn't someone do a show that fused education and gaming, that used game discussion as a means to teach? For weeks, I studied other popular gaming shows. Everything from their logos to their colour scheme, to their pace and editing style. I was too poor for a good camera and game capture

stuff. So, I just grabbed images from online and manipulated them using what default tools my computer had. My apartment was echoey, so I recorded in the closet. So yes, as fate would have it, I would eventually come out of the closet.

When I needed a break from sending out resumes, I poured everything I had into the show. Game Theory was my rest pit. The one place I could go to where I felt productive, worthwhile in a midst of so much rejection and self-doubt and then it started to grow. People, you, stumbled across it and liked what you saw, thanks to people and websites like Pat the NES Punk and Reviewtopia, Screwattack and Game Trailers. My videos started to get attention and as I became more invested in YouTube, I started to put those years of AP math to work, crunching the data to figure ways to reach more people. I started to put the years of directing experience to the test by revising the show to make it more compelling. I was relatively new to video editing, so each week I tried to include a new trick, make it little bit better. Fans started to submit content I could never dream about with my technical limitation. Spellingphailer with a logo and opening song, numerous other theorists with intros and suggestions. It was my show, but it was yours too. And as it grew, companies started to take note. At this point, Game Theory was at the top of my resume. I trumpeted that I knew how to grow an audience just as YouTube network started to develop. My big selling point was my balance of creativity and math. My ability to make data-driven decisions yet retaining the sensibility of a content creator.

After many more months of pestering and knocking on doors, even giving out free work, a fellow Ohioan finally gave me a chance. At first, they weren't quite sure how to best use me. But I quickly carved out as a new role as a YouTube Audience Development Consultant and worked alongside some of the platform's biggest channels to help them expand. To this day, Game Theory stills fuels everything I do. Where I experiment to see what works and what doesn't, what you respond to and what you don't. But at this point it's far from my primary source of income. Eventually, I'd love to be doing it full time. But for now, I really strive hard to get out a new episode every other week, because in the end, whether it's Game Theory or helping out other channels, my job is to make you happy, to give you the best entertainment possible, and it seems to be working.

At the beginning of this year, Game Theory was barely over sixty thousand subscribers and, well, now we're doing a half a million episode. I started this video off by saying one life changed forever. But that's not true. By supporting this project, yes, you've helped me. But with my life changing, so have many others. Game Theory's success allowed me to be in a position to help other people and shows that I believed in, which in turn brought on Ronnie and Gaijin Goombah. The success of the channel opened up new job prospects where I work at growing the audiences of other channels, helping those creators, and, by proxy, all their viewers and as those of you who follow on the Twits, Failbook and G+. No, man we have Subreddit too now? Jeez, that's a ton of stuff. Anyway, as you loyal theorists know, I just got back from a vacation in China and Thailand with my wife and best friend Stephanie. Things that never could have happened if it hadn't been for your support of this show and I was still jobless.

In short, by watching a show - not even a show when it'd first started - a slightly evolved version of a YouTube slide show that I started making in an attempt to prove that I was worth hiring, you have changed thousands of lives, some directly and lots indirectly, and the spiral continues. As you keep watching, this show gets more promotion on YouTube, allowing it to reach more people, educating them on whatever crazy topic we, as a game theorist community, have come up with for that week. So let me close out here by thanking my parents for their love and support, Stephanie for her endless faith and patience, my friends and fellow online creators who've helped me out here but most of all to each and every individual that makes up that enormous number right there. Growing up, it was always my theory that, the actions of one person could make a world of difference and it's true. I'm living proof but hey, that's just my theory and this is Game Theory. One million, here we come!

1981

## MDML #8

Top of the morning to you laddies! My name is Jacksepticye and I can't believe I'm lucky enough to be able to say that today the channel has hit 1 million subscribers. 1 million of you all beautiful people have actually come to the channel now and thought what I do is good enough to subscribe and that is so awesome. Thank you guys so much: it's one of the most humbling things ever but I don't want this milestone to be all about me, I don't want people to congratulate me at all. This is all on you guys. You are the ones who have done all this. You are the 1 million. I am just one guy. I'm not even subscribed to my own channel! You guys are that number. You guys are that figure, and you are not just a number to me. You are all individual beautiful people and I respect each and every one of you for coming by and watching my stuff every day and putting up with me and possibly going deaf in the process. Each and every one of you are absolutely amazing and I literally could not do this without you. You are the ones who have made this channel what it is. You guys have worked even harder than I have, and we have reached this milestone together. This is all of your victory as much as it is mine so please everybody congratulate each other and stop congratulating me. So just thank you guys all again, everybody, high five each other, pat each other on the back, shake each other's hands, give each other hugs and let's get into the main event.

I decided to do a Draw My Life for 1 million because a lot of you guys asked for it and a lot of you guys want to know more about me when I grew up, so let's get into it. First off, I just want to say that I think it's pretty ridiculous that I'm doing a draw my life because I am only 24. I have not lived a life yet. I have lived part of my life, so whatever happens in this, it's not the full story, it's just my life up until now. That's what they should rename these to: "Draw my life up until now".

Just like about everybody else, I was born in a hospital. Actually, I was born in a boss-pital because I was there. I was born a little fat baby boss on the 7th of February, 1990, and I don't know what weight I was, what size I was, how much of a boss I actually was because my mother actually didn't keep track of all that kind of stuff about me which doesn't really make me sad because I don't want to see how fat I was.

I was born into a family of 6, making me the 7th member, and though I am 24, I am the youngest in my family. Just want to clarify, my sister's not fat, I put her in like that because **I can't draw, sorry!** I have 2 brothers and I have 2 sisters and the way you see them is actually in order of age and of course I have 2 parents because everybody has 2 parents. I was born like a normal person.

Funnily enough, the sister born just before me actually turned out to be **one of my best friends when I was growing up. We might've given each other a lot of shit and fought a lot, but I loved her.** As with most young kids, **I loved climbing trees. I loved climbing absolutely everything. I thought I was a Spiderman. I really wanted to be Spiderman.** I used to have a rope on the tree that I used to swing out of and almost break my neck every single day but, I mean, I did have a six pack when I was about 10.

I can't remember the specific age but I think it was between 5 and 7 when **I actually got into video games and I absolutely loved them** but **I was quite sad** because my brothers and sisters didn't really like playing them with me but **thankfully, I got some awesome friends when I was little who liked playing games with me and that made me happy.** The first gaming system I ever owned was the Nintendo game boy: the really big, grey brick; the original one, and I used to have Pokemon on that **and that was awesome. I used to love playing** that every single day, but it was Pokemon blue. All you reds and yellows get out of here! **My mother actually surprised me with a game, and it came all the way from China! How awesome is that?** The next system I got to play on was the PlayStation 1 and **that blew my goddamn mind when I was young. I think I got that when I was 7 and I had games like Final Fantasy 9 and Tomb Raider 2 and I couldn't get off of that.** I used to sit down for hours at a time and just play that all day and my parents kind of hated that: they wanted me to get outside and climb trees more but screw it! I was away in Fantasy Land.

Of course, I had to get out of the house every day and go to school anyway which made me **a little sad bunny** cause all I wanted to do was sit at home playing games! **School is boring.** I just sat there thinking about games all day. Because I played games so much, I never really did that well on tests. I couldn't concentrate that well in school; I was always thinking about something else. And I never was a bad student; I never failed anything, but I wasn't exactly a great student either. Moving on up into the teen years when I had **that super sexy, fashionable fringe, I also had a little bit of hair on my face; it wasn't great,** it was like a little puberty beard. I ended getting what every guy when he's 16 wants: **a girlfriend.** My parents decided it was time to move. We moved closer to my grandmother's which **unfortunately** happened to be out in the middle of absolutely nowhere and I moved into a tiny, actual wooden cabin out in the middle of nowhere, just surrounded by trees and I had to say goodbye to all my friends. As it turns out, living in the middle of nowhere actually **had its advantages.** When the YouTube thing came around I could just shout as much as I wanted and nobody anywhere could hear me, and you guys know how loud I like to get.

Anyway, I finished secondary school and I did well enough on my tests that I actually went on to college. I got the course that I wanted which was actually music technology because **I really loved music.** At the time I really wanted to be a musician and I thought that that was going to get me all the stuff that I ever wanted in life. I did meet a lot of very nice people when I was there. **A lot of friends, but I was never really happy when I was there.** Teachers would talk and talk and talk about all this wonderful stuff but I wasn't listening. I was off on my own fantasy land and because of that **I never really understood what was going on in the classes so that made me even more sad.** I was always thinking about games, thinking about what I was going to play when I got home, thinking about new games that were coming out and **games were the only thing that I understood or made me happy.**

So eventually after doing 2 years of something that **I wasn't really enjoying,** I decided to call it quits. I left college. I didn't fail any of my exams - I actually passed all my year 2 exams but decided not to go back for the final year because I wasn't learning anything that I enjoyed, and **I really wasn't happy** doing something like that. **It was during this transition period of confusion that me and my girlfriend broke up after 4 years which just made me feel even more lost or more confused.** Because I lived in the middle of nowhere, **I got really, really lonely** a lot of the time. There was nobody around to talk to so I decided to go online to try and meet more people and I went to a site called Interpals where you can meet more people and try and talk to them.

Now this is where things got really interesting because I was browsing through it one day and for some reason, this **absolutely gorgeous Asian girl showed up on the screen and I couldn't believe how pretty she was.** That sounds like a cliché right now but seriously, that is exactly what I thought. I sent her a message and we actually got talking. We

talked a lot on Skype and through MSN Messenger which seems ancient now, but we talked a lot almost every single night and after a few weeks, **we actually became boyfriend and girlfriend**. After about 6 months talking through Skype and whatnot and video messaging each other and video calling each other over and over again, I decided to save up enough money to actually go to Korea and see her and **it was a really scary experience** because I had never travelled anywhere on my own ever before and people kept saying I was going to get catfished and it was going to be a man who wanted to kill me or whatever, but **thankfully it worked out alright and I had an absolute great time** in Korea with her. I decided it was time to go back to college and **I was absolutely determined** to finish college this time and I was going to get a degree and I was going to move to Korea and my intention was actually to go teach English in Korea and live with my girlfriend over there.

This is when YouTube started for me. I just got a gaming PC and I realised I could actually record games and talk over them at the same time and I started watching people on YouTube do it and **I was absolutely amazed by it, it was something that looked so cool and I wanted to do it myself** cause **I always felt like I had something to share with the world**. But I actually started out, **I wanted to do impressions of people on YouTube** - I didn't even start out doing gaming at all. It didn't take long for the gaming side of things to get hold of me; I was watching other YouTubers do it and **their personalities really connected with me**. I had finally seen more people who wanted to play games, who were really enthusiastic about it, and I said, "Hey! Why don't I just make gaming videos? And then I can talk to people who like games as well and build up a community!" I uploaded my first few videos and I got a couple hundred views, a couple hundred subscribers, and things just started rolling from there. I wasn't getting anything extraordinary, but it was a start.

Okay, now hold on to your asses because this is where things get a little bit crazy. Somebody had sent me a message saying Pewdiepie was having a shout out contest and I said, "Hey, you know what? What have I got to lose? I might as well just enter it. I'm, I can grow on my own or this might help, I'll just enter it and see what happens. I might not win", and then I saw that there were hundreds and thousands of other applicants and I said, **"Yeah, this is never going to happen"**. I had forgotten all about the shout-out contest and I was sitting at home and I was reading the comments in some of my videos and then all of a sudden, my phone absolutely exploded. I got so many messages and I checked my subscriber count and it started to go up exponentially and I sat there thinking "What the hell is going on? What's actually happening? Who has seen my videos?" Didn't take long for me to read the comments and see that people were saying that I won the shout-out competition. I was one of the winners among around ten and **that blew my goddamn mind. That was amazing** but **it also gave me such drive and motivation to try and do YouTube so much more. I had been trying really, really hard up until that point but this was the real nail in that coffin. I went full force at YouTube since then**. I guess you could say it didn't really come at a great time though. I was still in college. I was still studying Hotel Management and my lectures would go on and on about all this hotel stuff, but I was just daydreaming. **All my attention was taken up by YouTube. All I could think about was YouTube: what I was going to do, the next games I was going to play. Every single time I was just thinking about YouTube in class.**

But **I persevered**: instead of quitting college again, I decided to finish out my course, get my degree and pass all my exams. I didn't do very well but I still passed and that was enough for me. Since May 2014 I've been doing YouTube full-time. It is my job and **I could not be happier. This is the best job I've ever had and I get to meet all you guys every single day and just do what I want. I'm my own boss** and it's made me the happiest I've ever been in my life. It's even allowed me to do **one of the things that I've always wanted to do** which is move house. Now I no longer live in a wooden cabin in the middle of nowhere. **I'm so happy because I got to move into an apartment with all my friends and now I live in the city and I have a lot of people around me. Everyone's very supportive** and it's just a great time, it's a great experience and I love my life right now, but I'm not forgetting that this is all because of you guys. **Every single person who is watching this video right now: you guys have helped change my life. You guys have helped me accomplish all of the stuff that you have seen in this video** and **I could not be more thankful** to all of you. You may not know it and you may not feel it, but **you guys have helped me through some of the hardest parts in my life** when I was in so much uncertainty of what I was going to do with my future and absolutely no idea how I was going to accomplish what I wanted. **You guys have made it possible. You guys have absolutely helped me one hundred percent and you guys need to know that: you need to know how grateful** I am for you guys. Everyone keeps telling me every single day, "Jack, thank you so much for your videos but no, **thank you guys for helping me**".

Today not only marks the 1 million subscriber special but it also marks **the four year anniversary of me and my girlfriend from Korea who I mentioned in this video** and it's just, it's one of those days where everything is going right, everything feels great and it's a day that **I will likely never ever forget in my life** so **thank you guys so much for giving that to me**. And that's my life: it's nothing special, not many things happened to me. I've had a pretty normal childhood; **I've had a pretty good childhood. I'm really happy with the life I've had. I've had some ups, I've had some downs**, but **it's made me the person I am today** and I'm very happy for that and I just want to say thank you guys again. I said it so much in the video, but I really do need to say it over and over again because 1 million people is a staggering amount. It's a huge number. **I never once thought I'd ever get to that level on YouTube** and it's great that we have such a powerful community here now. **We can do so many great things going forward from here and you guys are all wonderful as well.** I go to the comments section every single day and all of you people are really, really nice to each other. **You're really**

nice to me and I couldn't be more thankful for you guys. I'm really proud of this community and if anyone ever tells you in your life that you've never made a difference, you will never change someone's life or anything like that, or that you're worthless, just show them the Jacksepticeye channel. Show them the community that we've all built here together because you guys have changed my life. You guys have made me a completely different person, all for the better, and you, you've made such a difference to me and you matter to me. All of you. Now I'm not just seeing 1 million and saying, "Oh that's a great number, now I have more subscribers than this person". No, you're all 1 million individuals and I respect and love every single one of you. Thank you so much and now that we're all in great spirits and all very happy, let's all do the outro together ok? Thank you guys so much for watching this video. If you liked it punch that like button in the face like a boss and high fives all around! But thank you guys and see you in the next video!

3048

#### MDML #9

Hey what's going on guys? It's Preston here. Hope you guys are having an awesome day. Welcome to my million subscribers special Draw My Life! I've been wanting to do one of these for a very long time but thought I had to wait for in a very appropriate moment or milestone in my YouTube career, and what better way to do it on a million subscribers?

Just wanted to say thank you all from the bottom of my heart - you will never understand my full gratitude and how blessed and how thankful I am to be in this position by all of you guys, my friends, my family and God. You guys are all just amazing and I hope you guys continue to stay that way and this video somehow, you know, maybe motivates and encourages you guys to follow your dreams and to overcome any tough situation that comes your way because no matter what, you've always got what it takes and you can get through this. So, this is going to be my Draw My Life PrestonPlayz or TBNRfrags, as you guys know I do have two of those handles.

So, let's get right into it: I was born and raised in Texas. I love it here; the South will always be my home. It's a great place to live. I could never really see myself living anywhere else except for maybe a short period of time but no matter what, Texas will always be my one true home. So, I was born into about a medium-sized family: it was my dad, my mum and my two older brothers, David and Daka. Now, I was the middle child, aka the wild child. The middle child is always apparently the craziest one and then my sister was born and she's the only sister and the only girl in the entire family out of all my brothers and sister, and she was red-headed which was a big surprise, and there's my two younger siblings Caleb and Joshua.

Now a lot of people don't know this, but I was actually adopted by my dad, about, I was thinking, I was three months old. He's never treated me like I was adopted. He always treated me like he was my real biological dad. Of course, my mum was my biological mother but a lot of people think, "Hey, doesn't it make you sad that all your siblings are half-siblings and you have two siblings who aren't even related to you and you don't even have a real dad?" But honestly, I was the happiest kid alive. I had the best parents and my dad was amazing to me that I never even thought about who my real dad was or even wanted to meet him.

Well, my fourth birthday, my mum bought me the Sega Genesis console with the original Sonic the Hedgehog video game which started my never-ending gaming addiction. Now apparently, I was so good at this game that none of my older siblings or cousins or aunts or uncles or parents could beat me at it. They thought there was something wrong with me – they said, "He's just too good at these video games. I don't think that's healthy!" But you know what? They kind of ignored and moved on.

Now, I spent most of my time with my two older brothers. They were my favourite people in the entire world to see. I loved them so much. Now, by the way, that is a soccer ball because we played a lot of sports or a football for you guys who live out there in Europe. But anyway, they lived right there obviously with their mum and they came over on the weekends whenever they could and whenever they had to go it was the saddest thing in my entire younger life.

Now, we lived out in the country and we did a lot of crazy things. We would shoot bows and arrows at each other, BB guns, slingshots, you name it. My dad worked for the Air Force. He was an aircraft mechanic on jets, so he knew how to build some awesome bows, awesome slingshots, bought us BB guns. He was all for that kind of life and he grew up in the country as well and he thought there was nothing wrong with us doing that kind of stuff but my mum saw it the other way and decided to take away our bows and arrows and BB guns and slingshots after she started seeing us come in kind of bloody and bruised all the time.

Fast forward to when I was 11 years old, things got a little bit depressing for my family and I. My dad had to go off to Iraq for the Iraqi Freedom project because he was in the military, more specifically the Air Force, which means he had to go over there to work on jets and it doesn't matter if he had a family of four back at home, when duty calls, duty calls. He was a soldier and I'm so proud of him for going off and fighting for our country. I could not be more proud of him but it was very scary; we had no idea where he was going, how long he'd be gone for and we only got phone

calls every week because the military wouldn't let them call back home more than once a week and it also did not help that at the time my mum was pregnant with our fifth expansion pack, my younger brother Caleb, which made her very, very worrisome, but of course, **my mum and dad were absolute rocks and set a great example for me** while they were gone. They pushed through it and even though the time apart was very difficult for them, they were just **the greatest parents that I could have ever asked for.**

But during this time, I decided to keep myself pretty busy with **my favourite sport to this day** - you guys guessed it: extreme paintball. It's when I first got into Windows 11. Typically in most states you can't play until you're 10, so of course, being 11, I got to play it a couple of times and I got a taste of the adrenaline of shooting balls that go 200 miles per hour that hurt and bruise and bleed you, but **it was the most fun thing ever** and of course paintball was very, very expensive. It was one of the most expensive habits I've probably ever picked up in my entire life - more expensive than smoking cigarettes, and smoking cigarettes is terrible. Thank God I don't do it, but this was a very expensive hobby which means I needed lots of cash. Man, I needed the cold, hard cash and of course my dad was gone; **I was depressed, I wanted to keep my mind focused on happy things and productive things** so I decided to mow lawns, clean houses, paints - whatever I could get my hands on, I would do it. I printed out a bunch of flyers with my mum, I went and stuck it on everybody's mailbox, on their doors. I would knock doors and just say, "Hey, you know, can I mow your lawn for 20 bucks every two weeks or whatever?" And they said, you know, a lot of times they said "Sure!" And, you know, I was about 11 years old and **it was definitely a hard job pushing an old lawn mower all the time but it was a very rewarding thing** and it helped me save up enough money to go play paintball almost once a week which was **at that time my dream**, to be a professional paintball player.

Shortly afterwards **I got really into** computer gaming. A buddy of mine had a computer and I played Battlefield 2142 on it and it was like my first real PC FPS game. **I was so hooked it was unreal**, so **I decided to study computers because I didn't have the money to buy a premade one and I learned that it was cheaper to make your own and also a lot more fun**, so I took apart my parents' computer that they had just bought; it was like a thousand dollars at the time. They came home and they saw it and they thought, "Oh snap, what have we done? We've either raised a genius or an idiot who just broke our thousand dollar computer that we just purchased and of course, I didn't break it, but **thankfully**, you know, **I saved up a bunch working hard**, mowing lawns, doing whatever I could do to get enough money for these computer parts. I put it all together and it worked. **My parents are super proud and super happy**, and they said, "Wow, our twelve-year-old son built a computer from scratch and he did it all by himself - we're so proud of him!"

It was a, **it was a great feeling and it was a great experience** to learn how to do that and then shortly afterwards, **unfortunately** we had to move to Oklahoma from Texas. Now, Texas is actually right below Oklahoma, but my dad got a new job working for an oil rig company instead of the military. He actually retired from the Air Force, so he was very happy and **I was happy for him**. **Unfortunately, moving from Texas to Oklahoma meant that I would have none of my friends and also the worst of the worst - and we're talking the of the worst** - that is right, you guys guessed it: no internet. I mean this internet we had, it, of course, it was called satellite internet. It was the worst internet possible. You could not play video games on it, you could not be in Skype calls, you could literally browse the internet at, like, the speed of a cockroach walking on the ground which, **it was terrible**. But **thankfully**, after a year, my dad moved back to Oklahoma, got a new job working for outside sales. Notice I didn't try to draw Texas and Oklahoma again because I'm terrible at drawing anything geographically. Now, **I was very happy** because of this. **I was super, super excited to get back to Texas and to get back to seeing my friends** and of course have internet. But now, of course, I needed a job. I needed something to do. I was 15, I didn't know what to do and then my mum actually bumped into the head lifeguard at the military base where my dad used to work and of course we can still grocery shop there and there are cheap groceries. He was like, "You should go get a lifeguard certification and come work for me", and so I did that. I worked for the military as their lifeguard. I saved up a lot of money over the summer. It was about three months of work, I saved up a couple thousand dollars and **I bought a 1999 Cobra Mustang. It was like my baby. I loved that thing to death**, and I could just not part ways with it. I know it might look like a spaceship on wheels here, but I promise you guys this was my Mustang and this was my baby but **unfortunately** she's now gone and I own a Prius. Don't ask why, we'll get to that maybe later if I feel like I should get to that.

Now of course I'm getting a little bit older now. I graduated a week after turning 17 so I almost graduated at 16. I did skip second grade, I believe. I probably left that out, didn't I? And **I was very excited**, except for the fact that **I was also very depressed. I didn't know what I wanted to do in life. I got into a lot of bad things**. I thought I wanted to go to school to be a doctor and **I had all these high expectations for myself and I really let myself down and the people around me down. It was a very unfortunate situation** and I honestly didn't really know what to do when I got into a lot of bad stuff with a lot of bad people, so like most teenagers, **I went to my mother. I've always been a mama's boy and I needed help**.

**I was stuck in a rut; I didn't know what to do. I wanted to turn my life back around and my mum of course told me she loved me. She helped me out, she gave me the motivation and inspiration I needed** to do something in my life instead of sitting around doing nothing and being miserable all the time, because **nothing is worse than being miserable**. You have one life and you need to live it and be as happy as you can be and be as kind as you can be to other people, and that's when I started doing YouTube.



It was a great outlet for me: I felt happy doing it. I was still looking for a job because I had nothing to do and I really wanted to get a job but at the same time YouTube and Twitch were two of the most fun things in the entire world for me and then Modern Warfare 3 came out and there's this new thing called the Moab. You had to get 25 kills in a row to get it and I apparently was really good at this and people loved watching my Moab videos. I did one with every single gun in the game and people said, "This is awesome!" and then Machinima contacted me out of nowhere. These guys have over a million subscribers on their channel. They said, "Do you want to do a weekly series and have your channel partner with a contract? Just sign here!" And I said, "Yeah! I'll do it, I would be honoured," and I honestly thought it was fake at first when I read the email. I thought, there's no way Machinima is reaching out to me - this has got to be a fluke, and I signed it, and this is when it started. I had about 2,000 subscribers or so when I joined with Machinima and then within a year it had grown to over a hundred thousand and this number boggles my mind. I did a Q&A with my dad and it was probably one of the most fun videos I made and at this point in my life I was very happy because I found something I was really passionate about and something I was actually good at.

A few months later, my parents moved out of the house that I started doing YouTube at and I wanted to take YouTube to the next level so I asked my parents if they could help me look for an apartment. I had just turned 18 recently. I had money saved up from doing YouTube and live streaming while I lived with my parents and they completely agreed to help me look for a place even though they were very sad that I was moving out and I learned the biggest mistake of my entire life which is to never let your mum ever, ever use your bank account to buy furniture because she will buy every piece of furniture in the whole entire world. She'll make your apartment look awesome, but you're broke in the process, so I moved out to this gorgeous three-story apartment in Texas and even to this date it was my most favourite place to live in in my entire life. I've lived in probably 10 different homes before and this place just really, just, stuck out to me. I had so many awesome memories thanks to you guys and family and whatnot. It was just a cool, this place that I could ever think of that I've lived so far. So around this time living by myself, a lot of extra free time, I didn't have my parents around and that's where I really got into my second channel PrestonPlayz and the game that stuck with this channel wasn't any of the other games I've played but it was Minecraft - you guys loved it! I loved it, I had so much fun with it and around this time as well when I moved out, I left my network Machinima to join IGN. It was a mutual thing - there was no hard feelings. It was just more of a growth opportunity type thing and another YouTuber did the exact same as me and I'm sure you guys know who he is, it's Mitch, otherwise known as the Beijing Canadian, which, back then, he had about a hundred thousand subscribers and now he has like something like five million subscribers.

So anyway, back then when I met Mitch I had only a couple of thousand subscribers on my second channel - I wasn't very big but he said, "Hey, if you want to record some Minecraft stuff for your second channel I'm totally down to and I thought, "Wow! This is awesome!" Being a Call of Duty channel, I had no idea that I could record with other people on Minecraft and upload it. It blew my mind and there's like custom maps and custom mods and I thought, "This is so cool! I freaking love Minecraft" and I met all these other awesome YouTubers thanks to Mitch. I really owe a lot to him, so thank you so much buddy!

But then at last, here comes the love story! So, I thought I would never meet somebody until I was 25 years old. I always told myself that 25 is the exact age I wanted to get married and to settle down and to hopefully have some of my little own Prestons or my little own cactuses, and I met this girl named Sarah. Now I thought she was the most beautiful girl I've ever seen in my entire life. I literally would go breathless any time I would see a picture of her - it was just absolutely insane. She looked like a princess, like a queen. I personally believe in love at first sight. My parents believe in it and I guess maybe they just kind of made me a hopeless romantic as well, but the unfortunate thing was that she lived in Canada and I lived in the USA, not just the USA but I lived in Texas all the way in the south while she lived in the northern parts of Canada which is super far away because I'm nearly at the border of Mexico which is crazy, right? So, we spent a lot of time talking on Skype before I wanted to okay, I know it's weird, I asked her to date me online. Whatever, you know what I'm saying? So a couple of months after dating online I decided to take a plane to come visit her and this was the most, oh my gosh, I had so much butterflies in my stomach, I thought I was going to just start throwing up butterflies or something like that! It was a very long flight. I've never been to Canada in my entire life. I was going to stay up there with her parents for a week and I was just so nervous. I was so scared, I was terrified. I remember the moment that I grabbed and held her hand when we're in the car driving back to her house after they picked me up at the airport and it made me the happiest person in my entire life and I just felt so calm and collected after that and we just watched The Walking Dead all night and it was an amazing night. It was great. So after that, we had a big convention to go to at PAX and of course this was about four months later PAX Prime was happening in Seattle which coincidentally was close to where Sarah lived up in Canada and PAX Prime is this really cool gaming event and there's always a lot of subscribers that show up and a lot of YouTubers that go so it's just like a really fun get-together and it's just really enjoyable, and I decided to go for Sarah's house eight days before, spend time with her and then her mum drove us down because I didn't have a car up there so she drove us across the border and down to hang out in Seattle and went to shop while we hung out at PAX but of course unfortunately the time came to when she had to leave PAX and go back to Canada and it was a very sad time because this was the second time I had seen her in four months and I realised that I don't know if I can go with seeing her only once every two months and it was just super frustrating and it made us both sad and I didn't know what to do, so I had this crazy idea, and I think you guys

know what it is - a little light bulb just kind of ticked in my head and **it made us both incredibly happy** and it took me on the craziest adventure of my life.

**Thanks to you guys and YouTube** I was able to cancel my lease contract at the Texas apartment and my **crazy lovestruck** 19 year old self thought it'd be a good idea to move all the way to Washington State by myself where I had no friends or family other than you guys of course and my online friends. Sarah and her family were about an hour drive away from the apartment I was moving into, but **I loved her so much I just wanted to be with her** at least a couple of times a week, so I told my parents about it and they understood. They were very sad I was moving away but **they supported me nonetheless and helped me** pack up everything into one moving truck then my dad and I made a two-day straight trip from Texas to Washington where we did not stop one night through a hotel and we passed through states like New Mexico, Idaho, I mean Oregon, **all these beautiful places** to Washington. It was the was drive of my entire life but by the time we had got there I'd been in the car for like 40 hours and I was ready to pass out!

So, a little bit into living in Washington something crazy happened with my channels. My PrestonPlayz channel actually overtook my TBNRfrags channel and it became my main channel, so to say. **I never thought in a million years that this would ever happen** in my second channel - it was just a channel and supposed to open up to have fun with and I had no idea it would grow bigger than my main channel.

And then also at this time my brother Daka was stationed in Washington. He was in the Navy; he followed our dad's path and went into the military and he had just gotten out. He was in the Navy for about six years and so I told him he could come live up with me because I had a couple extra bedrooms and he actually met his future wife here where I lived and they ended up actually getting married a few months ago and **it was the cutest wedding I've ever been to and I cried like a little baby** and I think to myself had I never moved there to be with Sarah, Daka might have never found his future wife. So, about a year later, it's time for my lease to get up in Washington which means it's time to move back to good old Texas. The plan for Sarah and I was always for me to live up there for a year and then us to move back to Texas together and for her to get some kind of visa so she could come live in the States with me and she's still working on that to this day but we packed up the U-Haul although I got a little bit wiser this time and I had somebody else drive the moving truck for me to Texas instead of us driving it because **I was not down for that** again! Doing it once in my lifetime was more than enough but **I was still happy to move back to Texas** and **it's always been my one true home** and my family were all very, very excited to see Sarah and I and to finally be able to spend time with us once again.

Now the story is coming to an end **unfortunately**, but when I moved back to Texas my mum helped me find another apartment to live in and this time it was on the eighth floor - the highest floor that they had. And you guys know how **I love my stories and it's all thanks to you guys!** **This is the most gorgeous place I have ever lived in in my entire life and honestly by how pretty it is, I never thought that I would reach this in a million years. Let alone by the age 20. Who would have known that one subscriber would turn into a million? I honestly was happy with twenty thousand subscribers on my main channel and I thought that reaching, you know, anything over 50,000 was just going to be miraculous and it was out of my reach but I hope that this video motivates you guys** to do something with your life and to do what you love and to follow your dreams because you can always achieve them with the right amount of work, friends, patience and determination. You guys can do whatever you want in your life and **I hope you guys reach for the stars** and achieve all of your dreams your hopes and your aspirations and you find the person that you love and I just wanted to say God bless. **Thank you all so much for turning my life around and making it the best life I could have ever pictured for myself. I am honestly one of the happiest men on the entire planet and it's all thanks to you guys,** so thank you all so much and **I hope you guys have an awesome and wonderful, safe day** and I'll see you guys next time.

4472

#### MDML #10

Yo! If you're new here, my name is Jake Paul and this is my channel. I'm currently 19 years old. I live in Los Angeles with **my friends Team 10**. I'm an actor in a couple of movies and on Disney Channel and I make videos online for you guys but there's a lot more to the story and today I'm going to draw it out for you. I'm going all the way back to day one. Actually, my artist friend Thank You X is going to draw it out for me because **I suck at drawing; I can't even draw stick figures!**

And without further ado, drumroll please! Thank you. My parents made it roughly in 1996. Nine months later I was born on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1997, in Cleveland, Ohio. My parents named me Jake Joseph Paul and I was a savage from day one. Rumour has it that I tried punching my doctor in the face when I was born. My parents' names are Greg Paul and Pamela Stepnick. They already had another kid named Logan Paul, so this made us brothers and he was older by two years. Logan was also a savage and **I spent my whole life with them basically side by side. My parents are the reason why I'm at where I'm at today.** My mum gave me my nice and caring side while my dad gave me my manly and hardworking side. My mum was a nurse. **Growing up she would always take care of Logan and I.** My dad used to be in the army and then became a real estate agent and then started his own roofing company.

From the time I can remember, my parents instilled in Logan and I a great work ethic and a competitive spirit. Whatever we did, we wanted to be the best at and we had the work ethic to match that. We grew up in a house with a massive backyard and front yard and as a family we would always adventure - go into the woods, ride four-wheelers and play sports. My brother and I would always train and work out to become better at playing football. When I was about 10 years old, I started playing football my local school's league. Not trying to brag but I was the best player. No big deal, definitely not trying to brag. I would score touchdown 33% of the time I touched a football. Beast mode. Like any kid, I wanted to go to the NFL and I had the chops to do so. My dad, Logan and I would train all the time and push our limits to become better athletes. Logan was also really good at football and made me work harder. We would always see who could run faster, do more push-ups and so Logan, if you're watching this, make sure to subscribe! Always plug!

Anyway, right around this time, my dad bought my brother and I a camera so we could record our football games, watch them back and see how we can improve. My mum would be the filmer and she was also our biggest fan and our dad was the head coach of our pee-wee league team. Football aside, Logan and I took the camera and started filming random stuff we did around our house. Eventually this turned into us making skits and scripted videos. While all of this was going on, this thing called YouTube started to become popular along with some people on the platform. We started watching YouTube videos as our form of entertainment after we came home from sports, around the weekends. Our favourite channel was called Smosh. At the time, they were just starting out, about 7 years ago. We loved their videos and wanted to create our own channel so being the savages we were we did, and we called it Zoosh. Goddammit Logan, what were we thinking? It was almost the exact same as Smosh!

We kept on playing football and we kept on making videos in our free time. These videos were so bad, actually some of them are still online if you look up Zoosh, but at the time our friends thought they were funny and we thought we are hilarious, so we kept them, making them and uploading them, trying to gain a tonne of subscribers. In the meantime, my parents had started fighting and eventually got a divorce. This was a bit of a hard time for Logan and I but at the end of it, it taught us a lot about life and we figured that two Christmases are better than one.

My dad remained single and my mum remarried which is why her last name is Stepnick. By the time I was in middle school, as you can imagine, I was the class clown, always causing trouble, making jokes and I couldn't sit still. I didn't like school. I still don't. In eighth grade our class would go on a trip to Washington DC at the end of the year. It was the highlight of the year. You got to travel with your friends and stay in hotels and visit all the sites, but you couldn't go on the trip if you had 15 behaviour strikes. By the middle of the year, I had 14, so I became a good kid for the rest of the year and got to go on the trip. Savage.

By this time in my life, I was really into girls and was about to go into high school. Logan and I stopped making videos and focused on football and wrestling. As a freshman I no longer wanted to go to the NFL. Football just wasn't as fun anymore and wrestling seemed to interest me more. I made varsity wrestling as a freshman and got to wrestle on the varsity team with my bro. I got destroyed as a freshman by the older kids but wasn't discouraged. That summer I got my driver's license and my first car. It was a lifted all black Jeep Wrangler. It fit me perfectly.

My brother and I started a landscaping business and worked for \$10 an hour. We would grind all day, every day and eventually had a tonne of clients. It was hard work, but we were able to pay for our gas and take girls on dates from it. Savage.

I came back my sophomore year of wrestling after training every day in the off-season and was one match and one point away from making it to States and in Ohio, that's a huge accomplishment. After wrestling season, I found myself lost. I didn't know what my future looked like; I didn't know what I wanted to do. This went on for a couple months until I found out about the Navy Seals - it was everything I loved: hard work, mental toughness, guns, fast vehicles, competition and doing something with a purpose - serving America. I decided I was going to train to be a Navy Seal. For the next couple of months that's all I could think about and do until summer came and Logan said to me "We should start making videos again". I was so down and so we began Zoosh again and started posting YouTube videos. We only had 3,000 subscribers at the time but loved what we were doing. I was 16 at the time.

Randomly two weeks later I was on Twitter and saw this app called Vine had just came out. I downloaded it and immediately started making these six-second videos. I loved it. I told my bro about it and he loved it too. Two weeks later we got into a competition, of course, on who could get more followers. So here we were in the middle of Ohio spending hours making these six second videos and they were good and started to get some recognition. Eventually one of the videos that we made went viral. This was the biggest thing that happened in our video career. My bro gained 5,000 followers from it and I gained about 3,000.

From then on, we kept making videos. We were basically local celebrities. Our thousands of followers soon turned into hundreds of thousands and eventually millions. At this point, I was still training to be a Navy Seal, still wrestling, still landscaping and about to go back to school for my junior year, except my brother had to go to college and I was going to be all alone and had to make the videos by myself and so did he. We missed each other and often tried to visit each other whenever we could.

The followers kept growing and eventually people from big companies started calling us asking us to promote products for them or to feature them in our videos and so we did. Along with that came money. Oh my gosh! I realised that I could make money from making videos - **this was amazing. I didn't know what to do except freak out**. The companies became more frequent and started to become even bigger deals. Eventually I didn't have to landscape and I bought like four pairs of LeBron shoes which at the time was a lot. People started to come up to me in public asking to take pictures.

I was making money and **having fun. It was like a dream come true**. It got to a point where I would go to wrestling tournaments and the competition would ask to take pictures with me or be freaking out. Sometimes though they would film me if I lost and posted on Vine talking that smack talk. **The videos just made me laugh though**.

**The bad part** about all the fame and money is that attracts haters. **People in my school, the kids that I grew up with, started hating on me. They would talk so much smack and tweet me the nastiest things. At first this really upset me and it was hard to deal with. My mum would see the haters and call their mums and yell at them. Love you mum!** Eventually though, I realised that they were just jealous and that was their way of expressing it. I realised that they were living in a bubble and didn't have big goals or aspirations. **knew that I could turn my internet fame into something massive and so that's what I set out to do.**

I finished my wrestling season and knew I was going to move to Los Angeles. **I wanted to take the next step in my career** and Los Angeles was the place to do it, except I was 17 at the time now, hadn't finished school and didn't have anything planned for myself in Los Angeles. I had to convince my parents that this was a smart move and to go into online school. I also was going to drop the whole Navy Seal thing. Eventually they agreed and my bro and I made plans and found a spot to live in Los Angeles. **I had to save up all the money that I was making from social media to pay for my apartment and food and Wi-Fi and all the things you don't think about when you're a kid. On my last day of school, I said goodbye. Most kids were still talking smack and a teacher even asked me what are you going to do when social media dies? On my way out, I just smiled and waved. They didn't understand the vision.**

I got on a flight the next day and hopped off the plane at L.A.X. like Miley sings about. **Love you Miley!** I was officially in Los Angeles with nothing planned. My bro drove there all the way from Cleveland in his new sports car and I met him at our new place. 17 and in Los Angeles **with a lot to prove, I started grinding every day trying to make things happen.** I started by going to acting classes, improv classes and meeting with anyone I could. This whole time I was still growing my social media, but I knew **I wanted** to do social media, acting and business. I started to book acting roles, my first one being in a movie called Mono with Fox and then my next one with YouTube Red called Dance Camp and then my brother and I sat down to write our own movie called Airplane Mode which is coming out soon. **It's amazing!**

Around this time, **I was having the most fun I've ever had in my life**. Los Angeles was the best place on earth and every day flew by into the next one. I bought a motorcycle and a Mustang for me to run around Los Angeles. I learned how to do wheelies on my motorcycle but eventually got into a crash and sold it because it was too dangerous. I also made **some new friends in Los Angeles which was so cool** because everyone here is from the craziest places across the world and they all have awesome stories.

Eventually I decided **I wanted to help other people grow their social media following and accomplish their dreams.** I went through the hard part and made all the mistakes and was off to the races, so I figured I could help others do the same. This is when I created Team Ten - the first ever social media label, where we found young social media influencers and helped them go from thousands of followers to millions. It started with Elissa and I, then Lucas and Marcus, then Neel Visser and kept growing and then Alex Longs joined the team and then AJ Mitchell and then Tessa Brooks and then Stan Gerrard and then we created a virtual Team Ten member Donny Red - he has an Instagram that you can follow at LittleDonnyRed - and then Tristan Tales joined and now we're growing more and more each month. I mean, if you think you have what it takes to be on Team Ten you can always email us at [join@teamentenofficial.com](mailto:join@teamentenofficial.com).

Anyway, eventually while all of this was happening I bought an off-road truck, decked it all out, sold my Mustang, moved into a house with everyone on Team Ten, wrote a book called "You Gotta Want It", which is my saying, and then got called in to audition for Disney's Channel's new show called "Bizaardvark". I walked into the building and went up to the 23rd floor to audition. **It was intimidating and nerve-wracking.** This was easily the biggest audition I've had so far. My brother said to me "either come back Dirk or come back on your shield". After a couple of auditions and beating out the other actors, I came back Dirk **which made me the first social-media influencer to be a series regular on TV. I remember getting the call and just freaking out. I legit almost cried - it was a dream come true.** I filmed the first season of the show already and we start filming season two here in a couple months. The other week I got to do the infamous "Hi, I'm Jake Paul and you're watching Disney Channel" with the wand and everything! I vlogged that day and have it recorded but our hard drives crashed and I'm still trying to get that footage back.

It's about to be 2017 and that's basically my life in a nutshell - posting every day on YouTube, acting, doing business, making comedy skits for Instagram and **laughing the rest of the time**. If you aren't already a Jake Pauler, you better join the family because we are just getting started and 2017 is going to be the craziest year yet. **None of this would be possible without you guys and for that, I want to say thank you, thank you so, so much. I would probably be in the mud**

on a beach training to be a Navy Seal if it weren't for you guys. You guys allowed me to accomplish my dreams and for that I'm grateful. So, go on Instagram right now and follow me at Jake Paul for some follow backs, and Jake Paulers make sure you're subscribed and give the video a big thumbs up because it's everyday bro. Peace!

2730

## MDML #11

What's up ladies and gentlemen of YouTube? Boogie2988 coming at you live once again through the power of the internet. But you may not know me as Boogie2988 - you may know me as my character Francis who gets really angry all the time and breaks stuff. But that's okay - I'm just glad you know me at all. A lot of people have asked me to draw my life story and it's kind of sad, but I'd like to do that for you now.

I grew up in the southwestern part of Virginia in a small town called St. Paul and it only had about a thousand people in it and it was part of the coal mining belt here in America and of course my dad mined coal and it was a very hard job which made him very sad and my mother was a teacher but she was always very sad and not only she's sad but she was quite angry about her life and everything that had happened up till then.

We had a medium-sized family. I was the youngest and the smallest and my brother Brian, he was the oldest - he was pretty cool. My sister Carla, she was kind of crazy actually and eventually she ran away, and my brother went off to college which left me alone at the age of 9 with my crazy, angry, depressed family which really kind of sucked so my dad was almost always at work and that left me alone with my mother who was sad all the time and sometimes she'd get really angry and she'd scream at me and that happened almost every day and sometimes she'd hit me and that happened every day too, but enough about that.

My brother used to tell me that my dad was a pretty laid-back guy and he was kind of fun but by the time I came around, all dad liked to do was drink and he liked to drink Pabst Blue Ribbon and he drank like 20 or 30 of them a day and that's basically all he did and that's why if you ever meet me, you don't get to buy me a beer, you buy me a Mountain Dew instead. As a kid, I was basically always sick. Either it was my allergies or chickenpox or something going on, but I basically was always sick and because I didn't get much physical activity. I also got really fat.

Eventually all that drinking and smoking and coal-mining caught up to my dad. Something went wrong in his brain. They called it alcoholic seizures, though it basically was just like a stroke and it left him like a stroke victim. He couldn't work anymore so it was up to me and my mother to take care of him and all he did is basically sit in his recliner and stare at the wall. He couldn't really communicate, he couldn't hear because he was deaf from working in the mines and he couldn't talk because of his stutter and that's really, really sad.

Then my poor mother who was already quite sad and already quite angry got even sadder and got even angrier and the bad stuff she did started happening more often and the good stuff she did disappeared and as you can imagine, all this made me really, really sad. I didn't really have any friends at school either, which sucked. Kids at school would call me fat or ugly or gross. Four-eyes of course because eventually I got glasses and man, that was hard, and life just went on like that for years. I was always quite sad and people were always quite mean to me and mum was always quite crazy and dad was very sick but eventually I got an opportunity to go to a pre collegiate program called Upward Bound and that made me really happy because I met a lot of people there who didn't think I was fat and didn't think I was gross and didn't think I was weird - they thought I was cool and funny and all these new friends, they liked the same stuff I did. They liked video games and they liked gaming, they liked board games and they liked Dungeons and Dragons and I got to use my very first computer and we would play these games together and I even met my very first girlfriend in Upward Bound and it changed my life. It changed my life forever for the better because I wasn't sad all the time. It made me happy and eventually it was senior year and I had all these great new friends and even though nobody in my high school really liked me, we shared all these great things like books, they taught me to read and I started reading Douglas Adams and I started reading Stephen King's The Dark Tower series and Kurt Vonnegut and it was such a good time and the best year school that I had and eventually I headed off to university. At the University of Virginia at Wise, also known as Clinch Valley College and I thought, there, that is where my future lies.

Eventually the girl that I met at Upward Bound joined me at college and we dated, and we thought we'd end up getting married one day but something went wrong. We started fighting all the time, she was angry and I was angry and we were both hurt and we thought we would make it work but we just couldn't, and, you know, that's okay, because that's how it was supposed to be.

So, I was really sad for a while and I flunked out of school and I wasn't really able to concentrate, but my brother gave me the opportunity to move to Fayetteville, Arkansas, and reinvent myself and reinvent my life and you know what? I agreed to come and it was one of the best decisions of my life because they had this awesome computer lab and they taught me how to code for the internet and I played this card game called Magic the Gathering and I met all of these great people who love the game and loved gaming and loved video games and loved computers and I made more friends than I'd ever had in my entire life and I loved the city I lived in and I was so happy.

So I started using what I learned to start coding for the web and I started doing web design which was really fun, even though sometimes I ended up with clients that I didn't like working for who did kind of dirty stuff, but I had found my home. I was self-employed, I was making money, I was playing Magic and me and my friends, we would travel all over the world to play Magic all over the country and it was great, but eventually that came to an end.

You see, I was still pretty sad, and I was still pretty messed up and I still got sick pretty often and unfortunately for me, something went bad with my legs. I got a condition called lymphedema and a very mean doctor tried to tell me that he was to take that leg, but I wouldn't let him. So I was stuck at Fayetteville, I couldn't really walk very well and I couldn't really exercise very much, but that was okay because I had some good friends and we would go out to eat all the time but eating out all the time made me fatter and being fatter made me sadder and I get more depressed and more fat till eventually I was fatter than I'd ever been, but that was just the beginning of health problems for my family because my dad passed and he died of cancer and that made my mum really, really sad and really angry and then we got some more bad news - she fell and broke her leg and that leg would never heal so she was unable to work and if you thought she was crazy before, that pushed her over the edge.

And all this bad luck in all this poor health and all this misfortune made me sadder and angrier than I had ever been and I decided not to leave my house and I didn't for almost seven years, and during that period of time I was so sad and so depressed, it became very difficult to work and the internet became bigger and stronger and more and more people were coding for it and web pages were cropping up and the money that I was making began to disappear and I became poorer and poorer and poorer, until eventually there was nothing left. So, I just kind of tried to survive and it was really hard, but my roommate supported me, and he kept me alive, and eventually something new and exciting was going to happen to me and that exciting thing was YouTube. First, I really didn't know what to make of it or if I should make anything at all. I started making these videos in which I ate French fries and acted stupid and I knew everyone would call me fat so, well, that was the joke and people did - they called me fat, but not everybody. Some people were kind of nice, just like those people in Upward Bound and that made me feel really good, so one day I'm sitting around and doing the different character voices that I do and I decide that my character Francis would have to get hacked in World of Warcraft and he'd get really mad about it and smash a keyboard in his face and this cool guy by the name of Ray William Johnson saw the video and he said "Cool, cool, cool" and he showed it to the world and that changed my life. Nobody was really watching my channel before but then after Ray mentioned it, everybody was watching my channel and I was really excited because I was making a little bit of money from YouTube and I could support myself and it started my career and I couldn't have been happier.

But the saddest thing that ever happened to me was about to happen. I got a phone call from the hospital and they told me that my mother was very, very sick. I came to visit her and while I was there, she died, and this made me sadder than I had ever, ever been and I really didn't know what to do with myself, so that Christmas, I made plans to kill myself. But I didn't. I didn't because of my friend Adam, I didn't because of YouTube, I didn't because of you and I decided to stick it out even though I really didn't know why, but life has a way of working out because I met this redheaded girl who saw my videos and she was really sad too because she had just buried her best friend and she had just buried her brother and we started talking and it was awesome. We were really interested in each other, but her life was complicated, and my life was complicated, and we were just too far apart. We didn't think we could make it work and that kind of sucked, but, you know, they say never say never - life has a way of surprising you. Eventually, we managed to work it out and that redheaded girl moved down here to live with me and we've been together now for three years. We're in love and I'm happier now than I've ever been and she's helped me do all these great things like travel the country again and lose weight and she's encouraged me to make more and more YouTube fans and more and more friends on YouTube and I'm getting bigger and stronger and healthier and occasionally some guy comes along and calls me fat but we don't care because he's an asshole and I just keep working harder and harder every day and for some reason this YouTube thing just doesn't seem to want to stop and I hope it never does and because this girl has made me so happy and such a better person I asked her to marry me and inexplicably, she said yes, and that made me really happy.

And you know, I don't know what tomorrow is going to bring - I might get sick again or maybe you guys are going to stop watching my channel or maybe my fiancé will decide she doesn't want to marry me and that would make me really sad and maybe I'd go crazy like my family did, but one thing is for certain: right here, right now in this moment of time, I'm happier than I've ever been and I owe all of that to you for watching my videos, for sharing them, for subscribing, for being part of my life. You've given me everything that sad little boy ever wanted, and I love you for it. Thank you, and I really mean it too - I, you've given me everything I ever dreamt of, everything I ever wanted just with the click of a mouse, just by watching my videos. I owe you everything. I owe you my life.

## MDML #12

Hey guys, so today I'm going to be doing the "draw my life" video, which is basically me drawing my life! Really crappy, because I am not an artist. I thought it would be really cool if I shared with you guys my story, so let's get started.

So, my name is Joseph Michael Graceffa and I was born May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1991, and I remember I hated my name growing up. I think I had my parents call me Cody for a week, but I hate it, so I made them call me Joey again. When I was brought into this world, my family consisted of my dad, my mum, and my sister Nicole, who is five years older than me, and then of course, me! When I was really young, my parents got divorced, so, it didn't really affect me because I didn't really know of anything else. So, it was just me, my mum, and my sister for the majority of the beginning of my life and my mum was the most loving mother I could ask for. I remember she put me on her hip, and we danced around the living room listening to music. I was such a mama's boy, like, whenever my mum would go out at night and she wouldn't come home till late, the babysitter would have to give me her picture for me to be able to fall asleep, so, yep! Mama's boy alert! Me, my sister and mum lived in a really old apartment complex growing up and some paint chips had fallen off the window and got on my toys and, me being the child I was, decided to eat the chips and it gave me a lead paint poisoning which ended up causing me to have a learning disability and I spent most of my school life in special education classes.

I lived just with my mum and my sister for a few years and I just looked up to my sister so much, she was my role model and she was the coolest person ever and I wanted to be just like her so I would do what she would do, like wear dresses and play with dolls, but this ended up getting me teased a lot by my cousins and they called me "Josephina" which really hurt my feelings. I also had a pretty tough time at school. I mostly only hung out with girls because it's who I felt most comfortable and a lot of guys would make fun of me, call me "gay" or "faggot", or call me a girl and this made it really hard for me to be able to make friends with guys for most of my life because I just figured that they are all mean.

When I was five years old, my mum met my step-dad, Bob, who I actually called "the Chinese man" because he would always bring over Chinese food for dinner, even though he wasn't Chinese. But he became one of my biggest role models and taught me that anything in life is possible as long as I worked hard enough. When I was seven years old, I actually fell off my bunk bed and cracked my head open because I was trying to bring my two little kittens to the top bunk in a blanket and I dropped the blanket on the way up and in attempt to save them, I fell off the top bunk and landed on my head, on a bird house that I created. I just remember reaching up and feeling the blood come out of my head and I started screaming and my parents rushed me to the hospital and I got five staples in my head and for me being a good boy, I got two Pokémon booster packs and one of them actually had a Charizard in it so, yeah, I know. It's a really good Charizard, isn't it? But I guess it was worth getting my head cracked open, right? No, it freaking hurt.

At 12 years old, my mum started heavily drinking and soon became an alcoholic, which was really hard growing up because I didn't feel like I had a mum that I could rely on. My mum and my step dad's relationship wasn't doing that well and they decided to separate so they sold the house and once again it was just me, my sister and my mum, and my sister and my mum got into some pretty heated arguments almost every single day because of my mum's drinking, so my sister decided to move out and live with my dad. My dad was definitely very hard on me growing up, he didn't like that my only friends were girls and he wanted me to be more of a masculine son but when I got into 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I think he just gave up and finally accepted me for who I was and he's also my biggest fan now and I can tell that he is very proud of me. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I wanted to become an actor, so I auditioned for my high school play and actually ended up getting the lead role and this was definitely one of my favourite memories of high school.

When I was 15, my mum and stepdad's relationship started getting better and my stepdad moved in and my mum sobered up for two years. And then they had a baby named Jet and I was super excited because I'd always wanted a younger sibling that I could boss around and tell them what to do. But as time progressed, he was diagnosed with a form of autism which meant that he wasn't able to communicate with us verbally which of course has been really hard because I know he would say some of the craziest and funniest things. In my first year of high school I met a girl named Britney Joel and we became best friends immediately. We just had so much fun together and we clicked so well. We would hang out every single weekend and play video games and we would annoy the crap out of people on Call of Duty Xbox Live because we would sing Aly & AJ and Jonas Brothers' songs and we called ourselves DJ Joey and DJ Britney. People hated us.

At 16 years old, we decided to start a YouTube channel called WinterSpringPro and just made little sketches and tried to build up an audience, and it eventually started taking off and after a few months we became YouTube Partners, which meant that we could start making money on our videos. College time came around and I really wanted to major in film, so I applied to my dream school, Emerson, and was denied. I was so heartbroken, but I ended up going to the stupid crusty state school and I was so miserable.

I became very lonely and the most depressed I think I've ever been in life. But I found my comfort in YouTube and the majority of my friends were online friends. So, I decided to drop out of college. When I turned 19, I decided to move

to L.A. and follow my dream of being an actor and make YouTube a full-time job, also to escape my mother who had now been drinking heavily again. So, Britney and I packed up her car and drove cross country from Boston to Los Angeles for four days straight. When we arrived in L.A., we made a tonne of YouTube friends and I immediately felt like I belonged, and I now have the best group of friends that I could ever ask for. They all accept me for who I am, and I don't feel like I have to be anyone but me.

After living in L.A. for a year, I decided to branch off of WinterSpringPro and start my Joey Graceffa channel and eventually made the decision to vlog every single day. I worked really hard and was really passionate about YouTube again and I started getting recognition and had a really cool story that got me noticed by the TV show "The Amazing Race" which has seriously been the coolest experience of my life. Today, I'm still making videos on a daily basis and trying to make my dreams of being an actor come true.

Although I went through a lot of struggles in my life growing up, it's made me into the person that I am today. I know that this is just the beginning of an even more epic journey ahead of me and I want to thank you guys so much for supporting me, and if there's anything that I want you guys to take from this video, it's that you don't have to be a victim of your environment and just know that life gets so much better and you can truly achieve anything in life as long as you work hard enough. So yeah, keep your head up and no dream is too crazy! So, yeah, I love you guys, thank you so much for supporting me and I will see you guys tomorrow! May the odds be ever in your favour! Goodbye!

1544

### MDML #13

Hey everyone! This is SuperMarioLogan and today I'm doing a draw my life video. That's going to be a very long video, so let's get started.

My name is Logan Thirtyacre and I was born on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1994, in Pensacola, Florida. I have an older brother named Lance and a little sister named Haylie and when I was about three years old, my mum and dad got a divorce. See, my dad was a truck driver so I never really saw him that much but my mum met this new guy named Brian and Brian became my stepdad and Brian was super cool because he knew a lot about computers and video games and all this cool stuff and Brian treated me and Lance like we were his own kids. He would play video games with us and that's how I got introduced to Mario, so you can thank him for that.

Now, I've had a lot of medical problems throughout my life. A lot of my fans know this, but what you probably don't know is that when I was about three years old, my brother Lance hit me in the head with a baseball bat. Now I'm not just saying a little hit - he knocked me out. There was blood all over our playroom and he ran to my mum and said, "Uh, mum, I accidentally killed Logan!" and my mum said, "What?" So, she picked me up and rushed me to the hospital and it turns out that Lance had fractured my skull. He had hit me so hard that he actually cracked the side of my head and no, I did not get any brain damage. I'm not stupid or retarded, I, but he did hit me so hard I think I forgot math because I'm really, really bad at math.

And then I was in the third grade. I went to Louisiana for spring break to visit my cousins and they had this huge pool and I loved to swim so I swam all day but that was a bad idea because there were millions and millions of mosquitoes all around the pool and I got bit like fifty hundred times and one specific mosquito was carrying this very, very deadly disease and I was the unlucky one and I got bit by this huge monster devil dragon mosquito, so I had all these bite marks all over me and when I got back to Pensacola my neck started to hurt really bad, like I could not move my head without a sharp pain shooting down my spine and I said, "Mum, mum, my neck hurts really bad". My mum says, "You probably just slept on it wrong", and I say, "Oh, that makes sense", until I started throwing up everywhere and felt like I was going to die, so my mum rushed me to the hospital and the doctor said, "You probably just have the flu or something - on a scale to 1 to 10, how bad do you feel?" and I said, "Um" and I threw up all over his stupid 1 to 10 chart, so they started doing all these tests and it turns out that I had West Nile virus and spinal meningitis. Now apparently this was a big deal because the doctors are freaking out. They said, "Get an ambulance - we've got to transfer him to a bigger hospital!" And this was my first time in an ambulance. They took me by ambulance to a bigger hospital so they could try to cure me. So after about two weeks of being in the hospital, I was cured and everything was okay and my mum bought me Super Smash Brothers for the Gamecube to make up for me getting sick I guess, or it was a prize for not dying, I don't really know, but I love Super Smash Brothers for the Gamecube. I played all the time with my brother and all my friends, and then after a while, I started getting really, really sick every time I would eat. Like I couldn't eat anything without feeling like I was going to throw up.

I stopped eating as much as I usually did, which was a lot. I could eat anything - I could eat a whole pizza, I could eat two double cheeseburgers. I loved to eat, so when I stopped eating I lost a lot of weight so I ended up seeing a doctor and the doctor ran all these tests and didn't find anything wrong with me, so the doctor said you must be faking it or you just want attention and my mum and Brian believed the doctor because, I mean, none of the tests came back with anything wrong, so when it came time to eat, I wasn't allowed to do anything until I ate all my food. I wasn't allowed to play any video games, I wasn't allowed to see my friends, I wasn't even allowed to watch TV. No one believed me



that every time I would eat, I would get horribly sick. I had to start thinking of ways of hiding food, so it looked like I was actually eating. I would roll up the food in a napkin and put it in my pockets or I would take really, really big bites of food and say I had to use the bathroom. I'd go in the bathroom and spit the food out in the toilet. Yeah, this is what really happened, and this happened for years and years because no one would listen to me. No one believed me that I was sick.

Now let's take a break from the medical problems and get into the YouTube part of my life. The medical problems will continue later. So, I joined YouTube on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007, and I found out about YouTube while I was in the seventh grade. I remember I came home from school one day and Lance was telling me about how his friend joined this cool new website called YouTube and he was uploading videos and having so much fun, so I decided to give it a try and I can't really explain what happened in my very first video, but I was trying to recreate the Super Mario Got Milk commercial from the 1990s and I told Lance and his friend Patrick to film me with my little Mario toy and then complete randomness happened and I remember I clicked upload and within an hour I had two views. I thought, "Oh my god, two views - I am famous! I am like Will Smith! People know me! I'm all around the world right now!" but I probably got those two views from refreshing my own video page so many times but I really thought it was cool and awesome how I could upload videos and people would actually see them, so I started making like eight videos a day. I was making the most random, stupid videos ever. I ended up deleting most of my videos because I realised how dumb they were, so I decided to do videos with my little Mario winged plush doll and I would review video games and do a bunch of random stuff. I got a couple of subscribers and a few views, but I thought I was doing pretty good. Then I found this guy named Froggy Company - he made plush videos and he would make all these cool Mario freak out videos and I thought it was the funniest thing I've ever seen in my life. I loved his videos. I ended up messaging him and we became really good friends and he gave me tips on how to make better videos and that's when I added Tony the Tiger and Shrek and Woody and all the characters you love today, and after I added all these new characters, my video views went up and I hit a thousand subscribers. I was like, "A thousand people - like, that's so many people!" and then I went and bought me a twelve set of Mario plushies for like two hundred and fifty dollars and I also bought a hundred and fifty dollar flip video HD camera because I wanted my videos to be better quality and I used all the money from my birthday and I just put all towards YouTube because I really wanted my YouTube career just to blow up and I continued to make videos and make more friends on YouTube.

Now, at the time, it was just me and my brother Lance doing these plush videos. Lance did the voice of Shrek, Mr. Pig and Woody, and I did the voice of Mario until I asked my friends Luke and Zeke to help out with my videos. Now, before me, Luke and Zig did these plush videos, we would all go on crazy adventures with my Mario plushies. We really actually had a good time playing with these toys and we thought, "Oh my god - what if we just filmed these cool, funny adventures we go on?" Because if we're laughing at it, maybe other people will laugh at them too, so that's how the Mario and Luigi Stupid and Dumb Adventure Series was born. We filmed our stupid adventures that we would usually have in our minds and you all ended up loving it and the series exploded and that's how Mama Luigi was born and that's why you all are addicted to Mama Luigi and you all won't stop talking about Mama Luigi because you all just loved it so much, so you can thank our stupid imaginations for that stupid character that you love so much.

So now I have Lance, Luke and Zeke help me with my videos. Our videos exploded. We got thousands and thousands of subscribers. I got accepted into the YouTube Partner Program which, that was a very, very big deal. People loved us. I thought we were unstoppable until one day Luke and Zeke told me that they were moving away to Colorado and I thought, that's on the other side of the world, so now you can't help with videos anymore, so I said, "Hey, can we please do one more video to kill off Mama Luigi so people wouldn't wonder where he was?" So that's what we did. We made that one last video where Mama Luigi died in an explosion and then all of you unsubscribed and hated me and I quit YouTube. Not really! Me and Lance continued to make videos even though Luke and Zeke moved away and, you know, people were always saying "Where's Mama Luigi? Where's Mama Luigi? I let you all know that Zeke moved away so if you all want to know, Zeke voiced Mama Luigi, Luke played some of the characters too and Luke and Zeke both moved away so that is why mama Luigi is not in my videos anymore, so stop yelling at me about it!

So, after Luke and Zeke left, I needed to find a new voice actor for my videos. I didn't want to have to make Lance do all the voices to all the characters so I went around looking and I could not find anybody to help me until my sophomore year of high school. Then I met Lovell. Now, Lovell was this crazy kid in my reading class, and I thought he'd be the perfect fit for my videos. I went up and said, "Hey, you want to help me with my YouTube videos?" and he said, "Sure, can I record some of my rap songs at your house?" and I said, "Uh sure, that sounds gangster", or whatever you all say, I don't know. And also during my sophomore year is when I started dating my girlfriend Chilli who now helps me with my videos, but anyway, Lovell started being in my videos and some people loved it and some people hated it and then we added Bowser and Chef Peepee and my videos blew up again and people still cried about Mama Luigi which made me really angry.

So, my YouTube was back on track and I was doing really good, but my health was doing really bad, see I started feeling worse. I started losing more weight and my doctor decided to put me on a feeding tube because he thought that would make me gain weight super fast, but he was super wrong. The feeding tube sucked. It hung off my stomach like I had a stupid squid tentacle. I looked like Goober Blooper from Super Mario Sunshine. I had to be fed this milky jelly

stuff and it got all hard and would clog up the tube and we all would have to flush it. The feedings would make me feel horribly, horribly sick and I would have these weird seizure things from the pain being so painful. While all this was happening, I was a junior in high school. I had to go to school with a feeding tube and it would poke out of my shirt it would make me look like I had a stupid boner in class and my school life had its ups and downs. I was the quiet kid, I didn't really talk that much and I kind of got bullied a lot but that changed when I got into high school because, you know, everyone got kind of mature but still I really wasn't the kid that everyone knew and I only had my little set of friends and I stayed away from the big crowds and the feeding tube didn't really help with making friends. It made me look like I was some weird kid and this feeding tube sucked really bad. It made me so sick I had to miss a month of school. I was actually thinking about killing myself because I was so sick.

I didn't think there was a reason to live anymore because all I felt was pain and suffering even though I had a girlfriend and family and thousands of fans that loved and cared about me. I just didn't see a reason to move on in life. My mum noticed how much I hated life, so she said that I needed to see a more professional doctor, so I took a week off school and I went to Tulane Hospital in New Orleans. I was going to go see this professional god of a doctor named Doctor Hyman and he was supposed to be the best doctor in the country and he would fix my stomach problems once and for all but that's not what happened - he was a horrible doctor. The only good thing he did was remove my feeding tube but other than that he kept me drugged up for a week and he ran tests on me that did not make any sense and he made up a bunch of lies about how if I didn't stay in the hospital for six months under his care that I would die. Me and my mum didn't believe any of the bullcrap this guy was saying, so we packed up our stuff and went back to Pensacola and now we're back to where we started. I'm still really sick and now I have a scar from my feeding tube so now it looks like I have two bellybuttons.

After a while, my mum took me to see another doctor and this doctor's name was Doctor Lewis. She was amazing - after the first appointment she figured everything out. She found out that I had superior mesenteric artery syndrome. It's a very deadly intestinal disease and it's very, very rare. I was upset and scared because I didn't know what was going on. I eventually had to tell my principal at school about my sickness. I was missing so much school I thought they were going to kick me out, but my principal understood everything, and he let my teacher Miss Reeves sell purple SMA awareness shirts around the entire school. A lot of people were wearing them. I saw people wearing them every day. I was so happy that so many people cared about me but now that I had this super rare disease, what does this mean? Is there a cure? Well, my doctor told me that she could perform a surgery to possibly fix it, but it was very, very risky and I could possibly come out worse than I was before, but I decided to take this chance.

So, I finished up my junior year of high school and on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, I had my SMA surgery. Now, random thing you might want to know - also on June 20<sup>th</sup> I uploaded the series finale of Mario and Luigi Stupid and Dumb Adventures and I ended it in a way that if I were to die in surgery the videos would constantly loop and you would always remember me, but I didn't die in surgery, yay! But something did go wrong in recovery. See, I was only supposed to spend a week and a half in the hospital, but I ended up spending like 33 days instead. This is because my stomach would not wake up from anaesthesia; it was like in a very deep sleep. Wake up stomach! Wake up! I had to lay in the hospital bed with a tube down my nose and it went all the way to my stomach so it could drain the bile from my stomach, and I couldn't eat anything for a whole month. I was only being fed through an IV and a PICC line. I was in living hell. I hated my life. I couldn't do anything but lay in the hospital bed and I was in so much pain from the tube down my nose and from recovering from the big surgery that I just had, I just wanted to die. My mum and grandma stayed by my side every day and so did my girlfriend. I really did not want to live anymore because at the time I didn't know when I was going home. They said it could take weeks, it could take months and I did not want to be in the hospital that long. I told my mum that I'd rather be dead than laying in this hospital bed all day with a tube down my nose, but then I met this boy named Jamarcus; now I was 17 when I had the surgery, so I was still considered a minor so I was in the kid's critical section of the hospital so that means I was near the kids who had cancer and very horrible sicknesses and Jamarcus was this kid who was about my age and he had leukaemia and leukaemia is a very, very bad incurable cancer. Anyway, Jamarcus had been in the hospital for about two years - yes, two years without going home. He was very, very sick but every night in the hallway he would tell my grandma that he was praying for me and every night my grandma would say, "Hey, there is this kid next door that's praying for you. He really wants to meet you," and I said "No, I don't want to meet anyone. I don't feel good. I don't feel like meeting anyone. I hate life." And finally one day I was feeling a little bit better and I said, "Hey, you can tell that Jamarcus kid he can come over if he wants to," so one day, he came over and he talked to me and he told me about how he got diagnosed with cancer two years ago and how he just knew that one day he would get better and one day he would beat cancer and he was so happy and excited about living life even though he was suffering with cancer and even though he was stuck in this hospital for so long, he was just so glad to be alive and I'm sitting here complaining about being here for two weeks so far and I just felt really bad about myself. I didn't understand how someone could be so full of life even though they were given so much suffering. He told me how God is going to help me and him make it out of this hospital and we'd both live amazing lives. Jamarcus gave me hope and strength to fight and just to never give up. As the month went by, I got better, and Jamarcus got worse. Before I knew it, I was going home. I was free, but Jamarcus was still stuck in the hospital. I told Jamarcus I would visit him all the time. I even went and bought him some Dr. Dre Beats headphones because he loved music and he didn't really have that much stuff and I thought he deserved them. When I got out of the hospital, I told my mum that I wanted to

go get my license and get my dream car, and yes, I was seventeen and I did not have my license. Don't make fun of me! So, I went and took my driving test and passed because I'm a beast and the next day I went to the Chevrolet dealership and I bought myself a victory red Camaro. I was the happiest person in the world. My surgery mostly fixed my problems and I was about to start my senior year of high school and I had an awesome car.

My life was going amazing until everything flipped. I started failing all my classes because I was too cool for school. I was full of myself, I acted like I was the king of the world. This caused me to lose my friends, me and my girlfriend broke up, I stopped doing videos and that caused problems with me and Lovell and I slowly stopped visiting Jamarcus because I was always busy going out and doing my own things and then one day, my mum told me that Jamarcus wasn't doing well, that he was actually getting a lot worse, so me and my mum went - visited him. This was not the same Jamarcus I remember seeing - he was not happy, he wasn't full of life - he just laid there. He could barely even talk and it killed me to see him go from this really happy person into someone who just looked sad and looked like they didn't want to live anymore. I told him that we still had to have a party together and he still had to get better and we still were supposed to be friends and go do all this cool stuff together but Jamarcus told me that he would be going home soon and I didn't understand what he was talking about because he looked really bad. He didn't look like he was going to be going home any time soon, but a few days later Jamarcus died. He did go home - he went to heaven where he didn't have to suffer anymore, and this killed me. I wanted him to get better. I wanted him to get out of the hospital and be free just like me and I spoke at his funeral and I even helped carry the casket even though I'm the weakest person on earth. I started to go to church after he died because I wanted to get closer to God. I wanted to be exactly the way he was. He was so happy and he was so close to God.

I got baptized on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It felt great to go to church all the time, but I slowly stopped going and I found myself messing up again. I stopped focusing on YouTube. I even got my first speeding ticket and it was a bad speeding ticket. I was going 66 miles per hour in a 30 mile per hour zone and that's 30 miles per hour over the speed limit, so in Florida you get arrested for going that fast, but I almost got arrested that night. Thank God I didn't - the cop decided to just give me a court date instead where the judge gave me a \$500 speeding ticket and she said if she ever saw me in court again, she would put me in jail. So, I never speed, and I'll never break the law ever again. After that, I realised I need to get my life back on track. I needed to focus on YouTube and I needed to focus on school because I was still failing all my classes and I wanted to graduate my class because I didn't want to be that stupid loser who drops out of high school because I'm just a stupid person so I kicked it into high gear. I made up my grades. I got back with Chilli, we went to prom and I finished my senior year with all A's and B's and I graduated Tate High School on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and after I graduated, I decided that, you know what? I'm going to start focusing all my attention on YouTube because my YouTube career is blowing up. I hit a hundred thousand subscribers in 2013. I hit a hundred million video views in 2013. 2013 was a huge year for me - I accomplished so much stuff and I did so many things that I never thought I would ever do. I even went to New York City and I've always wanted to go to New York City ever since I was little, but thanks to you guys I was able to go. I went with my girlfriend, Chilli, and I even got to meet Jason Derulo and if you didn't know, Jason Derulo is my favourite singer of all time and I got to meet him and it was just so cool when I got to see the World Trade Center and I got to do so much cool stuff and I would not be able to do any of the stuff I did in my life without you guys. I, your support and the love of my fans is what keeps me going. I'm so glad that I've had the love and dedication of all my fans, and I don't know where I would be at in life if I didn't have you all. I went from having two subscribers to having 126 thousand subscribers. I went from having, like, what, one view to a hundred million views. I don't know, I would never have imagined where I'm at right now and I'm just, I'm so excited and I want to make the best videos for you all, so that's why in 2014 I started the year off by uploading a video every week and I'm going to keep doing this as long as I can. It's just an amazing job and it's an amazing way to make a living and I just want to thank all of you again for letting me have this amazing experience and you are all amazing fans. I just, I don't, I don't even know what to say right now but all I know is that it's taken me so long to record this video and my hand hurts because I'm drawing so much, so my name is Super Mario Logan. Thank you for watching my Draw My Life video. New plush videos I guess later this week because this doesn't count as a plush video and I'll see you all later!

4629

#### MDML #14

OK, so I'm probably literally the last person on YouTube to do this, but when I asked you guys what you wanted me to make, this was the most requested thing, so here we are! Before I begin, I'd just like to make the point that I can't draw for shit so that this is just going to be horrible.

Hi, I'm Dan Howell and this is my story. In the beginning, woah, not that early! So, I was born in southwest England in Berkshire, the Royal County, in a kind of crappy house with mum and dad. I had quite young parents which is actually kind of cool as my mum graduated in Philosophy and my dad was a DJ slash special effects guy for films who used to sneak me into movie sets, which was pretty cool. We had a dog which they got just as I was born which used to run into me as a baby and tear up the furniture. I was apparently the happiest child of all time who never stopped smiling or laughing or bringing joy to others, so basically, I was the freaking sun from the Teletubbies.

I was brought up watching too much Winnie the Pooh which is why I have my posh but not articulate voice, so yeah, life was always sunshine and flowers until preschool. I suddenly encountered the first negativity in my entire life when I meet other children, but it's okay because the guy that pushed me over on my first day was obsessed with this girl who kissed me in the playground and said she wanted to marry me and he cried so lol, too bad. I have memories of my dog finding a huge bone in the woods and me freaking out and doing a lot of travelling with my parents which was amazing but, hey, who needs that when you have a PlayStation 1? Yeah, suck it universe! Crash Bandicoot and Final Fantasy characters can be my role models.

From the age of five, I supposedly expressed an interest in acting when I was cast in the lead role of Santa in the school's obviously satanic Christmas play. Yeah, I was one of those guys who actually joined the theatre club when I was about eight, so my parents decided to send me to a musical theatre school on Sundays, much to the horror of my Christian grandma. I went to my first proper date with a girl to the cinema who is scared by the movie we watched and cried for two hours before being picked up by her parents. Smooth moves Dan.

My mum then popped out a little brother and before I knew it, it was time to go to secondary school. So, hey, this is the part of the video where the music stops and it gets really sad and I explain that sometimes it wasn't that great because the place was full of giant dick heads. Now, if my utterly friendly and joyful personality didn't help me out in preschool, it definitely didn't help me out here as for some reason, being nice was clearly a bad thing that needed to be punished. The thing was, I never retaliated to anything which, when I look back, I thought, "Man, I wish I just threw my shoe at that guy or made a classy 'your mum' joke", but now I realise all these kids probably had shitty things happening in their life and I was kind of being the bigger person. So yeah, the joys of being a teenager – school, homework, family drama, friend drama, dog dies, hormones, fun, fun, fun! But guess what? Everybody had to deal with that kind of stuff, and like everyone says, it gets better. You just need to survive and one day you'll be where I am seeing that they're all unemployed burger flippers and unfriending them on Facebook out of pity.

I did have a few good friends and a couple inspirational teachers and all that coupled with video games equals a lot of procrastination. I was so lame back then! I remember seeing pictures of emo guys on Myspace and thinking, "Wow, they look so cool!" Yeah, I'm totally emo now. Ugh, just give me a moment to cringe and be filled with regret. Thankfully, I got over that and had the piano and my nerdy obsession with acting to keep me occupied as I was in loads of productions in a nearby theatre for Romeo and Juliet, West Side Story and Fame and blah blah blah.

But then, when I was 17, I kind of changed my mind. I don't know why. These kids who are mildly cooler than the nerds I ate lunch with said, "Hey Dan, you should come down litres of cider with us in the woods at 10pm", and this little voice in my head said, "Dan, you'll never actually be an actor, you know that, right?" so I went, "Yeah probably, okay then" and ditched everything. I had a lot of fun and sometimes incredibly embarrassing moments with these guys including going to Reading Festival for years in a row and the time we went on a surfing holiday where I accidentally pulled the string off a girl's bikini on the beach and felt so bad about it I cried. I actually had a girlfriend for over three years which is cool but that's not really the period in your life where you need a commitment. We inevitably broke it off because it was time for university. Yup, suddenly, out of nowhere, BAM. Hey Dan, childhood over. So, what are you doing with your life?

Oh, well, I wasn't doing any of that acting crap, so I thought, hm, as I have no idea what I want to do with my life, I'll go to university for a few years. I got quite good grades so I thought, what degree will make me look clever and employable? Law. So, I took a gap year that I spent getting fired for selling axes to 10-year-olds and playing a lot of Xbox and this is when I started goofing around on YouTube. I have been watching things on this website since the beginning. Like you guys, I watched YouTubers for years. People like Shane Dawson, Charlie McDonnell, Community Channel and after being persuaded by some friends, I decided to start making my own YouTube videos. Then, before I knew it, I was at the University of Manchester.

Traditionally in English universities, you spend most of your first year not doing any work and drinking until you're violently ill, which is exactly what I did, but I had some incredibly fun times with the friends I made so I was very glad to have had basically the perfect first year experience. I then decided for the next year to move into an apartment with my internet friend Phil, as we both needed someone to live with and we knew by then that we both like the same TV shows and food which is literally all you need in a friend but it was also cool because we both did YouTube.

Then out of nowhere came the existential crisis. I don't know where it came from, but one day I was just studying for an exam and just freaked out. I thought, "I hate law, this is so boring and awful and I don't want it to be my life! So, what do I want to be my life? It's too late to go back and make other choices! Oh God!"

So, I took a year out from university to basically roll around on the floor pondering about the universe for 10 hours a day and go to a bunch of YouTube events. I call this my internet hobo year. Then, luckily, in the summer someone from BBC Radio One called our house and said, "Hey, you and your friend Phil are cool. Want to do a weird video show on Christmas?" And we said, "Hell yeah!"

So, I took the plunge with my mother's blessing and decided to go for it. I drop out, **pursue this radio thing and actually start trying with the YouTube thing I do**. So, me and Phil decided to move to London where it was all happening and for the first time, **I really started putting effort into my YouTube channel** and it was starting to pick up steam. This is when people from the radio said, "Want an official weekly radio show?" and we said, "Holy crap, okay!"

So, as of 2013, me and my friend Phil have a show on BBC Radio 1 every Sunday which goes out to the entire world which is crazy, but **we think our show is awesome and we're loving it**. **Then soon after, my YouTube channel hit 1 million subscribers which is something, in my three years of YouTube after having watched and idolized other YouTubers for almost a third of my life, I never thought would ever, ever, ever happen and I was basically ah!**

So, **I am now happier than I've ever been** because **I finally feel like I'm in control of my life and I've grown enough and have the confidence to be the person I want to be**. **I literally hated life from the ages of 5 to 20**, but **now I feel like the people I meet are finally treating me in the way I've been treating others my whole life**. Back to Teletubbies sun. And now I'm spending my days telling stories and opinions on the internet like a philosopher who could be great but just turned his brain to mush by sitting on Twitter all day. It's weird that I'm doing something that I didn't even know existed when I was a kid, but **I love doing it and that's what's important. No regrets**. If I ended this video by saying "Be yourself, follow your dreams," it would probably be so cheesy you throw up, but seriously, **my only regrets are that moment when I doubted myself and took the safe route and all the time I wasted trying to please other people**. As I've said before on YouTube, life's too short to waste any time being unhappy. Don't care what other people think - you decide who you want to be and do what you want with your life. **I wish I had someone to tell me these things**, so no matter who you are or how old you are, I hope you're listening. Okay, I honestly have no idea what my future holds but **it kind of looks exciting**, so to anyone that's interested, **I look forward to you coming on this journey with me and learning more about the world as I do**. I'm Dan Howell and that's kind of my life so far. The end.

It's the sexy stickman dance. This just looks actually awful but oh well. Please hit the like button if you enjoyed this video and you can click here to subscribe to my channel if you want to see more of my videos. **Thanks**. And seriously, look at my hand! You see that? That's what it's like to be left-handed all the time. Can you imagine writing essays with that? Yeah. You want to be me? No, I don't think so.

1901

#### MDML #15

Hello everyone. If you didn't know already, my name is Joseph Sugg and I was born on September the 8<sup>th</sup> in 1991. Here I am in my mum's womb. That's not my willy - that's in fact my umbilical cord and why is my head so big? Good luck squeezing that one out mum! The nurses said that I was born traumatized by the birth and so I'd be put in a dark room on my own to calm down. My dad has always said they brought the wrong baby back, so thanks dad.

In playgroup **I was a little fat kid that no one really played with**. I sort of just played on my own. I used my imagination quite a lot and **I was quite happy playing all by myself**. **Then I slowly made a few friends and got really stuck in with things like music and singing and all that sort of thing**.

The first day of primary school arrived. **I remember being absolutely terrified**. My mum had to grab me by the hand and literally dragged me through the playground and in through the front door at school and of course **I cried my eyes out**. I'm also pretty sure I wore shorts every single day of primary school while I was there. I don't think my mum's going to be happy about how I've drawn her in this! Sorry mum.

Growing up I lived in the middle of nowhere, which was **a bit of a pain** when coming to playing with friends. I spent many a primary school day on my own in the garden using my imagination pretending I was Indiana Jones or some sort of Jedi from Star Wars, just chasing birds and other small animals around my garden. Yeah, **I was a weirdo**.

When I was about six or seven, **something big happened**. **I discovered that not all girls have cooties or some sort of dirty disease and I had my first kiss**. Admittedly, it wasn't very romantic - it was behind a grave in a graveyard but it was a kiss all right. It still counted! Well it did to me anyway.

**I made the worst possible start to secondary school** by getting on the wrong bus. This bus turned up and we assumed, oh hey little random fly, but yes, we ended up get on the wrong bus, going to the wrong school my first day. That's typical Joe Sugg luck. Rather than get off the bus at the wrong school and potentially get beaten up for wearing the wrong school uniform, we decide to get dropped off on a roundabout in the middle of town. **Luckily**, my mum was driving past and managed to collect us in time.

I went from the primary school that had about 52 pupils in the whole school to a secondary school that had thousands of pupils. This was a massive shock to the system. **I loved every second of it**, but it was one subject **I really, really disliked and that was swimming. I couldn't stand it**. **I had literally no confidence in the water at all** and I was petrified to swim near anyone else. One year, me, my sister, my mum and my dad went on a family holiday to a place called the Maldives. I'm sorry, that's the best draw my life plane on YouTube. On this holiday I still struggled to swim but **one**

day a local taught me how to snorkel which really boosted my confidence in the water and even got to swim with things like turtles, massive fish, SpongeBob, well, maybe not SpongeBob! I wish.

One day, I met a boy called Ben. He played rugby for the school and the town. I was a big fan of rugby, so I decided to join both teams as well. I used to absolutely love it. But it got to the stage where everyone grew massive but I remained tiny, so I decided to give it up before I got crushed. But I met all my best friends through rugby, so I never regret it. After school I decided that I would become a full-time roof thatcher and that is what I wanted to do with my life but before that I decided that I'd do two years of sixth form just to get my A-levels as a backup, just in case. Because you never know when you'll need an A-level. And I'm glad I made that decision because sixth form was the two best years of my life. I even won an award for having the hottest mum in sixth form. That's going on the CV!

Because I was born in September, it means that I turned 18 before the rest my friends so I could finally go on nights out in night clubs, but the only problem was I still looked about seven years old, so I was always petrified to hand my ID to bouncers. I was always worried they would think I look about twelve.

After sixth form, me and eleven other friends went on a lad's holiday to Zante in Greece. It was an amazing week and we all had such a laugh. We even hired a speed boat out in the sea and saw turtles and oh, go away SpongeBob! You're not part of my life! But yeah, I don't think I've ever laughed so much in one week. I came back from Zante and started my apprenticeship as a roof thatcher but then inconveniently, two of my best friends, Tom and Lewis, decided that it would be a good idea to travel the world for three months and of course I wanted to go and then the next thing you know I'm on a plane headed across the world. Without a doubt, three of the best months of my life. I did things like jump out of a plane, ride an elephant through a rain forest and even hired a camper van out for a month with my two best mates and drove around New Zealand. This whole experience was a real eye-opener and I feel like it helped me grow up a lot. I must have grown a pair of balls along the way as well because I did a bungee jump and that's blooming scary.

After three months away, we came back to good old cloudy England and my friend Jack hosted a welcome home BBQ surprise party for us which was really nice of him. Many people turned up and it's safe to say we all got pretty drunk. I don't quite know who that is with the really, really long arms, but I was really happy. Then I came home from the party to find out that my mum and dad had gone their separate ways. This prompted me to grow up a lot more than I thought I already had while I was traveling. I went back to doing my roof thatching apprenticeship. I'm currently still doing it. I'm still really enjoying it and I often visit my friends at their universities. Like I always say, work hard, play hard. Wait, I never say that. What are you on about Joe? Then one day, I stumble across a little thing called YouTube. Now I would tell you the story about how this all came about, but I think I'll save that for another day. Oh Joe, you little tease!

Thanks so much for watching everyone. Remember to subscribe and also give it a big thumbs up - I like them. Thank you so much for watching, goodbye. Ugly face, gross!

1274

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Hello everyone. Today, I thought I would do a draw my life thing continued because Caspar the idiot has tagged me to do it so if I thought, "Oh God, you know what, I'm going to have to do it before Christmas!"

So, here we go! This is the continuation - is that even a word? I don't even know! - of my life so far as Thatcher Joe. So, where did the last one finish? I can't remember. All I do know is that I have to speed up quick enough so I can write Thatcher Joe on the jumper and I know I'm close - that's it, that's the end.

So, first of all what happened was I carried on roof thatching. I left off, I still have my job a roof thatcher and I was doing it with my uncle. I had an apprenticeship with my uncle on the roof and I was loving my job still but it got to the point where YouTube was getting bigger and bigger and bigger and I was still thatching, so I wanted to make sure that I finished my apprenticeship and did that kind of stuff. I still had the attention of being a Thatcher, even though it's like a hobby and it still is obviously now, I still, I think I had like 2 million subscribers and I was still working five days on the roof. I actually remember, back in the day, I got to a point where people would go past on the school bus and see me on the roof. They'd actually look out for thatched rooves and they'd see me on the roof and then they would, they would jump off the bus, when it was stopped obviously, and run over and ask for selfies and then you've got the old people who lived in the house saying, "I say, what on earth is going on? Why are all these young girls traipsing around my garden asking for selfies?"

And throughout all this time, my sister continued to be an absolute legend and she lent me her laptop, camera, tripod - she lent me everything she had to get my YouTube channel started and stuff and she was just a general legend. Also notice how the red pen stains my board. It really annoyed me, really annoyed me.

Then I remember one day I got asked if I wanted to fly out to Los Angeles to interview Simon Cowell for this, this project that they were doing, and I said, "What? Like actual proper Simon Cowell?" And they say, "Yes, we want to fly out to Los Angeles first class to basically do an interview with Simon Cowell" and I couldn't quite believe it. I remember flying over there, I've got to do it on my own as well and it was the first time I'd flown on my own. I was terrified. I was actually genuinely pooing myself. I had never met any celebrities before and obviously he's one of the scariest there is, so I was terrified but he was actually a really, really nice guy and that's when I started to realise that my little hobby was starting to become a much, much bigger thing and I noticed a lot of YouTubers were starting to do like daily videos of what they got up to in their day which to start with, I thought was a bit odd you know, like a lot of other people would think now, but then I decided to give it a go, and lo and behold, I became one of these vlogger people. Not a daily vlogger, don't get mistaken. I was not a daily vlogger. I was someone who vlogged on a regular basis, but not daily, alright.

And as you can imagine, YouTube just got bigger and bigger and bigger for me and it got to the point where I wanted to do YouTube full-time and really pursue it, but I also wanted to make sure I had my - I'm all about the safety nets - I wanted my A-levels before I became a roof thatcher in case I fell off a roof and could then go to university but I also wanted to make sure that I had an apprenticeship and roof thatching before I did YouTube full-time so then if it doesn't work out I could always go back to being a roof thatcher; if that doesn't work out back to university, and if that doesn't work out then I'm pretty screwed.

Now as YouTube got bigger and bigger, I met some really, really amazing people in the YouTube industry and also had some amazing opportunities going my way, and one that really sticks out was when we did the It's All About YouTube charity song for Sport Relief. That was a really big moment for me, and we actually managed to raise I think it was between 30 to 50 K, I think it was over fifty thousand pounds, which is amazing. Now annoyingly, my camera cut out, which is really annoying, so I drew a really, really cool picture of van I put it in red and it ruined my board and it was going to be a really funny joke throughout the whole thing but I seem to have forgot to film that bit but anyway, I'll carry on.

So, it got to the point where I had to keep asking my uncle for time off work to go and do amazing things in London like film with other YouTube creators or work with some amazing people in the industry all that kind of mumbo-jumbo but anyway, it got to the point where I was spending so much time in London but I managed to stick with the whole roof thatching thing until my uncle thought that I was ready to leave and so it got to the point where he thought, "Right Joe, you know what? I think this YouTube thing is really special. I think it's going places and I think you're ready now to sort of leave the roof and really go and pursue it and try and make something out of it", so thanks to my uncle I am now here making this video. So, thanks uncle Gary, you're a legend and hopefully I'm doing you proud.

So, I moved to London, which was very, very scary. I'm from a very, very small village so to move to London was a very, very big decision. There was another YouTuber who was also looking for a roommate who was living in London at the time and that guy's name was Caspar Lee. Now, he used to live with Alfie who's my sister's boyfriend and then obviously Alfie moved in with Zoe and then obviously, I keep saying "obviously" too much! Caspar was then looking for a roommate and I thought, do you know what? He's a bit of an odd one, but let's give it a go. We got on really, really well and we ended up making some really great videos together and we still do to this day to be honest and some of the videos I really enjoyed doing the most - I got really into doing impressions. For example, like Peter Griffin - there he is, look. You want me to do an impression don't you? My name is Peter. Hi there Joe, what you drawing? Oh, so, you're drawing Kermit the Frog, huh? I see. Oh yes, that's right Peter! My name is Kermit the Frog!

But apart from that, one thing that really made my channel blow up massively was pranks, especially pranks on Caspar, and so began the roommate prank war. Now he got me first and then I retaliated, and it has been going back and forth ever since and a lot of them have actually gone quite viral which has been amazing. And then if two channels wasn't enough, I decided to start my third channel because I've always been into gaming and I thought, "You know what? Gaming is pretty big on YouTube so why not get involved?" And I started Thatcher Joe Games. Then one day I got asked to go to a meeting about a potential book and I thought, "Oh god, here we go, going to be another YouTuber book person," but growing up I always preferred comics and graphic novels to actual books so we decided to do a graphic novel together and then we created Username Evie which and this is my attempt actually drawing her. I'm useless, you know what? Instead of actually drawing her I'm going to chuck the book on. A lot easier. There we go! Way better.

One of my highlights since I've started the whole YouTube journey was my trip to LA with Will Derbyshire, Ollie White, Cal Freezy and Joe Weller. And we spent, I think it was around a month in Los Angeles and we just lived that LA lifestyle and it was incredible. Made so many good friends, so many good memories and it was just such a laugh and we got to vlog ourselves in new situations, in new areas of the world and it was just good to share our experiences and our travels with you.

I came back to London and bizarrely got the opportunity to be a seagull, not only actually one seagull but two seagulls in the new SpongeBob movie with Caspar and it was my first go doing, like, proper voiceover like character voiceover

and absolutely loved it. It's something that I really want to pursue in the future. And then something even crazier happened and me and Caspar got the opportunity of not only star our own film but also produce our own film. We teamed up with BBC Worldwide and oyster productions who were the production company behind amazing shows like Top Gear and we created Joe and Caspar Hit the Road which is basically like a travel kind of documentary style comedy film where me and Caspar travel around Europe with no money, no vlogging technology or anything like that and we've just got to try and work our way around Europe to get back home in one piece and we managed it. We went all around Europe to amazing places like Italy. Where else we go? Went to France and Spain and it was just amazing. The best, we filmed in a week and it was the best week of my life. One of the best weeks of my life anyway. And that is my shock in the corner. To top it all off we even got to have our own Leicester Square premiere which no joke is honestly one of the highlights of my life so far. The crowd were amazing, like everything about it was amazing, but I say what's not amazing is my red-carpet colouring. It's probably ruined my board as well. And other than that I've just been travelling around the world a lot and you all know that I blooming well love traveling and I'm so lucky that I've got all of you in different countries watching my videos because that then means that I can travel to your countries and meet you so I've been to places like the Philippines, Thailand, America, like so different countries to you with Caspar which I never thought I'd be able to do.

And I know what you're all thinking - but Joe, have you been on any dates? Tell us about your love life! What about your love life? Has there been any girls involved? Alright, alright, calm down! Of course there has been girls involved throughout my time on YouTube. You know, but that's, I feel like that's one thing that I'll always keep pretty private, like I want to keep that away from YouTube. I'm single at the moment but actually, do you know what? A lot of you could make detectives, though. Oh, my word! Your detective skills are on point!

But you know what my main love is? You. You watching this right now. If it wasn't for you then obviously I couldn't do all the amazing things that I get to do like I always say and yeah, it's been like an incredible journey and this love heart is going to take me ages to colour in, so I'm going to end the video here. If you enjoyed it, big thumbs up and I also want to tag Ollie! I want to tag you! Have you done it yet? Mate I'm tagging you now! Come on, bite the bullet, we can all do it. Caspar started it. We've got to do it. We've got to keep him happy, you know!

2136

#### MDML #16

1 million people. Thank you everyone. Thank you so much for all your support. Thank you to those who were with me from the start and thank you to those willing to stick with me till the end. I've been blessed with my dream job of being able to entertain an audience through my art and I'd be nothing without you all. You the real MVP. Anyway, I've been getting this video request for years now and I know this trend has basically died off, but as a celebration to this milestone, here's my story so far.

It begins in Manila, Philippines, where I was born into a family as a second child and only son. I have two sisters. I'm in the middle. Though I barely remember this, my dad wasn't around much for the very early parts of my life because he nailed this job in Saudi Arabia as an accountant and supported the family while separated by thousands of miles. Eventually, we were able to afford to just move to Saudi Arabia and live together, because Ohana, man! As a kid I didn't fully understand the concept of different countries and cultures, so I thought Saudi Arabia was just another city in Philippines. It also didn't help that in the area where we moved to there was a large Filipino community. There was even a designated Filipino school that I went to called the International Philippine School in Al-Khobar.

After a few years, my parents decided what many other immigrants did at the time and that was to look for a better life in the Western world. We decided on the frigid land of Canada because we had a few friends who already immigrated there. In 1997 we moved to Hamilton, Ontario, where we lived for one year. In that one year I made two best friends that had the same birthday as I did: Paul and Anthony. The year after though, short lived, we moved over a few cities to Mississauga where we lived for another seven years and it was in those years that I really developed my artistic talent. I still remember back in grade 3 where we had to design these paper cars and we were allowed to draw anything on it and just giving me that kind of freedom really excited me somehow. I went ham and cheese on it. I drew flames on the hood like a dragon on the side and while that would look horribly tacky and douchey on a real car, it really impressed my teacher and so he decided to make an example out of me. He literally stopped the class to exalt my car and tell everyone how amazing it looked and while that may have been a compliment that my teacher must have forgotten by now, it was the artistic boost that I'll never forget.

From that point on, I just kept drawing almost every day. It kind of became my goal to be the best artist in my school, regardless of what grade I was. I then got into Anime and drew the majority of my inspiration from the different styles that I saw. Every now and then, people would ask me, "Tom, how did you learn to draw?" and I give them the same answer that basically all artists would give: practice. Even natural talent can only go so far if you don't strive to improve your skills. I still remember having this Pokemon book with all of the original 150 and I started off by tracing every single one. When I got comfortable with that, I went on to freehand copying and then eventually I began to develop my own styles and just drew whatever the hell I wanted. That's the beauty of art.



In grade five I met my biggest rival: Michael. At that point, I'd already made a reputation for myself in the school and a lot of people knew me as that one kid who could draw. Well, it turns out that Michael also had a similar reputation and coincidentally we were assigned seats right across from each other. **I hated him** at first and I knew he saw me as a rival as well, but **eventually we opened up to each other and became best friends**. Still remained artistic rivals though and then in grade six my parents decided to move to another part of the city. I had to switch schools and **it was a very sad time for me** because **Michael was one of the best friends I've ever had**.

I went to a school named Saint Barbara and you know a bit of that story already. It was also around this time that my parents decided to enrol me in this extracurricular program called Kumon. Now, Kumon was a tutoring service that helped students who were behind in school, except I wasn't behind in school. **My parents were fairly strict with education** and **I understood that** and **did my best in my classes**, often getting straight A's in every subject but I guess they wanted me to overachieve so they thought Kumon was a great idea to get me ahead, specifically in the math department. I got so ahead that I was doing calculus when I was like in grade 8 and I didn't even realise it was calculus by the time I actually was doing calculus in high school. I've already forgotten what I learned in Kumon.

Although **I hated the extra work**, **it paid off** because I was always at the top of my class in math and art and won several awards in high school. Now, high school was a bit of a trip for me. I went in as a freshman having many friends that have accumulated in the years prior. **I was doing well in school, I still maintained my artistic reputation**, **I had a best friend that I had a crush on, life was pretty good**. And then the Fire Nation attacked! I mean, and then we had to move again. Up until that point, I've already done a lot of uprooting and moving around - more so than the average kid. New countries, new cities, new schools. I thought that this place was finally somewhere I could stay permanently and then my dad tells us that the same boss that he worked for in Saudi Arabia who now lives in Virginia, USA, offered him a job. They were actually close friends back then, so he took it. I was in the middle of my high school years and I knew moving to a new one was **going to be difficult**, especially being in a new country, and I was right. **I did have some excitement in being able to start over and meet new people**, but **my junior and senior years proved to be a challenge**.

While the Canadian education curriculum is basically similar to that of the American, **I honestly felt like I had more trouble in the latter**. First off, I had to get used to having 70% as the passing grade as opposed to 50, I got introduced to AP courses which we didn't even have in my previous high school and worse yet, **overestimated my abilities** and enrolled in several of them, one being AP US History. A very wise choice for a Canadian!

I also didn't even realise what the hell SATs were and that they were mandatory until the end of my junior year. **My workload was insane, and I didn't even know how to handle it** at first. **Stress built up, and yes, to all you adults, high school kids can get stressed**. Woo! Surprise! Yeah, I've been there. On top of that, **I was a loner. I really didn't feel like I fit in**. Everyone already had their cliques and network of friends. **It was hard for me to find people that I liked**.

Now don't get me wrong. **Some people did open up to me** and whatnot, but **I really didn't see myself becoming too close with many people. I felt quite alone**. I often sat alone at lunch, at pep rallies, on the bus. **I really only made friends and got close to people in my last year of high school** which was when I decided to get into breakdancing. B-boying was what **helped me kind of get out of my shell**. **I've always been that introverted shy kid who didn't open up to many people unless they initiated first**. These two guys in one of my classes of mixed grades introduced me to B-boying and **we got pretty close**. At the time I was also close with one my Taekwondo classmates and he got into dancing after I introduced it to him. Eventually **we grew into a large group of friends** who would just hang out and have dance sessions whenever we had time. Fun fact: Since I didn't have many friends in my grade, I ended up skipping prom to just hang out in session with my underclassmen crew. **I consider them to be my best friends in Virginia**.

And then came time for university. As a kid, **I've always just wanted to be an artist or any variation of it**. I had so many ideas, so much imagination, **so much passion**. I wanted it to be my career and although my parents didn't exactly discourage my art, they were worried about my well-being and job security in the adult world because they believed in the notion that all artists were broke and starving, and so they encouraged me to keep my drawings as only a hobby. I didn't entirely want to give up my artistic abilities, and so we try to meet halfway when I told them I wanted to pursue architecture. Sometime during my last year of high school, my dad, known to give us life-changing news, once again said we were moving. Something happened with a company and I think we had the choice of moving to Italy or something, but we were like lol, nope, and decided to just move back to Canada. No offense to Italy, but we weren't ready to just jump into an entirely new culture.

I was admitted into the Department of Architectural Science at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada, mouthful. There, **I endured four gruesome years** of what I only now remember as a blur due to the endless streams of all-nighters. **My first year really hit me hard. The workload was ridiculous** and often subjective. **wanted to drop out after just one semester, but I held on** and told myself I might as well finish my first year. Got through another semester, told myself yeah, I guess that wasn't so bad. Let's see how second year goes. **Hated it too**. I was then considering other programs but once again **I convinced myself to continue because I made it through halfway, I might as well go all the way!**

It was after my second year, the summer of 2010, when I got my hands on a drawing tablet. I was at an electronics store one day and decided to just wander around and window-shop a bit. When I saw it, I thought **whoa, this lets you draw**

on the computer? Amazing! It was on sale for \$40. Got it, went home and spent the whole day just drawing digitally. It was also around this time when I was really into web comics. I read Cyanide and Happiness, XKCD, The Oatmeal, but there was one that stood out and whom I enjoyed reading the most: Ryan Hudson's Channel 8. His panel pacing and sense of humour really intrigued me and so I decided to make my own comics. Still being in architecture school, I never had the time nor money to really invest in a website to post my silly comics and so I decided to just put him on tumblr. I needed a name. I came up with Domics as a simple combination of Dominic's comics. After about two months of posting comics non-stop on tumblr, I reached my first 1,000 followers. That milestone really meant a lot to me and encouraged me to keep going as I still wasn't running out of ideas. My audience kept growing and growing and eventually I had a pretty solid fan base.

Fast forward to 2012. I entered the second half of my 4-year program and graduated with a Bachelor's in Architecture. It was time I entered the field. It was time I became a real adult with a real job blah blah blah, but and I didn't exactly do that right away. The four years really burnt me out and I thought I deserve to relax for a bit and be a potato. Since I then had more free time, I started catching up on my favourite YouTube channels and also discover new ones. I started watching a lot of Egoraptor, Oni, Booster Teeth Animated Adventures, Swoozie and many others, and just as I was inspired to make comics, in 2010 I thought, hey, this looks like fun. I decided to try something new. I wanted to learn how to animate.

Animation has always intrigued me as a kid. Growing up with all these cartoons and animations, I've done my fair share of stick fights when I was younger, but never really tried pursuing the other levels of animation. I even got messages from fans asking why I use the dopey flash to draw my comics since it's often known to be used for animations. I didn't know jack about animating though. I just knew you would draw frames after another to simulate motion but I was oblivious to the many techniques people used to efficiently make a video, so I started watching Flash tutorials and teaching myself and eventually got the hang of it and basically exactly two years after I started Domics, I posted my first animation on YouTube under the same name. Yeah, they weren't comics, but I've already made a brand for myself by then, so I decided to keep the name. Luckily enough, around this time I met Alain, aka White Clover Productions, through a mutual friend. He was interested in film and has his own YouTube channel known for the Zodiac series. He told me about the ever-changing platform that is YouTube and how it's become a career path for many. He was the one who encouraged me to push my content onto YouTube and believed that I'd be successful. He then introduced me to the Partnership Program and pretty soon I was earning revenue from my silly videos that I made to my room using the tablet I bought for \$40 two years ago.

At this point in my life, I was put in a position where I had to decide what I wanted to do. I recently graduated from a four-year hell of a program and I didn't want all that hard work to go to waste, but then I also had Domics, this side hobby that I've also put a lot of effort in and was still continuing to blow up. I thought, I'm still young, I might as well have some fun and see where Domics leads me. And now, two and a half years later, here we are, over 1 million of you still supporting me still haven't unsubscribed. I've met some amazing people throughout this journey, and I hope to meet many more. I don't know exactly where I'll be in another two and a half years, but let's hope I'll still be doing what I love to do and that is to entertain you all in some form or another. Yep.

2628

## MDML #17

Hey everyone, my name is Tyler Oakley, and this is my life. I was born March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1989, in Jackson, Michigan at Foote Hospital. My parents were divorced when I was a toddler, so I've always had two families. Between my sisters and my step-brothers and my step-sisters and my half-brother and my in-laws, I have 12 siblings total. In elementary school I had to get glasses, so my parents let me pick out whatever pair I wanted. So, I got these big round glasses that were bright purple. It was basically the start of my fabulousity. Back then, I began to develop a bit of an addictive personality: No matter what it was that I was obsessed with, I had to have everything involved with it. When it was Pogs, I had my own Pog maker. When it was Beanie Babies, I had tag protectors and value handbooks. When it was Pokemon, I competed at local video game stores in tournaments. I guess that's why nowadays I can't get off Tumblr. When I was going into the sixth grade, I moved to a new city and I knew nobody, so I turned to choir and drama for a new group of friends. I met Dolan and we instantly became best friends.

Leading up to this point in my life, I had an addiction to food, and I had always been unhealthily overweight and very unhappy about it and so I took matters into my own hands. Unfortunately, I wasn't smart about it and my addictive personality took a 180 until I developed an eating disorder. I refused to eat, and I became addicted to exercise. I went from one unhealthy way of living to another. And even after losing 30 pounds, I was still unhappy. Luckily, throughout my middle-school years I developed a close relationship with the choir teacher, Miss Borton, and she noticed the fluctuation of my health and happiness. She was always there to talk and was always supportive of me. By the time I reached high school, I was able to overcome my eating disorder, even though sometimes I still do have body image issues.

When I was 14, a freshman in high school, I decided to tell everybody the truth about who I was. Although some family was not supportive of me being openly gay, I was lucky enough to have so many friends and family that were, and I knew that nobody, no matter how important society deemed my relationship with them, had the right to denounce me for who I was. So, I cut the people who didn't support me out of my life and I never regretted it for a second.

In high school, I got involved in drama club and choir and I found my people. Dolan and I met Eric and the three of us became inseparable. My senior year I joined yearbook and became obsessed with it. In yearbook I met Rachel and we couldn't believe that we had never been friends before. And soon she was added to the posse. My high school career came to a close, and I spoke at my commencement ceremony about how all the world's a stage, right before I went off to find my own stage.

I went to Michigan State University where I studied Communications with focuses in Marketing and Social Media. Although I was doing my own thing at MSU, I still really missed Rachel, Dolan, and Eric from high school, and I wanted to find a way to keep in touch with them. Somehow, I stumbled upon YouTube and I saw people talking into cameras. I had just saved enough money to buy a laptop, so I figured, "Why not give it a try?" My first videos, which are now private, were 15 minutes long talking directly to my three friends and showing them all around my dorm room. I even remember one video getting 100 views and that freaked me out because I was like, "I don't know if I even have 100 friends, so who are these people watching?"

Around that time during my freshman year, I met Korey, an RA in my building. We bonded over MarioKart and soon became inseparable through our mutual love of YouTube and vlogging.

After my junior year, I decided I needed to get out of Michigan and spend a summer interning. I had two internships: one at a celebrity PR firm and the other at the Trevor Project, both of which were in LA. Half my summer was spent working for an organisation that saved lives every day and the other half was spent doing nothing of importance. I soon realised that if I was going to be working in social media, it had to be something that I cared about and something that was fun.

Slowly but steadily, my YouTube presence was picking up. It hadn't really hit me yet until I reached one moment where I found out that more of you guys were watching my videos than could fit into my university's football stadium. That's when I knew something big was going on. With my college career coming to a close, I began applying for adult jobs, but none of them were sticking. With rejection after rejection, I started to think that maybe my online life was keeping me from getting a job. I was so discouraged, and so I decided to take advantage of the situation.

Me and my best friend Korey took a chance. We flew to San Francisco, a place we had both never been to, and we fell in love with the city in just one weekend. And in that weekend, we signed a lease. We flew back home to Michigan, packed our bags, and said goodbye to our families, and headed off to the San Francisco Bay. We lived in The Castro, which is a gay neighbourhood in San Francisco, and continued making videos together and have done everything from a video of him buzzing my head to the Chicken Nugget challenge. I had my own group of friends, a community that embraced who I was, a city full of life with something crazy happening every weekend, but one thing was missing. My career. I had a couple of jobs here and there to help me pay the rent, but nothing that inspired me to wake up every morning loving life. I decided that if I wasn't going to enjoy my job, I was surely going to start loving my hobbies. And with that I went full speed ahead with YouTube. I started making more videos and dedicating more of my time online. Every week more and more of you guys tuned in and about a year later, so many of you had found me that I began to think that maybe my life online wasn't keeping me from getting a job, my job was keeping me from my life online.

After careful consideration, I decided that if not now, when? And I put in my two-weeks' notice and became a full-time YouTuber with dreams much bigger than YouTube itself. Although San Francisco was amazing socially and culturally, not much was going on there when it came to taking my online life to the next level, and with every opportunity that came up, I was spending more and more time traveling to make it happen. I got to the point where I was spending so much time living out of a suitcase that I didn't feel like I had a home anymore. And so, with my U-Haul packed to the brim, I cried while driving alone down the San Francisco Bay bridge, leaving behind my favourite city and so many of my favourite people. All because I knew that if I wanted my dreams to come true, I had to take the leap and move where it all could happen. Los Angeles. Now, so much is happening and when I'm not making videos, I'm working on so many projects that I cannot wait for you guys to see. What boggles my mind the most though is that as of this week, I have a million people who have chosen to push "subscribe", who care enough to tune in to see all of my dreams come true. I can't thank you guys enough. My life is only just beginning and I'm so excited to take you all along for the ride.

So that was my Draw My Life. If you guys loved my Draw My Life, be sure to give it a thumbs up. And I was inspired by Joe's Draw My Life. If you haven't seen it, it was amazing. So, I was like, "Joe, how do I make that happen?" and he hooked me up.

## MDML #18

Hey everyone. My name is Justin and I'm going to do a draw my life. I've been pretty nervous about this because I can't really draw, and I didn't think I really had an interesting or inspirational story. At least it is not as interesting as some of those I've seen on YouTube but anyway, here we go.

I was born on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1977, in a little state called Texas. Both of my parents have three brothers, so I have six uncles and more cousins than I can count. When I was about two years old, my parents gave me this new toy to play with called a sister. I really loved having a sister when I was younger, but we didn't get along so well in high school. Right after my sister was born, we got our first dog. Her name was Missy and I don't really remember her very well because she ran away when I was six or seven, but I do remember looking for her every day for weeks around the neighbourhood after school. My sister and I didn't find out until about five years ago that my parents actually gave her away to another family.

In early 1981, when I was around 3, my dad brought home one of the newest things out there: a personal computer from Atari. It came with a cassette tape deck to load programs, if you guys even know what that is. My dad was convinced it was going to change the world and thought it was important for my sister and I to grow up with computers. Throughout my childhood he was always getting us new computers like the Apple 2E and the Apple 2GS when they first came out and it turns out he was right. His fascination with computers was passed on to me and it's one of the only reasons I'm here right now making videos for you guys.

The earliest thing I can remember with clarity is when I was 4. We were visiting my grandparents and I woke up in the middle of the night and I couldn't breathe. I felt like I was suffocating. My parents rushed me to the emergency room and the doctors told them it was bronchiolitis, which is fairly common in young children, and they sent us home. We didn't have the internet or WebMD to look up symptoms and there was no way of looking it up, so we just had to listen to what they said. I was still having difficulty breathing and my mum talked to some of her friends about me and heard about a condition called asthma which would then shape much of my young life. She took me to a paediatric allergist who diagnosed me with chronic severe asthma as soon as we walked in the door. I got a ton of shots and allergy tests and all this other stuff and we left with a handful of prescriptions for inhalers, daily medicine and something called a nebulizer. I called it the machine because I don't think I could pronounce nebulizer at the time, but I had to use it three times a day with a tube and a mask like you'd see in hospitals.

A few days after that, my mum remembers it's me saying something right after using my machine. I said "Mum, I feel better!" And she realised that I'd really never known what it was like to breathe normally. We spent the next few years in and out of the emergency room to the point where the emergency room staff knew us by name. I was getting weekly allergy shots for all the things I was allergic to that were setting off my asthma attacks except for cats, and I'm still really allergic to them. I was always embarrassed by my condition and any time I was wheezing, I'd make an excuse to go to the bathroom so I could use my inhaler without anyone seeing me.

In fifth grade we moved to this country all the way across the world that I'd never even heard of: Indonesia. And we had to get passports and visas and lots of shots and I was super excited. So, we moved across the world and I started this new school and I didn't know anyone. I was a pretty sensitive kid, so I was kind of sad. Over the next couple of years my asthma improved, and I didn't need the machine anymore. I met three really great friends. We did everything together but as we got older, they started going out for sports. I was still a short, skinny kid and everyone else was growing up taller around me and I kind of got left behind. The doctors told me I'd eventually grow but all the asthma medication had delayed my growth spurt and at the end of tenth grade we had to back to the US when my dad's job transferred him back to Northern California.

Academics had always come easy for me and I ended up coasting through high school. Socially, I was the new kid from Indonesia, and I didn't have a lot of friends, so I spent a lot of time in the computer lab messing about because I had grown up around computers my whole life. I met a couple of people there who became my really good friends and we ended up spending all our free time up to no good and got suspended for a week after ending up in a pretty bad situation at a school-sponsored event.

During my senior year I had my final asthma attack which landed me in the hospital. I was so stressed out by the SATs and college applications that my parents actually picked me up after taking the SATs and we went straight to the emergency room so I could breathe again. I did okay on the SATs though and ended up college bound majoring in Computer Engineering with a brand-new car.

College was awesome. Everyone started with a clean slate in the same situation, so you get a fresh start and everyone's looking for new friends, so I wasn't the skinny kid with asthma or the new kid from Indonesia anymore. I was just regular, normal, like everyone else. Unfortunately, the laziness from high school followed me to college and let's just say I needed a little bit of extra time to graduate after the first semester's grade report. But there were parties and I learned how to serve, and we drove down to Tijuana a few times and my roommate was in a band. I had a great time.

Shortly after my first semester, my parents and sister moved overseas again so it was just me left in California in college. I was sad at first, but it was great because I'd visit them in places like Peru and Colombia during my school breaks. Just before college started back up for my second year, I met my roommate's cousin from New York. She had crazy long hair and we all went to Universal Studios and rode rides and watched Beavis and Butthead Do America and little did I know at the time, I had just met the girl I was going to marry.

I applied myself a bit more in college and my sister followed me to the same university and we became really good friends again. I got my first girlfriend, I graduated from college and June of 2000, I got a job working for Cisco Systems in Santa Clara. It was my dream job and I was excited and anxious and scared all at the same time and the youngest person around and I didn't really have a lot of friends. After a few months of doing my own thing, I got a call from that girl who I had met long ago in Universal Studios. She said she was coming to town in a few months to visit family and wanted to look me up because she'd heard I was in the area. We immediately connected on a different level than either of us had with anyone else, but I lived in California and she lived in New York. Against all odds, we decided to try long-distance and see how it went. I flew back and forth between the West Coast and the East Coast every month or two and she started college in Boston.

Then something really scary happened. I flew from Boston to California on the last American Airlines flight on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The next morning, I woke up and I realised how close I was to being on one of those doomed flights and I decided right there to move to Boston to be with her. I still have the boarding pass stub and it still gives me chills when I look at it. While she was in college, I got a master's degree in Business and she graduated with really good grades and got into Medical School back in New York.

After moving back to New York, we got a Golden Retriever puppy together and she's the most amazing dog I've ever had. I wasn't ready to re-enter corporate America yet, so I started selling stuff on eBay and came across the stuffed animal called Webkinz. A friend and I decided to start up a blog and a forum about Webkinz to see if anyone would visit and the popularity exploded overnight. Over the next few years I continued building blogs and forums and my wife graduated medical school and we got married barefoot on the beach. I finally found YouTube in December of 2011 and I originally started my channel as a complement to my blogs and websites but after posting a few videos of my voice in them, the channel direction changed to be about me, the skinny kid with asthma. I was surprised and excited and people told me I'd be big on YouTube and I didn't believe them, but my channel grew and grew, and it's still going and it's still growing and it's surprising me every day. I've met so many people and had so much fun and meeting and interacting with all of you. I'm excited every morning to when I wake up and I'm happy all day long. I can't imagine doing anything else that would make me more happy or more fulfilled than what I do right now and I owe it all to you guys - my fans. I wish I could express in words how thankful I am to each and every one of you but it's impossible, and all I can say is thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

1797

## MDML #19

Okay, so I was born March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1981. I can't draw very well so my friend Kim is going to do that part. March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1981. My mum said that she was watching a horror movie when she went into labour with me. So, there's that! I had three siblings and we lived in a lower-middle-class part of Connecticut. My dad was a restaurant supply salesman. He sold forks and knives and dishwashers and stuff like that. He worked a lot and my mum was pretty hands-off when it came to parenting. I would describe the majority of my childhood as wonderfully unsupervised.

I was a pretty bad kid. Like there are these train tracks in our backyard and we'd hang glass jars of mayonnaise off of the bridge so the jars would smash on the windshield of the train as it drove by. Also, this one time, my brother and I lit this tree fort on fire. We didn't mean to, we just wanted to have a small fire in our wooden tree fort.

I didn't hate school, but it wasn't great. I was always in trouble breaking something, school trouble, teacher trouble. I remember vividly this constant anxiety I felt for most of my early school years. There was a constant tension that my parents, our teachers were going to find out about whatever trouble I was up to. Getting in trouble really escalated when I got to high school. I was always in the vice principal's office, then detention, then suspension. Freshman year was quite uneventful, but by my second year I was trying to find my place in school and started hanging out with some of the really bad kids. I got into a lot of fights and it was around this time that I discovered smoking weed and drinking alcohol.

This was also around the time my parents told us they were getting a divorce. That didn't go well at all. I put all the blame on my mum. I really didn't like her then. Then one night we got into this big argument and she ended the fight by saying do what I say or get out of this house, and I left. I was fifteen years old and I ran out at 9 o'clock at night on a Tuesday. Okay, so 15 years old and on my own. I stayed with some friends for a while and eventually moved in with these two slightly older girls. Naturally, one of those girls became my girlfriend and a few weeks after I moved in with them, my girlfriend got in a fight with her roommate and she told me she wanted to leave, so her and I got her Honda and we left. We drove from Connecticut to Virginia where my big brother Van was in college. I was happy in Virginia

but after three months there, my girlfriend got pregnant, so we moved back to Connecticut and I dropped out of high school. We lived in her friend's basement for a while and eventually found an apartment. I worked in this seafood restaurant. I was a dishwasher. I made 8 bucks an hour. Then the following April, just after my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, Owen was born, and I was a dad. Now, I don't know that teenagers are emotionally equipped for **the magic that is having a child, but the feeling I had in the hospital just after he was born, it was similar to Christmas morning when I was little, like that feeling you have when you get exactly what you want.**

We moved into a trailer park. It was cheap and in a less dangerous neighbourhood and we were poor, we were really poor. We were even on welfare for a little while, but **I never liked the idea** of handouts. **Slowly, things settled. Life was okay.** I made a little bit more money in the restaurant and when he was about a year and a half old, we drove into New York City and stayed at my brother's apartment in Brooklyn. It was our first vacation. My older brother had just gotten an iMac - one of those funny shaped blue ones. Actually, this is the exact iMac. This is the first iMac you could edit video on, and we made this little movie of taking Owen to the zoo. **I loved the process.**

When we got back to Connecticut, I immediately maxed out my only credit card and bought my own computer. I spent all my free time making these little movies and for the first time in my life, **I felt like by telling these stories, I had a voice.** Then for a lot of good reasons, Owen's mum dumped me. **It sucked.** I didn't know what to do. Now before the break-up, **I had this plan, this dream,** to move to New York City in, like, five years but I just kind of said "To hell with it" and decided to move to New York City immediately.

It was June 2001. I was 20 years old and I moved to New York City. I was here to become a filmmaker. "Filmmaker" sounded so much cooler than dishwasher. **This was without a doubt the hardest time of my life.** I didn't know anyone, I didn't have a plan, and for the first time ever I didn't get to see my kid every day. He stayed in Connecticut with his mum and I'd go back to be with him three days a week. **It made me so sad.** I didn't want Owen to grow up and think his dad was a loser. That town in Connecticut was, **it felt like, a dead end.** That first summer in New York City I worked as a bike messenger and eventually this artist named Tom Sachs, somebody my brother knew, hired me for ten bucks an hour. I put aside a hundred dollars a week because that's what it would cost to get back to Connecticut to see Owen. No matter what, I wouldn't touch that travel money.

At the end of that summer, my three-month sublet was up, and I moved into a friend's couch in the financial district of downtown Manhattan. My buddy said that I could stay there for a month and the day I moved in was September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2001. The blast from the first plane knocked me out of bed and by the time the second plane hit I was on my bike trying to get away. The blast from the impact of the plane knocked me off my bike to the ground. My dad called me that morning and he said to me, "It's time to come home. Time to move back to Connecticut," and I thought about it, but I figured I could barely afford to eat. I didn't have anywhere to stay, no education, few prospects. I thought **there's just no way it could get any harder than this and if I could figure out how to get through this, I'd be okay, and so I did. I committed everything to New York City, to my big dream.**

And that's when things started to turn around. My manual labour job turned into a real job with real opportunities as a studio manager for that artist. A friend of a friend freaked out after the World Trade Center attacks and left the city. I took over his super cheap apartment. All the while, I was making movies about whatever subject matter I could come up with. I worked with my brother Van. **We made movies for anyone that would pay us.** Birthday videos, editing actor reels, we literally said yes to anything that involved picking up a camera.

Then, 2003, I got my first iPod and when the battery died a year and a half later, **I got really pissed off** and made a video about their dead battery policy and I put that online. Now this was like three years before YouTube, but that video exploded. This is back in the day when the word "viral" was used to describe an STD, not a video. And all of a sudden, people started asking about other movies we had made. In 2004, a video series we had shot in my apartment called Science Experiments was invited to be shown at the Sao Paulo biennial in Brazil. **Things started to get good.**

I had a little bit of money and I was able to spend more time with Owen and for the first time he and I started taking trips together. When we travelled, **I felt like I was able to get to know him in a way that was entirely new. When we travelled, it was just us. I love that.** In 2006, I met this guy named Tom Scott. He ran a group of local TV channels and he hired Van and me to make some videos. The videos came out great and he made this big offer to us. He simply said, "I want to bankroll a big project you guys do". Now I've always understood luck to be where opportunity meets preparation, and this was a big opportunity and we were certainly prepared, so he agreed to fund us for a year. It wasn't a lot of money, just enough, so my brother Van and I lived and documented stories from our lives. Every couple of weeks we would edit these experiences together to form like a 25-minute movie sort of. Eventually we had eight of those 25-minute episodes and we called that a TV series.

Then in 2008, we sold that eight-episode TV series to HBO for just under two million dollars. **It was a big deal.** The HBO show premiered in 2010. Then my brother and I stopped working together. I produced a couple of movies and ultimately, I just shifted all of my focus to YouTube. **I found my voice** telling stories with my videos back in that trailer park and I had finally found an audience for it on the internet.

Owen turned 16 a couple months ago. He's taller than me now. He's smarter than me and he's definitely better-looking than me. We would never stop traveling. I don't think we ever will, and I owe that kid a lot. The first two decades of my life were spent being told I was wrong, not fitting in, but this last decade of my life, you know those days when you're in a rush to get somewhere and you catch every green light? That's what it's felt like. I'm 33 years old and I have no intention of slowing down.

1780

## MDML #20

Alright, so here we are at long last. When you had all but given up hope that it was ever going to happen, welcome to draw my life. In all seriousness though, I do apologize for how long this is taken to get around to and I have no excuses for that, but hopefully now that it's out I'll be forgiven, maybe. But I guess that's up to you. You're going to have to bear with my stick figure drawings because unfortunately I'm not much of an artist, but hopefully it'll turn out all right.

Now, to be honest, my life has been fairly drama-free for the most part. I've not really had to overcome illness, death nor much ongoing hardship, so unlike some of the other draw my lives out there, don't expect much of a tearjerker from this one.

That said, let's get on to my life story or at least as many of the more important bits that I'm able to remember and condense into a video. So, in the year 1992, I was born a little bundle of joy in the City of Angels, aka Los Angeles, California. My parents were never married, and I don't think they were together for all that long, as I have no recollection of a time when I was with them both in the same household, though admittedly I don't have much recollection that far back whatsoever. My mum had previously worked in television and at the time was writing a book and my dad was and still is an architect who worked on a variety of commercial and residential projects.

I lived with my mum for the majority of the time and visited with my dad every few weeks. While my memories from such a young age are all but non-existent and I'm mostly going on things I've been told by family members, I do know that early on I loved basketball and cars. I had a miniature Michael Jordan branded basketball hoop at my mum's place and apparently, I was really good at scoring on it given my age. Occasionally I'd have a chance to sit on my dad's shoulders and try to shoot into a full-size hoop which was a super exciting event for me.

Pertaining to my love of cars, I had a toy that would take with me while being driven places. It was this colourful plastic dashboard thing that had a steering wheel with buttons and switches that were used to pretend to be driving the car from the backseat while also simultaneously being a backseat driver, seeing as I'd always dictate to my mum which route between the 405 freeway and Sepulveda would result in a faster trip. As we'd be going along, I'd always call out the mix of all passing cars that I possibly could. I even had special names for certain cars including the bomber babies which is what I called my grandma's Mercedes because I wasn't able to properly pronounce "grandma's Mercedes". While my basketball playing sort of faded as I got older, my obsession with cars has definitely stuck with me to this day.

Anyway, I lived in LA until about age four. The first couple years were in a condo with my mum, the next two with my mum and grandma in my grandma's condo and at that point my mum decided to move us both to Santa Barbara which is located about a hundred miles north of LA. I think she figured it was a better place for a kid to grow up which I think is true, so that's where I ended up living for the next 15 years while still visiting with my dad every few weeks alternating between meeting him in Santa Barbara and LA. And along with the move, my mum decided to pursue a new career in graphic design which is what she's still doing now.

Now, while I have sort of vague memories of the preschools I attended, most of my school memories begin in elementary school. I was always barely ahead of the curve in academics, but social interaction wasn't necessarily my strong point, so with those two factors combined, early on I could sometimes be that obnoxious kid who would complete sentences for other students who are having difficulty reading aloud.

Now don't get me wrong, I was never actually mean, just really liked to be the best at everything, which admittedly isn't something that's ever faded for me completely but at a very young age I don't think I really understood the fact that sometimes showing everyone you're better than them at certain skills doesn't make them interested in hanging out with you. So, with that said, while I always had some friends growing up in school, hanging out with other kids was never a huge priority for me and instead, I focused more on solo activities like skateboarding and of course, video games.

The first gaming device I had was a Gameboy Colour that my mum got me when I was five years old, I believe. And I played that thing like there was no tomorrow, Pokémon Red being my favourite game by far and one of my favourite games to this date for that matter. I must have beaten the Elite 4 like five hundred times partially because some kid told me that if I beat it that much I get rewarded with a special Pokémon and I totally believed him, probably because he

believed it himself as well. And I also totally used the item duplication glitch on my rare candies to level up all my dues to 100, not a big deal.

In second grade I was able to convince my mum to get me a console which was a tough sell but after using my impeccable second grade rhetoric, I came home one day with a Dreamcast which I chose because I wanted Sonic Adventure like nothing else in life. So elementary school life carried on fairly uneventfully. I really disliked school but still did all my work and got good marks academically. Got a Gamecube around fifth grade and kept playing video games, kept getting better at skateboarding, I'm trying to think if there's anything else noteworthy that happened. I mean, in around third grade I took a pretty scary-looking fall on my skateboard when I tried rolling in on a Bert ramp without realising how much speed I would actually have on the other side and I ended up launching out of control and falling like 15 feet flat on my back. Could have broken my neck but I didn't actually end up injuring anything which is actually really surprising, so bit anticlimactic there, but that may actually be where my fear of pushing myself too far in skateboarding stemmed from. When I was around 12 or 13 years old, I was actually at the level where if I'd stuck with it, I could have had a chance to go pro, but I could never actually overcome my fear of injury, so, oh well.

On that same topic though, later on in sixth grade I actually got on the front page of the local news press for some skateboarding stuff which is quite cool. Oh, and in fifth grade I accidentally broke someone's arm which I felt really bad about at the time but in retrospect not so much because he was kind of being a douche and taking my hat from me and was standing up on a bench attempting to like dangle it over me so I grabbed him by the legs and pulled him off and he landed weirdly on his arm and RIP in pieces to his arm bone.

Actually, probably most significantly over the course of kindergarten to fourth grade, my mum met and married my stepdad who is a pretty cool dude. So, jumping back into school stuff, after graduating sixth grade because I still really disliked academics, I ended up going to this really weird non-traditional private school for a year. Only went to it for a year because I realised it was a pretty terrible idea about halfway through that year. Basically it was a babysitting school where the first half of the day was dedicated to extremely subpar academics and the second half the day was more or less playtime which sounds awesome and that's why I went initially, except I ended up realising that I would be left way behind by the time I hit high school and despite the fact that I obviously wasn't a huge fan of academics, I did acknowledge their value and decided to abandon that ship before I got too far behind. So, I landed back in the public-school system for eighth grade and then I went to Santa Barbara high school which I bet at least one person watching this actually attends now.

During high school just about everything I did was done with the end goal in mind of getting into a good university. Now for me at least, and we'll get to why this is soon enough, captain hindsight, that sort of ended up being all wash but because my entire life I had been told by family, friends and teachers to get good grades so I get into a good university so I get a diploma so I could get a good job, that's the course I set off to take. So throughout high school I had this sort of irrational self-imposed fear that if I took anything less than the most advanced GATES and AP courses available and if I ever scored anything less than an A- in a course, I'd be locked away in a purgatory of students unable to get into a decent university, so as a result of that fear I worked my ass off in classes, did all the test prep stuff for the SAT in the ACT. I joined the tennis team so I'd have a sport to put down on my college application and I graduated with good test scores and a GPA of like 4.6 or something as a result of weighted classes and now those are all arbitrary numbers that didn't actually impact my life all that much.

What did significantly impact my life however are video games. Throughout high school, I played video games to what my mum deemed an unhealthy extent, which I actually agree with now, but had it not been for my excessive video game playing, I'd have never become good at Call of Duty, never discovered videos on YouTube from people who were recording their Call of Duty gameplay and uploading it with narration, and therefore would never have asked my mum for a capture card for my 18th birthday and therefore never would have started making videos on my own.

So, beginning in February of 2010, during my senior year in high school while I was waiting on college acceptance letters, I started recording footage of myself playing Call of Duty and using iMovie to add my commentary before uploading it to YouTube. My commentary was absolutely awful because I was a socially awkward dude with absolutely no public speaking experience whatsoever, yet for some reason, which is still a mystery to me, I resonated enough with certain people for them to come back and watch on a regular basis.

A couple months after I started on YouTube, I received my college acceptance letters and ended up deciding to go to school at the University of California at Santa Barbara or UCSB, as it's more commonly referred to. I didn't actually end up applying to many schools as I had got a bit burnt out on the whole process and felt like staying local so it was between that and UCLA and since I'd already had some experience with the science programs at UCSB, I decided to go there as a Chemical Engineering major. More importantly however, that same April I had submitted some Skate 3 videos to machinima.com and ended up receiving a directorship contract in return. I remember being in the high school library when I saw the response email and I think that's just about the most stoked I've ever been in my life.

For those of you not familiar with how things were on YouTube at that point, basically Machinima was the biggest thing in gaming and to be a director with them gave you the ability to submit videos that they would post on their



channels and I thought, "Holy crap! My videos get to go up in the same place as Hatch and Seananners and Paves, and Ohnies and Blade and this is awesome" and not only that: this is back when the YouTube Partner Program was structured very differently and Machinima had some of the only channels out there able to monetize gameplay footage and in posting videos on their channels, you got a share of that revenue and so it was like this unbelievable dream come true scenario for a person like me who had just started off on YouTube and didn't even know about monetization but even then the concept of earning money on videos was like completely eclipsed by the prestige that I felt in being a Machinima director.

So, my senior year in high school wrapped up and that summer I started putting out videos on a more regular basis up, from like one a week during school to sometimes two or even three now. And then as a huge added bonus, at the end of the summer Machinima rolled out their affiliate network so my channel became partnered and now I was able to earn advert revenue off the videos I was posting there but it's really funny because I remembered that the thing I was most excited about was not the fact that my videos would earn advert revenue, no, it was the fact that I'd be able to have a partner banner at the top of my channel page, and to me it had always been the most awesome thing ever.

At the same time though as I got more and more into the YouTube thing, my mum became concerned that it would impact my academics once I started in at UCSB in the fall. Since my family would be footing the bill for school, which by the way is something I was extremely lucky for, she wanted to make sure I get the most out of it so I had to promise I wouldn't allow myself to get distracted, so of course I told her schoolwork has always and will always be my biggest priority which I did mean sincerely at the time, since YouTube really was just hobby and I didn't envision it taking off as much as it ended up doing. Now I'm sure some of you watching can look back through your life and find a moment where something happened that seemed very trivial at the time but in the long run ended up having a larger impact on you than you could have ever imagined. For me, I think without a doubt the most significant instance of that happening is the fact that I was awarded a single dorm in my freshman year of college. I'm a bit of a neat freak so I've never been a huge fan of sharing my living space with someone and figured if I were to share a dorm room with someone else, I'd get extremely frustrated and end up becoming worst enemies with my roommate, so as a result I filled out the housing form indicating that my first choice was a solo dorm room. That said, however, there were around 10 rooms per floor for each gender and only one of those was a single, which means I got extremely lucky because had I ended up getting a roommate, it's likely my youtubeing would have faded away since I'm super self-conscious and hate recording when people can see me do it.

Now despite my dislike of school in the past, I was actually pretty excited to start in on college because I thought that finally after years of writing book reports and taking history classes and doing work that was completely irrelevant to my interests, I'd finally be able to focus on my strong points of math and science. Well, it turns out I couldn't have been more wrong. If you're not familiar with the way undergraduate work is structured, in order to get your degree, you've got to complete a bunch of general education requirements on top of those pertaining to your major, so for the first couple years even if you're in a science-based major you've also got to do writing, history, art etc. and this frustrated me to no end because I couldn't understand why my family was shelling out \$30,000 a year for me to attend a bunch of classes that taught me things I would just forget a couple months later.

So now it's the place where we start getting into the stuff I haven't actually shared publicly before, despite it having taken place while I was making YouTube videos. I'll get to why that is shortly, but for now I'll keep on with the story. So because so many of these classes revolved around topics in which I had no interest, I started skipping lectures, I would rarely do the assigned textbook readings, I'd skip over optional homework and while I didn't want to admit to myself back then, I can openly say now that I was just burnt out and my heart wasn't really in it any longer. I also hadn't really connected with many of the people in my dorm because for most of them free time meant time to get drunk and that just isn't something that brings me enjoyment, so as a result of these factors, the whole promise I had made to put YouTube on the back burner sort of went out the window, and I actually started spending more time on it in order to escape the frustration I felt with school. I still kept my grades in the A and B range throughout that first year just because I knew I had to, but I did the bare minimum required and nothing more which I hated myself for but I just couldn't find the motivation to do anything extra. Gaming and YouTube was my extra because it was something I enjoyed, so finally because a change needed to happen, I decided to switch my major to Computer Science based on that lifelong interest I had in video games and this is something I actually did make a video on back then, except I sort of played it off as if everything was all fine and dandy when it really wasn't.

So, let me take a step back and explain why I had actually gone with Chemical Engineering in the first place. I'd always been really good with math, physics, chemistry and general problem-solving, and it seemed to me like Chemical Engineering was one of the least sucky ways to earn a good living, but that said, I didn't really do it because I had a genuine love of the topic. It was more so just because I thought it would lead to a good pay-check which I had begun to realise was a mistake. Growing up, I had always thought that it would be cool to get into the game industry but back when I was applying to schools, I sort of dismissed it as something that would never bring me any success which throughout my year or so of experience with YouTube and the people I had met through that, I had also begun to realise was a mistake, so changing my major to Computer Science was me sort of taking the first step in the direction of pursuing a career with something I was genuinely interested in. I even went so far as to apply at another school, USC,

which many of you may know for their football team but they had a Computer Science program that focused on game development and I felt that could be even more use than the traditional Comp Sci program at UCSB.

And while things finally seem to be looking up academically for the first time since the start of college, unfortunately neither of those paths actually panned out. I ended up getting to the game development program at USC except they weren't offering financial aid and the total cost would have been \$70,000 a year which is absolutely ridiculous and while my mum claimed she would make it work, I refused because I knew she'd either have to empty out her entire life savings for it or take out huge loans and that's just not okay to have happen, so I stuck with UCSB except the problem was that now on top of the fact that I still had to trudge through the general education requirements, I was faced with the catch-22 of changing majors which is that in order to switch over officially, you have to take like four or five entry-level Computer Science classes and under a certain GPA in them except the problem is that existing Computer Science majors are given priority to join those classes, making it extremely difficult to get in if you aren't already in the major, so I tried to get into the introductory Comp Sci class in the third quarter of my freshman year, except it filled up with people already in the major so I had to wait and start in with a summer course.

At the same time though, since it was summer and that Comp Sci class was the only other thing occupying my time, I got back into focusing on my channel full force. It was actually doing very well at the time. I gained a pretty substantial amount of long-term traffic as a result of the TNT music video which went up in February of that year and I wanted to follow up TNT with something even better. I had a desire to do a video that was fully animated and had started in on something with Blender but quickly realised it was going to suck.

In what was probably another pivotal life event for me, I was able to get in touch with David Bootstrap Buckaroo through a mutual Skype contact and for reasons I still don't fully understand, yet will be forever grateful for, he was willing to help me with the project that turned out to be Revenge. So, Revenge went up at the end of summer in 2011 and as a result, my channel just exploded beyond anything I could have ever imagined. Shortly after though, school started up again and despite the fact that I had taken the step of trying to change majors, I was faced with the exact same frustrations that plagued me the year before until it was in my first quarter of sophomore year that I began to seriously question whether or not it was worth staying in school.

The thought had crossed my mind at times in my freshman year but there was no real way to act on them. Now, however, my YouTube channel was going stronger than I could have ever imagined and it was at the point where I could support myself financially and opportunities kept coming along with it that I would have to pass on because I was stuck taking a bunch of classes I wasn't interested in and not getting into the ones I wanted to be in, so initially I kept my thoughts to myself because I was afraid of disappointing my family, but as the quarter went by and as my frustration and disinterest continued, I finally brought it up with my mum who unsurprisingly thought I was kind of crazy for thinking of doing such a thing and that it was a terrible idea. I insisted that I was serious, and I gave my reasons and she basically said that while she would always love me and support me no matter what path I chose, I would be on my own financially as soon as I left school. Now although for the moment I was able to support myself with the advert revenue coming from my YouTube channel, it was still a bit of a scary thought at 19 years old to think that for the first time I would be out on my own in the world.

So, I agreed to finish off that first quarter of my sophomore year but when my outlook on school didn't improve, I ended up making the most difficult decisions of my life against the recommendations of almost everyone in my family. Ultimately, it boiled down to the fact that school would always be available for me to go back to, but the opportunity to pursue something I love doing might only be available for a short amount of time. So, after the first quarter of my sophomore year, I took a leave of absence and now over two years later it's the best decision I have ever made in my entire life, and man, does it feel good to finally get that off my chest.

The reason I chose not to share it back then when it actually happened is there are a lot of people out there who think they know what's best for you and let's be honest, I don't think there would have been many comments on my videos telling me that I was making a good decision and that's just not something I wanted to deal with. It was, it was enough of an internal struggle for me and I just I didn't want to deal with thousands of other people telling me I was being an idiot when I knew the only person well enough equipped to know what's best for me is me, and at this point, if it were to all end tomorrow and I were forced to go back to school, this experience is not something that I could ever regret.

So back in December of 2011, I started doing YouTube full-time and that enabled me to post videos every day while also working on music videos and also just enjoying my life for the first time in years. Sure, things were and are stressful every so often but everything I was doing was something that I enjoyed doing and that is the most awesome feeling in the world.

In May of 2012, I moved from Santa Barbara to LA because there's such a large focus of YouTube related activities that are centralized here and since I was born there and I visited every few weeks to see my dad throughout my entire life, it wasn't really a huge transition for me. So, since May of 2012 I've been living in LA doing the YouTube. Around March of last year, I decided it could be helpful to have some external assistance so I could do more stuff on the side while still being consistent with videos, so I actually ended up hiring Nick, aka Enfen. I had met him through YouTube

and known him for a couple years and myself and other friends had tried to convince him to move out to LA previously but I mean, quite reasonably, he had always been uneasy about the idea of moving across the country without knowing he'd have a job beforehand. I thought he'd be happier living here than he was in Minnesota, so I offered him the job editing the daily videos and he moved out in May and has been doing that since and that's allowed me to start posting a couple videos a day while still leaving enough time to work on side projects like music videos because I have the terrible problem of having too many hobbies I'd like to pursue while still wanting to bring you guys consistent content on YouTube. I was being sarcastic - **it's actually a pretty nice problem to have but I'm very pleased** to say that for the past seven months while Nick has been editing the daily gameplay content, seems like people have been as happy with videos as they had been before the transition was made.

Once again, the only reason I didn't share that fact earlier was because it would have required me sharing the full backstory of why I was no longer in school and I still hadn't found an appropriate time to do it but here we are and just a few weeks ago I closed the purchase of my first home, which brings us to the present day and at long last you know the full extent as to **how much you guys have impacted my life** and, ah man, **it feels good to finally put that all out there**. I'm so sorry for not doing it sooner and I hope it doesn't feel like I've betrayed your trust but I'm very afraid of **being wrong about things** and I didn't want my YouTube channel to turn into a series of me making bad decisions in front of an audience, so now you finally know how serious I am when **I thank you all for changing my life. Thank you so much and thank you** **mum, dad, Bootstrap, Buckaroo, Trihard, Ninja, Seananners. I wouldn't be here without him either. Internet friends are the best**, man. I'm just getting a little bit teary-eyed here recollecting on everything. Life is crazy. **Thanks - thanks so much for watching and sticking by me**, even when I'm almost six months late on draw my life. I'll see you guys in the next video.

4985

#### MDML #21

**My life wasn't always easy**. Here goes - my story. **Hope** you like it.

**I was born a complete miracle**. I wouldn't say that's where my story starts though. It actually starts about five and a half years before I was even born, at the beginning of 1989. Now just a warning - it does start a little heavy, but I promise **there is a happy ending to this**.

Now, my parents were both in previous relationships before meeting each other which both had pretty nasty things occur. Long story short, my Dad JC was married to a woman during his last year in college and they became pregnant. Being young, he didn't want the responsibility of having a kid so as a result they had an abortion. My mum Grace, on the other hand, was with a man who wasn't completely honest with her about extremely important things. My poor mother left that relationship with the feeling that her life was completely over at age 27. She had unexpectedly contracted HIV and because of that she was told she had ten years to live. For those of you who don't know what HIV is, it's the virus that leads to AIDS and eventually to a very horrible, horrible death and back in the early 90s was way more of a threat than it is today.

Only one year later, my parents met. Both being personal trainers and gym junkies, they really got along. They started falling in love with each other and things became more and more serious. My mum, very nervous about opening up about her illness, shared the truth with my father and was given an unexpected reaction. Now my dad had lost his mum to cancer at the age of 16 and loved his mum till her last breath. So, because of that, he didn't care about what sickness or illness was in the way of his relationship with my mum. He was going to love her till her last breath, no matter how long that happened to last.

The relationship continued to blossom and grow, and they soon became pregnant with my older brother towards the end of 1992, but sadly, because of the virus living inside my mother, another abortion seemed like the only option for the future of this new child. Being advised by many, even doctors, to abort the child, they were extremely conflicted on what to do and what the right decision was to make. But one night, God appeared to my dad in a pretty supernatural way and told him, "If you kill this baby, I will kill you". Being scared out of his mind from this encounter he had, my dad and mum decided to take that straightforward advice and keep the child, hoping for a miracle and a healthy baby. And on New Year's Eve of that year, they got married as the birth of their new son approached. On July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1993, the miracle they were praying for became a reality. Claudio was born perfectly healthy and with no trace of HIV in his body. Because of this miracle, my parents started exploring their faith with this God who appeared to my dad. As a result, they found themselves receiving Jesus into their lives and growing in their love with him and with each other and because they were so in love with one another, my chapter didn't start too much later.

I was born on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1994, and **was a pretty ugly baby** to be honest, and just like Claudio, **I was born a complete miracle**, 100% free of any illness in my body. We were both born in Miami, Florida, and my brother and I basically grew up together like twins since we were only 15 months apart.

A few years later, we moved a little farther north to Fort Lauderdale and my mum started home-schooling us around pre-k and kindergarten. We then went to school for two years because my sister was born. Not to mention, she was completely free of the virus as well, and my little brother too, three years after that. But anyway, after those two years of school, my mother brought Claudio and I back to be home-schooled again. That was after my second-grade year and side note, I never went back to normal school until college. **It was pretty great.**

During this early stage of life, I received the lord into my heart and was baptized soon after I turned seven. Seems young looking back at it now, but **I knew full well what I was doing** at the time. **Very happy about it**, too. Now, growing up, my dad had me wrestle as my main sport because of how much he loved it. **Me not so much**, but I did that out of respect for him and honestly, they taught me a lot, like not blaming other people for me losing and I don't have to be the most talented to win as long as **I'm the one working the hardest for and pushing myself beyond my own limitations**, both physically and mentally.

I started that at six years old and didn't stop until I was 16. Basically, **I won the district championship in 10th grade**, then quit because **I knew my future was in the arts**. My first introduction to the arts was at 10 years old when I started taking drum lessons. Those lasted about five years and **I honestly got pretty dang good at them too**, but **sadly**, my family moved into an apartment and I couldn't keep the set and didn't really keep up with playing too much. **I started teaching myself guitar** because my dad and my brother played, and I was able to figure out the chords and stuff from watching them for so many years. Then in middle school is when my older brother convinced me to join the community theatre group he had just finished his first play with, so naturally **I did and it was one of the best decisions of my life. I fell in love** with performing and entertainment and I knew my future had a little something to do with it. A few of the shows I was a part of were Beauty and the Beast where I played a fork, Tom Sawyer where I played Ben Rogers I think, Oliver where I played the Artful Dodger and the Wizard of Oz, where I played the Scarecrow alongside my brother who was the Lion.

Throughout high school, I was pretty heavily involved in the dramatic arts and competed with local high schools that allowed home schoolers to compete. I did pretty well all the years I was involved but when senior year rolled around **something absolutely incredible happened**. Me and six of my friends started preparing a piece that, little did we know, would win the entire district competition and allow us to perform on the state level in front of about 5,000 people. As a home-school kid, this was the first taste of any real popularity. **It was pretty awesome** to be honest, and may have been the first time **I knew I was purposed for something bigger than myself** and what I had currently been doing in my life, but I didn't know what that was yet.

I then graduated high school in May of 2013 and was set to attend the local university, Florida Atlantic University, in the fall as an undecided major, which basically means I had no idea what I was doing with my life. With my dad being a real estate broker, my brother and I decided that summer to get our real estate license so we could possibly work for him and join the business. For me, that was definitely the safe option. My brother, being a books and school kind of guy, passed the test his first try. Me, on the other hand, failed the first time, getting a 73%. And guess what I needed to pass? Yeah, a 75. I then had to retake the course by myself. **It sucked. Not only did taking the course again suck because of how genuinely disinterested I was in everything being talked about, but I also failed that second test too, and guess what I got on it? A 74. I wasn't too happy with that result.** Now, the reason I tell you about this particular course I took is because **out of my boredom** in this class one day I happened to stumble across an app called Vine which happened to completely change my life.

I then quit the idea of getting my real estate license after failing for the second time, decided **it wasn't for me, and then moved on to being a college student who had no idea what he was going to do in life**. Over those next five to six months before the new year, I was able to grow to 10,000 Vine followers, which ultimately led to all my friends bagging me for being such a tool bag on social media. They were just trying to keep me grounded. **That's what's good friends are for, right?** I was posting vines almost every day and constantly networking and the only class **I was enjoying** that semester was my theatre appreciation class. My dearest mother, who not to mention has lived over 25 years since she was given ten years to live, and now has sustainable medicine allowing her to lead a completely normal life, anyway, **my mum saw what was happening with me and told me that all I did was make these stupid vine things and the only class I liked was my theatre class**. She then told me to audition at some colleges and pursue Entertainment. So naturally, I did. I was actually accepted into every college I auditioned at but decided to go to Florida State University to get my BFA in Acting as they were amongst the top in the country at the time and probably still are.

**I continued working super hard** on the vine videos over the spring semester and actually did my first ever brand deal for a whopping forty bucks. For a college kid without a real job, **that was quite big**. I eventually ended that first year at college in May of 2014 with 100,000 followers and saw what was happening with brands paying big money to the top Vine creators. This sparked this crazy idea that my parents didn't really like. I decided that instead of getting a real job before leaving to FSU to help pay for some of the expenses, like I initially intended, that I would focus the summer solely on growing my following. I knew that with a large enough audience, I could make money through advertisement on Vine rather than getting a real job at the fast-food restaurant close to campus. So, in the summer of 2014 before leaving for FSU, I told my parents to trust me and **worked my butt off** growing my following on Vine from 100,000

followers at the beginning of the summer to 700,000 followers by the time I left for school. Going away for college was okay. I learned a lot, but **it really wasn't for me**. **I had my first real girlfriend** for a whole two months which **left me with a completely shattered heart**. Took me a while but **I moved on, grew from it and focused my energy back into work**. In school **I never liked** partying and drinking and that whole scene in college. So, while everyone else was enjoying that, **I purposed to use those times to pursue my work** since that was generating income for me by this point. Not steady income, but it was still income.

When the summer of 2015 rolled around, I had plans to go out to Los Angeles and spend some time there before going back to school to start that next fall semester. But before leaving for LA, I planned to go back home to South Florida for two weeks but that got cut short by a whole week because of an opportunity from Disney that arose. I then packed my bags, took a one-way flight to LA and shacked up in my manager's guest bedroom for the beginning of that summer and with the opportunities that were opened up to me, I decided that I didn't need to book a flight back to Florida.

In July of 2015, I moved into my first ever apartment by myself. I bought my very first car that I didn't have to share with my brother and **started my very own life, on my own**, at 20 years old. I even booked my first two solid acting gigs. The first was a national TV movie on Fox called The Passion and the second was a series regular in a digital series called Mr. Student Body President. **Pretty exciting** stuff!

However, during those first nine months in LA, I didn't really know anyone besides my manager, some people in the business and a few other creators I met through social media. I quickly realised that **making true friends like those I grew up with back home were extremely difficult to make**. Needless to say, it was a pretty lonely time for me. **I slowly made a few good friends**, but that definitely took a while and I do believe that **that period of loneliness of about nine months was in my life** that **I would more greatly appreciate the beautiful gift I was blessed with on February 21<sup>st</sup> of 2016 – an actual girlfriend**. The whole beginning of that year on her very first trip to LA, Jess and I really started to get to know each other. **We quickly bonded** and made it official on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February. That led to a very long-distance relationship in constant 14-hour flights to and from Australia and the USA. **It was tough, but we made it work**. Not too long after, I asked her to marry me, and we eventually sealed the deal on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2016. We now live in a new two-bedroom apartment in Los Angeles. We have our three-month-old puppy **to tie our new family together, and we have our blossoming careers ahead of us**. I am 22 years old and this is a summary of what my life has looked like so far.

2413

## MDML #22

What's up guys? Now think it is time I need to draw my life. So, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 1993, little baby Alfie was born. Yeah, that's me. Except I wasn't born normally because my head was so big, I had to be birthed out of my mum's tummy. I was taken out of her stomach. There's my little black hatch and I'm crying.

Now, I don't know why this is one of my earliest memories but when I was absolutely tiny, I remember being in the bath with my sister - here's my sister in the bath and here was **me looking a bit worried** because I realised that I needed a poo - so I laid my poo in the bath which made my sister upset and she ran out crying.

When I was born, my family decided that we'd move down to the sunny seaside city of Brighton. Now here is the sea. The sea wasn't in my house so don't worry, but yeah, me and my family moved down from London to Brighton and this is us. We didn't walk there, that, I don't know.

Once when I was in nursery, me and my two friends, Isabel and Morgan, wanted to go swimming, so when we didn't have our swimming trunks, and the teacher told us that if we wanted to go, we would have to go naked. Now I thought it'd be a good idea, there's me sitting on the hill laughing, to tell my two friends to go first and then I'll come and join them. And I didn't. I just sat there, laughed at them naked.

You know in schools every year they have those performances where it's like Christmas Carol or a musical or something like that? Well, I was always in them. I was always the kid who cries. There was me at the front crying. I don't know why but I'd just cry the whole way through all of them.

From the age of eleven till fifteen, I did competitive gymnastics. Now, one time I was in a competition to be the best in my county and the boy sitting next to me said, "I'm going to beat you, I'm definitely going to win, I won last year", so **I was a bit worried**, but **it ended up that I beat him** and there's **me with my medal being happy** and **there's him in second place – unlucky, unlucky**.

So, I haven't mentioned school yet. **School was an amazing time. I loved school so much. I got on with all my friends and so many people as well as all the teachers**. I don't know why but **I just used to just enjoy it so much** and **I kind of wish I could go back**. School was also the time when I secretly started YouTube. There's me saying my first, "What's up guys?" without anybody knowing. Didn't tell any of my friends and it was like it was secret that I kept to myself and **I used to love** doing.

Shortly after school came college. Now, I really did enjoy college but the subjects that I chose to do just weren't for me. They weren't what I wanted to do when I was older and when I'd sit at home making a vlog, I knew that that's what I wanted to do. This was more fun than college can ever be, but I did, I stuck around, and I still revised. I got the grades that I needed and got offered a place at the university that I wanted to go to. But despite being offered exactly what I wanted at university, I thought I'd rather have a gap year. I thought I would have more fun, I could travel around more, see more friends, see more family and get to know you guys on a lot better level than I did before.

My gap year so far has been truly amazing. I've gotten a plane so many times and I've been to LA for VidCon 2012, I've been to New York for two weeks and I just got back from Florida for Playlist Live 2013. It's making me think, do I really want to go to university?

And this brings me up to a few months ago. A few months ago, I departed from my family. Well that sounded really weird. I moved away from my family, who I miss so much. I have the best family in the world who support everything I do, and I moved back to London and this time with my flatmate Caspar Lee.

Now, YouTube has brought me some amazing opportunities and I cannot thank you enough for that. The one thing that YouTube has brought me that will stay around forever is not only you guys but all my friends that I've made by YouTube, so if you can guess who they are, these are my closest YouTube friends.

And this brings me up to the present time. I am so happy. I am so excited for future and I am just in such a good place right now, so thank you so much guys for making all of this possible. Let's have some fun together and I hope you guys join me on my journey for the future. Thumbs up the video if you enjoyed it. Wow, that is a weird thumb! And yeah, thank you guys.

906

### MDML #23

Yo, guys! So, it is my 100<sup>th</sup> video! Yes, come on! Anyway, talk about phenomenal drawing. I thought, let's do draw my life. Now pretty original, never been done before. But I thought, I've got to do this. Anyway "vamos", yeah, that means in Spanish "let's go"! So yeah, let's do that.

Here is me. That's a pretty young baby. Hm, yeah, I looked just like that by the way. And yeah, I was born in 1996 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. Lovely. However, as I was born, my auntie in fact almost dropped me, so I could have died. Now, phenomenal start! Anyway, oh God, now here's just a legitimate drawing of the UK. I was born in Brighton and I've kind of stayed here ever since. Basically, as I got into nursery, yeah, I noticed one thing: that teachers are fucking cunts. Just picking on me. Look, out of everyone talking, teacher would always pick on me and say something like this – "Joseph get the fuck out, you mug". Legitimately.

Anyway, as I got older though, something became apparent: that I had a feature of mine that was slightly prominent, yes, my ears. I was missing a bone which made them stick out, so yeah, I did get bullied slightly for that. Called a few names. So, yeah. Now, pretty pleasant. What you want. And there we go, crying. It was awful.

Anyway, moving on, what I found is that, you know, making jokes and being a bit of an idiot in class made me, like, get on with people better and look, lol, that represents them laughing. Obviously, the teachers didn't really like that as you can see here. Slut, cunt! Right, basically as things started to go good, I kind of got fat. Yes, I just became a fat shit. As shown here, people kind of noticed that and that wasn't very nice either. Yeah. That's not a kiss by the way. That's an X like meaning it's bad.

But look at this! Football! I kind of was good at that and I in fact got signed for Brighton and Hove Albion Academy. Love that. I felt well good but obviously that got wiped away because I was too fat. They kicked me off because I was too fat. So, I went back to the grub. I felt shit and it was just, it was not a good time and bearing in mind, yeah, I was only nine years old at this time. Not good for the self-esteem.

When I eventually started secondary school, Seaford Head Community College, I, for some reason, thought I was the hardest kid worldwide. I mean, in addition to this I wore like the worst clothes ever, loads of people did, but it was awful! McKenzie, Carbrini, and all that shit. And obviously because my name was Joe Weller, I called myself "well hard". Yes, that's how much of a bloody prick I was. I didn't mean to, I didn't have any bad intentions but yeah, people thought I was a prick and I basically was.

This is where my first video came from: "How to be fighter man", where me and my friend basically showed you how to fight, knockout, yes, because we look cool. No. In fact, if I hit 100K subscribers, I'll show you that video. Yes.

Anyway, back to this: school. I didn't really like it that much. I mean, I had good mates but the shit that I did there, not good. Look. X Factor. Anyway, this is where film came in. I enjoyed that. I enjoyed the special effects. The Jacket. That was my first short film – teleportation, cloning, as you'll see now, yeah. I enjoyed that and I wanted that to be my

job. However, views weren't good - they didn't get many views. Oh crap, yeah, bearing in mind I did get my ears pinned back eventually and I made this transformation. **Fat shit to kid that makes vids that doesn't look fat anymore.** But not a paedophile, as I look a bit like there.

Anyway, so the video that got my channel up and running began with this phrase: "this isn't about any ordinary man". What was it? Three, two, one. It was how to be KSI. Yeah, that's not racism by the way. It's just I had to draw him somehow. **Anyway, yeah, so it from 200 subscribers to 4,000 in like a week. It was mental.** Anyway, the comments, yeah, **there was hate, there was a lot of hate. Yeah pretty enjoyable.** But at the end of the day guys, you know, **the people that write this sort of stuff, they're irrelevant. I mean, what is their life?**

FIFA 13, the Holy One came about, but yeah, **I was still shit** and then that's when I discovered Buxton water and, you know, I learnt about its effects, but they can basically make you better at anything plus get you smashed at the same time. You can't go wrong. Amongst all that, I have actually been at college studying Filmmaking, Media Studies, represented by the Sun newspaper. And this Spanish flag, quite well drawn, represents Spanish.

So, **I do hope that YouTube can become my job once I leave college.** Oh god - You Tub. That's legitimately YouTube. I couldn't fit in the e, but yeah, **I do want it to become my job once I leave college because it does make me happy. It's an enjoyable thing to do for me and to make that my job, to earn money doing that, is incredible.** So that's what I'd say guys, you know, tick. Do things that you enjoy. I mean, you know, probably you can have to work hard and do things that you may not enjoy so much in order to do the things that you enjoy. However, it is worth it. I'm not trying to give the best life advice in the world right now, but you know, I see it all the time, people's parents saying "Oh, you must become this" or "You must do this". In reality, guys, you know, it's your life. It's your decision. Do what you want to freaking do, if you get me.

Anyway guys, oh these are my social links. I don't know why I've added these, like, drew them but for banter really. So yeah, it would be cool if you could follow me on these, and yeah. That's that - 100 videos. Have a nice day, you guys. See you later. Goodbye.

1092

#### MDML #24

Hey guys! So, this is Phil and I'm going to draw my life! I was supposed to be born on Valentine's Day, but foetus me obviously didn't like that idea, so I escaped the uterus early. I was born on January the 30<sup>th</sup> in the middle of a snowdrift in the northern hills of Manchester. Maybe this explains why **I like snow so much.** Apparently, my dad wanted to call me "Richard" or "Jason" but my mum thought I looked like a "Philip", so that was the name I was given.

My first memories are my granddad teaching me how to tie shoelaces and playing Scrabble with him. **Unfortunately,** he died when I was four, so those are the only memories I have with him. I also remember visiting Portugal and watching a lot of animal documentaries on TV. **I was obsessed with animals; I knew from an early age that I either wanted to be a vet, a zookeeper or a weatherman.** I'm not sure where the weatherman thing came from. **I also really wanted a dog,** but instead, my parents bought me a surprise house rabbit! She was called Holly and she lived in the house, and kind of acted like a dog.

Weirdly, **me and my older brother got on really well, and have done my whole life.** We also used to secretly watch horror films like 'Alien' at one in the morning, which was never a good idea, and I had nightmares for most of my childhood. **I was lucky** as my house was on a hill, so I had loads of woodland and fields to explore. I just made myself sound like a squirrel, but I had about five friends. We had our own street gang called "The Kool Katz". See? It had a 'z' because it was "kool".

One of my clearest memories of school is playing trains in the playground. I thought it would be a good idea to stop in front of a wall, so the entire train slammed into the back of me and I crushed my face against the wall, breaking my nose. I remembered - oh my god, that's a horrific face. Ok, wait, rub that out - that's better. I remember dripping blood into a girl's hair, and she screamed a lot.

Then came the time to leave for secondary school and I was the only person from my school to go to the one I went to. **It was big, scary and intimidating** and had loads of year elevens that looked like giants. **I also developed a massive obsession with Buffy the Vampire Slayer. She was on my wall; she was inside my locker and I still stand by the fact that it is the best show ever.** Seriously, it's the best show ever.

In the final year of school, I did some work experience as a vet and I had to watch a dog getting its jaw removed with a saw and I ended up fainting. Turns out being a vet was **hot for me.** I moved on to college with the same friends and I studied Art, Media Studies, English and Psychology and **I really enjoyed it. I also got my first girlfriend (woohoo!),** who lasted for about a week but was then stolen by a guy called Ian who **I initially hated** but then **we actually became best friends.** Hi, if you're watching, Ian!

Towards the end of college, I stumbled upon YouTube. I was inspired by lonelygirl15, Andrew Bravner and Smosh to make my own video blogs and they were really bad at first. I filmed them with no editing on a black and white camera that I got with some tokens from cereal. What happened to toys in cereal? Hmm. I'd update these video blogs every few weeks and a year or so later I started university in York. I loved York. It has really cool castle walls and the university campus was completely covered in ducks. Apparently, you could kill a person and return after your prison sentence but if you killed a duck, you were banned for life.

I was in a house of ten people, six girls, four boys and one shower. Mornings were never that fun. At this point I got a job working at a giant stationery store over Christmas, which kind of destroyed my soul. I used to hide in the stock room and read all the books and magazines hoping the manager wouldn't notice. I actually quit the job after a crazy lady threw a chocolate orange at my head. That was a pretty low point in my life.

My final year at university is kind of a blur as unfortunately one of my best friends, who I'd lived with for three years, died suddenly. It took a long time but eventually I swapped some of the sadness for funny memories we had together as I know for sure he wouldn't want me to spend the rest of my life being sad. He also made me realise I should probably embrace some of the crazy opportunities I was getting instead of shying away from them, like I would've done in the past. And the first thing I did was audition for a movie and I got a small role as a shop worker in the Viking comedy Faintheart which you might see on Film4 every so often. And I also appeared on a TV quiz show called The Weakest Link.

I then finished university and moved back home and around this time I discovered there was a whole community of people making YouTube videos in the UK and I met a guy called PJ who invited me to a New Year's Eve party where I met loads of other YouTubers. These crazy creative people inspired me to try even harder and I kept making the videos which began to gain popularity at a completely unexpected rate. I also met Crabstickz and later that year, my friend Dan. He was studying at Manchester Uni, so we hung out a lot and made loads of videos which you guys seemed to love. Dan needed somewhere to live in the second year of university, so we moved into a Manchester flat on the nineteenth floor of a sky tower. It was weirdly cheap; I think someone may have died there before we moved in or something.

It was brilliant living with another YouTuber though and we were given some great opportunities like visiting Jamaica with CTFxC, going to Playlist Live and Vidcon. We also started working really closely with Radio 1 and we had two Christmas shows and then went to Edinburgh with them which was amazing. I also discovered that I really enjoyed making radio shows. We decided at this point it would be best to move to London which was a big deal for me being from a sheepy northern town. But I'm really loving it so far and I'm probably the happiest I've ever been. And excitingly, in January 2013 we were given our own Radio 1 show. The first live show was probably the scariest thing I've ever done but now we're in the swing of things, I'm actually loving it.

So yeah, now that shy weird kid from school is now a YouTuber, a Londoner and also a radio presenter. I probably never will be a weatherman, unfortunately, but I still can't believe how many people watch my videos, I'm so grateful to everyone who does, and I still read every single comment. Yeah, even if you just typed one now, I read it. Well, that's it, I'm excited about the future and as it's my birthday, I'm going to go eat some cake. Feel free to make your own Draw Your Life-video. This was inspired by Sam and Caspar's and I tag everybody, especially KickThePj, as he can draw way better than me. Please give this video a thumbs up and if you do, I will draw you an eagle shark. And also click here to subscribe to my videos. Okay, see you soon. Bye guys!

1354

## MDML #25

Hi, my name is Caspar Lee and I was born in the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 1994 in Paddington, London. I can't remember being born because I was really young, but apparently my head was too big for my mum's um.

A year later, my family and I moved to South Africa. When I was 13 months old, my brain wasn't fully developed so when the lady sitting next to us on the flight vomited, I thought she was making toys for me with her mouth, so I played with it.

I spent the early part of my childhood living in an area called Fort Nottingham. It was really rural so there weren't a lot of friends to play with, but there was a lot of space outside. I did have my sister though. She was always in charge of me and would force me to do things like drink water mixed with Marmite resulting in me vomiting a lot, only this time I didn't play with the stuff because I knew better.

We then moved to Durban, one of South Africa's biggest cities where I started going to school. I was a real ladies' man and my mum didn't want me to get distracted, so she put me in an all-boys school. Damn her. On the first day of school, I learnt the word "look", which I still use to this day when spotting something in the distance and telling other people to look at it too. When I was 11, my family and I moved to a holiday town called Niger at the Western Cape. At first, I



hated it because there wasn't much to do, but then I started playing a lot of tennis and I made more friends and I served more aces which made me happy because I loved winning. I'm very competitive.

When I turned 13, I attended a high school called Oak Hill. Most of the students had been there since they were young, and I was the new kid on the block. I remember coming home crying after a boy called Joshua was mean to me. My mum told me that Josh was a dick and I shouldn't listen to him while my dad said I should beat the shit out of him. The funny thing is, today, Josh and I are best friends. You've probably seen him on my videos before. He knows me better than everyone and we will be friends forever. The fact that Josh and I went from worst enemies to best friends in a matter of weeks shows me how quickly people can change, sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worst.

The relationship between my mother and father had been a solid one for many years but just as Josh and I went from enemies to best friends, my mother and father went from loving each other to divorcing. I remember the night my mum told me about the divorce. I was angry. I always thought my parents would be in the 50% of marriages which worked. I was also afraid how would my dad be my dad without my mum and how would my mum be my mum without my dad? I had no clue that a divorce could actually help. Looking back on it, I feel like my parents are both happier today because they found new people they love. My mother met an Irishman called Sham who has become an amazing stepfather to me, guiding me as if I were his own son, and my father met a caring British lady called Lindsey. She's the kindest lady I know.

At the age of 16, I started making YouTube videos because I was bored, and I could use them to procrastinate my homework away more effectively. After about a year and two unsuccessful YouTube channels, I opened D-Casp, which means Director Caspar, because I thought I was really cool. Six months after starting D-Casp it became fairly popular, so I travelled to England to meet and collaborate with people like Jack and Finn Harries, Sam Pepper, Marcus Butler, Alfie Deyes and Bertie Gilbert. These collaborations dramatically increased my following and I went back to South Africa with one intention: to make a life out of YouTube, because there is nothing I love more and that is what I've done.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2012, I flew to England. 13 days later, I moved into my own flat with Alfie Deyes from the YouTube channel PointlessBlog. A huge part of me wanted to stay in South Africa but I'm positive that I've made the right decision. Living in London allows me to work with some of the best YouTubers in the world on a day-to-day basis. In my short time being here, I have already been so inspired and have collaborated twice. I know I won't live here forever, but it's going to be my home for at least a year. I then hope to go back home to my country South Africa. At the moment, though, I'm the happiest I've ever been in my life. I'm literally living the dream and I believe it's only the beginning.

Thank you to Sam Pepper for tagging me to make this video. I'd like to tag my subscribers to draw their life stories just as I have done and to leave them as video responses to this video because I'd love to know more about you guys. Thank you.

912

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Hi, my name is Caspar Lee and it's been almost three years since I did the first Draw my Life on this channel, so I thought you guys deserve another one because I'm just such a good artist.

Now, a lot has happened. If I remember correctly, the last draw my life ended off in late 2013. I was living with Alfie in London; it was freezing but I was really happy and excited because I just came out of school and YouTube was on my mind. I was just so hungry for success and really excited to be in a big city with lots of new friends. One of those friends is Josh Devine; now he plays drums for One Direction, the biggest boy band ever except for the Beatles but no, maybe they're bigger now. Anyway, that's not the point. Basically, he invited me to Dublin to one of their shows. I apologize for my really shittily drawn planes. I cannot draw them but I'm good at everything else, so don't worry. When I got to Dublin, I met a guy called Ashton. Oh, and he was so cool and just like me - an Australian living abroad and travelling and I thought it was so cool. I also got to meet a guy you might know - Harry Styles. Somehow, I ended up sitting next to him at dinner and it was really, really exciting but one thing happened at the dinner that I'm really embarrassed about. By mistake, I try to grab his phone because I thought it was mine and I thought, "Oh my god, this is so awkward" and he saw me; he probably thinks I was trying to, like, do myself a Twitter shout-out or something, I don't know, but he didn't really say anything and we moved on. By the way, the reason I'm drawing my blonde hair green is because I don't have a yellow pen, that's why, but I'm still a great artist.

A couple of months later, I got to go film a movie with Troye Sivan called Spud 3. It was really, really exciting for me to be a part of and my first big acting experience. I was a lot taller than Troy so either I wasn't going to be in the same frame as him or he would have to stand on an Apple box. I then decided to go and spend some time in LA. I don't really know why I went to LA, but I think it's because it was freezing in London and I thought it'd be a fun adventure. I didn't actually know where I was going to live when I got there, but luckily, I got to DM my friend Alexa Losey and she said

she had a couch and said I could stay there for a week. I ended up staying three months. Legally I could only stay there that long, so I had to come home, but when I got home, I met this girl called Gabby and I was so happy. She was really cool, and I liked her so much that I took her all the way to South Africa for Christmas to meet my family. We even got to meet, and I was going to say a giant elephant, I think it was just a normal-sized elephant, but it was really scary.

By this time, I wasn't living with Alfie anymore. He went to live with Zoe, and I was kind of traveling the world, so when I go back to London after South Africa, I needed a roommate and somehow, I found him over a game of FIFA: Joe Sugg everybody. We moved in together and started having the best time of our lives. Then Gabby had to go to university, and I was traveling a lot and doing so much YouTube stuff that we decided to break up or, I mean, she broke up with me, but it was kind of mutual, okay? But Joe was there to pick up the pieces and he turned my frown upside down with his funny antics. Soon after, I got an opportunity to act alongside Lisa Kudrow from Friends on her show Web Therapy. Of course, I said yes, and I went straight to Hollywood to work with her and she said I made her laugh. It looks like I've got a boner in this picture but it's actually my hand. I'm really sorry Lisa. Anyway, it was a great experience.

When I came back, I went to a festival with Joe called Bestival and it was here when I randomly got separated from Joe that I met a girl called Emma. I know it's weird that her name's Emma - the same name as my weird baby doll that if you know my channel quite well, you'll know of. That was just a coincidence, but yeah, we started dating and it was awesome because she wasn't at university, so we had a lot of time for each other. She inspired me a lot and one of these inspirations was to go to Uganda with Comic Relief to check out a local clinic and hospital there. Seeing this in real life really showed me how fortunate we are living in first world countries and how bad it is in some and with you guys, we actually raised 21 thousand pounds in a week and that was the proudest moment of my life. A little while later, Emma had to go to university and I was really, really busy, so we decided for our friendship's sake that we would break up, but yeah, it was a good idea because we're still great friends to this day.

Fast forward a few months, and I hit five million subscribers on YouTube. This was so surreal guys. Like I can't believe that even a thousand people watch my videos and I hope I can keep making videos that you enjoy and that you keep supporting what I do because I don't plan on leaving YouTube ever.

More recently, Joe and I teamed up to make a movie called Hit the Road with BBC Worldwide. It's such a huge opportunity for us and we just had a premiere in Leicester Square. All of this is possible because of you guys. Thank you so much. If you want any information about the movie check out the description. It's nearly the end of 2015 and I couldn't be happier! Thank you so much to everyone once again and I tag Joe, Ollie and Josh to do an updated version of Draw my Life. Anyway, bye guys.

1112

## MDML #26

Hey you all. My name is xxx and I know I'm a bit late on this train but I'm going to draw my life.

My life started on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1993. Fun fact is I share the same birthday as Michael Jackson. Billie Jean is not my lover. Anyway, I was born in a small town in Nebraska into a family of a mama and a papa and three older sisters. I was the first boy in my family, so my dad was probably all excited to have someone to, I don't know, throw footballs around with or something. Unfortunately for him, growing up, I was all about dancing, singing and of course, acting. I did in fact try out football for a year in middle school, but that basically just consisted of me trying to reason with the coach to let me sit out on the side-lines.

Anyway, back to me being a cute little baby. My childhood was amazing and most of my memories from those days consist of playing cops and robbers with my insane amount of brothers and sisters. My parents ended up having four more kids after me. Blast them! And riding around in my neighbour's pimping Barbie car. We were so cool. Elementary school was super fun for me and during this time I actually started taking dance lessons at a local studio which was sort of a steppingstone for me into theatre, which I absolutely fell in love with. Some of the kids at my school thought it was girly and dumb that I was in dance classes, but honestly, I couldn't have really cared less. If I would have listened to them, I wouldn't be where I am today, so take that, elementary school haters!

Even though I was super confident in elementary school, my middle school experience was quite the opposite. But middle school is just a creepy time for everyone I think - I mean your body is changing, your voice isn't changing when everyone else's is and you have acne, or maybe that was just me, I don't know. Anyway, I didn't fit in at all during this time and I spent most of my lunches at school eating alone. Good did come out of this crappy period in my life though. Even though I didn't realise I was doing it at the time, I was actually taking all of that awkward, not fitting in energy and transforming it into weird YouTube videos. Those YouTube videos starred a certain somebody named Fred Figglehorn. Making those videos was kind of an outlet for me to get out everything I wanted to say to my classmates without actually saying it to them. Yeah, Kevin was definitely based off a couple of real people at my middle school. You know who you are. Long story short, the videos became pretty popular thanks to all of you guys.

I remember the first time I ever got noticed in public was at a Hannah Montana concert - don't judge me for my middle school music choices - anyway, thanks for the online success, I got to do some television acting and ironically, I actually ended up meeting Miley Cyrus in real life when I guest-starred on her show. We still talk all the time, we're best friends - just kidding. I doubt she even remembers who I am.

I only went to some of my actual high school because I was busy filming fright movies for TV and doing other endeavours thanks to my internet success. I did in fact get to go to prom though **which was super fun**. Once I graduated from high school, I got to do **something I've always dreamed of doing** - moving to Los Angeles. Here, I work on more acting stuff for TV and continue to make videos for **all of you awesome people**. My life for the past few years has been a whirlwind of craziness and **it's all thanks to you guys**, so for that I want to thank each and every one of you so much. All right, peace out.

686

#### MDML #27

Hey, what's up you guys? I'm Connor Franta and I'm going to draw my life. Okay, so I was born in Wisconsin among the cow's milk and cheese but actually grew up in a small town in Minnesota. I was one of four kids and **had a great childhood**. My family was very active and always constantly doing something. My parents ran marathons and went to the local YMCA to train every morning so they would always bring me and my siblings with and we basically would just wreak havoc throughout the entire building until it was time to go home.

In school I was always a good student, even though I never really worked hard at it. I went to a small private school with less than a hundred kids in grades K through 8 in total. As I got older, I started gaining weight. I wasn't like morbidly obese or anything - I was just a little chubby eight-year-old boy who **enjoyed eating** doughnuts and Pringles a little too much. Oh, and a **sad story** - sometime around this point, I was playing tag in the dark at my older brother's basketball game. Ran into a sign with my face and got 12 stitches.

Obviously, something had to change. Turns out my friend Jacob was also overweight, so our mums signed us up for a YMCA swim team. They told us it was just for fun, but I know it was their version of fat camp. I know mum - I was fat! **Initially I hated it** because it was a lot of hard work, but after a while, **I grew to love it**. **Some of the greatest people I've ever met** to this day were on that swim team. Jacob and I ended up carpooling to practice every day with some other kids that lived near us. Their names were Kirsten, Kayla and Douglas. We soon found out that they were crazy and weird just like us, so **we became friends**. We practiced every day during the week and went to competitions almost every weekend together. **I soon became friends with so many other swimmers and we had what seemed like another family**.

My life started going by really fast at this point. Highschool was just one big blur. I spent most of my time running cross-country track and swimming. I would basically classify my group of friends as athletic nerds. Most of us did sports, got good grades but didn't do drugs or drink or anything bad like that. My weekends would consist of going to a friend's house, watching movies and eating junk food all night long. We were pretty hardcore, I know. Junior year, my siblings and I surprised my mum with a kitten for her Christmas present. His name was Pre after Prefontaine, the runner. We already had one other cat named Sam which we found on the side of the road back in 2004. She wasn't too happy about this present.

**I qualified for the YMCA national swim meet later that year. I worked so hard to do this, so I basically cried. I also qualified my senior year and made it to the state cross-country meet that year as well.** **Those are by far three of my top favourite memories from high school.** Oh, and I was homecoming king my senior too - **that was pretty cool**. But by far the best thing I ever did in high school was something I did before my senior even began. **YouTube videos were something I had really gotten into the summer of 2010. I was obsessed with watching people like Shane Dawson and Mitchell Davis.** I realised that they uploaded videos regularly and **I want to do the same**, and just like that on August 1<sup>st</sup>, I started making my own. My YouTube channel was born.

A year went by, I graduated high school and **had managed to gain around 3,000 subscribers** **which was pretty awesome**. I was going to college soon and didn't know how I would be able to continue making YouTube videos with all my hard schoolwork, but then I found this collaboration channel called Cool Colla Bro. They were looking for a replacement Tuesdays, so I auditioned and actually got in. **This is where I met one of my first YouTube friends**, JC Caylen, and really how it all began. Several months later I found out about this thing called VidCon and that JC and his friends were going and that they invited me to come along with. My parents were really worried about me traveling across the country to hang out with people I had met over the Internet, but eventually realised I wasn't going to get murdered and said it was okay for me to go.

Once my first year of college was over, **thank God, I flew to California and had the best week of my life**. I met my favourite YouTubers and even some fans that had come there just to see me. After that week, **I knew what I wanted to**

do with my life: I wanted to continue with YouTube and see where it could take me. I had finally found something that I was truly passionate about and that brings me to today.

I'm currently a full-time student, college athlete and making YouTube videos every "frantastic" Monday on my main channel and on my collaboration channel that I made after VidCon with some of my new best friends Ricky, JC, Keon, Sam, Trevor and Ricardo. I've met some amazing people through YouTube and have been able to do so many things and go so many places such as California, New York, Texas and soon Florida. I've really found something I love to do and never want to stop doing. I'm truly excited to see what the future brings my way. I've been fortunate enough to have an amazing family who I love dearly, great friends and so many successes in my life. I'm tagging all of the Our Second Life guys to do draw my life on their own channels because I want to hear all their crazy stories but other than that, I'll see your faces next Monday. Okay see you, bye!

1040

## MDML #28

I removed my last Draw My Life because so much in my life has changed and I feel like it's finally time to talk about it. So here we go.

I was an accident. My parents had me when they were really young. My mum was 20 and my dad was 22. They broke up when I was only two, so I don't really remember them being together, ever. Growing up I was always really jealous of all the kids who got to live with both their parents. I lived with my mum, but I'd go to my dad's on the weekends. When I'd get to my dad's I'd cry to see my mum. And when I'd go back to my mum, I'd cry to see my dad. I apparently loved crying.

I was a painfully shy kid - I'd cry whenever I got any kind of attention. Yeah, that's me crying again. I also suffered from night terrors, which is basically being aware you're sleep walking but not being able to control yourself while you're sleep walking. And as the name indicates - they were absolutely fucking terrifying.

My mum is a stay at home mum. Literally. She suffers from a form of anxiety so intense she hasn't really been able to leave in the past 25 years. One night when I was 13, my mum's boyfriend said he was going to work and he never came back, leaving my two brothers, my mum and me behind. Since my mum didn't leave the house, we had no way to get food or go to the hospital. So, my grandma moved in to help for a little bit, but she suddenly became very, very sick and she died.

Now with no one left to help, it became my responsibility to get groceries for my family. Since I was 14, I had to take a four wheeled taxi to the grocery store - not a six wheeled taxi like I'm drawing right now, unfortunately. It wasn't that cool. I'd roll up with food stamps in one hand and a shopping list in the other. I had no idea what it said. I was 14 years old; I could barely read English at that point - I was only 14. But, things weren't all bad. I had a few friends, including one boy who shared the same immature sense of humour as me. He was one of the only people I felt I could truly be myself around. His name was Ian. There were a few girls that liked me too, by which I mean one girl poked my penis in a movie theatre one time and ran away one time. You know, normal stuff that all of us teens did.

I was able to coast through high school, until I was 15 when I was diagnosed with Henoch-Schönlein purpura, or HSP for short. It's basically a disease that causes your immune system to attack its own red blood vessels, which causes you to have extreme joint pain, intestinal pain, this really intense rash and constant puking. Suddenly, I was bed-ridden. I lost 30 pounds in two weeks and I was really malnourished. I couldn't go to school anymore, so a teacher had to come once a week to give me homework just so I wouldn't fail.

But being sick gave me a ton of free time. I was able to start learning how to code on a computer - I started working on a website, which was a forum for my closest group of friends without having to leave the house. This was before social media so I wanted to create something useful that we could all use. I called it smosh.com. After four months, I started getting better. I'll always technically have HSP, but thankfully it's remained dormant and I haven't seen any signs of it since. I was able to return back to school and things were looking up. That website that I had created started gaining popularity outside my friend group and the whole school was using it. I went from 30 daily users to tens of thousands within a few months. I sold some ad space on the site to make some money and I saved up a bunch and was finally able to buy a really shitty car. But at least I didn't have to take a cab to the grocery store anymore.

One day when we were waiting for college to start, I started lip syncing to the Power Rangers theme song. I don't know why I did it, but for some reason we thought it was really funny and Ian joined in and we filmed it. We posted it on smosh.com. Our friends loved it so much, they convinced us to make another one. So, we did. That video blew up. People re-posted the video file all over their own MySpaces which was super exciting but also super expensive. I was paying for the bandwidth on smosh.com, so basically every time someone watched the video, I would have to pay a small amount for the server load. At the height of it, I was paying 300 dollars a month for people to watch our videos. One day, I googled ourselves and found that someone had uploaded our newest video to this new site called YouTube.

It had about a dozen comments, which was really amazing because it was the first time I was able to see what people directly thought about our videos. I was getting pretty tired of paying for people to stream our videos, so we made a Smosh YouTube channel and started uploading our videos there. I still remember when our first video got 100,000 views. We were so excited. We decided to celebrate by going to Taco Bell and getting six tacos. I loved tacos more than probably anything.

We turned my bedroom into a little merch factory, so we were able to make money selling shirts while we stayed in college. After two years, YouTube contacted us to be part of their first wave of their advert program. So, we were finally able to make money on our videos. After about six months, we dropped out of college so we could do YouTube full-time. It seemed while we could always go back to college, we couldn't always come back to this amazing opportunity. Spoiler alert: we never went back to college.

Somehow, I had ended up in front of the camera - the shy kid who just loved to sit in his bedroom coding was now starring in comedy sketches being viewed by millions of people. And things were really good, until suddenly they weren't. When I was 21, I was sitting around with a couple friends when out of nowhere I became overcome with fear - my entire body went numb. I could only hear the deafening sound of my thoughts and the beating of my heart, like the world around me was no longer real. I remember going to sleep fully clothed that night because my hands felt too numb to take them off. It was my first of many panic attacks. It unlocked a door in my brain that I couldn't shut. I was terrified my mum's agoraphobia was genetic and I'd never be able to leave the house again. I even had a few panic attacks while shooting videos, which caused me to have even more anxiety, because what if my anxiety ruined this career that I had just started? For five years, it more or less controlled me. But one day when I was completely overcome with the fear of having a panic attack, I decided I was going to try to give myself one, just to see if I could control it. And I wasn't able to give myself one, which just proved that, for me, the only thing that caused me to have panic attacks was the fear of having a panic attack. After that point, I've been more or less able to prevent them from happening in the first place.

When I was 25, I moved to Los Angeles. At the time, I was in a manipulative relationship with someone that I now feel was using me. I was so thoroughly walked on, I would seek approval from her for every aspect of my life, causing me to lose who I really was. My confidence was at an all-time low. And as all toxic relationships go, I didn't really realise how bad it really was until months after it ended.

I now feel I've transitioned back into being myself but a version of myself I'm even happier with. I feel like I've grown more in the past year than in my entire life. I've learned some lessons the hard way, like maybe keeping my romantic life a little more private, but ultimately, I've learned not only who I want to be, but that who I am now is okay too. I've accepted being introverted and having anxiety - I mean, who doesn't sometimes? Thank you so much for all the support you've given me, and I can't wait to see where it takes us next.

1534

## MDML #29

What's up world? My name is DeStorm Power and I'm going to draw my life. Long before the Xbox 360 and PlayStation, a little before the Nintendo and Sega Genesis came, me. Now, I was born in a small town called Arlington, Virginia, and I honestly believe my parents must have been backpacking or something, had me, then went back to Baltimore DC because I don't have any recollection of Virginia. Now, I have seven siblings - three older brothers and four younger sisters. Now, I still don't understand how somebody can have so many damn kids, but this little Brady Bunch comes in handy. I'll tell you about that later. Now my father worked for The Sun, that's the main newspaper company in Baltimore City, and I didn't find this out until he gave me and my brothers our first job - that's paper boys. Not the type of paper boy that rides around on the cool little bike and throws the papers at your front door in the morning. No - the type of paperboy that you lock in the garage and make them work 13 hours a day for \$7.00 a week with your punk-ass. In retrospect, I guess if I had a bunch of minions, I would have put them to work too. So, as the paper route slowed down and the bills got heavier, so did my father's hands. I said, "If you touch my mama one more time, I'm going to whip your punk ass". He took me up on that offer. I was dangling upside down getting my ass whooped so my mama said, "Before these boys grow up and kill this man, I'm getting out of here".

Now I'm not sure how you leave in the middle of the night with eight kids on your hip, but I'm guessing she looked towards the North Star and my mama must have been Harriet Tubman. Now, since my mama was the only one old enough to work, we moved into this ghetto ass one-bedroom in the projects where our favourite pastime was killing the rats with the two-by-fours. I remember one day we asked for a pet. My mama said, "You better go collect ants". See, the projects don't come with luxuries like pets and televisions and radios and hot water, but since I had so many brothers and sisters, we were able to entertain each other. See, I told you these little fuckers would come in handy. There were no video games, so my mother told us every day to go outside and play, where we'd learn street football, kickball and freeze tag. And all the ghetto kids, oh, they wasn't too fond of the newcomers, so we started to get into fights every day. Welcome to the motherfucking hood.

Now, because of all the years of slaving for my father, me and my brothers was a lot stronger than the other malnourished ghetto ass kids. It was a lot of violence in the hood. People was getting shot, robbed. One day I seen a seven-year-old girl get shot in the head at the bodega. Shit was crazy. To keep us out of trouble, my mumma put us in any free extracurricular program she could find outside the hood. I started to go to Baltimore School of the Arts and hone my art skills. I was drawing mirrors on church walls. Baltimore got so violent, my mama wanted me to have some strong positive black male role models around me, so we in the Nation of Islam representing Farrakhan to the fullest.

The next few years I'm learning martial arts from my sensei who was a six-degree black belt. I started to wrestle and run track. It's funny because once I got all those skills, I wasn't even fighting that much anymore, and we would get all our clothes from the thrift shop and this was way before Macklemore made it cool. And I used to wear these thick-ass glasses. Everybody called me goggles or Steve Urkel. Now, my oldest brother got tired of being poor, so I heard he went away to be a street pharmacist - whatever that is. Eviction notices piled up, so we bounced around a lot. I'd say I lived about nine places in Baltimore. By my 15th birthday I'd attended five elementary schools, four middle school and two high schools and me and all my homies, we was borrowing cars without keys so we couldn't return them. I started to find myself in and out of juvenile detention till one day my mama said I'm not picking your ass up anymore. I said, "But mama, you've got to get me out". I dropped out of school in the ninth grade and found myself in trouble again.

Everywhere you go, people was bumping club music. People was battle dancing against each other. The chicks was going crazy, so I started to dance. I joined a group called The Smurf Villains and became one of the best dancers in the city. Bored out of our minds, some days we would just sit on the street corner and rap about the cars that were rolling down the streets. We were going to malls like Mall Darwin and Reisterstown and Security Square and freestyle and sing to the girls to impress them. Downtown, we had rap battles and ciphers and we would battle other groups from Baltimore, Jersey, New York and Virginia.

At 16, I had high hopes and then we bombed at the Apollo and I realised it wasn't much of an audience for battle rappers, but I figured since I can sing too, I'll just serenade these bitches. Now since my music career and my art career was going nowhere fast, I figured I would just fall back on my athletics. How the hell do you fall back on athletics? Now I couldn't shoot a basketball for shit and I had butterfingers on a football field, but I knew I was skilled at martial arts and track and field, so which one should I take? Well, I knew I wasn't the Bruce Leroy of the ghetto, so I chose the latter. Now, I could jump about 6/8 in the high jump at the time, which was cool but it didn't do shit out with the big meat, so the coach threw me in the long jump. That's popping damn near 25 feet already! Coach said, "I could get you into college". Fuck you coach! How that's going to help me? I didn't believe in his pipe dream of sending me to college, so I'm still doing my illegal things and I got locked up one last time.

Now, allegedly my paperwork got mixed up and they put me on the wrong unit. I don't know if it was B unit C unit G unit, now whatever unit it was, it was with some cold-blooded murderers, but I got lucky because there was this dude that was in there so long, they called him Moses, and he knew my brother and he said as long as I'm his chess partner - yes, chess the game motherfucker - he said he'd keep me from being somebody's bitch. Now we was on maximum lockdown so I couldn't make phone calls. I couldn't even see the daylight and I would say, "CL - correctional officer - you've got to let me out here, you've got the wrong man!" And of course, all the other inmates would say, "We're all innocent in this bitch". They finally found my paperwork, they realised they'd made a mistake, so they let me go.

I finally took the coach up on that athletic scholarship deal. I said I'm going to Morgan State University. It fell through so I wind up going to Bully State University. Didn't matter, I'm in college. So, I started to take up mini jobs so I could stay in college, from pizza delivery to a security guard to a telemarketer. Shit, I was a construction worker, stripper and an escort. It was a scary time for me because I was a freshman about to have a baby boy. I said, "How am I going to take care of this child?" At the time, me and my brother, we had a song called "We" blowing up the clubs and radio. I said "Mum, I got to pursue this music". She said, "I believe in you. If you could get on a radio in Baltimore baby, you got to go to New York!" I was working at Red Lobster and I knew one dude in New York, and he was an engineer at daddy's house at Bad Boy Records. He said, "Come on out here DeStorm, I got you!" So, I threw a going away party, kissed my mother and my girlfriend goodbye, I packed up my old ass Eclipse and drove non-stop all the way to Harlem.

My first few weeks in New York was hell. I lost my job immediately at Red Lobster because my manager was on some old discrimination shit. The one dude I knew at the label, he got fired. He was on some old Jerry Maguire shit. He said, "Who's coming with me?" and since I came in there with him, I have to leave there with him. My mumma was the type of mumma that would call every day to see how her baby doing. I couldn't tell I was fired - I was the one who made it out! She said everybody proud of you back home. Damn, the pressure! I've got to figure things out. I was living in this crackhead's house on 137th and Adam Clayton Powell. I was paying her \$400 a month to live in one of her bedrooms. Couldn't even pay that so her pimp came over one day and he tossed me on the street. I remember like it was yesterday, I had one check left. I bought two outfits, a cheap amp and a keyboard. I bought some tints for my car that I had to apply myself and I paid my cell phone bill for two months. I tinted the windows of my car so nobody could see I was living in my car. The two outfits? Well, to make it in New York you've got to look the part. The amp and the keyboard? Those was my money makers. I would go to the Barrows, Queens, Brooklyn, Bronx and Manhattan and sing in the subway so I could get some gas and food to eat every day. I showered at Macy's and I would do shows and pass my

demos out. One day I came home, and my car was burnt up. They said it was some kids in the neighbourhood or electrical fire. Now, my amp and my keyboard was in there and so was my last batch of demos and outfits, so I had no way to make money, man. It had to be one of the coldest winters ever and I ain't talking about the book. I found myself homeless. Shit, I remember spending my birthday at West 4th Street Station sleeping on a bench. After a few more weeks of living on the street I was getting skinny. I said, "I've got to call my mother and let her know I failed". I remember walking up to that payphone. It was two feet of snow and my sneakers was wrapped in plastic bags and as I went to make that telephone call and call my mother and tell her I'm coming home, this woman's card, it fell in the snow. I bombed enough change to make one call. I said, "Do I see this number in the snow as a sign or do I call and go home?" What the hell? I'm going for the number in the snow. I dialled the number and she said her boss was excited to meet me and he loved all my music. I started to get some placements and ghost writing for artists at different labels. I was able to send a little change back home to my family and they would take turns bringing my son out to New York on the greyhound and Peter Pan. Bless their hearts! And so I won't ever experience this poverty again, guess what I did? I fell back on my fitness. I studied day in and day out, learned everything I could about fitness. I said, "I'm going to get every certification I could".

I became a personal trainer, then eventually a master trainer in New York City and although I had many clients and trained many athletes, some of these bastards was really forgetful, so I started uploading some of their workouts on my Myspace video page. Then I realised there's a better site for this and it was called YouTube. I realised that not just my clients was watching these videos, but people all over the world, so I started putting catchy titles on the videos. Also found YouTube is a great place to vent, so I started doing these blogs and telling my stories about growing up in the hood. Contrary to popular belief, I probably had the foulest mouth on the site.

Everything was going smooth. The fitness was doing well. Shit, I was even banging some of my clients. My YouTube was blowing up, my son eating, my family eating. Then I got a call from my mother and she said she had to go to the doctor. It was the winter of 2007. My mum in her mid 50s, she went to the hospital and the doctor told her she had cancer. Now unfortunately she had a pulmonary embolism right before, so she lost a lot of weight. I say she's about 85 pounds. 25 weeks I was driving from New York to Howard University Hospital and joining my family for moral support. They were pumping her up with growth hormones and would do everything in my power to try to train her and get her strong enough for the chemo. My mother had stomach cancer so for five months I watched her starve to death and on May 3rd of 2008, she went back to the Lord.

She was my mother, my best friend, my inspiration. Talked to her every day. Now when you lose an inspiration, you've got to find a new inspiration. I didn't want to put my faith into a person anymore because when I lost my mother, I damn near killed myself, so I locked myself in my house and I just focused on my craft. Now at my mother's deathbed, the last thing she said to me before she passed was, "You have what it takes to take care of the family and if I can die with a smile on my face, there should be nothing you cannot achieve," and as I wept and sat in the front row of that cold church, I went up to see my mumma off one more time and I looked up at her face, and I said, "Well I'll be damned, she did it". She laid there in that coffin with her white garments on, a smirk on her face, almost to say, "I did what I told you I would do - now you hold your end of the deal".

From that day forward, every excuse that I've ever had went out of the window. I said, "I will be great". If she can control her life with no breath, I can control mine with so many more to breathe. I read a few articles on how people were blowing up and finding success through social media and new media. For the next year, I locked myself in my apartment and I said, "I would do the impossible". I will learn to film, I will learn to edit and I will be one of the number one faces and be number one black face in new media. I said, "I have to expand my audience", so I shut down my weekly show to hook up and cleaned up some of the profanity. I started creating unique songs for bigger YouTubers like iJustine and Make Me Bad so they can share with their audience. I came up with the idea to challenge my audience and spoke to my buddy Joe Penna, the mystery guitar man. He said, "DeStorm, I'm uploading on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so why don't you do Mondays and Fridays?" So, I created unique challenges for a year straight. I started to get tons of subscribers which was unheard of back then for a black boy, so I started to get write ups on CNN, Huffington posting and all the newspapers. I was living. I started to get little brand deals so I would fly from New York to LA and sleep on my manager's couch. She said, "Why don't you just move to LA?" I took her up on her offer.

Me and my girlfriend Jessica at the time, we packed our things and we moved to LA. People started respecting my music more and I started to work with bigger brands and bigger names, bigger celebrities, bigger games - that didn't even make sense! I touched millions of eyes and millions of ears with my music and I started to win awards like the American Music Award. Made it to MTV, started doing tours and conferences and traveling the world. Donating my time to inspire troubled youth - tell them never go my route! A pride to my family and a hero to my son. Mumma, your little boy done followed that same star and rose from the ashes. Now, over 500 videos later, as I sit here and draw my life with no regrets, I smile because I know life is definitely what you make it.

2992

MDML #30

Hi, my name is Dtrix and I'm going to attempt to draw my life. It all started at the age of zero when my mum shot me out of her butt. Besides being a beautiful mum, she was also half white and half Filipino. My dad was full Filipino and, stereotypically correct, he did have a small car. Now, besides having a small car, when I was born, he left my mum and he thought "Responsibility!" and basically got the hell out. **But it's okay. Now we are cool.** and he tries really hard to be a dad.

At age 2, I was adopted by my new dad. He was a full breed Mexican and, stereotypically correct, he was really good at lawn maintenance which later rubbed off on me. Now between his baggage and my mum's baggage, I had five other brothers and sisters, an older half-brother, an older half-sister, two-step brother twins and a younger brother I called my sister, and everyone looked white except for me. **I'm the brown, blackish piece of doodoo over there.**

Anyway, **growing up was a bit tough seeing how my parents were best friends with this guy named Jack Daniels. Every night they would hang out with him and sometimes they would yell at me for, like, no apparent reason.** Every so often it was funny because they kind of sounded like zombies, but whatever. **Other times my dad would be so drunk he would beat me like a human punching bag.** I mean sometimes it was my fault. I look back and I guess kicking your sister in the vagina when she's only 12 years old should deserve a first-class ticket to getting your ass beat, but regardless, I look back at how much they used to beat me **and realise I'm grateful for those times because it may be why I am today, and my family and I now are closer than ever.**

In kindergarten, I received 17 citations from the teacher for trying to kiss girls and one of them actually landed, who from then on became my girlfriend. I was 5 at the time and I don't really want to brag, but she was six years old and on top of it, she was black. **I always had a thing for black girls** - I don't know why, just, what can I say? They do things right. Anyway, **I dated this girl** for about two years until I moved away to another school and **I instantly became the non-cool kid** at my school. Recess, sports? Picked last. Ran for fourth grade council and lost. And no black girls at the school to fill my heart with joy, so basically, **I was a lost kid.**

Now, growing up **I had a lot of inspirations: Will Smith, Eddie Murphy, Whoopi Goldberg and the greatest one of all - Michael Jackson. Just like most kids and Macaulay Culkin, he touched my life. His dancing, his music, his message - it was all absolutely amazing** and the fact that he too liked kissing black girls in his music videos never failed to make me realise how much more we had in common. Michael Jackson is the reason why I even started dancing. **I loved dancing so much** in high school that I quit sports for it and I actually met my high school sweetheart through it. This girl, she was my first girlfriend. **She was my first real love** and she was the first person that I ever had.

At that time, I quit dancing, so my life basically consisted of her, college and work, and I don't want to brag, but my resume for work is pretty legit. I've worked at McDonald's, I was a shoe salesman for Finish Line, a pizza delivery boy, a pretzel chef for Wetzel's pretzels, an umpire, a babysitter and even a carpet cleaner for Motel 6, just to name a few. Now, **because my career was so fancy,** my girlfriend ended up leaving me at the time and **my heart was absolutely shattered.** **I spent the following three years trying to get over it and build myself up again,** so I moved to the land of stars, opportunity and fake everything: Hollywood.

When I moved there, I auditioned for a show So I Thought I Can Dance. I didn't win so I met up with some agents and competed on another show called America's Best Dance Crew and **we even won. We made such an impact on the show** that they were crazy enough to let me judge on the seasons after. The main reason why I even joined was because of who was on the panel: JC Chasez from Backstreet Boys and Little Mama. You know I can't say no to the black girls!

Now after all the craziness with all the breakups and moving to LA and doing dance reality TV, I met another girl and this girl ended up being the one and **I'm grateful to say that she is the love of my life - she literally makes me understand what the ultimate definition of the word beauty is. Her smile, her movement - ultimately, her heart. And to answer your question, no, she's not black but her booty might say differently. She fills my heart up with so much love that it's been two and a half years down the road now and I still get butterflies in my stomach to this day. She has my heart, she has my love** and **I'm actually the first guy she's ever had sex.**

Over the past couple of years, I've been making videos for YouTube which was introduced to me by this one guy that I'm sure none of you guys have actually heard of. Anyway, **I don't think I've ever enjoyed my job so much** - creating videos on YouTube where millions of people actually watch my stuff or maybe it's just one person watching it a million times, **thanks mum.** Anyway, **it's crazy and you guys have inspired me to keep working hard to fulfil my life goals and dreams and I will always be forever grateful for them. And this brings me to now. I have a loving family, the love of my life, the best of friends and I have you guys. What more can a person ask for?** So, to all of you out there watching this, know that **I give you my thanks, I give you my appreciation and I give you my love.** The end.

1090



## MDML #31

What's up guys? My name is Tanner Braungardt and today I'm going to be drawing my life. Before I get started, I'd just like to say that **I'm a horrible artist and I hold my pencil weird, so don't cyberbully me.**

I was born on a Wednesday evening in Wichita, Kansas, and lived the first couple years of my life with my brother, my mum and my dad and a house in the country that was built into a hill. **Pretty cool,** right? I still remember one day my dad let us climb on the roof and my mum wasn't too happy about that. When I was 2 years old, my parents had their last child, my little sister Taylor, **I was always angry** because she never got punished for anything but **looking back, she never really did anything wrong.**

We moved for the first time into a bigger house just outside the town I live in now. Although I was little, I remember making tents out of blankets and dining-room chairs and waking up one morning to a spider dangling from my ceiling in my face. Good times. And although I didn't know it, during this time my parents were doing a lot of fighting and it led to their divorce when I was just four years old. It didn't really have much of an effect on me because I was still really little, but **I did begin to miss my dad** because although we went to my dad's every other day during the week, we only stayed the night at his house every other weekend.

We grew up fishing and hunting with my dad and we were always playing outside. One day my dad got us a PlayStation 2 with a game called Guitar Hero. **I fell in love with the game** and played it every chance I got along with other games like Driver and Tony Hawk's American Wasteland. **These had a big effect on me because I still love** and listen to a lot of that music today and continue to play video games in my free time. My dad lived in an apartment and my mum lived in a smaller house when we were still little. We went to school, fed the ducks, took bike rides and **all that fun stuff.** I still remember a day in kindergarten when I brought our home phone to school thinking I would be able to call my mum and it would be cool until my principal caught me with it and got me in trouble for it.

We grew up moving house to house with my mum, while my dad only moved once, which was into the house he still lives in today. I played soccer, basketball, baseball and wrestled and when I wasn't, I was playing catch with myself in our front yard because my brother wasn't into any sports and my sister was too small to play. **I had no worries at all, and I can hardly think of any times I was sad or angry** but I was always horribly afraid of the dark and slept in my mum's room every chance I got as a kid. If she locked the door, then I would take a credit card out of her purse and slide it through the door to unlock it. I was also a very picky eater, never finishing my meals and eating junk food all the time, but I never gained any weight, just like today except now I eat all the time.

My dad remained single for the most part, but my mum had a few boyfriends, one of which proposed to her when I was six years old. **I felt something was wrong with this guy and hated with all my heart.** **Thankfully,** she realised it too, broke up with him and sent him packing on Halloween night. **I still remember how happy I was that night.** When I turned seven years old, I got my first surgery. Since I was a really little kid, I had my tonsils out and **I loved every minute of it** because I hardly felt any pain, I got to ride in a wheelchair, and I got lots of ice cream. Also, both of my parents each got a trampoline around this time, so I had a trampoline of my dad's and trampoline at my mum's. **I loved jumping around on them** and I was on them all the time. One day, my cousin Owen came over for a birthday party and did a backflip on my trampoline, so **I was determined to learn one too. I started to teach myself some tricks,** and could land a front-flip at age seven and a back-flip at age eight. **I always wanted to get into gymnastics,** but **I was afraid the kids at school were going to make fun of me for it,** so I just told myself no. Although **I still loved sports, I loved flipping too - I also loved watching shows** like Deb W.E., Avatar, The Last Airbender and Power Rangers that showed stunts and stuff.

By the time I was in sixth grade, we had moved two more times with my mum and we were living in a house by a cemetery that I still think is haunted and my dad had settled down in a house and began dating who would be my stepmum, Megan. I also made a YouTube channel called Edgar McSteele Potco standing for a game I spent hours playing every day called Pirates of the Caribbean Online. **I began to become obsessed with computer games. I'd play games like Webkinz, Roblox and all that fun stuff.** I'd made videos about these and posted them on my YouTube channel along with some flips on my trampolines.

Then a lot of things started changing in my life. I continued doing flips and began to get less and less interested in sports by the day. Also, I began to start having stomach issues when I was in fifth and sixth grade and I had to have two surgeries to try and fix the problem. **I began to feel better,** but it was off and on throughout middle school. This led to me missing lots of days of school, but **it was okay** because **I hated it anyway.** And in seventh grade, I went to go try out for the basketball team but ended up changing my mind when a kid asked me, "Are you really going to try out for the team? You know you aren't going to make it, right?" and me being me, went home **sad** and **doubting myself** and decided not to play basketball that year. I guess karma took its toll though because the kid that told me that ended up not making the team. Wrestling that year was the last sport I would ever do, and **I was so upset with my parents making me do it** that I would skip practices or hide in the locker rooms until it was over. I started going on the trampolines all the time, learning double flips, **having lots of fun with it,** but the more I did it, **the more people made fun of me for it.**

I started my Instagram account in seventh grade and began to post my flips which led to a couple hundred followers but endless ridicule from kids at school. Kids would call me gay and a bunch of other stuff just for doing something different than them. It got to the point that kids would slap rubber bands at me and step on the back of my shoes and some other worse stuff, but a lot of this came from being smaller than the other kids who had already hit puberty, and of course, me doing flips. By eighth grade, I was left out of the cool kids' group and began to sit with the other kids at lunch. I'm glad this happened though because I met one of my good friends, Dylan, who I could relate to a lot. I think that's why I'm still good friends with him today.

Other than Dylan, I didn't really have any other friends because I hated almost everybody in my class and school in general. I would hardly talk, and I became anti-social. I faked being sick a lot so I could leave school just to be alone. Thankfully, flips had become a big part of my life and it was a way for me to escape these problems and at this time I met one of my other good friends, Quentin, who I am also still good friends with today. Dylan, Quentin and I began to flip together throughout the end of eighth grade and that summer, so I began to feel a little bit less lonely.

Then came freshman year when I was pushing ahead in flips and becoming one of the best at the time for trampoline. Watching endless trampoline videos and loving every second of it, but my friends Dylan and Quentin began to stop doing flips and once again I was left to do it alone. Thankfully, I met my other good friends Jake and Jake. Although these guys lived in different towns, they became my so-called "flipping friends".

I also met a tonne of friends on Instagram who also did flips, so I finally found friends that were into the same stuff as me and that I could relate to and although I had these friends, kids at school were still treating me like garbage and being a freshman didn't help. Freshman year ended and I had the best summer I'd ever had filled with flips, friends and Call of Duty, but at the end of the summer, my flipping began to go downhill.

Then came school again and the beginning of sophomore year and during the beginning of this school year, I had experienced my first anxiety attacks and was super stressed out about everything. I worried all the time about fitting in, my grades and whatever else. This led to my chest hurting all the time which made it even worse. My escape all of this was flips but that was now basically gone due to me being too scared of hurting myself.

Also at this time, my mum had sat down my sister and I and told us that our brother Tristan was gay. This came as no surprise to me because I watched him play with Barbies growing up and he only hung out with girls, so I already knew it. Although I didn't care that my brother was gay, everyone else around me seemed to. Kids at school were telling me that I should kill my brother in his sleep because he was gay, so I just ignored these kids. I still do stand up for my brother and support him in whatever he does because even though he annoys me sometimes, I still love him the same.

Also, my relationship with my dad had begun to fade. I used to go over to his house and eat dinner almost every weeknight and now it happens about once a week. This happened because of a fight I had with my dad a year ago and although I know my dad still loves and cares about me, I've always been able to tell my mum what's on my mind and all of this made me want to find a new escape besides flips and this was to go to online school. Although my amazing mum supported me in everything I do and still does - thanks mum, love you - she wanted me to stay in public school and tough it out, so I did.

I think the first time I ever stood up for myself was my first semester of my sophomore year when a kid was making fun of me for doing flips when I said "What do you do? Nothing. You sit on your ass all day and bag on what other people do", and ever since I said that, he's never said another thing to me, and it just really made me not care what people think. I started making more and more YouTube videos as my new hobby to escape all the stress and now I've completely fallen in love with making videos and I'm getting more and more supporters every day with the numbers slowly rising to this day. I still have some losers come up to me and say stuff like, "Let's go do some flips on our trampolines", but it doesn't really get to me because I know if they're watching my videos they're just giving me views, but the best thing about my life right now is that I finally found something that I love doing and that I could possibly do for the rest of my life, so it's just a big motivator for me to keep making videos for you guys and it just means so much to me that so many people actually like my videos.

I started out not knowing if people would like the content I was going to make, but it's grown faster than I'd ever imagined. So yeah, that's basically my life up until this point and because I'm only 15 years old, almost 16. I'll probably make an updated one in the future. If I had one piece of advice for you guys, it would be to be who you are and don't care what other people think because in the end, you're going to make yourself happier following your own path. So yeah guys, that's it for this video. Thank you to everybody who watched to the end and just thank you guys for watching my videos. All your support means so much to me and I can't wait for the years to come on YouTube. So that's it for this video, guys. Peace out.

2330

## MDML #32

What's up internet? Hey everyone. My name is Joshua David Evans and I am finally doing a draw my life video. Yeah, I'm fully aware that this type of video was very, very popular around two years ago, so like most things in life, I'm late to the party. But hey, why not? **Let's have some fun!** So, it all starts in a little town called Macon, Georgia. It's south of Atlanta - it's in the dirty, dirty. My people - the land of peaches and polite people and sweet tea and Jesus. You know that guy, right?

Now, my father's name is Bob Gregory Evans. Right now, he kind of looks like Walter White from Breaking Bad, so let's put some hair on him. There we go. And my mother's name is Lisa Delores Bruner. They met in high school. Actually, their love story is **pretty cool**. On their first date, my dad told his friends, "I'm going to marry that girl". And guess what? He's a man of his word and he married her. Now, **my parents have one of the most loving marriages I have ever seen in my entire life and growing up with that, it definitely instilled this image of what real love should be, and I chased that image for a very, very long time** until, well, we'll get to that later.

Now, they started having babies pretty early. My brother Jeremy was first, I came second and my little sister Erin was last. Growing up, **my brother and I were best friends**. We're very different - Jeremy never got into trouble; he did everything perfectly. I, on the other hand, was the opposite. We definitely played a lot of video games though. Now besides my brother, **my two childhood best friends were Charlie and Tyler. I couldn't ask for a better set of best friends. These guys are just really decent human beings that are always there for me when I need them** and I'm still super close to him to this very day.

Now, let's talk about school for a little bit. What kind of student was I? Contrary to popular belief, **I'm actually a pretty smart dude and I made straight As for a really long time**. I studied, I did my homework, but then it all started to shift when I discovered females and then school didn't really matter that much to me. All it became was an opportunity for me to flirt and learn how to talk to girls and get them to like me, so my grades definitely suffered, and I got in a lot of trouble because of my grades.

Alright guys, so at this point in my life, **something pretty bad happened to me**. Maybe you can understand - it's called puberty. Yeah, **it freaking sucks**. **I hated puberty**. It gave me acne and then everyone at that age, when they're all going through those changes, people get mean and people make fun of each other and **they made fun of my face. They made fun of my teeth, they made fun of my hands, they made fun of my ears, and it was pretty tough**. And I think we all go through that part of our lives whether you're the bully or the one being bullied. **We all feel awkward during that time**. To make things worse, **I sucked at sports**, so while all the other guys were playing football and baseball and basketball, I discovered that **my talents resided in singing and dancing and harmonizing**, which eventually led to my discovery of boy bands. I'm talking NSYNC, Backstreet Boys, 98°, BB Mac, Plus One, Five. You name them, **I loved them all**. Well, especially NSYNC. And to top it off, **I also became obsessed with Michael Jackson. I thought he was the epitome of what a performer should be**, so I started to make videos of myself lip-synching to Michael Jackson songs and boy band songs.

**I became obsessed with making videos**. Eventually **I got the nerve to audition** for the school musical Grease and I thought I'd get like a little tiny role, but I ended up getting the lead role of Danny. It changed my life forever. I went on to play Curly in Oklahoma and Tony in West Side Story. My senior year I discovered a conservatory in New York called the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. It's a conservatory that basically just focuses on singing, dancing, acting, music theory. It's really expensive to go there. You have to audition to get into the school. Well **I auditioned, they accepted me, and they gave me a scholarship!** **I could not believe that I was going to move to New York City at the age of 18 years old**. I can remember so vividly the day that my parents moved me into my tiny ghetto room on Hunter Street in Broadway and as they walked away and the door shut, I stood there thinking, "**Holy crap, have I made a mistake?**"

For the first few days, all I could think about was, "I want to go home. I want to go home. **This is not right for me. I'm terrified**." This is a massive city. I'm this little naive kid from Georgia, but **stuck it out** and **it was the best thing I could have ever done because quickly I met so many awesome people that loved so many of the same things that I loved. I felt like I finally belonged somewhere**. I also ended up meeting people that would forever change my mindset on how I view this universe and it definitely put me through **some pretty significant growing pains**. I basically had to re-evaluate every single thing that I had been raised with. I mean, up until this point I had never met a gay person face to face. I had never met someone who was outwardly an atheist. I had never met people of such drastically different cultures. At the end of the day, meeting and **loving those people made me a better person**.

I'm sure at this point a lot of you wondering, "What about your love life, Josh?" Well, I dated a lot of girls in high school and then I got to AMDA and **I met a really cool girl** - she is Cuban and Dominican and one of the sweetest people you would ever meet and also one of the weirdest as well. Well, **we hit it off and we fell in love and we dated for quite some time** and I thought, you know, this might be the person I'm going to spend the rest of my life with, but like I said, **I had been going through a lot of growing pains** and my mindset and viewpoint on the things that I was raised with really drastically started to shift and we started to go in very opposite directions when it comes to that, and

we started to argue and we didn't see eye to eye on a lot of things. We still cared about each other deeply, but it was clear to me that we were definitely headed down two separate, very different paths and so it ended, and it was really sad.

Now, during those five years, a lot of other significant things were going on in my life. I eventually graduated from AMDA, moved to Los Angeles and quickly found a little bit of success and became an on-air Shopping Network TV host for the Ultimate Shopping Network in Beverly Hills. You could see it nationally and my grandparents used to tape every single time that I was on. I had my own show - it was pretty cool. I also started doing some modelling work which is kind of douche, but I had the scruff for it, so it kind of worked. I also shot some commercials, some national commercials. So after doing that for a few years, I really started to miss performing live on a stage, so I found an audition for a cruise ship singing job for Norwegian Cruise Lines and I booked the gig and I became a main stage singer in Hawaii for 13 months straight.

Now, this is the part of the story where YouTube comes into play. It was 2008 and I was getting off of the ship and I discovered YouTube and started watching people like Shay Carl, Sxe Phil, Smosh, Shane Dawson. I said, "Hey, I've been making videos my whole life. I could do that". So, I created Joshua D-84 and started uploading videos.

A year goes by and I'm living in New York City again and I meet up with my buddy in Times Square and we go eat at Olive Garden. His name is Christopher. Now, Christopher knew that I loved YouTube and that I was making videos and he said, "Hey man, I know you love YouTube. There's this chick you've got to check out. Her name is Miranda Sings 08" and I say, "Miranda sings 08? Who's that? What does she do?" And he said, "Oh, you know, she puts on way too much lipstick, makes herself look ugly and then she butchers your favourite songs", and I said, "Um, well no, not my cup of tea".

So, around a month goes by and every time that I see this guy, he's always saying, "Hey, did you check out Miranda Sings? Did you check out Miranda Sings?" I say, "No, it doesn't sound funny, man. It's not really what I want to go and spend my time watching on YouTube". So, as fate would have it, one night I could not sleep. I tried for hours to fall asleep and I couldn't, and one name kept popping up in my head and that was Miranda Sings. So, I figured, why not? I typed it in and up popped this video for Single Ladies and here she was in a black leotard with too much lipstick and I thought, "Who is this girl?", so I figured it out. It was Colleen Ballinger. I found her on Facebook. I started looking at her normal pictures. I mean, I totally stalked her - I will admit it, and I realised this chick is special. She was beautiful and talented and funny. She made videos, I made videos. I felt like we already had so much in common. I felt like I didn't have a choice. I felt like I had to write to this girl. So, I did, on June 19, 2009.

For the majority of you that watch my videos, you basically know my story with Colleen, but if you want to see that in full detail, click right here. It'll also be in the description below. So, spoiler alert. She wrote me back and we started to write novels to each other and that turned into phone calls and that turned into silly videos that we would make for each other and then eventually she came to New York where I was living and on the first day that we met in person, we went to the skyline of New York City, we kissed in the rain and we both said "I love you" on the very first day.

So, while Colleen and I were long-distance for quite some time, I was still auditioning in New York. So, an audition came out for the show Altar Boys. So national tour of an off-broadway show basically about a Christian boy band that went to save the world through their singing and dancing and harmonizing. It's kind of crazy to go into an audition room and literally be surrounded by guys that look basically identical to you. I thought, "There is no way I'm going to book this job. It's perfect for me but it looks like it's perfect for a lot of guys!" Well, through the audition process, they started weeding people out and one by one, everyone was dropped except for me and I booked the lead role of the national tour, which was awesome.

So, after the tour was over, Colleen moved in with me in my little apartment in New Jersey and we were pretty happy. We were right across the water from New York, except one thing started to happen - I didn't book any more jobs. I auditioned and auditioned and nothing really came through and money got tight for me, so I did what I thought I had to do and I took another job as a singer on a cruise ship which meant that Colleen and I would have to be somewhat long-distance as I was on the ship. Now, we could visit each other, and I would port in New York, so I'd see her every week, but it wasn't the same. Near the end of my contract on the ship, I discovered a website called yobi.tv. It's basically a video competition website where you upload a video and you compete against other people that are also uploading videos as well. Long story short, I won my part of the competition, got to take home eight grand and they flew me to Michigan to take part in a web series starring Audrina Patridge. Now, while I was filming this web series, I hit it off so well with the CEO of the company that she eventually offered me a full-time job to basically be the face of this company and make videos and star in them and direct them and write them. I thought, "Hey, this is perfect!" So, I moved to Michigan. You see, I thought it was the right thing to do. I thought Colleen would see that as "Wow! He's got a big boy job, he's making great money, he's doing what he loves", and I assumed that she would follow me there. I assumed that she would move to Michigan for me, but she didn't want to go to Michigan. She loved California. So, she went to California and I didn't understand. I thought, "Hey, you can do YouTube anywhere. Come to Michigan!" So, we both

became very bitter and started to argue basically every single day to the point where it just didn't seem like there was any positivity left in our relationship. It was tough on both of us.

Then one day, Colleen couldn't take it anymore so she broke things off. I was angry for a couple of weeks but then quickly realised that I had just lost the love of my life so for the next nine months I got on a plane, I flew to her doorstep, I got in a car, I drove to her show, I called, I wrote her letters. I even wrote letters pleading to her parents. I mean, I lost my mind, and this went on for nine months. A lot of you probably hear this and you think, "Boy, you're crazy", but if you knew that you had found the love of your life, wouldn't you fight for it too? Things just got worse and worse and worse and I started to lose weight. I wasn't hungry anymore. I had dark thoughts. I didn't hang out with friends. I felt like a failure. My whole life I'd been chasing the idea of this perfect love, the kind of love that I saw between my parents as a kid, and I figured I just lost my one shot at true love.

One day I realised that I had to wake up and let go. I had done everything that I could do. I found a therapist, I started to get healthy again. Started to eat again, started hanging out with friends. I had to realise that my happiness had to come from myself, not from other people. They can definitely play a part in your happiness, but they shouldn't be the only reason why you're happy, and that was a very important lesson for me to learn. Not long after I started feeling happier and healthier, I got a call from an agent in LA who wanted to meet with me because they had seen my stuff, and I thought "Hey, why not? Let's go back to California for this meeting and see where it goes".

When I arrived in LA, I received a phone call and it was from Colleen. She had heard I was going to be in town, and she said, "Hey, can we get lunch while you're here?" and I figured, you know what? Fine. Let's have lunch. And maybe she wants to have some type of closure - maybe she needs one final conversation to say goodbye, but before we could even have small talk, she burst into tears and said, "Josh, I love you and I made a mistake and I will never love anyone as much as I love you". Now half of me wanted to say, "Well, you had your chance girl", but the other half of me thought, "Josh, this is what you wanted and you're healthy. You've learned your lesson. She's it, man!"

So, things started moving very quickly. We were happy. We had a lot of catching up to do and a lot of healing to do as a couple, but we were both willing to do it. She was back in my life, so I packed up my stuff, I moved to LA. We eventually moved in together. I started focusing on my YouTube channel as a career. You know, it was a slow process and it took some time, but I started to build my channel up. Colleen and I fell more and more and more in love with each other and a lot of time passed.

Now, right when the dust felt like it was starting to settle, I received a phone call from a guy that I had auditioned for a long time ago and this guy said, "Hey Josh, do you want to be in an acapella boy band called The Cat's Pajamas?" and I thought, "Oh Lord, no, here we go again!" He said, "It's going to be a tour. We'll go to high schools, we'll perform in Branson for a while, you'll be in Atlantic City performing in a really awesome hotel casino". This was my dream job, but I knew if I was going to take this job, I needed to get super serious about Colleen, so I started to plan the proposal. Colleen had given me her blessing to go on this tour. She knew it was my dream job but all the while I knew it would only be a matter of months before I made things official with Colleen. She came out to visit me on my birthday. April 5<sup>th</sup> of this year I surprised her. I popped the question. I'm sure you've seen it. If not, you could click there or go to the description below. She said yes but then, ladies and gentlemen, this is where the story takes one more turn.

You see, within the last 6 or 7 months, my YouTube channel has been growing and growing and growing to the point where I can support myself just off of my YouTube channel, which leads me to this. Should I stay and be on tour and not really focus on YouTube and not be around Colleen that much and stick with the group, or should I take a risk? So, this is news to you, I choose you - I choose YouTube. Which means I'm not going to finish this tour. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, I'm coming home. For the first time in my life, I get to be my own boss. I get to be as creative as I want to be and get paid for it and that's all because of you guys. Just by watching my videos, you guys have given me such an incredible gift. You've opened the door so that I can be with the love of my life and do the things that I love. I truly hope that you keep watching because I have so much to give. I have so many ideas that I want to do that now I have the ability to do them, so get ready. We're just getting started, so ladies and gentlemen, dingleberries, remember, be nice to people. I'll see you soon.

3406

### MDML #33

My name is Matthias and I'm going to Draw My Life. I was born in Woodland Hills, California, in 1988. I have an older sister and 3 years later, I got a younger brother, Joey, or as we refer to him on this channel, J-Fred. Before I went to school, some of my oldest memories involve playing with Hot Wheels and Legos. I loved Legos! I didn't actually go to preschool because I had to stay home with my mum. In fact, she actually put me in a kindergarten a year later than I should've gone, because she wanted just a little more time with each of us. Once I finally went, I was pretty shy and never really talked to anyone. When I was about 5, my brother and I met one of our best friends we would ever have. His name was Trevor. Or as we refer to him on this channel, as "T-Spence". They had just moved in across the

street from us. He had an older sister, my age, and I went to school with her. Trevor shared me and my brother's love for Lego's, Hot Wheels, and basketball. Every day we possibly could, we would hang out with each other. We loved to grab our sleeping bags and take them into the backyard, camp out with food that our parents packed for us. We would take trips with our family to other states, we would draw basketball courts on our driveways, and set up small hoops so we could play basketball. We would buy every basketball jersey we could find in thrift shops and pretend we played basketball in the NBA. We would do everything together. Until I turned the age of 11. Then, one day, they moved away. They moved over 900 miles away! My brother and I didn't know what hit us. Our "brother" had moved away, and depression hit me. I haven't played basketball since; I haven't really played any sports.

Since that day in retrospect, I know it hurt my brother, Joey, a lot, but I was 11 and I coped with it the only way I could. It was at that point, I believe, I grew up. I stopped believing in a lot of things. But don't worry, it gets better. very soon after, my family and I moved to Orlando because of my dad's job. He was an "imagineer" at the time, working for Disney on theme parks. Designing rides, and such. It was only going to be temporary, but me and my siblings resisted. But on the first day, two different neighbours came up and introduced themselves. And just like that, we had new friends. We were able to go to Disney World at any point we wanted to, since my dad worked for them. It was pretty fantastic. But then we moved back to California. We took a month and drove across the entire country, and almost all the states. I loved it!

I was in the car for an entire month. But it went by so quick. So, we finally got back to California, away from our new friends, back to our old. I was 13 at the time, and a lot of things go on at that age. So, you can imagine that the friends I moved back to had changed. And I no longer identified with them. I got into making videos - I was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. But after making around 15 videos, I felt no one else cared about it. It was hard to make videos all by yourself, so I stopped.

In 10<sup>th</sup> grade, I found some guys I identified with. They were in a band, I had never played music before, but I told them I could sing! When in fact, I had never sung before. They let me be in the band anyway. We would play shows, where I would literally make up lyrics and melodies on the spot. I could imagine the audiences were confused, at best. I really got into music at that point, though. I had started to learn how to play guitar, bass, and piano. It was also at that point when I saw the most beautiful girl I had ever seen. I was running around the track for Physical Education, and she was in a different class, playing soccer. I couldn't wait for Physical Education, regardless of my distaste for sports, because I just wanted to get a glimpse of her. Her name was Amanda. Later, she tells me a similar story of how she would watch me run across the track to the point where she would get distracted playing soccer, and someone kicked the ball into her face and how embarrassed she was. Luckily, she said, I didn't see it.

So, I kept on with music, and then slowly realised that high school kids just want to hang out and mess around. I was in it for the music, and incredibly frustrated by that. Then I met Michael Badal. We shared the same passion for music. He first introduced me to Apple computers, and that changed my life forever! It sounds dramatic, but it was then I realised that with this tool, I could do anything I wanted, and be anything I wanted to be. I could record an entire song, and write and play every musical instrument myself. I didn't need anyone else; and that empowered me. So, I did that. With Michael's help, we recorded a 14-song album before I was even out of 11<sup>th</sup> grade. To this day, we are still very proud of that album. It's called "Where We Should Be" by "The Social", which is what I called myself back then. People started to hear it, and other musicians wanted to be a part of the band. Michael played drums, and we played a bunch of shows. I'll never forget that feeling when the crowds know the words you wrote by heart. But playing live wasn't for me.

I got a job at a local drugstore, and got a car, finally. After flirting around for 2 years, I was ready to have a girlfriend. So, I asked Amanda if she wanted to be my girlfriend, and she said yes. I remember our first date, which is a story she loves to tell. Because the waiter came up and asked if I wanted change. I said, "no". I thought he meant coins, but evidently, he meant 20 dollars left over from the cash that I gave him. The waiter got a \$20 tip that night. Pretty sure our meals cost less than that. Amanda and I would hang out together every day, we quickly fell deeper and deeper in love. I then went to college for filming music, and I directed a film at the community college I went to, that won "Best Cinematography". Vimeo, that - that other video site - loved it, and featured it on their homepage. I was proud of that. It was titled "Maestro". It was about a musician that needed to learn to believe in himself and his instincts. That theme you'll probably find in a lot of what I do.

Amanda and I have been dating for about four years at that point. I took her out to a deserted beach on a boardwalk and proposed, right then and there. I knew I would always be with her. And she said yes. I then transferred to CSUN, where I continued my film degree. I was chosen to be one of the 4 students to direct a thesis film. The budget for that film was over \$30,000. My team and I had to build an entire farmer's market for the film. Alex Goiyet, another film student at CSUN, helped me with the project. At that time, he had just started up his YouTube channel - Joule Thief. A couple months before I graduated, I was laid off of my job at the drugstore; it was scary and depressing. I was in a bad mindset. But then, that's when I decided to start making YouTube videos. It was April of 2012. With the help of Alex, I started my channel, "Matthias". I've been making YouTube videos on a weekly basis ever since, and I love it! I soon started getting work and making videos for networks and other people for money. I'm about a month away from my wedding with my beautiful Amanda Faye as we speak. And this is where the journey continues.

## MDML #34

Hey everyone! I'm Jack Douglass and today I'm going to life my draw, draw my life – damnit!

I was born on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1988, which makes me 21 years old - which makes me 25 years old. I grew up in Columbia, Maryland, with my mum, my dad and my two older sisters. I wasn't actually born Jack Douglass. My real name is "John", John Patrick Douglas, but I've been called Jack as long as I can remember. The only people who've ever called me John were substitute teachers. Even when my parents got mad at me as a child, they never said John Patrick Douglas - they always said Jack.

Speaking of childhood, **I was a weird kid** growing up. I had a ton of autistic-like symptoms. For starters, **I had a crippling fear of balloons** just because I always imagined them popping, and I was quiet too. For whatever reason, I couldn't communicate what was going through my head, and there's a lot going on up there, so, I remained quiet for a long time. I didn't even say my first word until I was three years old. My first word, by the way, was "seven". I had some kind of obsession with that number. I took plenty of speech therapy classes to try to bridge the gap between my brain and my mouth. **It was a struggle.**

**School was fun.** When I was in first grade, just six years old, I got sent to the principal's office six times. In one year! One time, I was at the playground and **this kid I hated** asked me, "Hey Jack, what's one plus one?" "Two" "Okay, what's one times one?" "Two" He started laughing at me, so **I threw a rock at his face.** Boom - principal's office. First of many trips. Another time **I bit a kid's face during kickball,** but I don't remember all the details. Whatever. He was probably asking for it.

When I wasn't throwing rocks at faces, I was reading a tonne. Mainly nonfiction. **I hated stories** but **I loved facts.** Useless facts mostly about outer space. **I loved math** too. In fact, I used to calculate how many Plutos could fit inside Uranus. No, really, like I said, **I was a weird effing kid,** but I was a whiz at math. **I took all the gifted and talented classes in elementary school, studied my brains out middle school.** **Loved English too, which explains my obsession with grammar.** I was an A+ student all the way into eighth grade and **the only thing I didn't understand was everything else. I was so awkward.** **I had very few friends at the lunch table, and girls? Okay, yeah, I wasn't breaking too many hearts back then. Couldn't talk to girls for real.** Well I was as nerdy as it gets. Way too many video games and way too much time on the internet. It's cool now, but I assure you it wasn't 15 years ago. I also wasn't the most masculine guy growing up. I got called "faggot" a few times but then kind of shook it off because truth be told, **I just like** boobs, girls, too much.

**In high school I was still socially awkward.** I never played sports unless you consider table tennis one - then you can call me a world class champion - I ran indoor track first semester and that's as athletic as I got, but high school was when **my love of music started to grow.** I got into band class and played the French horn all four years of high school. I also started dabbling in piano, just writing short songs and diddies. **I loved it and that's when I got more creative.** I started writing short stories, but I had no idea what to do with them. In May of 2006, **I finally figured out what I wanted to do with my life** during English class and my senior year of high school. For our final exam, we had to make a movie that summarized all the books we read that year, so my friends and I filmed a series of sketches making fun of books like Beowulf and All the King's Men etc. We shot it all on VHS tape and **it was the most fun I had had in years.** That's when **I knew that I wanted to make movies and in some capacity. This is something I could pour my talent into.**

I should also mention that I was very religious growing up. Went to a Catholic school from 5th to 8th grade, church twice a week, CCD as a kid, got confirmed in high school, read my Bible - the works. Christianity was a big part of my life but around the time I turned 18, **I started thinking for myself which is something I never really did before.** I was told what to believe my whole life. I even went to school for it, but up to a point I thought, well, what if it's not all true? And that's where I've been ever since. **I don't like** talking about religion because it's such a touchy subject and you really got to tread lightly.

But moving on, in June of 2006, the summer before I went to college, I found a weird website called YouTube. I saw some of my high school classmates were posting home videos there and **I liked the sound of it,** YouTube. You Tube. So, after that English project, I got a digital camera and started making other videos and putting them on this weird website. YouTube started out as a hobby for me. I never knew it would become a job.

**I didn't really come out of my shell until college.** I went to American University in Washington DC and studied Film and Music Theory. **Best four years of my life by far.** I ditched the French horn, took up piano and wrote my own music. **Made my best friends** there and **I found myself. I was confident, I talked to people, I got involved and I created so much.** Constantly filming, editing, writing, always - that was my life in college, and **I loved it. You know what else I loved in college? That's right - the books.** Those textbooks were just so enlightening. I really ate them up.

On YouTube I started building a small audience with my parodies. I love to make fun of absolutely everything. I grew up watching Saturday Night Live and sketch comedy troupes. My love of infomercials growing up helps me make fun of them and a few of my videos went viral back in 08 and 09. This is when I started a profit from my videos which I honestly didn't know was a thing until I got my first check.

When I graduated college in 2010, I knew I had to move to Los Angeles. I wasn't sure what exactly I'd be doing there but I knew I had to move. In fact, it was Joe Nation who persuaded me. He was a friend of my sister's and we all went to the same middle school in Maryland back in the day. He was doing exactly what I was doing albeit on a much more successful scale, so I decided to give this YouTube thing a try. And that's when I met Olga Kay, got to love her, and Jess and Steve and Tay and Toby and the Fine brothers and people I still work with today. I owe so much to them and that's what I love about the YouTube mentality - you scratch my back, I scratch yours. It's smart, it's fun and it works. Up until 2011, I was making parodies, music videos and sketches. My most popular series, "Your Grammar Sucks", was a complete accident that was never supposed to take off, but holy hell! You guys wanted more. And let's be honest, I'll never run out of material. But I feel like I struggled to find that balance of PMS and YGS - half my fans are subscribed to me for Your Grammar Sucks and the other half are sick to death of it, so I'll do my best to make both at the same time. But it's tough though.

So, I'm currently dating an amazing girl named Erin and I'm dying to show her to you guys but I'm a little hesitant because all you guys know is my previous girlfriend who popped up at the end of so many of my videos in 2011 and 2012. I'm still working on a way to get Erin in my videos in a unique, different way. I promise once you get to know her, you'll love her almost as much as I do.

I don't ever want to stop doing what I do. It's the best job in the world and to think I have a million subscribers over a hobby - having a million of anything is mind-blowing. It's the culmination of seven years of all-nighters and college editing, hours and hours plinking away at my piano locked away in a practice room. It's just so cool. My goal is simple - I want to make the most amount of people laugh. That's it. That's what I want my legacy to be. I just want to be funny. Comedy is one of the few things I feel like I really, really get.

So, what have I learned during my 25 years? Well I've learned two things: be kind. It'll get you far no matter the situation, trust me. And don't say no. Try new things. This is what I tell college-bound students because college really was a turning point for me. When your friends invite you to some weird event or club or anything, do it. Another thing I learned fairly recently is that inspiration is a circle. Like I said, I grew up watching my comedy heroes Saturday Night Live and Derick Comedy and a bunch of sketch groups and the coolest thing is every now and then I'll get a message or a comment from a viewer saying, "I started making videos because of you". That's the coolest thing and that just blows my mind because I started making videos watching my comedy heroes so it's just, it's really cool. It really is a cycle, you know? So, for you guys starting out on your videos or whatever, just know that someday, someone's going to look up to you and do what you do, and I think that's just damn awesome. So, to all my bifas and non-bifas alike, I say to you thank you for watching and the neat thing is that the best is yet to come. So, thank you for the last seven years and here's to 70 more.

1811

## MDML #35

Hey best friends! So, you may have seen lots of very cool YouTubers drawing their lives recently and their videos have all been really amazing, so I'm hoping that the act of illustrating my existence will make it seem a little more interesting.

The best place to start is probably at birth, because that's where it all kicked off for me really. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of December 1987 at 11.24 p.m., my mother gave birth to a wrinkly, unattractive, slightly disgruntled infant. A mere 12 minutes later however, after my twin brother John was born, I elegantly reared my head from my mother's depths too. I say I reared my head - I actually came out bottom first, but it does not deter from the fact that I was still a very angelic child.

From then until the age of around 5 years old is a relatively blank spot in my memory. I guess I was just too busy developing a brain. Some of my earliest memories though consist of my next-door neighbour's dishevelled boat in his front garden. I genuinely thought he was captain Birdseye due to this and his very impressive beard.

My first ever trip overseas was to Spain where I discovered a giant praying mantis. Now whether it was actually giant or regular-sized and I was just really, really small is lost in the ether of time, but I like to imagine it was very big. I also remember my two big sisters stripping my brother and I both down to our underwear and either making us fight or have a dance-off - both of which I would, of course, win.

By the time we got to primary school, my brother and I were really playing on the fact that we were twins with our matching outfit and Sonic the Hedgehog schoolbags which we both adored. I remember having show-and-tell and I always brought a Transformer, usually a Starscream because he was the biggest and turned into a jet. My brother was a hero and punched a kid named Hugh in the face for picking on me. That in itself is pretty cool but when you consider



that everyone, even the parents, had named him Huge Hugh just because he was by far the biggest six-year-old the world had ever seen, it becomes pretty spectacular. Primary school was also a time when my mum and my dad broke up and I didn't see much of him from then on - I don't really have loads of memories of him and most of the ones I do have aren't that great.

High school is an awkward time for everyone. You're going through lots of embarrassing changes, both physically and mentally. I was a very, very late bloomer. I didn't go through these changes until everyone else had a beard, a girlfriend and had got to at least second base. As a result, I was an in-betweeny kid. Then, to make things really awkward, my body went through all the same changes as everyone else, but they made up for lost time. My hands, feet, arms and legs grew extremely big, but I didn't put any weight on, and I was very ungainly. I looked like Gollum, only my high school was nothing like Middle Earth.

In the summer holidays between high school and sixth form, my body caught up on my arms and legs and I was really, really tall, which was great news. Other than that, the only defining moment in my life during this period was that I had my first ever crush. I really fancied this girl at my art class so I thought I would impress her by making her the subject of my project. Big mistake - she was one of the cool kids and spending hours staring at her face didn't help me get over her. Also, the fact that I had painted her in blues and greens and made her look dead didn't help at all.

My other big defining moment was the fact that my big sister had her first baby, and my little niece Lilly was born and she brightened up my world.

At university, I studied Psychology, which I really enjoyed. I also drank a lot during my first year and did a lot of things that I now regret, many of which you guys have heard about in lots of my videos. One day after being very, very, very ill, I just decided that I'd stop drinking altogether so I wouldn't be sick anymore and my life would be a little less embarrassing. I did stop being sick - one out of two isn't bad!

A few months before I stopped drinking, though, my life changed forever when I met my future wife, Tanya Burr, at a party. It's a good job I was drunk on this occasion because if it wasn't for little Dutch courage, I would never have spoken to her. As it happened, I thought I was being really good at flirting and she thought I was gay. After graduating, I expected to go into an amazing job and live happily ever after in a house made of rainbows and cookies. Unfortunately, that did not happen, so myself, my brother and Tan decided to save as much as we could for six months and go exploring Thailand and Australia. It was incredible. We saw tigers, we rode elephants. In fact, Tan even got kissed by one! It left the biggest bogie on her face in the history of bogies. We learnt how to cook Thai food, we went snorkelling and we fed wild monkeys peanuts and we met lots and lots and lots and lots of cockroaches. By the time we got to Australia, we'd kind of run out of money and also there were serious floods and bushfires at the same time, so we ended up staying in Sydney for six weeks, just enjoying the sun and the beaches. Could have been a lot worse.

When we got home, reality really hit for me and I realised that nothing had changed. I still didn't know what I wanted to do and what I wanted to be, and for someone who usually has everything figured out, this really scared me. Before we went traveling though, Tan had started her YouTube channel and I had appeared in one of her videos. She made me into Edward Cullen. She encouraged me to start my own channel as something constructive to direct my energy into on the weekends and I loved it. Making videos genuinely did change my life. Even at the stage when only two people watched, and it's because of this that I do not take you guys for granted.

As time went on, my channel grew and so many opportunities opened themselves up to me. I got to visit America for the first time. I made friends with other YouTubers and went to Disneyland and VidCon. It was only at VidCon that I realised there were lots of really cool YouTubers in the UK too and so when I got home, I endeavoured to make friends with as many as possible. More recently, I went to New York and asked my amazing girlfriend to be my wife, and she said yes despite knowing everything that I'm sharing with you in this video now. Also, we just moved into our new house and we love it.

So, there you go. That is my life. It truly is thanks to you guys that I now know what I want to do with my life. I am very lucky to have you. On that note, don't forget to subscribe or I'll blow this person's brains out. Thank you very much for watching me. I love you guys and I will see you really, really soon. Bye!

1310

### MDML #36

My name is Alex and although my story may not be filled with bear fights, plane crashes or that one time I swear I saw a ghost, still think you'll find it pretty interesting. So, let me show you my life up till now, right from the very beginning. We start this tale 65 million years ago when the dinosaurs roamed the earth. Oh no, hang on, I think that's a bit too far back! Let's bring it forward to 1995 - the year of my birth. On August 12<sup>th</sup> in the South of England, little baby Alex was born. Ah isn't he cute? Anyway, I was the first child of my family, so it was just little me, mum and my dad.

Before I had a chance to start growing up, however, I was whisked away to the mystical land of California on the west coast of America. Here we lived in an apartment where I had a pretty fantastic race car bed. I definitely recall also having the coolest Pokémon bedsheets in existence, so go me! The best part about living there however was the fact that we were right next to Disneyland and every Wednesday we would go and see Mickey Mouse, watch the fireworks at the castle and stare longingly at the Star Wars ride wishing I was tall enough to go on a space adventure with C-3PO and R2D2. Unfortunately, 3-year-old Alex couldn't enjoy the beauties of Disneyland any longer because that's when my brother was born, so now it was mum, dad, me and my little brother who wouldn't ever stop crying. But much like myself, my brother was barely able to utter his first goo-goo gah-gah before we were again taken across the world to the Netherlands. Here, we were plunked down in a very narrow house on a very, very long street. It was a little odd suddenly being in a different country, but luckily, there was a splash of England in this new place. It came in the form of the British school in the Netherlands where I started my first year of education. Whilst we were learning the usual things, we were also taught Dutch as a second language.

At the end of the year though, my family packed up our house and once more we moved back to England. Having already completed my first year in the Netherlands, I was put into second year at this small school. I was the new kid who didn't know anybody and was most definitely not accustomed to such a sudden change. The only memory I have of my time at this school was during recess, or break time as it's known in England. I had found this cool lizard pen outside that seemed to be lost and forgotten so I thought, "Oh yes, winner!" Little did I know that this actually belonged to another student who saw me using it in class and without hesitation stood up and accused me of stealing it. Of course, the teachers believed them that I stole it, interrogated me to confess and gave me detention too - it was absolutely horrible.

A couple years later and new school, new friends, including my sister who was born super ill and had to spend several months in hospital under intensive care. She's right as rain now though, so don't worry. Anyway, the family became what it currently is: mum, dad, me, my brother and my sister.

Speaking of hospitals, though, I'm reminded of when I had a bad asthma attack. I was hospitalized for several days as I couldn't breathe properly. Luckily though, I had a toy elephant to help me through the nights there. Because of my asthma, it made any intensive activity really difficult for me. I still pushed through, however, and I did trampolining, diving and even danced. Wow, was I active back then! An event that every kid would look forward to was the production the school would put on each year. Up next was the classical musical Oliver and I decided to audition for Oliver himself, and so I sang my heart out and I got the part of a broom sweeper. Wow, was I upset! My chance for fame was not lost, however, because a competition came along in high school to design the screensaver for the computers. I spent hours drawing a picture, handed it in and actually won. It was pretty cool to see my design on every screen on campus. I even got a gift card for this job, so I was super happy with myself.

Being a child of limited physical activity during recess though, I would often spend my time on the library computers, and this is where I discovered the wonders of Roblox and Minecraft Classic - the foundations that got me to where I am today. One summer, though, the library was renovated and I was able to meet an idol of mine to cut the ribbon: Sir Terry Pratchett, a famous writer, was invited to do the honour. I was luckily able to talk to him and he even signed a copy of "The Colour of Magic", my favourite book of his. I finished high school with brilliant grades, but I actually failed one course: art. I was destroyed because that was what I wanted to make a career with.

Then, moving on to the world of college, I was actually accepted into their art course as I had applied even though I failed in high school and I have a love-hate relationship with college though, as I found most of the lessons so stupendously boring. When I was supposed to be doing homework, I would actually be making Minecraft videos at home. I loved doing that and would put a million times more effort into them than college work, and because of that, the videos were pretty amazing. In art class, however, I was definitely in my element and at the end of college, I passed the course. This made me so, so happy and it's all because of a bunch of crows that I drew. So, with my college certificates in hand, it was time for university. I joined the course for coding and game making, because it was my dream to make awesome games for people to enjoy. Unfortunately, though, the course was terrible, and I had to quit at the end of the year, and so now I was out of education with no idea what I was going to do with my life.

Luckily though, I received a tweet from a YouTuber's channel manager, and I ended up with an editing job, just like that. During this job, I worked for several really popular YouTubers, a couple of which I'd even been watching when I was younger, some of who even had over 6 million subscribers. In my time during this job, I edited over 500 videos which is absolutely crazy. Then in January of 2016, my life changed suddenly. I was in the company of several other people whose dream was to also be successful on YouTube. These guys as you may know were Denis, Corl, Sub and Fletch, and together we created what is now known as the Perils channel, then Sketch a bit later on joined, sorry dude, nearly forgot about you. Anyway, several months later and the group channel was a success. We then made our separate channels right before the summer and save it our all to make them work. It was hard and took a lot of effort, but before too long we have made our dreams come true.

I was able to quit the editing job that I still had and actually become a full-time YouTuber - a dream of mine ever since I was a child. Later that year in September of 2016, I made a massive decision in my life – to some of you this event may seem fairly trivial but to me it was the hardest thing I had ever done. I gathered the courage and with a steel I had never known before, I prepared myself for what I was about to do. Then to my family and friends, I came out as gay. I'm honestly so lucky to have people in my life who provided me with overwhelming support, and I love them all the more for it. Had I been scared of their reactions, I think I really would have struggled to come out at all, so I'd like to say make sure you spread the love because with that, you can really help people to be comfortable with who they are. As of this video, my channel has over 800,000 amazing subscribers without whose support I would not be enjoying the dream I'm living. Because of that, I'd like to say thanks to every one of you. Yeah, that's right. Whether past, present or future fans, you really do rock my world. Make sure you stay awesome too, as that's a pretty big part of reaching your future goals. So, until next time, everybody, thank you for watching and goodbye.

1526

### MDML #37

I was really debating whether or not to actually make this video because there are a lot of personal things that you guys aren't aware about and also, I am an extremely bad drawer.

I was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, and let's just say I was a very big baby. I loved playing with toys and had a fantastic imagination. My favourite toys were dinosaurs and tractors, as you can see from my amazing drawing, but I didn't really have anyone to play with, so I really, really wanted a brother. So, in April 2004, we adopted a baby brother called James. From that day on, our lives changed.

Now, in primary school I didn't really get on with the other children because I quite like my own company and didn't have an interest in football which is all they talked about and played. I then started to get picked on quite a bit and called some pretty horrible names but there was one name which I hated, and that word changed a part of my life. The word was "big ears". Now when I was younger, my ears really stuck out and this was one thing I truly hated about my body, so I decided the only way to resolve this was by having an operation to pin my ears back. I can remember having this massive bandage around my head which I had to keep on for a couple of weeks, but I got a lot of sympathy for it, so it was okay. It took me a while to adjust to the new look but I'm so, so glad I went ahead with it and I wouldn't have done it if those people didn't call me those horrible names.

One of the boys I really didn't get on with throughout the whole of primary school soon after became my best friend and we've been best mates ever since. Secondary school came quicker than I expected. I went to an all-boys school which was really good at the start but then I slowly started to hate it. It really wasn't for me. I started out playing badminton and got really, really good. I played for county and travelled all over England to enter in tournaments at the weekends. In year 9, I moved to a mixed school because I really disliked the school I was at and I loved this new school, and no, not just because it had girls.

In year 10, I started watching a lot of YouTube videos and decided to give it a go myself. I loved being in front of the camera and soon after discovered a real passion for video making. I kept it a secret for as long as I could because I was quite embarrassed because it was pretty unusual to be making videos and a few people found out about my channel and gave me a little bit of verbal abuse, but I just took it light-heartedly and carried on pursuing what I love to do. My YouTube channel then started to do really well, and I had a couple of hundred subscribers and then a couple of hundred more. I was just so shocked that people enjoyed what I was making. All of a sudden, my channel name got out to everyone in school and people started accepting what I was doing. From then on, I've just been known as Oli White TV.

Now I wouldn't say I've had a massive amount of friends throughout my life, purely because I like my own company and throughout school I just put my head down and worked hard so I could get good grades. All my hard work paid off though. I got six As, seven Bs and one C. This meant I could go to college. My YouTube channel just kept growing and growing throughout college and I wasn't afraid to tell them about it because I was really proud of what I achieved. I then got a job in a shop because YouTube wasn't earning me enough money to live on. I loved working in the shop at the start, but I so badly wanted to focus on my passion for creating videos.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2012, I uploaded a video with a cheeky guy called Jack from the channel Jacksgap. I mean, you probably don't know him or anything, but anyway, I stayed over his for a couple of days and Jack really opened my eyes to the endless possibilities of creating videos on YouTube. I really have to say thanks to him for that because I don't know if I'd be in the position I am now without him.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2012, I got an email from Kiss FM saying I got a place to audition for the "Kiss Chosen One". I thought this could be my big break, but I soon realised it wasn't. I was the youngest candidate by 7 years and found out quickly radio was not my thing.

The 1<sup>st</sup> of May was one of the worst days of my life because my mum became diagnosed with breast cancer. Things started to become really hard, but we all had to just stay strong. Things started getting better though. My mum was going for her treatment and my YouTube channel was now generating thousands of views and I was getting lots of opportunities to film with some really big companies. Oh, and it was also time to say goodbye to that shop.

The 21<sup>st</sup> of September was a life-changing day for me as I was offered a job with Guinness World Records to travel around the world at the age of 17 and present 52 videos for their YouTube channel. A couple of weeks after I got back, I reached a hundred thousand subscribers. This was seriously something I couldn't believe - it was a dream when I first started out and now it was a reality. I then started doing some work creating YouTube videos with All Three Media and now I've got a new presenting job with Volvic water. I really can't wait to see what the future holds. I want you - yes you - watching - come on the journey with me. Thank you guys ever so much for watching.

1058

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Hello everyone and welcome back to an updated version of draw my life. Now firstly, all I'm going to say is you know the drill from the last one - I am terrible at drawing. Let's get started.

I carried on making YouTube videos and then I went to an event called Summer in the City where I met Joe. Now, you've probably all heard the story before - I was wearing a rank shirt in the car. But after that day, me and Joe became really good friends and then I became good friends with Caspar and then, when Josh finally came over, we became really good friends as well and I never really thought that my best friends would be from YouTube. Look at Josh's barnet! I loved YouTube doing it on my own but when I had a group of friends around me doing it, it was just even better.

I then really started getting into presenting. I was working with 4Music doing stuff for TV and then I was presenting at the BRIT Awards, interviewing celebrities and it was just awesome. Also, what the bloody hell have I just drawn? It looks like some mutant! I then worked on a children's show called Cinemaniacs and this was one of the biggest things I'd worked on because it was basically my own show. Something amazing then happened on my YouTube channel - I hit 1 million subscribers! I couldn't believe that all the hard work and dedication I'd put into YouTube had finally paid off. As well as a million subscribers, I hit a hundred million video views. Like what, what even is that? That is flipping insane. YouTube was just getting bigger and bigger and I wanted to make more and more videos but with making videos you need quiet space and you need free space to do whatever you want so I had to make a really big decision. If I want my YouTube career to grow even bigger, then I need to move out. I'm really close to my family, so this was such a hard thing to do but I knew the time was right. What is it with these white boards? They just don't blooming clean!

Now, one thing I really wanted to do was come up with some kind of format to film with mainstream celebrities and make it really fun and interesting and that's when The Zest was made. There was one problem I had though - I didn't really know any mainstream celebrities except Conor Maynard. He just looks so cool, doesn't he? Look at his outfit. I've also done so much traveling this year. I've been to LA, I've been to the Philippines, but one place I'll always remember is going to Russia. Now, I was asked by Xbox to go out there to do some promotion for the new Lara Croft Tomb Raider game. I faced and overcame so many fears on this trip. I did rock climbing, I did rope swinging, I blimmed camped outside where there's bears and I met so many new people and it was just an incredible trip. I then got asked to be in a film with my two best friends and it was just amazing. It was so cool to be a part of it and I'm very thankful that they thought of me and what have I done with the car? I've given it blimmed eyes! Oh, I apologize. What have I done to your car? The premiere is something that I'm going to remember for the rest of my life. It was honestly incredible to see so many of you there supporting the film and just supporting YouTubers in general. It was amazing.

From eating a cactus in LA, I then went to make my own clothing brand called "Cactus Boy". So, there are some of the things that have happened in my life since my last draw my life. I'm nearly at 2 million subscribers and I just want to thank you so, so, so, so, so - look, it has even gone off the page! - so much for everything you've done. I could never thank you enough for everything you've done for me. Thank you so much. I hope you've enjoyed, and I will see you next time.

722

### MDML #38

Good day ladies and gentlemen. I've had a lot of people request that I make a draw my life video, so I watched a bunch of them to see what they were. The thing that strikes me the most is how intimate and honest they are and how open the authors have been with their stories, so I'm going to give this a go and tell you a little bit about my own.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 1889, a baby was born. That baby, through his life's experiences would learn, grow and become a powerful leader. That leader's name was Adolf Hitler and to be honest, he turned out to be a bit of a dick. On the 100-

year anniversary of Hitler's birth, I was born, and I maintain that I'm less of an asshole than Hitler was, but you know, I'm 24, so only time will tell.

Anyway, my parents decided to name me Josiah Alan Brooks. I was raised by **my two wonderful parents** as the second youngest of six children. I have three brothers and two sisters. I have to admit **I loved being part of a big family**. If you ever had an argument with one sibling, you could turn to the others and form an alliance. It was like Game of Thrones children edition or maybe a little more like Hunger Games minus the death.

Anyway, that's me, **yay!** I grew up in Australia - **best country ever** mate! - in the state of Victoria. we lived in a property out in the middle of nowhere surrounded by trees and farms. **I have nothing but fond memories in my childhood. My family was strong in the Mormon faith which meant church every week. We had a lot of good times together and some great family traditions.** We were basically a spitting image of the really corny family in that episode of South Park about the Mormons. Yeah, it's pretty accurate.

As a child, I suppose there are a few things that stood out about me. One was my intense inquisitiveness. I had a question for everything. I kept asking my mum things like "Why did the old lady from the song swallow the fly?" I also asked my grandma in a really, really public way how big is a fly's poo? You know, **I was a bit of a weird kid**. I don't know why **I was so intrigued by flies** - perhaps because they followed me everywhere because as I recall, **I wasn't very fond of bathing and that tends to make one smell bad.**

I was also pretty musical. I sang all the time and my older sister and I used to get piano lessons. She was about 10 years older than me and was doing piano exams and practiced a lot. I didn't practice at all. Once she was trying to learn the theme from Titanic and practiced for weeks. I think it upset her when **I jumped on the piano and played it on my first attempt without knowing how to read music**. Yeah, she wasn't very happy about that. I also used to draw a lot of pictures - well, I do as an adult as well, but we'll get to that later.

The time eventually came for me to go to primary school. I went to a little Catholic school because my parents liked the values there. **I continued my fairly effortless existence. I was pretty lucky as a kid.** Eventually I grew up enough to start going to high school and learned very fast that things were going to be a bit different. I was a bit of a chubby kid by then and **I was also socially awkward** and smelt bad due to the lack of bathing habits. **I got bullied a bit and I didn't have any friends back then. Every lunch, kids would get in their groups in canteen area and hang out together and I didn't really have a group, so I ate alone.**

**But I started to use my lonely lunches to my advantage** and drew pictures all the time, inventing characters and comics, worlds, stories. Over the next few years, my reputation progressed from being **the super awkward chubby smelly kid into being the slightly awkward chubby kid** who drew lots of pictures. **I had a couple of friends by then too. I managed to teach myself how to make simple animations** on the computer first in Microsoft PowerPoint - fun - and later in Flash. My first animations were submitted to the internet under my first ever email address alias jazz\_in\_the\_house. Yes, I am that badass. Which in turn became the name I would continue to promote my work through, which was Jazza. And I never would have guessed it would be the name I'd base my future career on.

Later in high school, I made **my very first best friend. Her name was Alex and she was very pretty and she had black hair and a sense of humour as immature as my own, and we became very close** through our final years of high school. We were in the music program at school and we spent just about every day together. I played the drums and she played the flute in just about every band the school had. I also had by this time the wonderful nickname of that fat, sweaty Mormon. **Good times, good times.**

**Things were pretty great by the time I graduated high school. I'd won first place in a national animation competition twice and even though I spend 80 percent of my time in class drawing pictures and not working, I actually did pretty well** and graduated as planned, and when I turned nineteen, like the good little Mormon boy that I was, I did missionary work for my church on the other side of Australia. That's right, I was one of those dudes with the tie and the badge and the book who knocked on your door that one time. Missionary service in the church normally goes for two years but after 10 months, I developed a problem in my left knee. A condition by the name of osteochondritis dissecans - **not fun**. Because of this, I had to finish my missionary work early. I was sent home to endure three knee surgeries and was stuck walking around on a cane for a year or so, and **this resulted in me gaining more weight and losing more self-esteem**. I'd always been chubby and **pretty sensitive about it to be honest**, but **I began to be really unhappy** and I was mostly house bound with a terrible limp. **What I saw in the mirror was not very good. I was struggling with an eating disorder and some pretty rough self-esteem issues.**

**Luckily, I have such awesome friends and family** who gave me nothing but love and I got counselling and began to **properly recover**, around which time I grew out my beard and it was a small change but in a weird way that small change meant that what I saw in the mirror was different from what I was used to and **I began to learn to accept myself a bit more**. Meanwhile, those cartoons I was making on the computer had become more professional, which meant I turned my hobby into a profession as a self-employed animator and game designer. I was able to get my mortgage for my first house and buy my first car - what a grown-up thing to do. **I was becoming an adult in a grown-up world.**

But one thing lingered that I hadn't addressed. I had conflicting feelings and questions about the religion I was raised in, and even though I had an ideal childhood and values, I felt unfulfilled and kind of hollow to be honest. So, I chose to leave the Mormon Church in favour of a secular worldview. This was a pretty hard change to make. My parents had recently divorced, partly because my dad left the church, and the rest of my siblings were mostly married with kids, all of which I had to inform that I was no longer part of their religion, and it was a pretty rocky time in my life. But to make matters unimaginably worse, one day I got a phone call and I was informed that Alex, my very best friend from high school and the only person I kept in touch with after graduating, died in a car crash at the age of 23. That was the hardest moment in my life to this day. After just leaving my faith, I sometimes wished I could still believe in a heaven that she would go to, but I couldn't manage to convince myself that of all the faiths that there ever were, the version of God and heaven I grew up with was the one that was right about in a world of billions of people alive and dead, my loss and hurt was worth anything at all.

But you know I found comfort in a pretty random place and this is going to sound really dumb, but from my cat Maximus. I realised that my cat didn't care about religion or heaven or hell or about his insignificance in the world. I do know though that he cares about me and even though sometimes he poops on the carpet and I get really annoyed at him. I love him and even though I know one day he'll die and I'll be sad, ultimately I'll have loved the time that we shared and I realised that there didn't need to be proof of some afterlife for Alex's life to have mattered or for mine to matter to someone else.

A few more years have passed since then and I still draw pictures all the time and I play music and sing and I still can't read music and I've begun playing roles in some local musical theatre shows, and I've lost and found some wonderful friendships. I've learned to be more confident and I'm pretty proud to say that with a lot of work and positive motivation, I got rid of my limp and learned to run all over again, and have in total lost about thirty kilos and so I'm quite happy about that. And in all other ways, I'm exactly the same as that kid in primary school. I will say that I smell a lot better now and I know this video is quite corny and sentimental, but hey. If I'm drawing my life, I can't hide the fact that I'm quite a corny, sentimental guy and I'm more than just a little happy to know that around the world there are people who hear my music or like my pictures and share their own pictures with me, so thank you all very much for watching.

1822

### MDML #39

Hey, my name is Zach. And I'm going to draw my life. Actually, I'm going to do a pop-up book. So, here we go. I was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. I have a dad, mum, and two younger sisters. And we also had a dog named Lucy and a goldfish that I thought was going to live forever. But, it didn't. My mum home-schooled my sisters and I while my dad worked out of the home office. So, we were a really close family. My mum is a really good cook and makes the most amazing meals ever.

Two great things happened to me when I was 7 years old. First, I became a Christian. And second, I discovered the home video camera. I started filming movies with my sisters. But they didn't really enjoy it because I was a really mean director and got mad all the time. Yeah, so when I was 12, we moved out of the city to a farm. My dad built most of the house himself and while we were building it, we lived in a motor home. My dad is Chinese, which means he made all my sisters and I learn piano. Sometimes we had to practice 3 hours a day. I didn't always like playing the piano that much. But I'm glad we did. It taught me hard work and impresses the ladies. Well, I've never had a girlfriend but yeah, okay, anyways.

It was pretty cool growing up on a farm. But our family wasn't complete there. One night, we were driving home from a dinner, and our family was like, we should adopt somebody! We spent the next year preparing to adopt this little girl from China named Yi. Finally, we flew to China as a family and picked her up. We spent a month there and saw the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, and had lots of Chinese food. Adopting Katie into our family is the coolest thing I've ever experienced.

So, my grandpa, who kind of looks like a pirate, wanted to get me a car. But I asked if I could get a computer instead. And he said, "Yes!" So, I got Final Cut. I read all the manuals. Asked to film weddings for free. Eventually people started paying me for them. I ended up buying more film gear. I also had this cool job on the weekends where I popped kettle corn at fairs. It was the best gig ever because I could eat all the popcorn I ever wanted.

Later in high school, I raised enough money to go on a mission's trip in Africa, where I was the cameraman. One day while I was filming in a field, I got way too close to a hippo. And he chased me back to a bus. That was the last time I remember peeing my pants. It was time for me to go to college and I really wanted to go to Biola film school. So, I applied to Biola and I got in, but I wasn't accepted into the film program. I was pretty sad, because film was all I wanted to do. But I went to Biola anyway as a music major. Eventually, I realised that I could just sneak into film classes and get the teachers' signature to add that class. I did that for the next four years and finally got my major to switch over to

film when I graduated. While I was at Biola, I lived in a dorm called Haven and that's where I met the VFX Bro. He lived across the hall from me and we started making movies together.

When I was a freshman, I started a website and YouTube channel called FinalCutKing. And I posted video tutorials online for free. A lot of people asked me to teach them Final Cut, so I'd wake up early in the morning and teach people how to edit via Skype. But then I realised I could create a video training course so I didn't have to teach people over and over. I started selling the training on my website and that's when I first started making income from the internet. It's kind of weird now that I think about it.

The VFX Bro and I started hanging out and messing around with visual effects. And eventually posted some videos that got millions of views and we were shocked. We didn't know what we were doing, but **we were having a blast**. So, the last couple of years have been **the most incredible and unpredictable adventure ever**. A lot of people think that my life is easy, and everything comes naturally. And I like to pretend that it is. But what you don't see is **the all-nighters that we do each week, and the countless and tedious hours of learning new software to create a video**.

I don't know what the future holds but **making videos is my passion**. And **I feel alive when I am being creative**. And **I'm going to keep doing whatever it takes to pursue my dream** of being a movie director.

Hey, **thanks for watching the video!** We wanted you to comment below something cool that you've done recently and something you want to do before you die. And if you're curious how we made this video and the effects in it, you can always click right here and check it out. And if you've got a minute, come by and say "hi" on my Facebook or my Twitter page. Until next time!

932

#### MDML #40

I was born in Epsom in the South of England. My dad was a teacher and my mum was an IT trainer. When I was one and a half, my sister Hillary was born. **We've always been close**. At school, I lived in my own imaginary world. Me and my friend Tom used to pretend our head teacher was Hitler and we were spies in a Nazi military camp. At the age of ten I started growing my hair. The next few years I was mistaken for a girl on many occasions. **I was not happy**.

As a kid, my best friend Andy and I used to make videos together. We were always bursting with imaginative games. We even built a homemade zipline out his bedroom window.

I grew up in church and **was massively inspired** by Jesus' love for people and wanted to reflect this in my life. When I was 14, I flew to Malaysia and went jungle trekking with my family. Seeing different cultures changed my perspective on the world. **Inspired by this trip**, I decorated my bedroom as a tropical rainforest and entered it in a competition on the National BBC TV show Homefront. **I won. It was a proud moment**.

At 16, Andy, who just learnt to drive, borrowed his mum's car one day and we drove to Paris instead of going to school. It was a start of **my love for road trips**. Every week, my friends and I used to sit around Andy's bedroom dreaming about how we could change the world, **inspiring and encouraging each other to achieve our dreams**. **This group continues to be the strongest support in my life**.

Around this time, my little sister Darcy was born. With the age gap and all the nappies I ended up having to change, it gave me a real taste of what it would be like being a daddy. The same year I started working as a freelance graphic designer for my neighbour. **They encouraged my love for digital design**. Shortly after, I got my first laptop and started earning from it. At 17, I made the decision to stop drinking to support a friend who was struggling with drinking at the time. I never took up drinking again.

After my A-levels, I got my hair dreadlocked and **I went on a father-son bonding trip with my dad to Thailand**. We went jungle trekking and one night we got picked up by the Thai military and held in an armoury of their military base. **It was so fun**. I then started my gap year volunteering as a youth worker for my church. **I saw myself as a role model for younger teenagers**.

Also this year, I went for work experience at Sky TV doing 3D animation. After a month or so, I got offered a job, so I scrapped my plans for university. Around this time, **I met an amazing man** called Rob. He had a well-paid job and comfortable life but had given away everything he owned and dedicated his life to loving people and caring for the outcasts of society. **Inspired by him**, I moved out of my parents' and into my friends' house. They had an open home for anyone to visit. It was always full of very colourful characters. One day I met a homeless guy in London called Dan. After talking for a while, I spontaneously invited him to come and live with us. He slept under the stairs. **We became good friends**.

I then chose to live in a homeless squat. It was quite extreme – there were heroin addicts and no toilets. There I met another homeless man called Nick. I invited him to come live in the new house I was renting with friends. **It was the**

crazy fun house I'd always dreamt of. My friend Mike taught me to DJ and we bought a loud sound system. I also ordered five thousand plastic balls and we made a ball pit in the living room.

For my 21st birthday, I bought a minibus and drove around Europe with eight of my good friends. It was an amazing trip which has led to many, many exciting adventures together all over the world. Also, this year I retired from my job at Sky. Although it was fun, I'd had enough of an office job and realised time was more valuable than money to me. I then had no money, so ended up living in my minibus. Not having a permanent job meant I was free to travel more. I went to New Orleans in America for a month and helped with the relief work when it was flooded.

I then came back and got a job as a learning support assistant at my old school. I got asked to leave, I think for teaching the kids how to somersault in the playground. I then went to New Zealand and Australia traveling. I chose to live homeless for three weeks in Australia, one night waking up with a rat on my face. I then came back and worked for a charity in London. We took teenage gang members on trips out to Africa to help orphans. My next big dream was to buy a double-decker bus and have it as a kind of mobile youth club. I borrowed money from my parents and bought one on eBay but the engine blew up. Then two nice people donated some money to help me buy a new one which I named the Boom Bus. I moved into the bus and lived with two teenage friends who'd been kicked out of home, Nathaniel and Allan. At this stage, I was running projects on my bus. I had a mobile recording studio and I was traveling around London supporting charities to engage with local teens. To fund the bus projects, I started running bus parties every weekend. I then moved into a house in a rough estate in London. There were drug deals on my doorstep and I often got robbed. We had an incredibly creative household. We ran monthly music events in our living room, so I bought a good video camera to film. With this camera one evening, my friends Steve and Matt filmed me eating some weird things which we then uploaded to YouTube. These silly videos were about to massively impact my future - Food for Louie was born.

Later that year, some friends and I bought a school bus on eBay and travelled 9,000 miles across the USA. This was the biggest adventure yet. At the end of that year, my YouTube channel had a sudden explosion of popularity and a guy called Sam Pepper contacted me. He introduced me to other YouTubers, and I found there was a whole community of people making a variety of videos. I never realised this world existed.

Around this time, my parents left their job to move to Brazil with my little sister for a year. I joined them for three months and helped with an education project at an orphanage where they were volunteering. I was now earning some money from making YouTube videos. I got flown out to a USA YouTube conference called VidCon where I met even more awesome people. This is where I became great friends with Marcus, Alfie, Jack and Vin. I came back and had become very close friends with Sam. We decided to live on my bus and tour the UK. After living on the bus for four months, we decided to venture forth and move to Hollywood. In LA we met a cool guy called Soya who invited us to come and live with him. We flew out with no plans, just dreams and ambition. YouTube had become a massive part of my life and although it started from silly eating stunts, I was excited to use the platform that this has brought to have a positive effect on people's lives. My future excites me.

I hope you guys have been interested in learning a bit about my life. I'd love to tag Jack Harries and Maz to draw their lives. I hope you've enjoyed this video.

1365

#### MDML #41

Oh hey! I'm xxx. I'm not an artist, so bear with me as I attempt to draw my life. It was December 28th, 1990, when I was pushed ever so gracefully out of my mum's vagina. I don't remember if I was crying or not. I probably wasn't because my family has always told me I was a happy baby. I like to imagine I was giggling like I just smoked with Rihanna.

I was born in Arkansas and became a member of a huge family. My mum had like a dozen sisters and a few brothers and then there was my grandpa and grandma and then my big sister and I had a lot of cousins. My dad was around a bit. I remember him picking me up and dropping me off in the wee hours of the morning but that stopped eventually. I haven't spoken to him in years.

We lived in a small town called Altheimer. The population was only like 1,500. Take that Justin Bieber! We had a post office, two gas stations, a few churches, an elementary school and a John Deere tractor store. The closest city was Pine Bluff which was about 12 miles away. It's where my mum worked and where all the big kids went to school. I don't remember too much from when I was little except that I loved cartoons, pickles and eating my grandma's tums because I thought they were candy. And I was obsessed with dinosaurs and I sang in the church choir with my mum and sister. My mum had a girlfriend who was around all the time and I was really close with her. I later came to learn that she was my mum's partner.



When I was six, the three of us and my sister moved to St. Louis, Missouri. We lived with my mum's partner's dad at first. He became a huge part of my life - the only male figure constantly present as I grew older. Eventually we moved into a place of our own in another part of the city. We lived close to the elementary school, so I got to walk there every morning and then home every afternoon. I made friends easily and school was a breeze. From the moment I was in first grade, I enjoyed reading. As I grew older, the library became one of my favourite places. Mysteries were without a doubt my favourite type of story. I became obsessed with the Boxcar Children before moving on to Nancy Drew. I liked figuring things out.

At the beginning of fourth grade, I took a test and was enrolled into a gifted education program. I stayed in this program for the remainder of elementary school. Once a week, I got to travel to another building and participate in all types of hands-on activities that intrigued me more than regular school. It was the only time I felt challenged.

At home, my sister moved back to Arkansas, which was really sad. I didn't have her company anymore when I got home and I had nobody to fight with. I spent a lot of time outside. I always finished my homework as soon as I got home. When my parents made it home from work, I just put my shoes on and ran outside and joined the kids around me playing tag or trading cards or climbing trees. I'd have to return home every hour so my parents knew I wasn't dead or in the back of some paedophile's van.

Then I also made it into the school choir in 4th grade. The director Miss Davis was one of the best teachers I've ever had. She was always happy and genuinely loved music. In sixth grade, she picked me to audition for the ACDA National Men and Boys Honour Choir. We stayed after school every day practicing pieces for weeks before recording my audition tape and sending it off. In February 2003 my parents, Miss Davis and I travelled to New York City and after two long days of learning music, I performed with other male students from all around the country under the direction of Bob Chilcott. In between the rehearsals and performance, I got to explore NYC with my parents. We stayed in Times Square and rode the subway back and forth to rehearsals. It was insane.

Sixth grade came to a close and I remember crying. Unlike every other summer vacation, I wouldn't come back to that building in the fall because it was time for middle school. 7th grade started when everything was cool at first. I transferred to the middle school gifted system and made it into the choir. I even got involved in theatre. The school was way bigger and there weren't just kids from my elementary school in the building. There were kids from all over the district. It was fucking weird, but I'd never been a shy kid. I met a lot of new people and kept in contact with old ones. School was still very much a fun place for me. The coursework was a piece of cake. I just liked the environment. Then one day after school, me and my friend were goofing around and chasing each other and unknowingly ran into a construction site. I ended up tripping over a tilted light structure which in turn collapsed into my head. I was rushed to the ER and had to get 9 stitches above my eye and have had a permanent scar ever since. 7th grade passed without much chaos after that. It was quite a pleasant year - the calm before the storm.

A month into my eighth-grade year, we moved into our first house which was really exciting except it was in another school district. It was a much better school district, a much better neighbourhood and held many more opportunities. My parents were also closer to work but as a kid I didn't understand that. I just saw every friend I'd made, every place I'd become familiar with, everything I'd known - my whole comfort zone for seven years - just disappear. I remember waiting on the bus for my first day at my new middle school. I had never been the new kid. I was so nervous. I met a girl named Katie who lived one house down from me at the bus stop. She was super nice and took a little bit of my apprehension away. When I got to the school I learned I'd been enrolled in their gifted education program as well but it was different there. Instead of going to one place once a week, it was your entire course schedule so for Math, Science, English and History I was with the same 18 people every single day. We moved at a quicker pace, had different assignments and did different projects. The only time I saw the rest of the student body was during gym, lunch and electives. I don't know if it was because I've grown up around the same kids my whole life or what, but I'd never seen myself as out of place. I'd never felt excluded or ridiculed. I was never teased, we all knew each other or was it just a youthful innocence? An unspoken acceptance of difference? Whatever it was, it was completely shattered my eighth-grade year. Everything I never noticed about myself was exposed: I didn't have the deepest voice, sometimes I talked with my hands, I wasn't good at any sports that involved a ball, I wasn't walking around slapping girls' asses, I had a tad bit more energy than every guy around me. I've never been called a "faggot" more of my life in the period between September 2004 and May 2005. The worst part was that I could never escape it. I was stuck with these people in every single class. When I got to gym, it was even worse. Not only was I a faggot to some, but I was acting "white" because I took harder classes to others. Nothing made sense to me. School had always been a great place. I looked forward to waking up and being surrounded by my peers and learning and having a good time. Over a span of 3 months, it became hell. I hated school. I never wanted to go. I made a few good friends and I still had a positive attitude on the outside, but I'd never felt more alone. I didn't try out for choir. I stopped singing. One day in tech class we had to do a PowerPoint presentation on a significant public figure in our lives. There were only about 9 of us in the class, and it was all guys. Everyone did a presentation on some professional athlete. I chose Britney Spears. I don't know what broke me; maybe it was the laughter when my chosen topic was announced, maybe it was the relentless whispers of "faggot" and "so gay" as I tried to speak, but I was eventually on the hallway floor on my knees in tears. I remember the teacher yelling at the class. The only teacher to ever do anything.

My grades dropped and my parents knew something was wrong. They eventually learned I was being bullied and gave me the best advice they could. For the first time in my life, I did not finish the school year with straight As. I was never quite the same after eighth grade. I was afraid to be myself. I entered high school with severe caution. I became one of those people with a wall that others had to break down rather than the free spirit I once was. As high school progressed, I gained a bit of my confidence back. I eventually became editor of the school newspaper and a host on the news program, so I had to interact with a lot of the student body. I made it to Nationals and Speech for Humorous Interpretation two years in a row. My grades remained stable. I took AP and college credit courses and I built a solid group of friends that accepted me for who I was. By senior year, I genuinely enjoyed going to school again and eventually I received my acceptance letter to the University of Missouri.

By this time, my mum's partner's dad had been diagnosed with leukaemia and lived with us. He had always been a giant ball of life and it was extremely sad to witness the decline of his health. As I mentioned earlier, he was the only prominent male figure in my life - the only example I'd ever had of what a man should be. He passed away not long before my high school graduation.

I spent the summer working, hanging out with friends when I could and looking forward to college in the fall. I began making YouTube videos out of pure boredom and when I was in front of the camera alone in my room, I was able to be myself and when I put it on the internet, it made people happy. People I didn't even know, complete strangers, people who for some reason accepted me more than people I saw every day. August of 2009 eventually rolled around and I was off to university. My parents drove me to Mizzou, helped me set up my room and after one last dinner, they were gone. I was on my own for the first time ever and I went fucking nuts. Freshman year was one huge blur. My partners in crime were my high school bestie Christina and her roommate Andrea. We literally partied the first night after classes. It was my first time being drunk. I was sucking ice blocks and taking bong hits from a balcony. Andrea peed on me.

I somehow managed to attend classes every day while having an amazing social life. I never really had problems getting into frats because I was always surrounded by bitches - not because I'm a pimp but because they were my friends. I was having the time of my life. Then reality sunk in. College is expensive, and despite the countless hours at TGI Fridays, despite working at a movie theatre miles away from campus with no car that resulted in 40-minute walks to the dorm at 12:30 a.m. along the dark road, despite being a seasonal employee at Toys R Us earning overtime on Black Friday as crazy mums went ballistic and despite working at a 24-hour campus Subway until 4:00 a.m. during the week before my 8:00 a.m. Spanish class, and despite having a partial scholarship, despite all of that, I did not have enough money to get through the year. I was probably going to have to drop out of school. There are many things that have happened in my life that have led me to believe that someone's watching over me. "Things I Hate" going viral in a span of five days and YouTube sending me a big fat check when I thought I'd never be able to attend college again is one of those things.

I met this guy and we dated for a long time. My first serious relationship. He introduced me to all these people who would become a part of my life for the next couple of years. I had my first group of gay friends. I went to a gay club for the first time and experienced an entire part of life I didn't even know existed. I guess since I've never been in love before, I put up with more than I should have. My mum and my friends eventually helped me realise that I deserved better and I ended the first relationship of my life.

The period that followed was a bit of a mess for me. The shiny image of college had worn off. I felt like I was going through a routine, learning things I didn't care about, merely memorizing things to pass a test - something that had been so easy to me since first grade. I went on some dates, got into a couple more relationships, but nothing felt right. It didn't help that I was in a small town and nearly every gay person knew each other and had dated each other at some point. It was like a demented game of musical chairs. I felt trapped. I just wanted to be happy and I wanted other people to be happy and YouTube became one of the only places I could accomplish that. It gave me gratification to know I was making people smile, making people laugh, even if I myself was rapidly becoming miserable.

By the beginning of my junior year, everything seemed unbearable. I went to a Britney Spears concert eight hours away from Missouri in Michigan just to get the fuck away. I met up with this girl Stephanie who I had only known through Facebook for about a year. We clicked in person immediately and had one of the most stimulating and refreshing conversations. She was moving to LA in two weeks and spoke with such excitement and passion and optimism. Ironically enough, my friend Caitlin was also moving to LA in three weeks and she did not have a roommate. Jenna Marbles was also moving to LA in three weeks. This was clearly a sign. I poured my heart out to Stephanie. I knew I was unhappy but I never realised how sad I really was until that moment. I loved my parents, I loved my friends but I did not love my life. When we went to the Britney concert it was one of the best nights I'd had a long time. I felt refreshed. I felt determined and I knew what I needed to do. On the car ride home back to Missouri, I called my mum and told her I wanted to move. I told her why. I told her everything and shockingly enough, she was 100% understanding and 100% supportive. Three weeks later, I was on the road to California with Caitlin and I've been here ever since. I've met some great people and I love the area. I've adjusted pretty well if I do say so myself. I love the weather, I love the opportunity and I love the diversity, but fuck the traffic. I talk to my parents all the time. My sister is married and I

have a nephew. I keep in contact with my close friends from home and I visit on holidays and breaks. Caitlin has since moved to San Francisco and Chicago while I've moved twice in the LA area, once with my friend Dennis and now I'm living with my friend Matt who you've seen in my videos and our friend Katie. I live right around the corner from Stephanie, who I'll always love for getting me here, and I'm dating a guy who makes me really happy and treats me well and I hope we stay as strong as we are now for years to come.

And after all the things I've done and all the things I've experienced, here I am, drawing my life for you guys. I don't know where my life is going to go from here. I have dreams and aspirations, just like everyone else. There will come a time where I don't make videos anymore, but I hope you know that I enjoy every second of it. Over the years, you guys have allowed me to show you a part of myself that people I've known for years will never accept - a part of me that was prematurely destroyed and inhibited, a fraction of myself that I'll never get back. If I could jump through the computer and hug you all, I would. Reading your comments and your tweets make my day just as much as you all say that my videos make yours. Thank you for teaching me that it's okay to be yourself, and I hope when you watch my videos to get the same message in return. Because it's not just about the celebrities and the drama. It's about the energy, the confidence, the jokes and the laughs.

3046

## MDML #42

Hello everyone. My name is JC Caylen and for today's video I'm going to attempt to draw my life, and I'm not the best artist, so sorry about that. I mean look at that "M" - it looks like a demented "H", but whatever.

Anyway, let's go all the way back to September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1992. This is when a little fat baby by the name of Justin was born, and yes, my legal name is Justin. I actually didn't get my nickname JC until about middle school. Now I don't remember much about my kid years, but I was a cool little kid. Well I mean, according to my mum. She used to keep me stylish, so I was on that Baby Gap swag. I always wore a hat wherever I went, and my dad was really the amusement in the family. He always knew how to make me laugh. If I was ever feeling down, he knew how to crack a joke and just make me forget about everything. I wasn't really into regular kid things like action figures and toys. I was more into puzzles and board games. Like, if you gave me a crossword puzzle, I'd be set for hours. Ah, kind of weird but whatever.

At about the age of five, my parents divorced. I was too young to know why or remember if I was affected by it in any way. I was just living my little kid life without a care in the world. Mother and I decided to move to San Antonio, Texas, while my dad stayed in Houston and I'm fortunate enough to see my dad and nana and my little sister Ava who is now four every so often when I can. God, I love them.

When I moved down here, I got into sports. Baseball and basketball are probably my two favourites. I tried soccer for one year and then threw up in a pickup game one summer. It was from, like, heat exhaustion. The sun hated me. Yeah, I never played that again.

Okay, now let's talk about school. I wasn't the most popular kid, but I was cool with it. Popularity never really interested me. I knew how to choose my friends wisely and I kept my true friends at a low number. Maybe that's an excuse to say I was kind of a loner but oh well, who knows. I was also that guy that could get straight As without even trying. Yeah, I was that guy.

It wasn't until about junior year that I started to get into YouTube. Mitchell Davis was probably the first YouTuber I ever watched, and his videos really inspired me to create my own and on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, I made a channel called "JC with Jelly" and uploaded my very first YouTube video. It was a little webcam vlog on New Year's Eve. Was my intoxicated grandma, and I already know what you are thinking, "Oh my gosh, I'm totally going to go find this video after watching this". Well, you can't. I don't remember deleting it but it's nowhere to be found now. Then about nine months later, I made a channel which all of you know as today "Life with JC", and don't be going and stalking "JC with Jelly" because I already know you all.

YouTube was a cool little hobby in my high school years. I always thought of as a way of expressing yourself. Not everyone at my school thought of it the same way. I used to be called an attention-seeker, flat-out stupid for what I was doing. I honestly didn't care. The positive always overruled the negative in my world. Over the years of being on YouTube, I realised that YouTube isn't just a website just to upload videos - it's more of like an underground community that nobody knows about and filled with amazing people that share the same interests as you and thus I met six of my best friends till this day: Connor Franta, Ricky Dillon, Kian Lawley, Sam Pottorff, and Trevor Moran. And I didn't technically meet Ricardo on YouTube. We actually went to the same college here in my town in which he was my very first radio interview, which is kind of crazy to think about. And ever since then, he's been one of my best friends. The summer of 2012 was one of the best summers of my life. I travelled to California with Ricardo to attend VidCon 2012 but on the trip, I discovered a new passion of mine: travel. There was just something about being in a new place, meeting new faces and experiencing new things that just got me so excited and high off life.

VidCon and just being in California was a great experience and it really opened my eyes to a lot of possibilities. It wasn't till after VidCon that I really got more into YouTube. Thus, the creation of two new channels: "Our 2nd Life", which is a collaboration channel with the six best friends that I named earlier and "These Dudez" in which Ricardo and I make videos together. With all these channels that I owned, I was able to quit my daily job and have YouTube support me financially which I'm very grateful for.

Now in today's daily life, I live in a household with my stepdad, mum and two little monsters which you know as Jalen and Joel Felix. Oh, and I can't forget about my dog, Wishbone. He's a gangster and he's been my best friend for over nine years now. I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up and I don't have exact plans for my future, but in a way that kind of excites me. I'm kind of just living life in the moment right now and just kind of going with the flow. I'm happy with what I'm doing and where I'm at. My ultimate dream is to move to California with an open mind and just see what awaits me. Just thinking about it excites me because I'm always up for adventure and new things. YouTube has opened a lot of doors for me. I'm able to do what I love and travel many places I've never been before and that's already a small dream I'm currently living, but ultimately YouTube has given me some of the most important people in my life, which is you guys. Knowing I can inspire some kids out there really is what makes all of this worth it. I've gotten really close to you guys over the past few years and I've got to say, all your positive energy has really been my fuel for these past few years and I just want to say thank you guys. I love you all. I hope you guys enjoyed this video and thank you for watching.

1153

#### MDML #43

Hello guys. I'm Jay and this is my draw my life video and I'm really shit at being serious and telling stories, but I'm going to try my best, but yeah, hope you enjoy.

My life started on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 1995, and that is Saint Patrick's Day. I gave birth to my mum and no, I just lied, because she gave birth to me because she has swag and my head was too big for her vagina when I was born though, so I had to be cut out of her stomach because my head was the size of a train station. When I was born, the belly button wrapped around my neck apparently and – the belly button? I mean the umbilical cord, yeah that's the one – apparently, my dad told me this. I don't know if it's true or not, but yeah.

I grew up in a small place called Dudley which I didn't think was that bad until now and that's because I really dislike it now - it's just full of shit and yeah, I don't like it that much.

But I used to play football up the street every day. I've grown up for it, my primary school. And my primary school was called Priory primary school and I loved it. I really loved art and I used to get lots of stickers because I was really creative in my art classes and shit and yeah, most teachers used to give me stickers and shit – stickers and shit? Yo they didn't give me shit, they just gave me stickers. Yeah, yo, I was really creative apparently. Let's move on.

I was really dramatic about things in school, so I took part in a play and I got the main character's role and I remember having to kiss a girl, but I was so scared so I just hugged, there, and her name was Laura, Laura Pocks, and if you're watching this Laura, I miss you man. You're a boss. You have ginormous tits though.

I was always energetic in primary school as well and I always did mad stuff on the playground with my friends. We were always the retarded ones. I was so hyper. Messed up. I grew through primary school and then, then left going to secondary school and this was where the biggest impact of my life happened and all the bullshit started in school. Throughout secondary school, I kind of let people walk all over me for a while so I kind of got over it and realised it was easy to let people treat you like shit so I started to not give a fuck about things and yeah, I kind of stopped caring about a lot of stuff. So, this is why I am who I am now and to be honest, I've learned that caring about stuff is the most pointless thing ever because everyone's going to die anyway. Swag.

In secondary school I did get up to a lot of crap though because of the stuff that I didn't care about. I remember spraying a fire extinguisher at a little child's face when I was in year ten and yeah, it burnt his face because there was ice in the fire extinguisher thing, it was really cold, and yeah, also I remember showing off on the way to school one morning and I broke my arm and the way I did it was the most stupid thing ever. I remember running over a car, tripping over the spoiler at the back and then landing on my wrist which led to snapping my bone in half and I remember laughing on the floor and chewing chewing gum with a wrist that looks like a fucking phone case or something.

In school I met Remel, in secondary school, and this has a major impact on my life and I never thought he would because of the way we met and the way we met was the most stupid thing ever. He was playing Yugio on the school fields and being the real rebel I was and I stopped caring about a lot of things, I just started acting like a douche bag. I walked up to him and picked up his best card and tried to hide it from him and he didn't like it so he kind of got aggressive, pushed me out the way and put me on a furnace and burned me alive so I'll turn into a toaster now. That never happened. He just threatened me and I walked off and then me and Remel got closer through football and we

played in the position next to each other so me and Remel were kind of the entertainers at football training. We were so stupid together and we used to do lots of bullshit, but **it was a laugh. It was good times.** Then we started making videos together and I remember **we dreamt about getting 1,000 subscribers. It was insane. We dreamt about getting 1 million views on YouTube and not long ago we hit it. We hit our goal, and now we have bigger goals, but our first primary goal was getting to 1,000 subscribers and we did it in a few months and we were overwhelmed when we did it. The crazy thing is now we gain 2,000 subscribers each month on YouTube. We're still nowhere near where we want to be though.** We still have our aims, but yeah.

I went on to college and at the same time recorded videos with Remel but **I didn't like college one bit** because I just couldn't find the right course and **nothing was interesting me. Education was just bullshit, so I didn't like it.** I went through about five different courses and colleges just to try and find the right one, but I couldn't, so college and education just **wasn't for me.** I'd rather be a moron. So, guess what? Guess what? Guess what? Okay, this is bullshit. I did the most retarded thing ever and quit college to make stupid **YouTube videos which I love doing more than anything and it makes me really happy.** I know you're probably thinking that's so stupid for leaving college and education just to make stupid internet videos but I did it because **I knew I could make it and I knew I would work hard enough to get where I want** and yeah, we're getting there now, so if it wasn't for believing ourselves in the first place we would be nowhere near where we are now, so. **The people on my course at college were amazing though. I love them. They were the ones that sometimes motivated me to do different videos, so guys if you're watching this, thanks man.**

Now I make YouTube videos and **I do it because I enjoy it** and that's something a lot of people don't do these days. People don't enjoy themselves a lot and people are way too serious and stuck in normal dead-end jobs. **I don't want a job - I want a career** and my career lies in the hands of mine and Remel's stupidity and videos and **you guys watching us** and **we love you more than anything** for watching us be twats basically. I'm coming to the end of the story now and this video but **I'm sorry if my story was quite shit and boring,** but that was me and this is probably the last time you'll see me make a serious video though because I just can't do it. Man, **it's fucked. I can't do it. I can't take seriousness** because I'm a glass.

Before you go and if I have one message to tell everyone it would be this: basically, be yourself and do what makes you happy and smile and laugh. No matter how inspirational other people's stories are, just do what you want to do man and do just be yourself and create your own original story for everyone else to listen to because you'll be respected a lot more for it man, trust me. Goodbye guys! **Thanks for watching.** This was my story. **Hope you enjoyed** it but **probably didn't because it's boring as shit,** but yeah, I'm going.

1383

#### MDML #44

What's going on beauties? What's going on? Troll large staff? My name of course is Burns and welcome to draw my life MS Paint style with **really bad artwork.**

I was supposed to be born on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1986, but instead I decided to troll my mum and come out 2 weeks later, on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1986. Now if you are a friend of mine in real life, you know that Mama Burns does not have very much patience and according to her story, me waiting two weeks to come out of her womb made her very, very, very, very upset. I have been a troll since birth. And where was Papa Burns during all this? Well he was very, very late and when he did finally arrive at the hospital, he saw a very sexy nurse and decided he wanted to take her to dinner. Despite my dad's little mistake with a lunch date with the nurse and countless screaming matches that I have listened to as a child, my parents have been happily married for over thirty years. **They're the most amazing people I know.**

We then moved into our very first home which my dad built with his bare hands in Eden Prairie Minnesota and since baby's brains aren't very well-developed, I don't remember much after that. It was my mum, my dad, myself and then two years later, my parents had my baby brother. Today, **my brother and I are very good friends** but when you're younger of course **there are going to be sibling rivalries and we used to fight a lot.** One night when I was five years old, before I went to sleep I kneeled down in my bed and I prayed to God to bring me another little brother and God said yes and then nine months later my mum had my other little brother and that was about it for the baby making. It was myself, my two brothers, my mum and my dad and **we were one big happy family.**

The one lasting memory from that first house was when I was out in the yard chopping down a tree that my mother very much liked and mama Burns was not very happy with me. The first friend I ever made was born one month after me and he lived down the street. His name was Brett and **we were best friends, inseparable.** When I was nine years old, my dad started his own business and we had to move away. Me and Brett remained friends, but **it was still really hard.** While we waited for my mum and dad to buy a new house for us, we moved into my grandma and grandpa's house in Burnsville, Minnesota, and **the best part about grandma and grandpa's house? Well, they had cable TV and we didn't.** This is when my grandpa introduced me to Twins baseball. We used to watch the game every single night and he would make me popcorn and the Twins, well, they really sucked. Then we finally moved into our new house. **Yay! New house!** And the school my mum wanted me to go to was full, so I had to go to a different school, and **it sucked. I didn't**

make any friends there. I thought everyone there was an asshole. I was only at that school for a year and then I went to the school my mum wanted me to go to, a private school, and I was able to make plenty of friends. There were no assholes here.

More childhood memories. In the summertime, we used to go up north to my uncle's cabin and had a nice big lake where you could swim and fish and there was a pontoon boat and you could water-ski and all that fun stuff. It was a good time. It was so much fun that these days my mum is trying to convince me to buy a cabin. Apparently, my mother thinks that I am a millionaire.

My mum would drive me and my brothers to school every day and her car had a temperature gauge on it. Before we went into school, we would guess the temperature. I think my mum cheated in this. She seemed to win quite a bit.

Then fast-forward to high school. I went to a private high school. My grades were not really that great. I kind of just wanted to play video games probably a little bit more than I should have. The activities that I enjoyed most in high school were going to the state high school hockey tournament. We were state champions in 2002 and heard spoiled rich kid chants every single year because we were a private school. I also enjoyed going to the movies every single weekend with my friends, mostly sneaking into R-rated movies.

At some point during my senior year of high school, I met this girl, Courtney, and she became my very first serious relationship and by that, I mean it lasted more than three weeks. Our parents didn't really approve of the relationship, so I'd drive to her friend's house late at night. We would just park the car on the street till like 5:00 in the morning and we'd call them "car parties". Yeah, car parties. It was time to graduate high school and so, six months later, we decided to break up. It was more her call than my call and I was a little heartbroken over that at first, but I was trying to start a new chapter in my life, and we decided to remain friends. Believe it or not, we still remain friends today. I live in Minnesota and she eventually moved to Arizona for school and to start a new life, but we still stay in contact to this day.

I then graduated high school in 2004. The fact that my 10-year anniversary is coming up next summer makes me feel extremely old. I then went to a community college because I was too stupid to apply anywhere else - either that or I was extremely lazy. During those years of community college, I made a huge mistake by meeting this girl named Brittany on MySpace.com and she invited me to her house to party and so I did. I actually met up with someone I met on MySpace.com to drink, for the first time ever. This would be my first time drinking alcohol and all it took was one beer and three shots of apple vodka and this is what happened next. I remember nothing of that evening and I woke up on a strange couch at 6 o'clock in the morning wondering where in the fuck I was and there was a strange man laughing on the floor and we remained friends and the house was then known as the crunk house and I would invite my friends and she would invite her friends and we would get drunk all the time, every single day. So drunk, always. We were young, making stupid mistakes and I hope you understand. This is also where I met my best friend today, Caleb, and he came up with the idea of when we throw a party in order for you to get in if you were a woman we would make you show your tits and so we would stand outside the door and tell them that they would not be allowed in to drink the keg beer and that's when we saw tits. Legendary moves on a daily basis. On one of these crazy party nights I was drunk just minding my own business and this girl came up to me whose name I still cannot remember, and she just started randomly making out with me and one thing led to another and yeah, mistakes were made. This woman was a stage 5 stupidity clinger. After one night of drunken stupidity fun, she apparently thought that I was her boyfriend and I had to let her down with a strong no. All of the fun of the crunk house came crashing down one day when we decided to throw one last huge party. We had kegs, we had a tub full of Wobwatch - if you don't know what that is, it's basically fruit punch and vodka in one big giant tub - and there was like a hundred people there and by 11 p.m. the police showed up and we refused to let them in the house. It's too hard to draw the scenario out but the door got kicked in and we got breathalysed and a ticket.

I eventually transferred from the Community College to St. Cloud State University. I lived in a dorm for one year with a roommate before moving into a ginormous house with nine people. It was five guys and four girls, and it was one big fucking party. When I was in college, I worked at a liquor store down the street about four or five days a week and usually when I get off my shift at 10:00 p.m. I'd head downtown to the bars. This school was known for a lot of parties and every night there was something going on. I was drunk a lot and that was stupid. Eventually it made my grades slip and I was disinterested in class, just was not interested at all, so when my roommates were at class, I stayed at home in my room and slept in and played a whole lot of video games. It wasn't very smart but that's how it happened. I eventually left school and moved back home. My parents were absolutely furious that I'd quit school and I eventually was unemployed for a while.

About one year later, I finally was starting to get my life back on track. I enrolled in the Minnesota School of Business and started attending class. I also was offered a job by my best friend Caleb's dad at Wells Fargo insurance where I was making the most money I've ever made. Thirteen dollars an hour to sit at a computer and answer phones. Minnesota School of Business became the biggest joke of a school ever. It's basically a scam, so I stopped going. I was more interested in work without class. I could work more hours and make more money and we all know with money you can

buy things. I guess you could say this is where the money whoring began. In January of 2011 I left Wells Fargo insurance because it was basically just an internship, so I went to a different department and in January 2011, I also started my YouTube channel.

You guess you could say that's when MinnesotaBurns was born. My life, I, took a turn in a positive direction. I was being very successful at work, achieving my sales goals every single quarter and getting a lot of recognition. In my spare time, I was busy building my YouTube channel. I had stopped drinking; I had distanced myself from friends who had a negative influence on my life. I was becoming extremely happy entertaining a lot of people. In July of 2011 my channel had grown to seven thousand subscribers and I met the partnering manager Jimmy or Chaos Silencer, and he told me "You can make money on YouTube" and offered me a partnership. Myself and Jimmy have grown real close and I consider him one of my best friends, not only on YouTube but in real life. I love you buddy.

We also met Mr. Technical Difficult, or Kyle, and then met up and with him in real life at Seattle's PAX Prime. We do PCFO live together and I consider us all really good friends. In the summer of 2012, my YouTube channel was taking off. It was going viral, so to speak. 10,000 subscribers, 50,000 subscribers, 100,000 subscribers, 200,000 subscribers, 300,000 subscribers, 500,000 subscribers and eventually I took my job at the bank and quit and did YouTube money full-time, and I love my life so much right now. It is the greatest thing in the world to entertain all of you beauties 100% of the time. In early 2013 I hit a huge milestone. My channel had hit 1 million beauties and I'll never forget the night when a lot of us were sitting on Twitter refreshing the page so many times watching the same featured video over and over again, but I'll never forget that day and I'll forever be grateful for you guys supporting me.

And that's my life so far and I'm really happy how it's turned out. I have a lot of positivity in my life, I'm happy, and I have a lot of people who support me. So, thank you so much for stopping by and listening to my draw my life and watching me suck at arts and crafts. Stay beautiful, keep your tongues off the windows, and I'll see you beauties later. Bye.

2174

#### MDML #45

What's going on guys? Infinite Lists here and today we are making a draw my life video. I would really appreciate it if you guys could drop a fat like on this video because it did take me so many hours to make. I'm not even kidding. But anyway, let's get right into it.

So, as you may know, my real name is Caylus. Yes, it's a little bit of a different name. My mum and dad couldn't agree on one name, so they decided to mix two names together - Caden and Tallus. The first couple years of my life I grew up in a trailer in the woods with my mum, dad and two older brothers. Yes, I am the baby of the family.

When I was about two years old, my mum and dad had decided to get a divorce so me and my mum and both my brothers moved out and got this nice little house in the valley. My mum met this guy named Steve which is now actually my stepdad.

Growing up as a kid, I was very crafty. I loved building things and making cool things out of paper and cardboard and basically anything I could get my hands on. I would literally sit around all day just building so many random things out of paper. Oh, and also I was obsessed with video games. I remember when the DS Lite came out and I literally begged my mum so much if I could get it. As a kid, I went to a private school from first grade all the way to seventh grade. Now, this private school was actually very strict with its rules. You would have to wear collared shirts, dress pants, dress shoes and there was also a rule that you couldn't have your hair past your eyebrows if you were a guy. Now I really, really wanted long hair so I would always get in trouble a lot for having too long of hair. Oh, also this was a very, very small school with only about 200 kids in the whole school - and this school was a kindergarten to 12th grade school.

When I was about nine years old, I found out about skateboarding. Now I fell in love with skateboarding. I would do it almost every day just practicing and learning new tricks. Oh, and I also loved every single skateboarding video game out there, especially Tony Hawk games. I'm not even kidding. I played Tony Hawk's Underground for nine hours straight one day. I was always way too obsessed. My first ever YouTube video is actually me and my friends skateboarding in my backyard.

So, at this point in my life, I was living with my mum, Steve and my two older brothers. Each Tuesday and every other weekend, I would visit my dad at his house and that's when I got to play all the video games I wanted. I'm not even kidding, I was obsessed with video games. My mum and my stepdad were pretty strict and would only allow me to play about one hour of video games a day and I totally thought that sucked at the time, but I'm actually glad that did that because I'm sure staring at a screen for too long, it isn't good for you. My mum had taken me out of the private school that I was in when I was going into eighth grade. I was mad at the time because all my friends were at a different school and it just sucked. This was my first experience being in a public school and that was actually terrifying to me.

Thinking back at it now, I am actually very glad my mum moved me to a public school because I made a lot more friends that way than I would have if I would have stayed at the private school. Oh, also I grew out my hair so long because the public school didn't have any rules about how short your hair had to be. But yeah, I made a solid group of friends when I moved to the public school and all of them played the game called Call of Duty. I had never played it before but I had bought it just so I could play with my friends. I was addicted to this game way more than all of the skateboarding games. I would seriously play every single day.

Now, I don't regret playing so many video games all the time because video games actually led me to become a YouTuber. One of my friends showed me this Call of Duty team called Faze clan. Now, I thought this team was so cool because they would trickshot. I decided that I wanted to try trickshotting a Call of Duty. I got pretty decent at it so my friends said, "Hey, you should start a YouTube channel where you can post your trick shots", so that is exactly what I did. I made a YouTube channel. I also saved up all my money to get an HD PVR which was a device that would let you record your gameplay. Now I got about a hundred subscribers off of it which I thought was really, really crazy at the time.

I continued to go to school and play video games and occasionally post on this YouTube channel. Around junior year of high school, I finally decided to cut my hair and that's when I got my first girlfriend. I wasn't the most popular kid in school, but I did have quite a lot of friends. In high school, I was kind of shy at first but as I got older, I started to become more and more confident and talkative to people. I did date a lot of girls in high school, but they were all very short relationships. When I was about 15 or so, I started to watch a lot of YouTube, like a lot of YouTube. I would always watch YouTube videos before going to bed. Some of my favourite YouTubers at the time were PewDiePie, Markiplier and mostly basically just all the gaming channels. When I was 17, I finally got my first job at Papa Murphy's. Now if you don't know what Papa Murphy's is, it is a pizza place. This job was quite cool when I started, and I actually made a lot of friends at this job. At this time, I was still playing a lot of Call of Duty and still uploading occasionally to the YouTube channel that I had. My manager at Papa Murphy's moved me to morning shifts, which was making me more money, but it also sucked a lot more.

In 2015 I graduated high school, but I also didn't really have a plan for what I wanted to do in the future. I was really interested in fitness at the time, so I was trying to get a job at the gym I was going to. Unfortunately, they never hired me. I ended up actually going to a community college after high school. I wasn't doing the best in college because it was a 30-minute drive every single day and I also just loved sleeping in. I decided to drop out of college because I wasn't doing good in my classes and I just felt like I was wasting all my money basically. At this time, I was still working at Papa Murphy's and I found out about this class I could take to become a lineman. If you don't know what a lineman is, it's basically those guys you see who are always fixing the electrical wires. My intention was to save enough money for this class so I could take it at the end of 2016.

In the very beginning of 2016, I decided to make a different YouTube channel. On this channel I made a bunch of random videos and vlogs and I actually ended up getting around 10k subscribers from it. At this point, I just wanted to see if I could get to a hundred K. That was my all-time YouTube goal. One day, I actually randomly decided to make a Faze Blaziken diss track. Now Faze Blaziken was one of my favourite YouTubers at the time and he had about two million subscribers. Now diss tracks had started to become very popular on YouTube, so I decided, hey, well, why not make one on my favourite YouTuber? You know, just for fun. A couple days after I posted it, he made a video reacting to my video. This is one of the coolest things ever and I was so excited after he posted that I was actually up to about 20,000 subscribers. I started to post a lot more and I actually ended up getting up to 36,000 subscribers, which was which was so crazy to me. It took me about eight months to get up to 36 thousand subscribers. I finally ended up quitting my job at Papa Murphy's and I got a job at Ross, which is basically just an off-brand Walmart. Now I wasn't making a living off of YouTube, so I wasn't sure whether to keep trying on YouTube or just quit and stay focused on other things. I said to myself if I can't make YouTube my career in the next month, then I will quit YouTube. Now this is actually when I changed my channel to Infinite Lists. Now a lot of you are probably confused on why that's my name, but I called it Infinite Lists because I changed my channel into a top-5 channel. I noticed that a lot of top-5 channels were getting really big at the time, so I actually wanted to just try it myself. I put out a top 5 video every single day hoping that maybe one of them will blow up and go viral and actually in about two weeks of daily uploading, one of those videos actually ended up going viral. The video was top five water bottle flips. I was actually the very first person to ever make a top 5 water bottle flips video. This video had gotten like 4 million views in two weeks. It was insane. I was absolutely freaking out when this happened. I gained about 200,000 subscribers in 12 days. After that happened, I kept posting every single day. I was dedicated to try to make this my career. When I got my first paycheck from YouTube, it was mind-blowing. I actually could not believe it was real. I ended up quitting my job at Ross to try and focus mainly on YouTube. My parents both said that I could use that money that I made from YouTube to take the Lineman class that I was going to go to. I decided "Hey, screw that! I want to make YouTube my job!" So, I kept posting videos and by October, I had enough money to move out of my parents' house.

At this time, I had a girlfriend who was going to a college and we had been dating for about seven months, so I moved closer to her college which was about 30 minutes away from my parents' house. Now I had my own place where I could make all the videos I want. I uploaded every single day I could and by the end of 2016, I had 600,000 subscribers.



I actually ended up transitioning my channel to more of me instead of top 5 videos and that's actually when I started doing reaction videos. **This blew up my channel way bigger than I would have ever imagined.** I got up to 1 million subscribers, then two months later I got up to 2 million subscribers, then two months after that, I got up to 3 million subscribers. **It was just crazy.** **Now doing YouTube full-time and not going to school was fun and all but I wanted to get out more and meet new people.** This is when I decided to go back to college. I started going back to college in September of 2017 and **I actually love it.** **I've met some really, really cool people and I've had a lot of fun** while still making daily YouTube videos for you guys, and well I guess that brings us to now. I'm currently in an apartment with two of my friends making videos and **loving life.**

I guess what I want you guys to learn from this is that if you have any goals, never stop trying to reach them. I've been posting videos to YouTube for like 5 years now and **I've always wanted to be a big YouTuber.** Now I'm literally living my dream and it's because **I didn't stop trying to reach my goal.** **I appreciate all of you guys so much** and **I really do hope** all of you guys can reach your goals too and just because I reached my goal, that doesn't mean I'm going to stop or put less effort into my videos. **I'm just going to put more effort into these videos** so you guys can enjoy them even more. **I'm so excited for 2018 and all the videos and projects I will put out for you guys,** but yeah, I think that about wraps this up for this draw my life video guys. **We are so close to 4 million subscribers which is actually so crazy.** Make sure you guys are subscribed with notifications on. **You guys are actually the best fans.** Hashtag infinite army. That is it for the video. **I really hope** you guys did enjoy this and yeah, I will see you guys all tomorrow. Peace.

2297

#### MDML #46

You probably know me as Shonduras. You know **I love to travel, skateboard, snowboard** and that I have huge muscles. Okay, maybe not the muscles. But in the past year, **I've made incredible friends all over the world.** Let me show you where it all started.

This cute baby is me. My name is Sean McBride. I was born with a hole in my heart. **The first three days of my life sucked,** but eventually the doctors got everything fixed. **Life was great for a couple years.** I even won a baby contest. I was a chubby chunk of awesomeness, but life always has its surprises. **Unfortunately for me,** my parents got a divorce. I think I was only like two or three when it happened. **It was really hard for me to understand why and it was one of the most difficult challenges for me all growing up.**

My mum eventually found my stepdad. **He turned out to be a really nice guy.** Every time he would come visit, I would give him a rubber band from my collection. After a couple months, he had a lot of rubber bands, and they got married. **We had tonnes of fun growing up.** I remember one time I convinced my sisters to play Fear Factor. One of the challenges that I made them do was put tadpoles on their eyes. Looking back, it was probably a bad idea. **My dad got remarried as well, to poop. Well not seriously, but my stepmum was insane.** They have three cute girls as well and I would visit my dad every other weekend all growing up. He would always take me to the arcade or to the lake. **We always have fun.** He was going to college and working graveyards, but he would never miss a weekend. **My dad and I are a lot alike and I loved every minute spent with him.** When I was 14, I decided to go live with my dad so I could get to know him better. It didn't work out so well though because of my crazy stepmum. Well, **some of it might have been my fault.** I remember one time I found out she smoked cigarettes, so I had this amazing idea, okay **it was a horrible idea,** but basically, I decided to put a firecracker in one of her cigarettes. I put it back in the pack and actually forgot about my amazing idea until one day she found the firecracker. Yeah, after that I moved back in with my mum and **luckily, my dad got remarried to someone who didn't suck.**

Growing up, I always had a sense of adventure. Anything that seemed exciting or extreme, that was my jam. First it was rollerblading, but **I quickly decided that was stupid.** Next I did BMX with my best friend Eric Schneider but why pedal when you can have a motor? **I was all about motocross for a couple years - I even got pretty good at it -** but eventually I found my true love: skateboarding. I was hooked. **Skateboarding was a creative outlet for all my energy.** **It was so fun. I got good pretty quick because I skated with really good friends.** I would travel around and do contests I rode with Christian Erica and Tyson Powerbank. They actually went on to be pro skaters.

Now is the part of the story where **try and grow up. You know, get responsible.** **I don't think I tried very hard though.** My first job working at a car shop changing oil didn't last very long. I was always distracted and that is when **I headed out on the adventure of a lifetime. Something I'd been wanting to do since I was a little kid.** I was headed to Honduras to serve an LDS mission. I was there for two years. I basically just helped people strengthen their families and improve with their relationships with God. **I absolutely loved it. I would email home whenever I had the chance. I wanted to share this adventure with family and friends. I never wanted to forget these best days of my life.** My mum kept all the emails in this book, and it shows worms living in my leg, playing with parrots, monkeys, some pretty crazy sunburns. Oh and of course, **I still was addicted to cereal.**

Sitting on the plane flying home **I remember promising myself I would never stop trying to impact people's lives in a positive way.** It was really **the only thing I wanted to do.** Back home I started going to college. **I took pretty heavy**

semesters so I could just grind through it as fast as possible. Oh, and I also got a job at a snowboard shop. Yeah, that was rad. The next couple years of my life could be explained in one sentence: study hard, work hard and play hard. I spent every day possible just shredding the mountain and then studied all night or sometimes I just continued snowboarding all night. I wasn't really sure what I wanted to be when I grew up but that's when I decided I just wasn't going to grow up.

This is the part of the story where I fall in love. This is Jenny. She was incredibly beautiful, could always make me laugh and she crushed it on a snowboard. Together, we had adventure after adventure. Eventually, that led to backpacking through Europe for an entire summer. I shot video of the entire experience. We were perfect for each other. Our fun together continued. We both graduated college, we got married, we even got wiener dogs.

By this point, I was running the snowboard shop. I saw the power of e-commerce, selling things on the internet, and wanted to learn. My first instinct was to sell penny boards. These small little skateboards I saw becoming super trendy, but first I decided to seek guidance from a business owner and friend. Sitting there eating pancakes, he asked me what my business strategy would be for driving traffic. How would I find those online customers? That is when I found the power of social media and my new target demographic at that time. Mums were just taking over Facebook. They loved commenting. They love socializing online. They loved Facebook. With the new business plan, I created an online jewellery boutique. All marketing was done through Facebook. The posts were engaging, and I would call upon the Facebook followers to help name each necklace. There were constant opportunities to interact with the Facebook page, win free jewellery and the boutique started growing fast. Okay, let me explain. This is me. I ran the Facebook under Jenny's name because, you know, weird if a guy's running a jewellery store. All that jewellery was imported from overseas. This is Lily Bell. She was an online assistant that I hired from the Philippines. She'll help me with ordering product, keeping inventory, she was awesome. This is Tyler. The boutique started selling so much that I decided to partner with him and his warehouse. They would receive and ship all the product. And this is my bank account. I put every last penny into this project. The next couple months I continued running the board shop while focusing all extra time and energy on this jewellery boutique and it worked. Wow! Okay, this is going to be a long YouTube video. Is anyone even still watching? I'm just going to eat a bowl of cereal real quick. Hold on.

Okay, back to the story. At this point, Snapchat is invented, but I have no idea. That is when I get a random call to interview for my dream job. I'm offered the position to be a representative for some of my favourite snowboard and skateboard brands. I now have three jobs. I never sleep and eventually have to leave the board shop and sell my jewellery boutique but it's all worth it. The next year was one of the greatest of my entire life. It was a combination of traveling, working hard and lots of boarding. My new boss also happened to be the smartest, most rad guy ever and I learned a tonne from him.

Now I find out about Snapchat. My sisters recommended it to me so I could share all my fun new experiences with them. I download that and as I begin sharing these adventures with my family, I quickly realised the potential of the platform. I saw a new space where I could creatively build a community similar to how I've done it on Facebook with the jewellery boutique, only this time I wouldn't try and sell anything. I would just share a message. I made it a goal to post one Snapchat every day that would help someone to smile or just escape their problems. The more I posted, the more my little community of Snapchat friends would grow. When Snapchat released the "my story", it was a game changer. I was now able to share complete adventures and really tell a story on the app. Within the first month of stories, I had taken my snapchat friends flying in a helicopter. We were at glaciers in Alaska, we watched my dog lick a lamp and find a dog genie and I took everyone on a skate surf trip with a bunch of pros. The crazy amount of new friends and all the positive responses I was just getting kept motivating me to push the creativity of the app. It was so fun! Searching the internet, I found Mplaque. He was also getting creative on Snapchat. I sent him an email and coordinated the first ever snapchat collaboration. My idea was to have our snapchat fans participate in a crazy cross-platform boxing match. It would all live on Snapchat but eventually go to Instagram, Twitter etc. We received thousands of snaps within an hour. The engagement was insane. This level of engagement triggered an idea. I started reaching out to brands to show how Snapchat could be a relevant marketing tool.

The first brand to respond with interest was Disney. Together, we put together the very first branded Snapchat story. They sent me out to their 24-hour summer Kick-off. I created a fun adventure about trying to find my Disney side and it turned out amazing. My audience loved it. Creating Snapchat stories at Disney quickly became a thing and they were one of the first brands to be given a custom Geofilter on Snapchat. From there, I continued reaching out and working with some of my favourite brands like Samsung, Red Bull, and Taco Bell. My goal was to not try and sell anything to my Snapchat friends but rather tell them the brand story in a creative and engaging way. When I wasn't partnering with a brand, I continued my personal adventures and message of living life to the fullest. Okay, so that's how all this crazy Snapchat stuff got started, but if I did describe it in one word how it all ended up working, it would be "friendship". The relationship that I created with all my Snapchat friends was incredible. Since the very beginning, I've tried to see every tweet, respond to every single Instagram post and it's basically impossible at this point but I've tried to open every single Snapchat sent to me.

It's just really fun being able to see life through the eyes of my friends all over the world and as for me in my life right now, things have never been better. If you're watching this video right now on release, it means Jenny and I just had our first baby. Like, I can't even imagine what that's going to feel like, but my body gets all tingly just thinking about it. I want to be the best dad ever, but don't worry - our crazy snapchat adventures are going to continue. I've actually been uploading all my favourite stories to my YouTube. I know it's fun to experience the snapchats in the moment as they're happening, but I also want you to be able to enjoy them forever and to be able to share all our fun with others.

That being said, I'm trying to focus a lot more on my YouTube as well. It's a more permanent way to share my messages and fun videos. I would hugely appreciate your support by subscribing. I'm going to make it so if you click this square box thingy it will subscribe, so click it please. That would help a lot. Alright, I'm assuming you just subscribed. Thank you. You can also hit me on Twitter, Instagram or my new favourite Beam. Everything is "@Shonduras". There it is. Life is crazy. I would love to make another one of these in 10 years and see where I'm at. I imagine with the addition of a baby, things are just going to get better. If I could leave you guys with just one final thought, I guess it would be to just find what you're passionate about and get after it. Oh, and I can't remember if I said this, but please subscribe. Thanks.

2211

#### MDML #47

Hey guys. This is Julian and I'm going to draw my life for you today. I was born in Northern California at the Stanford University Hospital. I had one sibling when I was born - my older sister Roxanne. My mum and dad were there with my sister Roxanne and I think my grandparents were there too - I'm not sure - but Roxanne is my big sister. She was there. Once I was born, my family moved from New York and then Northern California down to Los Angeles. I've lived in Los Angeles my entire life. When I was a kid, I got into baseball really seriously. I would play all the time. That's me and my little brother Marlon. One time he got a ball to the nose and broke it. But we'd play baseball all the time. That's kind of what I grew up doing and elementary school kind of just was a little riot. I ran around too all the time and I was really weird. I guess everyone kind of is at that age.

But my mum and dad split up around that time, when I was in the, around the first grade, and the mum met someone named Ted, my baseball coach at the time and he was the father of one of my friends in class. But my mum and Ted started dating. Getting adjusted to Ted and the new stepfamily wasn't easy but at the same time so many kids go through it, it's, I mean, it's nothing new. Ted was my coach, so it was a little different because I had known him before my mum even knew him, but Ted had three kids: Josh Jake and Jessica, and Josh and I had known each other from class and baseball. We would always play together, so we were friends. Once the two families, Jake, Jessica and Josh, started hanging out with me my brother and my sister, which is Marlon and Roxane, we would go on trips together. We would spend all of our time together because the two families had I guess unofficially, but also officially, merged. For the most part, we spent a good amount of our childhood together going to different places like New York. We would go on family car rides, long trips to different places, but my mum had this really goofy giant white van like a little family bus that we took around places. We went to Yosemite Falls. We just kind of went on a lot of road trips. We called it the Brady Bunch because there was so many kids. We did get in our fair share of fights. I remember this one time we're at a family reunion or one of our relative's birthday parties, I can't remember, just a bunch of family everywhere and I was playing catch out in the back. It was like on a ranch. And Josh, my older stepbrother, came up behind me and slapped the ball out of my hand while I was trying to throw so I turned around without even looking and punched him right in the face. That's just kind of one of the times that sticks out in my mind that we fought. I remember after I punched him, my punishment was to sit in the car while everyone else had fun at the party and I just had to watch while everyone kept having fun. That kind of sucked.

When I got in high school, I immediately found my calling as being part of the baseball team. It's really where I found my identity and it's where I got serious about playing baseball. I remember my freshman year I was assigned to play catcher and I just loved it so much. I was involved in every single play and I had power and a lot of people relied on me and it became something that I took really seriously. I started to switch hit, which a lot of catchers do, and I started to think about possibly playing, you know, baseball competitively later on in my life, you know, in college and stuff. It was tough because when I was an underclassman, I really just, I got so into it and I really wanted to play and be the best, and, you know, make varsity, but I got a lot of shit from some of the older players. I think they were threatened by me because I really wanted to work hard and I wanted to play and it was really cool to just kind of relax. I got a lot of shit for it but I didn't care. I really just wanted to play and work hard, and I think baseball was one of the things that really developed my personality and my work ethic. It really taught me how to achieve and how to grab something if you want it and work for it. I was a captain my senior year.

When I was a sophomore I was diagnosed with celiac disease and I couldn't eat any more wheat which at the time, which was 2008, it wasn't that easy. I lost a lot of weight and I didn't know what to eat. There weren't that many options out there, but I figured it out. I discovered I could eat sushi, so I gained the weight back which was good.

When I got to be a senior and I had to decide what college I was going to go to, **it was hard**. I had planned to go to a junior college with **my buddy Andrew. He was my best friend** and we were going to go play baseball together, but then I suddenly got off the waiting list and got accepted into Chapman University; **I had hoped** I would get into and when I finally did **I felt really bad having to bail on my friend**, but I chose Chapman. The plan was to play baseball at Chapman. **It sucks** because the moment I started playing baseball at Chapman, I injured myself. I hurt my back really bad training with the team, and I couldn't do anything. I was laying in my dorm all day for a good, good majority of my freshman year **not knowing how to deal with life. It was so hard for me** because everything I had ever done revolved around baseball and it was kind of just a big part of my identity, so **not being able to play or do anything physical for the vast majority of my freshman year sucked**.

I got an x-ray from the doctor. They said I had fractured a vertebrae and it was called spondylolysis which it was just a small crack but all the twisting motions in baseball really just kind of aggravated it, so I couldn't play baseball anymore. **It was really hard. I didn't know what to do. It was a tough point of my life and I ultimately had to give baseball up which was one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make, but having made it, you know, in hindsight, I knew I had to do it, so it was hard.**

Alright, last sad thing. It was just this summer after I'd stopped playing baseball when my brother Marlon started to get sick. He was coughing a little bit and then one day he really couldn't walk. He fell down, I remember. And it was a weird sickness. His muscles atrophied. We couldn't understand what was going on, so at one point it was after the day he fell out of bed, we took him to the ER and we found out that he had a really bad disease called Guillain-Barre syndrome and the syndrome is basically just, it attacks your body. He didn't have any control over his body. His body was eating away at itself and he had to be put on IVIG, which was a treatment similar to chemotherapy. He lost about 25 pounds just from the treatment and **it was really, really hard to watch** but one of the things that I remember the most out of this whole experience was how my brother Marlon, who was having this happen to him, was just smiling the whole time and I was always confused at how he could be that okay during such a time like this. Like, I remember our family got a call from family friends saying we send our thoughts and prayers, and I always was so puzzled by that because that was something to me that you said to a family who had lost someone, so **to hear that was incredibly discouraging** but he had such a great attitude that I'm, **I'm convinced was a huge reason why he got through it the way he did. And now he's as strong as ever and I'm proud to call him my brother.**

Summer after my sophomore year I got a job working at a radio station called Amp Radio in Los Angeles and I still went to Chapman so I would commute on the weekends by train and bike to come work in Amp Radio and **I really loved it and what was great** is that I also started bartending. So, I would go during the day on the weekend to work in Amp Radio all day and then when it came to night-time, I would go to the bar I worked at which was called South and I would bartend. So, you could say **I worked more than the average college student**, but **I loved it. I loved every second of it.**

**I loved bartending for a lot of reasons. One day I was working at the bar and I got to meet this really cute girl** who had come in quite a bit and she had a group of friends that she would sit with and I'd seen her but I finally got introduced to her. And one night she said, "You know, maybe you should hang out and not work one night", so I did. I took the night off and spent it with her and the group of people and **it was really nice getting to know her and then we started really dating. That girl was Jenna and I'm so lucky to have met her. She's such an incredible person.** It was pretty crazy how she had flown all the way across the United States to go into the bar that I worked at. When we started dating, she had showed me, you know, her work and I had gone places with her, you know. I'd gone to Ireland with her. I worked security for her when we went to Ireland together. **She really just kind of opened my eyes to the whole world of YouTube which I thought was so intriguing** and I had not really seen it before.

A little later on I got really into Olympic weightlifting which **I felt like was a great thing for me because I had finally found a way to channel my competitive energy in** and I start training a lot at Olympic weightlifting and this past summer I finally decided **I wanted to compete and so I did, and I was really happy I did. I got third place at the tournament and I was really happy to get back into that environment of competing.**

Anyway, Jenna has two dogs, Kermit and Marbles. **I had fallen so deeply in love with Kermit. He's just such a sweetheart and I told myself I wanted to get a dog** as soon as I graduated college. I didn't want to get a dog before graduating. I spent so much time with Kermit. I just realised that's the kind of dog I want, so I waited - I really waited until I graduated and once I finally got that diploma, I got my own Italian Greyhound and as you guys have now met her, her name is Peach and **I am so happy with her. She's my new life partner.** She's, you know, just mine and she's part of our Wolf Pack.

Now I guess that's where I am. **I'm with Jenna, I have this pack of dogs, this little family we've created**, and I don't really know what's going to happen in the future. I know, I know **I have a passion for radio and working where I work and I, and I'm also really intrigued by making YouTube videos** and helping Jenna with hers. I really don't know what's going to happen in the future, but **I do know that I'm happy with the direction I'm headed in. I hope you guys enjoyed hearing about my life. Thank you for watching.**

## MDML #48

What's up guys? It's Alex. Not too long ago we reached four million subscribers on this channel and before starting this video, I just wanted to stop and say thank you guys so much for your continuous support on this amazing journey. Thank you guys so much for lifting me up and always sharing what I'm doing with all of your friends. Just know that you guys are seriously the heart and soul of everything that I've been able to do, so thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. This isn't just for me. This is us. This is our journey together and for you guys who are new to my channel or even for subscribers from the early days, I wanted to share with you this Draw My Life feature that I've been working on. I hope you guys enjoy it as much as I enjoyed making it.

So yeah, I'm Alex Aiono and since I was little, my life has revolved around music. It's my plan A, my plan B, my plan C, all the way down to plan Z, and I'm never going to stop playing, singing, learning or experiencing and what's cool about all these amazing things that have been happening with me, is less about being famous and more proof that when you're determined and follow your passion with everything you've got, you can really find your way. What I've always loved most about the world is music, so truthfully, I'm just doing whatever I've done since I was a little kid, except now I get to share that music I'm making with all of you around the world, so it really doesn't get better than this. No pun intended.

Well let's start all the way from the beginning. I was born on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1996, and I was raised in Arizona in the United States. I was fortunate enough to grow up in a family where everybody was blessed with artistic gifts. My sisters Sydney, Taylor and Halle and I shared many magical musical moments together. At 4 years old, I wrote my first song. As you can see, I was in a hurry to get started and of course at that pace I was already multi-instrumental by my 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. I play the drums, ukulele and bass but the guitar and the piano are without a doubt my favourites. And of course, I've been singing since I can remember anything.

Shortly before I turned 15, I asked my parents about us moving to California and in time they agreed, and I continued to pursue my musical dream. After singing for various people and doing street performances on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street near Santa Monica's boardwalk, I eventually met my manager Billy Mann, an event that would change my life forever. I've always liked writing my own original songs and I'm very lucky that artists like John Legend and Babyface have taken an interest in my work. And let me tell you as a teenager, composing songs with Grammy winning songwriters like them is incredible and of course a little bit intimidating.

About four years ago, I began to post videos on YouTube covering songs of other artists like Katy Perry, Rihanna and Drake and they were all self-produced in my parents' apartment and to this day, I still self-produce my videos in my parents' apartment. In addition to broadening my musical vocabulary, sharing the stage with other young artists like The Wanted, Bridgit Mendler, Austin Mahone and R5, I learned a lot of different ways to interpret music and connect with you guys. Just check out the web series Royal Crush on Awesomeness TV. The show just premiered its fourth season and stars, among others, yours truly. I also host my own shows on Radio Disney - a passionate group of people and a platform that has helped me spread by wings even wider and become a regular part of so many of your lives.

One of the things I love most is to go on tour and feel the connection and love with the fans at every performance. To this day I still get butterflies when I'm about to get on stage and play in front of a crowd and by the way, stay tuned because I have a lot of great shows coming up in 2017, kicking it off on the Changes tour with Will Singe on February 8<sup>th</sup> and then I'm off to Europe - I am so excited. I love travelling. I've continued to regularly post covers on YouTube and thanks to you guys, they've organically gained more and more attention. The mash-up of One Dance by Drake and Hasta el Amanecer by Nicky Jam just passed 50 million views, what? I cannot thank you guys enough for all of that love. I will admit though, I knew Drake's song was going to be very important for my channel, but I had no idea how big the reaction would be. With it being my first Spanish mashup, the Latin market embraced me with open arms although I admit I only speak a little bit of Spanish, but I'm working at getting better at that.

And of course I still dream of working with more of my idols, like Pharrell, Frank Ocean and Justin Timberlake, and I continually want to grow and explore styles like I did with one of my last songs, Lordly, which I immersed myself in the EDM world with the incredible DJ Feder. In the end, my dream is to leave my mark on the music world in a positive way and to be remembered decades from now like Sam Cooke or Michael Jackson by bringing only fun and joy through music either through the songs that I sing and write or the concerts that I perform at or than just meeting the incredible fans one by one. I'm excited to grow and embrace and appreciate every moment - even the tough ones.

And once my team and I decided the time was right, I started to meet with several different labels to explore this next career step and this is all thanks to you: my fans who lifted me up and helped deliver me to the place where any of this is even possible. In the end, all of the label people seemed so great, but I felt I connected the most with Interscope Records after meeting with the creative head Erin, and together we are creating magic. I cannot wait to share all of the cool things that we're working on together with you. I know that it might seem that way if you're just learning about me now, but I am not an overnight success. I have been at this for years. But we are here now together, and we might

be connecting for the first time in this moment or celebrating that we are still together after all this time, and no matter what, thank you. I have so much faith that this adventure we're going on is going to be awesome and I'm grateful for all of you guys to take it with me. Here we go! 2017 is going to be a beastly year full of surprises and exciting moments. You guys ready?

1214

#### MDML #49

It all started on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1995, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. A little boy was born named Jordi, or Kwebbelkop. People like to call me Kwebbelkop mainly because of my YouTube channel, and that's what we'll go with, or Jordi. One of the two. I had one sister, one mum and one dad. My sister was a bit older than me, about one and a half years older than me, but she was really nice.

When I was about 2 years old, my parents got a divorce. I can't really remember a lot of this. I only remember that my mum told me that I told her that it's not going to, not going to work out with me and my dad. My dad's a mean person. That's what I said back then. Two times a week I would go to my dad, five times a week to my mum. This is an average because every two weeks, I'd go to my dad four times and ten times to my mum, because it switched up every week.

We will skip three years. When I was five years old, I came up with the name Kwebbelkop. It was a little ghost doll and I made him in kinder, kindergarten, well, it was primary school back then. I was making this little doll and KwebelKop, or Kwebbelkop because I misspelled it. It was, is, a Dutch name, or actually two Dutch words put together. It means talking head or chattering box.

When I was six years old, I found out I had a lazy eye. Me and my mum's boyfriend went to Tarzan the Movie, and my mum's boyfriend, he started crying while watching Tarzan. Of course, I thought this was hilarious, until I started crying too. I had no idea what was going on and my mum's boyfriend also had no idea what was going on. He ended up telling my mum and it turned out I had a lazy eye. I was barely able to see with the eye. I had no idea what was going on because I was that young but now since I know and after I've had a lot of extra stuff happen to my eye, and improvement, I realised it was really good that we found it out when I was 6 or 7 years old. I ended up getting glasses and one of these pirate thingies on my eye.

One day when I was about 7 years old, I was riding my bicycle towards school and I came across my friend and we wanted to do a race, so we drove our bicycles really fast, and guess what? There was a car coming right towards me, so we went onto the curb and I fell off my bike. I ended up falling on my head and that's why I have a scar on my head. I've seen a lot of people ask me on stream or on my Q&A what's that thing on your head? For you guys it's in the top right, for me it's at top left of my head, and I basically fell on the ground and there was a massive scar. And there's still a massive scar. What I like to say is that that's when I got my superpowers.

Now, back to the name Kwebbelkop. When I was about 9 to 10 years old, I found out I was dyslexic. Me and my mum we went to this clinic, the dyslexic clinic, and I had to do tests and I passed the test because it was a test to see if you're dyslexic or no, and I passed it. I'm pretty sure I did really well passing that test because my Dutch back then was really bad. My mum had me go to this extra class once a week and I really did not like it but in the long term it really helped me out in my life.

When I was 11 years old, my mum met my stepdad, and my stepdad, he wasn't the nicest guy. He was actually not a nice guy and he loved drinking, so my mum got into drinking. They both loved drinking. Now we fast forward one year. My mum was drinking with my stepdad every single day, they got drunk together, they got mad at me, they got mad at my sister. And I had to do a test at school. I scored 538 on the test and this was equivalent to level two, and level two being not the highest, because level one was the highest. It was a second highest. The thing was that my teacher didn't like me. She thought I was annoying, my behaviour was inappropriate, and I was 12 years old back then, therefore she tried dooming my future. She set me to level 3 instead of level 2, even though I was easily able to pass even a level 1 but the only reason I got level 2 was because of my dyslexia. She didn't like me, probably because we had a few arguments and I wasn't nice to everyone, so she put me to level 3. Therefore, I wasn't able to join a school I wanted to join right then, where my girlfriend was, kind of girlfriend, I don't know if you can really call it a girlfriend. So, I moved to high school. I was still 12 years old, but the school was really easy. I was in level 3 and in my mind, I was able to do level 2 easily and level 1 probably too. And the school was a mess. It was probably the worst school there was and where you could go to. I got really sick because my family suffers from migraines and sometimes we just randomly get migraines and I had migraines for about 2 months straight, so I couldn't properly walk. I got really sick, like really sick. I had to go to the doctors and a lot of other stuff happened too because my mum was still drinking, my stepdad was still drinking. They were fighting, they were cursing at us, me and my sister, and we had to do high school.

I continued my school and the school was such a mess that they asked me for papers, and they gave me these little papers and basically what it said was, what level do you do Jordi, or Kwebbel? And instead of filling in level 4, level

3, or level 2, I filled a level 1 because I was pretty sure that they wouldn't check and if they would check, I would not be punished, so I went with level 1. And I did that for the next six years. So, about a year later, I got better. I was going to school every day again. Well, not every day because sometimes I had to play Call of Duty. My mum was still drinking with my stepdad. They were still fighting, and my dad got into trouble. He did not pay his bills, he probably borrowed money from the wrong people. He had no furniture in his house. Therefore, because they took away all the furniture because he had to pay those people, he was mostly drunk. Pretty sure he was always drunk because he was drinking beer more than I was drinking water. He was dealing drugs on the side. Every night someone would come to his house. He would close off the door so we couldn't hear anything, and he would give them a bunch of pills. Pretty sure pharmaceutical pills because he was working as a psychiatric dude but basically, he had access to medicine and he sold that on the side, basically dealing drugs. He would also borrow money and he would not pay it back. He would let me and my sister down on everything. He would say we were going to do something funny, but he ended up not doing anything funny. He would just sit at home on his PC getting hookers over while doing lines of cocaine while drinking beer and sending us upstairs to go to bed. Anything was a disappointment.

We ended up going to my mum's place because there was no furniture anymore. There was nothing to do over there and that's not a good place to grow up as a child. My mum was drunk most of the time, well, my stepdad was drunk too, and they were yelling at each other and they were yelling at me. They were also yelling at my sister. We always got told that we couldn't get anywhere in our lives. He was verbally harassing us, and he sometimes also kicked us. One day my mum was drunk again. She walked upstairs and she slipped. I ran towards her and there was blood all over the ground. There was blood all over her jacket and she fell on her head. I ran outside in my underwear shouting for help and the neighbours ended up calling 911, or actually 112 over here. In the meantime, my sister was making sure my mum would stay down. She ended up walking up the stairs, my mum, and going back to bed and she fell asleep while the paramedics arrived with blood all over the place. The paramedics took her against her will, because she was bleeding and intoxicated, and we got into my dad's house again.

So, my dad's place, it looked like shit. My dad looked like shit. It was like someone would hit a hobo in the face then put him in a house and take all his furniture. There was nothing in the house. There was one couch and a table and also his laptop because he probably was keeping the laptop secret and safe so they couldn't take it. We went to my dad's place because my stepdad wasn't there. He was "working" in Italy and that was a reason that he wasn't there.

I was 14 years old. My mum was alright. She came out of the hospital and she was doing everything all over again. She was drinking again with my stepdad, she was fighting on a daily basis and on a weekly basis they would break up but they would get back together. My dad wanted to meet up because we hadn't seen him for a really long time. We as me and my sister. So, me my sister went to his and he was living in a different house. It wasn't his house. He was borrowing it from a friend, and it was a really luxurious house. We watched some sports, we ate and after that, we left. So, he lived in the other house. He also ended up taking all me and my sister's savings for university. People were searching for him in the newspapers and that's why he left the country. This was also the last time that I saw my dad. I was 16 years old now.

My mum and stepdad were fighting on a daily basis again. They were also drinking every single day. Me and my sister kept getting told that we couldn't do anything in our lives and we would not get anything out of it. In the meantime, they were drinking their asses off again. I started my YouTube channel. I already started a while back, but I never really made good videos. I made a few good videos, got a few viral videos and it made me happy. It made me happy to see that there were actually people out in the world that liked me.

A few weeks after my stepdad got busted cheating on my mum, me, my sister were happy because we knew that this time when they broke up, they would never get together again. He was cheating on her for the past three to four years. He lied to her about almost anything. He never got a degree and he was basically just drinking his ass off, borrowing stuff from me and my mum and my sister of course. My theory is that he went to Italy not to work over there because he also claimed that he lost the money, he was just going to his other girlfriend.

A year later I turned 17. I played a lot of RuneScape. Yes, you can laugh at me, but we all know everyone played that once. I earned a lot of money in the game and I ended up finding out that you could sell the money in real life. I realised that this game wasn't getting me anywhere in life and I was basically just wasting my time. I was also doing YouTube on the side. I wasn't serious. I did upload every now and then, but I ended up selling my RuneScape money. This was against the rules and you could get banned but the amount of money I got was pretty nice. I also ended up selling my PC and that's how I got the money to buy a new PC, a better one. So, I bought all the parts. It would take about a month or a few weeks.

After like two weeks, I met this girl. She turned out to be the first real, like real girlfriend I'd have and the first real relationship I'd ever had. After maybe a bit less or maybe bit longer than two months, I still didn't all receive my PC. Some parts were broken and therefore they had to be sent back. This took a really long time and I was still dating this girl until I found out that basically anything she said was a lie. I felt disrespected. I felt like this girl was the same as my dad and the same as my stepdad and that's why I ended up breaking up with her. My PC parts were still not here.

Some of them arrived but I had to send them back because most parts didn't work again. I had no girlfriend, I had no computer. This is probably the worst part - I had no computer I could make videos on. I could only watch videos on this stupid MacBook I got from school. I could watch movies, series and videos and talk to girls on Facebook. I had enough time to think about my life and to think about what I wanted to do. I wanted to escape the system. I wanted to do something you enjoy doing because everyone was telling me to do something I did not like doing. I had to finish school. I did not like school, even though some kids told me that I liked school and I got angry when they told me that, because I did not like it. And I knew that if I finished school when I was 18 years old, I had to continue and I had to do University for another four to five maybe even six years, but I did not like it. I didn't want to do it, so I needed to find a way to get a career while I was enjoying my life because what is the point of living your life when you're not enjoying it? I realised YouTube was the way to go. After a solid month of watching videos, I realised that this was really something I wanted to do.

Now I turned eighteen years old. My YouTube channel was doing great. I never missed a single day of uploading and sometimes when I did, I compensated by uploading two videos. I had 10,000 subscribers on my birthday, first of June, 18 years after I was born. I was about to pass college. I faked some papers when I was 12 to 13 years old and this really ended up paying off. They basically asked me what level I did, and I said I was doing the highest. Then when I had to get the grades to be on that level I easily managed to pass. Now if I wouldn't have done that, my life would have changed. I was not doing anything against the system. I was just beating the system, because I saw it as a game - as a video game.

I passed school and I really did not want to go back to school. I did not like school, I did not like the people at school and I ended up taking a break year. My mum really did not want me to do it. She kept complaining that I had to find a real job and she was still telling me I would never get anywhere in my life. I was doing YouTube and yes, I was earning money with YouTube and it was about two times as much as I would earn at the grocery store. I told my mum this, but she still did not want to believe me. I even told my mum that she had to be in a video, and I would show her that a lot of people like what I'm doing. I started doing YouTube full-time despite what my mum was saying and every single time she told me I wouldn't get anywhere in my life or she told me I had to find a real job, I told her to shut the fuck up.

I now wake up every day in my life knowing that my day is going to be a good day. I will never change for anything or anyone. I have a dream and I will succeed this dream. I will not give up. I will never give up and when I see someone whining about their boyfriend breaking up, I look at them and I say to myself, you don't even know what real pain is. You can't trust anyone in your life, not even the people closest to you. The only person I can trust is my sister and me and my sister will do what no one saw coming. Something my dad didn't see coming, something my mum didn't see coming and something my stepdad didn't see coming. We're going to make something out of our lives, and we won't give up. We will never give up. I will go to 1 million and after that I will go to 10 million and you guys will tell your friends, I told you so.

3078

## MDML #50

Welcome to my draw my life video. I'd just like to point out before we begin, I am the worst drawer in the world ever, so please excuse my terrible illustrations.

I was born in Ireland, which is a terrible depiction there. I was born in Dublin in Ireland in 1980. I was born into a family. I was the third child born. I had a sister and a brother before me and that's me there. Hi! When I, when I was born, my father wanted to call me John and my mum said "Nope", because there is a tradition in my family which goes back generation of generation, there's always been like a John Jolie for like hundreds of generations going back and my mum said "No". My grandparents said, "Call him John, call him John". My mum was really stubborn, and she said, "No way, I'm not going to call him John". So, she decided in the end, that she was going to call me Jonathan.

We lived in a relatively sort of average house in a relatively sort of average area. It was a nice road. We were in a place called Terenure which is a village in South Dublin. When I was a kid, I shared a bedroom with my brother. It was cool - it was like a club house with like my best friend. We had the most fun in there ever - the most ridiculous, dangerous and stupid fun you could ever do and of course, there's no girls allowed.

A couple of years later, in 1983, we all had to go to the hospital because my mum decided it would be a good idea to bring another girl into the family, so we all trucked off to the hospital to go meet my new little sister. So, I was no longer the baby of family. I was all grown up, so I had my older sister Ruth, my brother Simon, me and my little sister Leah. Life in Ireland in the 1980s was kind of tough you know, because although there was a recession, it was easier in the sense that no one ever had anything to begin with. No one had money, no one had food, no one had anything to lose, so myself and my brother though, we would play in the garden a lot. We did have a castle in the garden and in the castle we had a full group of warriors. They are like specialist bow and arrow men. I also happened to have a pet. I had



a wolf sort of bear. Actually no, okay, there was no castle, no men and no bear - it was essentially a garden, some rocks and a couple of cardboard boxes if we were lucky, but imagination, we never, was limitless.

As a kid I always, always wanted to have a dog. I always felt that like a dog could be your best friend, better than any human, and one day I was walking down the road and I happened to notice inside a bush was a dog and I said, "Hello there doggy!" and the dog said "Hi" back and I decided that I would say "Hey, do you want to come and live with me?" and the dog said "Yes" and so I decided to bring the dog home. It was kind of hard for the first few days hiding the dog from my mum and dad, but they eventually found out and they found out who the owners were. They contacted them and they came and took the dog away and I was, like, really hard and I was really upset that I'd lost my new friend but it turned out that the dog was actually pregnant and the owners decided to give me one of the puppies, so I called the puppy Benji and Benji was my new friend.

Another aspect of my childhood growing up in a sort of poverty-stricken country during the 80s was that, you know, it was a lot of stress for my parents and they didn't get along very well so they would constantly fight and it was very difficult for me and my brothers and sisters, you know? We would sit upstairs in our rooms and we just listened to this constant fighting and crashing and smashing and I think, I think that had an effect on me you know, because I closed up a lot, you know. I didn't, I didn't socialize much and I found it very difficult for interpersonal communication so when I would be in school, you know, people wonder why I wouldn't, you know, do the popular social things and you know, people got frustrated with me and they would laugh at me and they'd call me names. They'd think I was just a weirdo just because I wouldn't conform to what everybody else was doing and that was very hard on me, you know. For years, for years I would just sort of put up with it and I would just sort of like, you know, sit in my room and I would just like write short stories and poetry and just, you know, think about a different life, a different existence. And I would still hear, you know, my mum, my dad, you know, the fighting just escalated, and it got worse and you know, it didn't matter how much you shut yourself away. You could never really escape it. I just figured that I had to do something, so one day I figured out a way to escape at all and that was to essentially escape this life that I had, and I figured out that I had this incredible imagination where I could essentially create a world that suited me - an imagination that allowed me to create a world for myself inside my own head, and that's exactly what I did.

For years I shut myself away. I lived inside this world. Not only did I have imaginary friends but I had an imaginary life. It was filled with people that I wanted to look after me. Funnily enough, it was filled with women and not in kind of like, you know, "Oh you're so like thinking of girls and stuff", I just, girls that was just mums, you know? It's just filled with mums that would just bring me out in the park, just play with me, would hold my hand, would tell me they love me. And it was just, it was one of the happiest times for my childhood, which is funny because it didn't actually exist. It all existed in my head.

One of the, one of the hard parts is that, you know, while I was enjoying this existence outside in the real world, I was just an empty shell of a person walking around, and you know I was still going to school every day and being picked on and people were calling me, and the more I subtracted myself from reality, the more people got more frustrated with me and more angry with me and my parents, that way, they would look on and they would wonder like "Why, why is why is Jonathan like this? Why would he act like this?" Until one day, my mum decided that there was definitely something wrong here. It was not just me just being like a weird kid, you know? And she got in touch with this specialist school which is run by the Jesuit society and decided to bring me in for an interview. The interview process is quite unique. They basically sat there with me. They watched me play. They made me draw pictures and after a while, they decided that they would take me into the school and the school is called St. Declan's. One of my fondest memories which is kind of unique of St. Declan's is when you go into the school, you would have to take your shoes off and you would put slippers on and I always remember that - coming in in the morning, taking off my shoes and putting slippers on. There was also a swing set in the garden and had a huge tree with a big garden and then there was a monkey bar set and I actually had my first girlfriend experience when I was there. There was this girl called Jenny and my friends all told me "Oh my god, like Jenny really likes you" and I said, "Um, okay. Am I supposed to like her?" and they said "Oh, why don't you ask her out?" So, I did. I went up to her, I climbed the monkey bars and said, "You want to be my girlfriend?" And she said "Yes", and then I did not speak to her four or five months and then we broke up.

I spent three years in St. Declan's before I moved on back into mainstream school. It was quite frightening for me going back into mainstream school after my last experience and my parents decided to send me to a school called Rossmini which was a public school. The first two years in secondary school were quite scary and I didn't really have any friends. I was trying to adjust back into a mainstream school, and I found it very difficult. I was still very inward thinking and I wasn't very social until in third year, in my junior year, I actually started to go to discos. I had my first girlfriend and it was like while at discos I started to see other people from my school and they would notice me and they'd say "Oh hey, you're in my school, aren't you?", "Oh yeah", and they'd say "Oh, you've got a girlfriend and stuff", and yeah. Everything sort of changed from there. I sort of became popular. I sort of made lots of friends. I cut my hair. I changed my clothes. I started listening to different music. I started going out more. I had more girlfriends. I had more friends and more parties to go to. It was just, it was an idyllic time for me because everything sort of changed, you know? I had, like, house parties every weekend because my parents were happy that I was happy, so I became like this house party guy and this super popular guy and well, when I was around the same age, I went with a friend of mine down to

a place called Saint Anthony's Cathedral in the city centre and it was actually a dance studio called Dance the Nations, and that to me is a big impact point in my life because I was really affected by that and a lot of the kids in there were also, had come from, like, you know, kind of have difficulties or emotional problems, and we all just sort of like got together and it was a great, a great sense of feeling, like something was awoken in me. You know? When I would be sad, I would go down there and you know, they play music and we'd learn the routines and it was something about dancing and expressing myself where I went from happy to sad. I just absolutely loved it. I finally I found an outlet that I just really, really enjoyed.

With finding something new in my life though, I found that I started to get bored with the life that I had sort of built up for myself. I was bored with my friends, I was bored with what we did every weekend, I was bored with my girlfriends, I was bored with every aspect and I just got tired of it and I started to sort of, you know, remove myself from them and then at the same time, upon doing that, I became more aware of difficulties again at home and how difficult it was. And it was coming up to my Leaving Cert and, you know, just, it was just all too much and I decided just to quit.

So, I moved into my first apartment, wouldn't even call it apartment, I'd just call it like a one-bedroom bedsit flat in the middle of the city centre, in Parnell Street in Dublin City. It was alright. It was an experience; I'll give it that. I didn't last that long and in that particular place but it was it was just somewhere peaceful that I could call home. One of the aspects of course to moving out and being independent is unfortunately, you have to get a job and you know, most of my friends were off in college, university, and I was off just working and I found I didn't find it very difficult to get a job. I find that I am, I spoke well and you know, I was clever enough to be able to get jobs, but my only problem is that I didn't have a very good attention span, so as fast as I was getting jobs, I was being fired from jobs, and then I was hired and then I was fired and that just sort of, that was like a pattern in my life that just went on for quite some time.

I also, during a period as well, I actually, I got, I joined a band. We formed a band, myself and four other guys, we're a five-piece vocal harmony group called New Entry. One of the guys, well he didn't stick around with us, we then became a four-piece. It was kind of fun, you know, we toured with some really good well-known people. We got to play at The Point, it's called the O2 now, in front of nine thousand people. I was, that was quite an experience to do, but one of the things, you know, while I was doing it, I don't know. I, just as much as I loved it because I always wanted to dance and perform, something in me just felt empty, you know? And I changed and eventually I quit that too. I sort of went through a period of not really sure what I was supposed to do or who I was supposed to be or what, you know, I went through that period of transition from knowing that the dreams that I had as a child weren't really representing the person I had become and what I'm doing here is I'm just giving you a rundown of all the different jobs, like I have been every job you can think of. I have done it: a technician, stockbroker, event management, I've worked in marketing, I worked in sales, I worked in teaching, I worked as a brand manager, I was satellite installing, I did web design, I did commercial. I just, every job you could think of, I was just jumping from job to job. I was just searching for somewhere where I would fit in and it was just, I was just constantly upset and unhappy and depressed and along with that was a trail of girlfriends and, you know, I'd like to apologize for everybody that I've hurt along the way but I was just, I was just, I was misunderstood. I didn't know who I was and without knowing who I was, there was no way I could, you know, be in a relationship with anybody or a job for that matter. And I kept that up from 19 to 21 to 22 to 23, 24 and at 25, I would say is one of the biggest impact years of my life. Decided to make a big decision and I moved to Cork. I was currently in a sort of a long-term relationship with this girl. We both decided that it was probably going to be best and she was quite supportive, and we decided that we'd move to Cork and that I would enrol myself into college. We had a dog at the time. His name is Fillie. It was a little West Highland Terrier. He was so cute. We decided to move into this sort of a small little one bed sort of apartment out near Cove and I enrolled myself into CSN, which is a further education College and I studied Multimedia. It was very difficult at first with us. We'd fight all the time because, you know, we had come from a situation where both of us had a job and now I would, I didn't have a job. I was in college and she hasn't been working, so we eventually, we broke up over it and we decided to move out and move on with our lives without each other and one of the hardest aspects, I always remember one of the biggest sort of crossroads in my life was having to give up Fillie. And it was so difficult and I remember when she came and took Fillie away and I was so upset and, you know, my family saying come back to Dublin, you know? I said "No, no. I really, really want to commit to this." I really want to stay in college".

So, I decided to go out and try and find my job. What I'm drawing here is basically the only possessions I had in my life. I had no money, I had no food, I had no friends, I had no family, I had no job. It was just me and my motorbike and I was enrolled in college and that was it. And I had, you know, I could have just given up. I could have just taken the easy way - gone back to Dublin, fit back in, got the jobs back, whatever. But I figured like, you know what? No way. I'm going to do this. So, after applying to all the cool jobs, I couldn't get any, so eventually I got a job in Tesco working on the checkouts, and I worked like all day long, you know. I mean, I was working in that job and then if I wasn't working that job, I was in college and when I wasn't in college, I was, like, on the checkout.

I think one of the most defining moments for me within this period of my life - I think there was a lot, I think in this particular time period of me, so much happened - but one day, I was driving home on my motorbike. It was, like, coming up towards Christmas and a car crashed into me and I remember just lying on the side of the road thinking like,

I've got no one to call, I've got no money. The only thing I did have was that motorbike and now it was broken and I had absolutely nothing and the house I was renting with I just sort of, you know, I paid rent, so I could afford that, but, you know, so I still had the job but I remember sitting there that Christmas on my own, like there was nobody there, nobody around and I remember New Year's Eve sitting there listening, you know, to the countdown and saw it on TV and I was just on my own and I had absolutely nothing in my life and I just I remember sitting there saying to myself, I'm never, ever, ever going to be in this position ever again. And I made a commitment, and I said, and I, and I just started working and I just started working so hard, and I put everything I had into college. When you do that, things tend to just work out, you know? At the same time I started making friends from college and we started to sort of like go out more and then suddenly I had more of a social life, when I was going to parties and I was going to nightclubs and I started to sort of have an essence of like things coming back together again, you know?

But one thing in my life that I missed because I'm such a little sappy sucker is that I missed a girlfriend. I missed having an emotional connection with somebody. I remember sitting there thinking to myself, I need a plan, I need to do something for myself and I decided that I would make a music video, so I sought out some musicians and I asked them, "You want to make a music video?" and they say, "Oh yeah, sure, defo!" and I thought "Awesome!" So, we put out a casting call through Bebo and lots and lots of people wanted to be involved in it which is pretty cool. A couple of months down the line, this is around May, myself and one of my friends, we tried to go to this nightclub, but they wouldn't let us in because I think we might have been too wasted or something like that, so his girlfriend was over in Long Island at the time and it's this cocktail bar so I went over with him and he introduced me to his friends and stuff, and then from the corner of my eye I see this girl over at the bar and I think to myself, that is probably the most beautiful girl I've ever seen in my life, and then next to her is this horrid, wretched beast of a man who had like fangs and long hair. Okay, he didn't but it was her boyfriend, and, you know, he was introduced, "Oh, this is her boyfriend". And you know I thought, "Oh I'm going to look the other way, and I wasn't very amused" by this fact that my future wife had a boyfriend with someone else".

Things turned out. She wanted to be in a music video so we started to talk via Bebo and I would say something to her and she would say something to me and then I would say something to her and we'd start giving each other little loves and then eventually our relationship progressed to MSN. About a month later, after being friends, she told me that her and her boyfriend actually broke up, which as you can imagine, I was really, really physically upset by this, and eventually led to us getting closer and eventually falling in love and deciding to go steady together. After a summer in Munich, we decided to enrol in college in Bournemouth because I wanted to go on and wanted to finish off and get my degree, so I did an interview with the Arts Institute of Bournemouth and I got in and myself and Anna moved over to Bournemouth and we lived in a place called St. John's Road in Boscombe, which was about maybe 20 minutes away from the University. It was like super cheap, it was a bit dodgy, it was a crazy place but hey, it was our first place together and it was, it was brilliant.

After a few months living there, Anna's father passed away which was a very difficult time for both of us. You know, we went back to Ireland for the funeral and everything and it's sort of, you put, like, you know, kind of, it, you know, I think that, you know, we kind of locked ourselves away from the world, you know, we sort of just made a little place that we had in Bournemouth and we just sort of locked the world out and we just spent all our time together and we just, you know, I went on and I graduated from college, was brilliant, I got a 2-1 honours degree. I was very proud of myself. Then we moved down to London, which was fine, you know. We got ourselves an apartment down in a Greenwich. We also got ourselves a little dog - our first dog. His name was Albie the Maltese and Anna started to do YouTube at that time, but that's Anna's story.

After a while, we decided to move back to Ireland because there was nothing really going on. At the time, you know, I graduated at the height of a recession, which was probably like the worst time ever to graduate from university, but, you know, we moved back to Ireland. We hadn't really got any money. We didn't have a job, we didn't really have much, but we had each other and we just, we had each other and we had dreams and hope and passion and I knew that if I just worked hard enough, things would come together.

So, I came up with a plan that I would start making videos on YouTube just to get my work out there, just to sort of, you know, use it basically as a platform for my portfolio and maybe hopefully get a job. During that time, we moved back to Cork because I actually managed to get a job in a studio here in Cork, so I would work in the studio during the day and in the evening times, and during there, I would do YouTube. I'd record, obviously, you know, you guys, have seen most of the stuff because we're now in vlog territory, but when I was in the studio, I was making YouTube and when I wasn't making YouTube videos, I was in the studio. It was a difficult time for me because, you know, I was basically holding down two full-time jobs, but I had a plan, I knew if I stuck to it, you know, and it did. I had two, three, four, five subscribers. Kept growing. The viewing kept growing which was amazing and you know, it sort of changed my life and YouTube has allowed me, you know, YouTube is one of those jobs where it was the first job I'd ever had in my life where I didn't get bored and I'm still not bored. This is the longest job I've ever had. Anna is the longest girlfriend I've ever had, you know, we got married, we had a baby, we have, we had a dog and then we had another dog, and then another dog, and then another dog, and another dog, and another dog. And my life has got, I am happy. I'm happy for the first time in my life and it's incredible for me, you know, to look back on where I came from,

what's happened to me and, you know, he's writing "the end" but the truth is it's not the end. It's, I wouldn't say it's the beginning, but it never ends – it's a journey - and I hope this journey never stops being exciting and thank you guys for watching my draw my life and I hope you guys liked it. I hope it wasn't too boring. Like it if you want. Subscribe if you want and yeah, I'll see you guys later!

4511

## MDML #51

Hey, what the frig? Hi, how you guys doing? What the hell? What the frig is going on? That's great. Listen, do draw my freaking life and I said, "Sure, let me loaf on it a little bit and then I'll do it", which is what I always do. So here it is - draw my freaking life, the JusReign edition. Alright, let's begin.

I was born in a small little town in Ontario, Canada - that's my horrible drawing of Ontario - on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1989. The 80s man! Good times. My family consisted of my dad, my mum, me - the firstborn, then my younger brother is two years younger than me. "What? You have another brother?" Yeah, I have another brother. "Why isn't he ever in your videos?" Because he's too cool and he likes different things and white people things and he's like, every time I ask, he says, "Nah, I'm cool player". And then my little brother. Because we were fresh from India, my grandparents, both of them living with us, and four, all four of my dad's brothers, all living in one little dinky little house. Our life essentially could have been a sitcom the way things were run, so and I also got my ass kicked lots of times because there's like 10 parents!

Growing up in an all-white town was an interesting and weird experience because not a lot of people knew who I was and led to a lot of confusion, people asking me a lot of questions which made me feel different even though I liked many of the same things that my peers like. And just like any young sikhlati, me and my brother would do our hair on the top of our heads when we were younger and cover it with a rumal or a handkerchief and that led to a lot of confusion as well because people didn't know if you were a guy or a girl because the closest thing that they had seen to that was like an eight-year-old Mennonite girl so it's valid in some sense, which led to a lot of interesting experiences for us. For an example, our school cross guards: two brothers who were much older than us, in grade four and grade six respectively. We were like in grade one and three. Let's call him Harry Ballsack and Greg Johnson, middle name "I have a microscopic". And every day when we'd walk home from school, they would be our cross guards and wouldn't let us cross the street to get to our house because apparently, we were girls in boys' clothing and had to prove otherwise. Always got to prove something to the white men. See, this was the quickest route to my house but these mother effers would make us walk all the way like seven blocks down past the shady train tracks across the road which have like heavy traffic monitored by no guards then all the way back down our street to our house and I was like, you know, I got no time for this! I've got to catch up on Dragon Ball Z! I don't even know if Goku was able to collect sufficient energy for a fusion bomb because the idiots are making me miss the first 15 minutes of the show every day. So finally, one day, I said, "Yo, F these guys! I'm going to prove it to them that we're boys, so me and my brother one day walking home decided enough was enough, so we pulled down our pants with our little lullia hanging in the wind and we chased these dudes butt naked across town with people watching all the way home. That was the most liberated I felt in my life.

At the age of five, my dad put myself and my brother in music lessons. We were trained in classical Indian music from our teacher Professor Parshotam Singh, sorry, Ustad Professor Parshotam Singh. Respect. You know what I mean? And myself and my brother, we'd even travel all across North America, competing in different competitions performing in different places. I used to travel a lot before even doing the YouTube travel gig. This is another horrible picture of North America, I'm really sorry guys, which kind of looks like a portly little dude. Aw he's so cute! Ah man, I'm naming him Smainjan. This fricking thing whatever it is looks like a Smainjan. "What's up guys?" That's what his voice sounds like.

And the funny thing is at first, I had no interest in learning tabla at all. I was more interested in, you know, that Pokemon hustling game, you know? I'm trying to get my cards, trying to get them ladies, know what I'm saying? And my dad was like, "Yo man, I'm dropping so much money on you. You've got to practice or I'm going to smack you upside the face with this hand full of gold rings" because that, I, every dad had a collection of gold rings, and that shit hurt. I went so far as to even arguing with my tabla teacher, which was a big no-no. I basically got a tabla thrown at my face. I was forever known as a kid that got the tabla thrown at his face. But it was a good experience in some sense because after that I really started buckling down and really, really started focusing on my tabla, and I honestly believe that learning music, my whole life opened up my mind's creative capacity, not just what I learned at Indian Classical, but also in many different forms of arts, like dance, poetry, writing, artwork and anything that involved the creative process. And I can't thank my dad enough for that, so thank you dad and maestro as well.

So, you know the thing about my dad was he was a hustler. He made that money. We moved up from an apartment building to a small little basement to a dinky little house to eventually getting our own nice house in a nice barely middle-class suburb. That's also around the time that my parents got a divorce. Just kidding! My parents aren't

white/I'm not literally every other YouTuber that made a draw my life video. Seriously, my god, everybody's parents got divorced. That sucks. Everybody? Shit.

Moving to another house also caused me to move to another school where I didn't know anybody at all except for like five dudes. **No new friends, no new friends, no new friends, no, no, no.** And that's also the same year that this happened: 9/11, which was a terrible ordeal for many Americans to face, but **it was also a terrible ordeal for many of the visible minorities such as myself. Nobody wanted to affiliate with me in my school.** Why would they? He's the kid with the turban. **And that's when I hit a bit of a rough patch in my life.** Basically, the same bullshit that anybody like me, my age, at that time had to go through: **bullying, name-calling, I got thrown into fights, detentions, suspensions. I felt like nobody was on my side. I began to question myself, question who I was, frustrated at how I looked physically, my appearance,** and **was literally relieved at the days when no one would even say anything to me,** but in retrospect, **all that happened to me during that time period could also have been a blessing in disguise, because I learned a lot about myself. I grew as a person. I was able to mentally cope with tough situations in more of a strategic and positive manner.** Plus, I listened to a lot of G-Unit, which has absolutely no correlation to anything I just said, but G.

Then high school came around and **that was wicked** because I went to the only ESL high school in my city. It was a good mix of kids from all different types of backgrounds and viewpoints, but then my parents got a divorce. Psych! Ain't nobody got time to spend that much money on divorce. Shit. I think that that would be literally the only reason why brown parents don't get divorced - because of how much it would cost.

Anyway, **also at this point I became a bit of an entrepreneur,** started my own clothing line, selling gear online. I started computer DJing. Yeah, I was one of those guys. And I still travelled, doing my tabla gigs, as well as picking up a new hobby - creating stupid films and entering them into a variety of film festivals which I won a good handful of - no idea why **because they were absolutely terrible.** All of these endeavours didn't require me to get a job because I got that pocket money just by doing things that were my hobbies. Swag, swag.

By the time grade 12 came around, I had absolutely no freaking idea on what to do with my life, so I just decided to lean on my strong horse in high school for sciences and math and go to the University of Guelph for Biomedical Sciences, which I spent my whole first year in and it **absolutely hated it** - I switched into Marketing Management which **I thoroughly enjoyed and came to love** because it allowed me to use my creative processes, design and brand, think outside the box and **I was pretty dope at giving presentations** too.

Then, one summer in 2009, as **I was boring myself** over summer school, I would procrastinate by watching YouTube videos and then I noticed something. People were actually gaining huge followings and fans based off their channels so I thought, "Yo, yeah, **I can do this too,** dang, I can do this too". And since then it's really taken off, especially in the South Asian community. And any time I'd be seen in public, people started requesting for photos and autographs. And I thought, "What, why?" **Also gave me the opportunity to meet a whole bunch of new people, gain close friends, some of them who even work and help out in a lot of my videos.**

Flash forward to 2013 and where am I in my life? **Fairly content I have so many good things going for me,** but **still have so much more that I want to do so I'm going to keep hustling till I die.** And I'm definitely no God. I mean, **I still face a lot of challenges in my life** but **sometimes you've just got to look at life and say "Life, listen, shut, shut up. Today we're playing by my rules"** **The greatest thing about this is hearing feedback from people. How you made them laugh or how you cheered them up when they were in the dumps, and to me, that's like the dopest feeling of all time. So, I guess I just want to say to everyone who's been supporting and watching, thank you, for real. Oh god, I hope that didn't come across corny.**

Hey, okay, I know this is more of a different type of video than I've ever done before, but I got a lot of requests to do it, so I did it. And **I hope you enjoyed** it and if you didn't, second channel last video, all my links are on this thing. Subscribe. I got some more rats and skits coming out soon. Okay, bye.

1915

## MDML #52

What's up? What's up G? So today, I'm going to attempt to draw my life. P.S.: **I suck at drawing.**

My parents moved from Vietnam in 1990 and I guess they got their sexy time on pretty quick because I was born a year later. So, I wasn't born exactly the perfect healthy baby. My parents said that I used to get really high fevers and then I would just shake. Now, at the time I had no idea because I was a baby but apparently, I had three or four seizures as a kid and **it's pretty scary,** but **I'm healthy now and I'm glad I'm okay.**

**I would definitely consider myself an introvert, my personality, I'm really shy when I meet new people. Takes me a while to really open up and act like the crazy guy you guys see me in the videos.** Okay, that's just creepy. I also had a big head and my friends would call me balloon head. One of the oldest memories I had with my mum is we were shopping, and she thought it'd be funny to run away from me and hide behind a wall. Me being a kid, I thought she

was ditching me and leaving me forever, so I did what any other kid would do: I, I cried, cried a lot. To this day, she thinks it was really funny. I did not. **I still have nightmares and thank you for scarring my life.**

Growing up, **I had an amazing childhood. I loved to play two sports** - soccer and hockey. Most of the kids in my neighbourhood were around my age, so **I spent a lot of time with them** and **we were into** like all the fads like pogs, marbles, yo-yos, you name it. We would have this weird game we called cars and basically we would stand on the road, right, and one person looks one way, the other person looks the other way, but you can't see what the other person sees, so then we would just stand there and wait for a car and whoever saw the car first, that would be the sign to run back to the house and first person to touch the door would win. **Pretty embarrassing story** is when we were in our bike phase, I saw the sewer thing that the Ninja Turtles come out of. I thought it'd be cool to, like, ride all the way up to it and right at the last second turn and bend my bike handles and **it was a terrible idea**, so now I have a scar of a bike handle for the rest of my life.

So, growing up in an Asian family, just like any other Asian family, **your parents want you to be the best - the best at everything**. So, I had to know my multiplication, my division, my long division, all by when I was like seven years old. They also wanted me to be the next Beethoven, so they signed me up for piano lessons and said, "You play now". **I didn't really like it**, so I quit in about a year. Even in middle school we had to take a mandatory music class where we learned to play the recorder and the teacher was Asian and she had a thick accent so when we didn't listen to her, we kept playing, she would yell at us and say, "Recorder out of your mouth! Recorder out of your mouth!"

**Overall, middle school was really fun. I had a lot of friends up until high school** where a bunch of them had to like leave, go to different schools, some of the moved houses and I was left with one friend and his name was Sean. In high school I had to get these two teeth removed at the back of my mouth and **it was bad**, because my dad had to spoon-feed me water. I couldn't eat anything. I was getting spoon-fed water. **How embarrassing is that?** And **ever since then I've just hated the dentist!** Another time, I got really sick with E. Coli and I was in the hospital for a couple days and they said it was either from eating uncooked meat or my poop. I think it was the meat though.

**High school was pretty hard for me**. I mean **grade 9, grade 10 was easy. I was on Honour Roll**, but once I got to grade 11, grade 12, we had to pick like specific courses for the pathway you're going to take for your career. **I just felt there's so much pressure**, my parents would say "You become dentist or doctor", so I was in the sciences and math and I was getting pretty bad grades, you know? **I wasn't really enjoying myself**. But high school **wasn't all that bad**, because it was the same time I found out about a website called YouTube. That summer before university, that's all I can remember doing. If I wasn't outside playing with my friends, **I would be glued onto the computer watching YouTube for hours on end. It was pretty safe to say I was addicted to YouTube, and that's where my life changed.**

It wasn't until October of that year that I randomly came across a makeup tutorial by a girl named Juicystar and I ended up watching it. I don't know why, but after I watched it, I thought it'd be funny, "Hey, why don't I make a video putting makeup on?" I had been making videos in high school in my room trying to be like the Jabbawockeez but that was pretty fail, and after I uploaded that video to YouTube, **the response was just amazing. I mean the fact that I was making people laugh all around the world was overwhelming and that's why I love reading the comments all the time. Like, after I see that green checkmark that says your video is uploaded, I go straight to the comments and I read them all I try to interact with people as much as possible.**

I think school is kind of like a foundation. Like school is important, don't get me wrong, but it teaches you like the skills you need to then eventually do **something you love doing for the rest of your life**. Because that's what I see, I see myself as a little speck on this planet and for the limited time I'm here on this earth, **I'd much rather be doing something I love than something I feel forced to be doing**, so I guess what I want to say is thank you. **Thank you to you guys for reassuring me** that I found something I love to do. I'm so grateful, you don't understand. Like every day I wake up, **I just can't imagine that there's actually people around the world that look forward to me posting a video. It's an insane feeling and I would not give it up for anything. Thank you so much for watching this video** and I will see you guys soon.

1187

### MDML #53

What is up guys? Smallish Beans here and, as promised, for hitting 1 million subscribers I'm going to be doing a draw my life. I know everyone always says their drawings are going to be bad, but trust me: **I am not an artist, so feel free to laugh** at my attempts of drawing things.

Now, I guess I should begin with my parents, Jill and Steve. My mum is a photographer, she's also been a teacher, she currently owns a business with my dad as well, but my dad is also a carpenter and also has been a teacher in the past as well. They've both done many jobs - it would take me ages to name them all.

Now, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1993, in London, England, my mum gave birth to me. I was actually quite a big baby and apparently my head was so big that I got stuck on the way out and my mum had to have an emergency caesarean. My head is still massive to this day, but moving on, I was apparently quite a cute baby. I know, right - what happened? How did I turn into what I am today? I was also not a fussy baby. My parents said my favourite food was an avocado and to this day in fact, I still love avocados as well. Not a lot is changing. I just love that guac!

One story that always stands out to me when I was a baby is about a time that I was constipated. This meant that I was crying and moody and getting on my parents' nerves. One day my mum was changing my diaper and midway through I finally unleashed. Apparently, my poo shot across the room and my dad had to catch it in his bare hands. Yeah.

Anyway, when I was about one and a half, my parents found their dream house in York but it needed a lot of work, i.e. the current owners were actually a family of squirrels that you saw running across the roof, so we moved into a little two-bedroom house in the centre of York that my grandparents owned so my parents could work on the house, and around this point, my mum got pregnant again. I did not like this. All the attention that I once had was going to this bump on my mum's belly. One day my mum was busy cleaning the house as her parents were coming over and I asked for some orange juice. My mum said she was too busy to get me some right now, so I peed on the carpet in front of her, not by accident, oh no. I just straight out peed in a certain spot, so my poor mum who was probably eight months pregnant at this time had to clean up my pee. Yeah.

My little sister Phia was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1996. She's still to this day probably the cutest baby I've ever seen. We grew up in my grandparents' house in York that I mentioned previously. My parents didn't have much money, so they were basically building their dream house themselves with my dad being a carpenter and my granddad laying the brickwork and my mum doing the painting and my uncle doing the electrician; we just had loads of people helping. Overall, it took about 8 years to get to the house to a point where we could live in it. During this time, I went to primary school where I made loads of friends. There was only about 30 people in my class, and I guess I was one of the more popular kids. I loved playing football and hanging out with my friends at lunch and after school, just a regular kid.

Me and my sister had a great childhood. My parents didn't spoil us with toys which at the time was kind of frustrating as all my friends always had the cool stuff before me but instead of this, we would go on family holidays. We went to Turkey, we went to France and many more before we were 11 and created amazing memories.

When I turned 11, a lot of things changed. Firstly, I was starting off secondary school which is basically high school for you Americans out there and also, we moved into our new house. I had my own room finally as before, me and my sister had to share a room and my room was huge. It was custom designed to how I wanted it. I had a train set going around the room and, oh boy, it was amazing! Secondary school was scary at first as I was hugely shy, but I soon made friends and this point my parents decided it was time we should explore the world a bit more, so over the next few years we went on some crazy holidays to places such as India, Thailand, Croatia and many more. On these holidays, we rode on elephants, sat next to tigers, held huge snakes and got to see the culture of these amazing, crazy places. One of my favourite things was when we went to the Taj Mahal in India. It was amazing. Also, I apologize for the horrible drawing of it but what amazed me more was that all the Indian people there were more fascinated with my sister - she had blonde hair - we are stood there next to the Taj Mahal, one of the seven wonders of the world, and there's people queuing up to take a photo with my sister. It was crazy!

Now, I used to love playing sports. I played for teams in football and hockey and more. When I was around 12 to 13 it was preseason practice for my football team. I got passed the ball and someone tried to tackle me. They accidentally stood on my foot and at the same time, I tried turning my leg making a sort of twisting where my leg went in different directions. I felt a massive pain shoot up my leg and was on the floor probably crying. When my dad picked me up, I told him what had happened, and he said I probably had sprained it. Fast forward to a month later and my knee is the size of a bowling ball still. I showed my dad again and he then took me to the doctor. The doctor had a few guesses what it might be, but he said to go to the hospital to get an x-ray. It was actually a lot worse than anyone had thought as I had a snapped one of my two cruciate ligaments in my knee which is really rare in people my age. I had to have two operations, the second one being quite serious. I remember my doctor having to fly out to India to get consultation on the operation. This also meant I was off school for five weeks as I wasn't allowed to move my leg, which was not as fun as it sounds. However, this is when I first really got into video games. I previously had had a PlayStation One and Two and also the Gameboy Colour but I was never seriously addicted, but when I had my laptop and nothing else to do, oh boy, I really got into RuneScape and I was addicted. I loved it - the community, the levelling up and the achievement you got from it. Even after my leg was fully healed, I was still playing as soon as I got home from school and when I was about 14, I was thinking about getting a new games console as a birthday present. I'd heard all this rave about the Wii and told my friends that I was planning to get one. They luckily managed to persuade me into getting an Xbox 360 instead. It came with Halo 3 and Gears of War and oh boy, addiction isn't the word! I signed up for Xbox Live with the gamertag Small Beans and I played hours and hours on multiplayer with my friends. During half-term and school holidays, I would just sit inside and play video games. I then heard of this game called Call of Duty. I purchased the latest version called World at War, but my friends said to get COD 4 instead as it was apparently a load better, so I purchased that too when I could afford it. To this day, I would still probably say it's my favourite game of

all time. I loved it. All my friends played it and we really got into sniping in it. So much so that we all bought some capture devices to show each other our gameplay. Now this is where YouTube comes in. I previously had a YouTube channel I uploaded terrible RuneScape videos on. They were awful. Mouseyluvscheese is the channel if you can find it, but I made a new channel. I wanted the name Small Beans, but it was already taken so instead I went for Smallish Beans. Me and a few school friends also created a channel together called Hardly Famous where we'd post our videos and top-5 plays of other people's videos which we thought were good enough. A few big Call of Duty YouTubers at the time shouted out our channel and things started to take off. Now me and my friend Bobby aka the MooseWeed kept to it whilst most of our friends sort of like faded away and dropped off from the whole YouTube thing. Our channel started to grow quite rapidly with our videos getting thousands of views. This was amazing. By the time, there was not a possibility of earning money through this until Machinima came along. We uploaded our videos too at the Machinima respawn channel which received a load of views and we got paid to do this. This was absolutely crazy. With the money, I managed to buy myself a new PC and upgrade my headset and all sorts of other gear and it was just awesome that my hobby was funding itself.

Around this time, however, I wasn't doing too well in school. Finished my GCSEs and had moved on to higher education at 6th form. I didn't have many friends here and I chose the completely wrong subjects. I was skipping so many lessons and spending all my time playing video games instead of doing homework or revising. Because of this, I ended up getting horrible marks in the majority of my exams and failed one subject completely. I even redid one of the exams and failed it again. I was incredibly miserable and not enjoying it whatsoever, so I dropped out. My parents really didn't want me to do this but saw how unhappy I was and luckily, at the time I started to make some reasonable money from YouTube and this helped as my parents allowed me to make videos instead of going to school.

In 2011, a few people started mentioning a gaming convention called Game Fest. The plan was to meet up with other YouTubers and people from Xbox that I'd never met in person before. It was scary and weird putting faces to the voices I've heard so many times through Xbox Live. Also, there was this cute girl with red hair called Ldshadowlady or Lizzie. I don't know what it was, but I knew I had to spend the rest of my day with her and we did. We went around playing some games and trying to get as much free stuff as possible. Then, when we got home, we continued to talk on Skype all night. Now I know Lizzie has covered this in her draw my life, so I'll keep it minimal. I had a girlfriend at the time and things were complicated and weird, but eventually that girlfriend dumped me, and I ended up approaching Lizzie and telling her that I liked her back and boom! We were dating. I'd always go over to Lizzie's house, stay the night and we watched terrible movies together and laugh at how bad they were, Swamp Shark, never watched that but we lived quite far apart and this was horrible, as I wanted to be with her all the time.

At this time, my enthusiasm for YouTube and Call of Duty started to fade and Lizzie and my parents both encouraged me to go back and get some qualifications, so I went back to York College, chose subjects I liked and managed to get some decent grades after two years. During this time, Lizzie also got me into making Minecraft videos. I started a series called Beancraft and I loved it. I was able to create my own world and do what I wanted. There was a lot of stress and not much creativity in making my Call of Duty videos, so this was a great change. My audience completely changed however, as the videos were so different to what they were before. From this, my YouTube channel started to grow and grow into the channel it has become today.

Anyway, skipping ahead a bit to about a year ago, I had finished at college and I basically moved to Lizzie's house with her dad. I didn't ever officially move out as it was so gradual, and I never really felt like I was moving out as I was always over Lizzie's house anyway. Our relationship isn't perfect. We fell out sometimes, but overall, we were happy, and we decided we should get a house together so he could both have our own offices and space to make her own videos. YouTube was going extremely well at this point. I had tonnes of ideas and the response was amazing. Last year and the year before, Lizzie and I travelled to America and across the UK loads of times for different conventions and met so many people. It's amazing to see what an impact our videos can have on people and we are getting to about where we are today and this moment. I'm living in a house with my girlfriend who I love so much and a cat who hates me, but I still love, and I just want to say how grateful I am for how my life has turned out. I don't tell them this enough, but my parents have been amazing, and I love them so much. I've had an amazing life so far and I can't see what happens in the future. I didn't manage to cover everything in this video as I actually struggled to fit in 23 years of my life into one video. There's so many more stories and things I could have talked about but maybe another time. So, thank you for watching, everyone, and thank you once again for 1 million subscribers. I can't believe that. I never knew 8 years ago when I made my YouTube channel that this is what would come of it, so thank you for that.

2525

#### MDML #54

Hey, so I was tagged by Amazingphil to do a draw my life video so that's just what I'm going to do. And it all starts with a sketchbook.

So, I guess I should start from my earliest memory. I was 2 years old and I was curious. My mum was doing the gardening and I wouldn't leave her alone, so she told me to go sit somewhere else and be quiet. I sat on a wheelbarrow



full of bricks and would you believe they all fell on top of me? I'd been in this world for two short years and I'd already crushed a bone. Good going little PJ!

In '93 I got my first Nintendo console. My whole family went to go get it and I would just watch my dad playing Super Mario Bros and Zelda and Donkey Kong and Metroid for hours. I'd watch carefully and learn all the tricks until I felt ready to play myself. My childhood was a little hazy from there on. I basically just filled my brain with knowledge, TV stories, games and toys whilst filling my gut with sweets, chocolate and junk food. This turned me into what I can only describe as bully cannon fodder. School was rough but I survived. One of my favourite aspects was one of my teachers Mr. Till. He ran a Magic the Gathering Club at dinnertime. This really broadened my imagination and got me off the streets, I mean, the playground. I still have all my Magic the Gathering cards to this day. I don't think I'd ever get rid of them.

It was towards the end of my secondary school days that I picked up a DV tape camera for the first time and started filming stupid sketches with my friends which have since been lost. Helpful hint: buy hard drives. They're cheaper than the cost of losing memories. In 2006, my full-on teen angst years had me rebelling against society by staying out way past my bedtime, skateboarding, playing gigs with my bands and I even had a girlfriend at the time that convinced me to dye a blonde streak in my hair and I thought it looked cool. She didn't - she broke up with me. I think I also tried a cigarette for the first time, and I didn't see the appeal. It just made my mouth really warm. That's weird.

As the next couple years went by, my interest for telling stories went way up and my attention span for school kind of went way down. I completely neglected my schoolwork because I had so much fun making videos. I started posting some of my videos on YouTube in early 2007. I started talking to a guy called Phil who had floppy hair just like me! I remember thinking he was some kind of cool university student who would never ever talk to someone like me. I was also really intimidated by the fact that he had a hundred and sixty subscribers and I had about fifty. He became one of my first YouTube friends.

Fast forward a couple of years, and I won my first competition because of a story I made. My audience voted for me to win and I realised that there was definitely something here. I didn't know what that something was, but I knew I had to carry it on. Summer 2010 was crazy. I flew out to South Africa. Myself, Dan and Phil and Briony, we went to LA and I also went to Germany and ate a huge sausage. My channel grew alongside my skills and after a gap year, I finally felt ready for the next stage of my life. I went to university. I almost left within my first week though I'm relieved I didn't leave university. Don't mistake disliking your new living situation for just being a bit homesick. I stayed and I made some of my best friends. We live together now, and we invent our own fun by telling stories and playing games and all sorts of crazy stuff. I also went to Italy with Chris, Dan and Phil. It was hilarious - we felt majorly out of place but had an incredible amount of fun and gelato, an incredible amount of gelato. We miss you Paolo and giant iguana lady.

Since being at university, my video making skills have changed and increased so much. I've made so many crazy characters and I'm still honing in on what my exact style is at the expense of scaring a few of you. I'm not sorry. In 2012, one of my stories won an award - an actual real physical prestigious award. Myself and my buddy Jamie spent our summer making films and stories and one of them, PJ Tiny Planet Explorer, somehow made its way into the Virgin Media shorts. You guys voted, me and my friends suited up, and now I have a film playing in cinemas around the country. Absolutely mind-blowing.

And that brings me to right now. I'm at an incredibly crazy time of my life. I'm about to finish university and have plans to move to London with my crew telling stories, making cool things and having a crazy lifestyle. I think that's what I've always wanted because it kind of scares me and I'm most productive when I'm scared and, I hate to say it, but you do only live once, so you might as well try all the things now and mess up rather than not trying them at all. And that concludes some of the parts of my life in drawing form. Cool, and if you enjoyed this video please do give it a thumbs up, just like this lizard man is doing here. Any lizards watching me today? And now it's your turn - I'm going to tag all of you guys to do a draw my life video as well and whichever one I like best is going to win my sketchbook. So, you get drawing and I'm going to look forward to seeing all the videos. Also, I want to tag Kieran O'Brien to do a draw my life video because that man is an enigma. So yes, cool. I'll see you guys in the next video! Bye bye.

1052

## MDML #55

Hey what's good everyone, it's Motoki and this is my draw my life video. Even though I've been making videos for years now, I never made one of these, so I figured eh, why not?

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1996, I was born in the state of Ohio which is this weird looking state in the middle-ish of the United States; it's pretty cool, I guess. Before I was born, I had a life expectancy of only 20%, but luckily it worked out and I'm here today. My mum told me I was so big as a baby that right after I was born the nurse told her that I looked like a sumo wrestler which is a bit racist, but you know, whatever, I guess. I should mention that my mum is Japanese and

my dad is white, they were both English teachers and ended up meeting each other in Japan after they were assigned to work on a project together. I know right, **so cute**.

Anyway, in addition to my mum and dad, when I was born, I had an older brother and sister. But before my parents had us, they made a pact that one day when they had kids, they would have them experience both of their home countries. And that's exactly what happened. After 4 years of living in Ohio, my family and I flew over to Japan to start a whole new life. I had to learn Japanese, make new friends, and live in an entirely different country that I didn't know anything about. **Luckily, I caught on pretty fast though, and it ended up being a great time.** **The only problem I ever had was when I occasionally got bullied** in school for being the white kid. The school I went to didn't have any other foreigners, so naturally, **some kids thought it would be fun to pick on the weird pale kid.** From an early age, **I was forced to learn that despite what I looked like or what people said about me, I was still going to be the same person, so I stopped caring so much what others thought.** I lived in Japan for about 3 years before moving back to Ohio. But instead of moving back to where I was born, we lived across the state to a really small town that didn't have much going on. The most exciting thing to do in the whole town was go to Walmart, and that says a lot. **Moving back to America was a bit difficult.** Not too bad or anything, but I had to relearn English which I had completely forgotten because by the time I moved back, I was speaking and even thinking in only Japanese. Even though my teacher told my parents that I might have to stay back a grade, **I caught up pretty fast** and **luckily**, didn't have to.

**I had a lot of fun as a kid; I ended up joining a small group of friends who were great, I played baseball and soccer, just had great time.** **I did sometimes get made fun of for being the only Asian looking kid but that kind of got old.** When I was in grade school, **I wanted to be an actor.** Whenever I watched movies or tv shows with younger actors, **I was super jealous** and always wanted to be just like them because I thought they were so cool. I even started acting in all of the school plays that I could.

Around middle school I found this website called YouTube where I saw these **hilarious YouTubers called Ryan Higa and Kevin Wu, also known as Nigahiga and KevJumba.** I thought that they were so funny and awesome, and I instantly wanted to make videos like them. So, one day I got a group of friends together and **we filmed probably one of the worst videos to ever, ever be created** but **I had such a fun time.** I'm glad I never posted it on YouTube though, I was actually a couple years under YouTube's age requirement of being 13, which I know a lot of people don't pay attention to but at the time **I thought that somehow, they'd figure it out and put me in jail** or something, I don't know.

High school came along and I joined theatre, speech, joined a bunch of clubs, became VP of my class, played soccer, and got involved in the church that my dad was a pastor in. Although **I enjoyed a lot of what I did,** after a couple years, I ended up dropping most of it after **realising I was doing some of them just to please my parents.** Which is why I tried so hard to get good grades and do all the extracurriculars. I think that this is one of the reasons why to this day **I feel inadequate whenever doing anything** because I'm afraid of letting people down.

While all this was happening in high school, I started posting occasional videos on my YouTube channel and they started getting some views and subscribers **which I thought was like the coolest thing ever.** **This motivated me and I started having big hopes for my future.** I told myself that one day, **I'm going to live in Los Angeles and pursue a career in the entertainment industry.** Which was great and all but for someone living in a small town in Ohio, I didn't know if that was even remotely realistic, but I didn't care. I should also mention that sometime around here, I started to date a girl, we'll call her, Barbara. It was your typical young high school relationship, I guess. **I fell head over heels for Barbara, we had some good times.** However, **we didn't see eye to eye on a lot of things** and looking back, **it wasn't a healthy relationship.** **I moved away to LA for college which was my dream come true.** But because of that, long distance didn't work out, we lost feelings for each other, and after a year together, we broke up. And for me at the time, **it was hard, I wasn't really ready for things to end** and she started seeing someone else right after **which just made me feel terrible about myself.**

To keep my mind off things, I stayed busy with my college work where I studied Film and TV Production. Soon after, **I met some of the coolest people I know, and I don't know what I would have done without them.** **They made me feel confident and happy,** which **pushed me to make YouTube videos again** even though I had practically stopped. From there, **I started to push myself to see where this whole online video thing could take me.** **Seeing other people who had made it their full-time job inspired me to see if I could do that myself.** **Sadly, not everyone was for that as much as I was.** Like most parents, mine don't really understand the whole online world so well. And to this day, they still don't fully understand what I do. They know that I make videos but it's hard for them to grasp that it's not some weird little hobby but that there is more to it. **And as much as it hurts me to say, on many occasions through the years, my mum has told me that she thinks my videos are stupid. She's told me that they're a waste of my time and how she thinks there's no value in them.** It's rough having one of the people you trust the most tell you how pointless they think your **passion is.** My dad is a little more carefree when it comes to my endeavours and my mum has gotten a bit better over time. What I've had to come to understand is that **she would only say those things to me because it was her way of trying to look out for me and her way of showing she was worried about my future.** **I love my parents; they've done so much for me, and I will forever be grateful for that.** I joke a lot in my videos about how I'm such a disappointment to them but honestly, **I think that's just my way of coping with the fear that I'll let them down somehow.**

And that basically brings us up to speed to where I am today. I'm only 20, so this draw my life is still a work in a progress. I'm still working on videos, which is super dope. Luckily for me, I have people like you all who watch them so thank you so much. Thanks for helping me have a reason to smile each and every day knowing that there are people out there who believe in me. I'm not sure what my future looks like, but who does, right? I'm still in college right now, not really sure if I'll finish though; there's a lot that I want to work on and pursue full-time, but I can't because it's impossible to do everything. I'm looking forward to what's to come and I can't wait to take you all with me.

Listen, I don't think I'm someone to look up to at all or anything, but if there's anything I want you to take from this, it's that you can do whatever you want to do. Don't shut others out, but ultimately, do what you want to do, if that's what will make you happy. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something because you make that decision. If you live your whole life trying to please others or worrying what people will think of you, you're not living. Anyway, thanks so much again for watching, it means a lot to me. Hope you have a great day.

1645

## MDML #56

Hey guys, CreepsMcPasta here and welcome to something a little different. There have been many stories I've told since starting this channel, yet since starting, there has been one story I've been holding off telling until now: my story. And I couldn't think of any way better to celebrate three years of narrating on this channel. For the sake of keeping up my anonymity, I'll still refer to myself as "creeps".

My story starts in a small town in England with my parents. Now, for a brief summary of them, before I was born, is they were both previously married before they married each other and had me. My dad is English and was married, having one kid, a son, but that marriage sadly ended in divorce. His son went with his mother. My mum, being Filipino, was married in the Philippines and had two kids, a son and a daughter. Sadly, that marriage ended because her husband was shot and killed. My mum and dad both met through an old-fashioned dating agency of sorts, before the internet was a thing, where they had to send letters to communicate - a primitive time, I know! Eventually, they got married and my mum moved to England with her two kids. It's rather cute story but maybe one for another time.

Anyway, I was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, but I wasn't alone. You see, I'm actually a twin, which was not what they were expecting but they went with it. For this video, I'll refer to him as Pasta. Growing up, my dad did many things. He was primarily a graphics artist of sorts but did many smaller jobs rather than having one proper job. He called this income streaming, in which he didn't rely solely on one source of income so if one went down, he always had a backup. He always told this much grander than it actually was because we never really had too much money growing up. I later learned that due to a bad business venture, we were also in a lot of debt. Now me, I was a bit of a clueless kid when I was young. My friends would talk about their games consoles systems and toys and I would sometimes be frustrated that I never had them. It makes sense now looking back considering we never even had central heating in our house, which I'm pretty sure is illegal now. Anyway, growing up, I ended up playing with a lot of the old toys my parents would get us and many hand-me-downs from other kids and my older siblings. It was actually pretty cute. Me and my brother would play with our toys, giving them their own backstories, characteristics and stories. I feel this is what sparked my creativity and being creative is something that really affected my future.

Fast forward some years to high school. By this point in life, we were doing better. We weren't by all means rich though. We still couldn't afford the luxuries of life. Being the childish teen I was, I wasn't happy with this either. During the time of high school, the kids would often talk of a market stall in town which sold sweets in bulk for very cheap - much cheaper than the stores did. I ended up managing to use this to my advantage and began buying what I could afford, bringing them to school in Tupperware and selling them individually at slightly marked up price. This turned out to be my first business venture at the young age of 13, which is another thing which affected my future. Now this did come with its downfalls. Like with any business, there were customer disputes and the occasional robbery, but I remembered the lessons that period taught me and with the profits I bought myself a ps2, which to others is a blasé thing but to me was huge.

Now, I've sometimes been asked what was I in high school? Was I one of the popular kids? Was I a loser, etc? And honestly, I'd say I was sort of a malleable mould. I'd fit in any gap there was. I could sit with the popular kids and get along great with them and I could also chill with the less popular kids and do the same with them. It was great because for the most part, I was never really alone on breaks. I could find any group and mingle.

Looking back, the ride of high school was that of a rollercoaster. It had its ups and downs. I honestly don't know why but I don't remember too much of high school either - it's just one big blur to me. I would go in, do the classes, half pay attention and leave. One life lesson I remember learning in school was problem-solving. I remember my desk in math class was touching the teacher's. Despite this, I would lay on my desk and often try sleep. I remember one day a kid piped up and said "Sir, why do you let Creeps sleep in class?" and the teacher responded, "If Creeps wants to fail, he can." Eventually, the tests came around and I was sat looking at the math paper. I didn't know too much about the formulas but through basic mathematics I worked out the answers in my own way. I figured I could figure out the

answers through my own out-of-the-box methods and jotted down some working outs that I knew the teachers were looking for. The results came back and amazingly, I had a perfect score.

It was also around this time I discovered a magic new website, besides Runescape and New Grounds - the Internet crack of my generation - no, this site housed silly videos. One was of an Asian guy doing flips and tricks in a mall, The Urban Ninja, and two kids miming along to the Pokémon theme song, some random guys called Smosh. This site was YouTube. I loved browsing the site and after seeing some film student make a three-part movie inspired by the Final Fantasy series called The College Saga, I made an account to subscribe to people and I still have this account from early 2006.

But with the highs comes the lows. Because I also remember that at this time my parents fought a lot. I think they thought I couldn't hear them, but I would sometimes be laying awake at night listening to their bickering, their fighting and their crying. Come the end of high school, which for us in the UK ends at 16, I finished with basically C's all round. And we had an option: either go to college or stay in sixth-form, which is basically another two years of school. Most of my friends were staying, trying to get their grades for university, so I did too. That year was hectic. I ended up in constant trouble, not doing the work, teachers hating me and so on. At sixth form they rated your progress by a one to four system, one being the best and four meaning you really need help. I managed to set a school record by having the first all-round fours. My friends annoyed one of the student council members by hanging it up in the common room. It was funny at the time but looking back, it's kind of sad. Inevitably, I ended up dropping out after the first year. I found that I lost contact with basically everyone who I hung around with. Turns out most of the relationships I formed simply because of exposure and no real connection. I only see a very select few from school to this day. Also, remember my twin I mentioned earlier? He ended up staying in sixth form and started the amusing alternate path thing between us. He ended up carrying on and going to university and getting a degree, and I went down the business route, just like in the Game of Life board game. But anyway, I'm getting ahead of myself. This left me at home all day basically playing my Xbox 360 a lot. I would wake up, play games with my friends throughout the day, and go to bed.

I ended up signing on Jobseeker's Allowance, applying for jobs, not getting them and playing Xbox. Xbox was the one thing I sunk my time into that I enjoyed. I continued the cycle, all the while worrying my parents. I eventually ended up on a Help course called Activate that was supposed to give people the qualifications needed to get a basic job which meant basic math and an English GCSE. The thing is I already had them. My problem was never really overcoming an obstacle or intelligence, but rather direction. I was lost. I felt I had the energy to do something great but never had something to dedicate my focus. After that course finished, I decided that I too, like my brother, wanted to go to university. I decided I wanted to design games, something which I thought was a good idea at the time - turns out a lot of people seem to fall onto this. Anyway, because of my debacle with the Sixth Form incident, I was not qualified to go so to do this I'd have to do two years of college. So, I did the most general course I could - business. During those two years, I learned a lot, not just about business, but more about myself. I found I never really did want to be a games designer, I just liked the idea of it, and I thought of other possibilities. And after a few months, I would turn off each idea. Eventually I learned that I was simply not ready for uni, that if I couldn't hold down an interest for more than three months, how was I going to do it for three years, spending thousands of pounds a year?

This threw me through a few loops as I spiralled lower and lower, ultimately wandering among the lost generation of my age group. All the while, I would waste my free time playing games and doing generally nothing. Now at the time, I liked Call of Duty and I followed a bunch of YouTube shows but me and my college friend talked a lot about games and stuff and the current craze, College Beauty videos. Yes, my shameless confession is that I loved these and still follow some today. Anyway, we always thought it would be the coolest thing ever to make these videos. We talked about this and at the same time my box friends and I loved the online show Sanity Not Included, which piqued my interest in amateur voice acting. So, whilst I did my Call of Duty videos - yes, the confessions are coming out now - I started a channel later to try out voice acting. This channel was meant to be a temporary stepping-stone to voice acting. It was a channel narrating little online store called Creepy Pastas. I made two videos. All the while, another YouTuber called Mr. Creepypasta started his Spring Break Spooktacular - something which has been a reoccurring thing on his channel. During this time, he featured a guest appearance from the Creepy Dark, so I thought, "Hey, maybe it's a normal thing to be put on his channel?", so I messaged him, recorded a story and sent it in, and lo and behold, he put guest performance in the title, so I felt super awkward about that, like I self-imposed myself in his channel. But nonetheless, the feeling of creating content for someone else really got me excited. Many variables and many events bounced around my channel, but I found that through the consistent videos I was making in my spare time, all fuelled by my newfound focus and determination, it started to garner interest.

Eventually, through more hard work, I finished college with the highest grade possible. I did this whilst getting and maintaining a part-time job and keeping consistent content on YouTube. This was the most satisfying thing I ever did in my life. Some days even ran over 12 hours, yet I still managed to do the whole video making process all by myself. Since college was finished, I found myself with more spare time, but instead of pumping it into games and wasted time, I was sinking more time into video making, all the while slowly learning new skills through self-teaching, experimenting and YouTube tutorials.

Eventually, I was getting self-sufficient enough to justify leaving my job. This was a big decision for me, which I had to talk out a lot with my parents, since money for us has always been an iffy issue, but they eventually agreed, even though I still won't publicly say what it is, I also still ran my own little business in the background as well. Things were finally looking up. I had my new focus in life - something I've never really had before. I was meeting new people, making amazing friends, even impressing my parents, which to me meant everything. This was the top of the rollercoaster for me, but sadly, you can't keep going up. Eventually, you're going to have to come down.

After some gritty details I won't get into, my parents finally decided to split. Individually, my parents sat me and my brother down and talked about a lot of details that happened behind the scenes over the years. They told us they were not happy with each other for almost all my life. I heard things like how they really only stayed together for our sake, to basically give me and my brother a fighting chance in life and give us the best upbringing they could, because they thought being brought up by only one parent would set us back. But now that we were adults and with how high tensions were around the house, they both agreed it was best for them to part ways. Needless to say, a lot of tears were shed. To me and my brother, Pasta, this was devastating. My dad moved away, my brother stayed with my mum and I disappeared to America for two months to get away. Not my brightest moment!

When I came back, tensions were still high. Things weren't good. Fast forward some months, and my mum and dad had started talking and the strangest thing happened. They became friends. These two, who never really had a romantic moment or even a friendly moment for basically two decades, who at times only communicated through shouting and arguing, were having fun talking to each other. By all means, the wounds were not healed, but they found they got along as friends. Occasionally my dad would come around to visit, but we knew he was getting lonely where he was - maybe even borderline depressed, although he would never admit it. So, I spitballed the idea of him moving closer to home. It was a crazy idea but made sense, so in time he moved around the corner and I moved in with him. This was an interesting time in my life. I would frequently go home and visit my mum and brother but lived around the corner with my dad. Eventually, he would also come with me. Then a twist I never would have predicted happened. Something I didn't expect at all - they got back together. Yes, that's right. I'm still amazed to this day and I'm super happy for them.

And that takes us to this day. A lot has happened throughout my years, although I've had to skim off a lot of details! And what I impressed myself most is, I bet throughout my time on YouTube, you can't pinpoint the times of these events. You see, through all this I managed to keep up this channel nearly perfectly no matter what, sometimes even over exceeding at times. I've expanded to two full time channels - something not a lot of people can do. I don't know where it came from, but I have a drive now. A place to finally put all my energy into and I have been ever since. I'm not joking when I say I pour all my time into YouTube, seven days a week, and even now I'm always expanding what I do, always striving to learn new things, never wanting to slow down. I often get messages thanking me for what I've done for them but I never really get the chance to thank you guys for all you've done for me. Without you, the viewer, the supporter, the fans, I wouldn't have this thing I value so much in life. I don't know what I'd be doing without you and honestly that's a thought that scares me. I often get messages of people telling me the position they're in. Sometimes people tell me they're depressed, they feel like a waste, how they won't amount to anything - even suicidal - but I always say if I offed myself in the lowest point, I wouldn't have ever lived through the highs. You can't just wait around and hope something great happens to you. You have to reach for it yourself. So, if there's something I wanted you to take away from this, it's this: ask yourself, what do you aspire to be most in life and what's your next step for getting there?

2926

## MDML #57

Quickly before this video starts, I just want to ask if you guys enjoyed this video, please make sure to drop down a like. I'm trying to have this video be the first video ever on my channel to rank 100,000 likes. I have never put down as many hours as I have on any other video before and I've got a lot of help from my girlfriend Megan with the drawings, so please show your appreciation if you do enjoy the video with a simple like or a comment. That means the world - thank you guys so much and enjoy the video.

What is going on guys? And welcome to my draw my life video. My name is Jacob but some of the guys are watching this video probably know me under the name FaZe Teeqo. I was born and raised in Sweden which is a very small country in Europe. I grew up in a nice house with my mum my dad and my sister. My absolute passion as a kid, believe it or not, it wasn't sports, it wasn't video games because it was barely even out then, it was actually Lego. I laid on the floor, I was all I ever did. I never wanted to hang out with friends and never wanted to see anyone. I just wanted to be by myself, lay on my floor and build with my Lego.

This may sound a little bit creepy till you hear the full story, but I started to develop some kind of love for scissors, and it wasn't any kind of love for scissors. One specific person in my family wasn't happy about it; that was my sister, because I turned into a crazy little kid with these scissors and I actually cut all of her stuff. All of her clothes, all of her

bags, all of her purses and I basically destroyed anything I possibly could with scissors. Don't ask me why. Yeah, I turned into a crazy little kid.

My first experience ever with a computer was when my dad got a Windows 95. I used to sit in his lap, and we used to be on the computer together. He did the steering and I did the shooting. When I was around 9 years old, I started playing football and it completely took over my life and it was almost like the time where I used to play with Lego. It was, I didn't want to do anything else but play football. My first ever console was actually a PlayStation One where I would always play James Bond on. From that, I moved over to an Xbox which I always played Crash Bandicoot on and from there, I moved over to the legendary Xbox 360 which happened to change my life in a way I would have never imagined. The years went on and I started to getting more and more involved in video games and computers in general and I started to spend way more time inside. I simply lost my interest for football and I decided to quit when I was 16 years old. Around the same time, I started high school and that for me was very different because I didn't really know anyone in my class so I basically made a lot of new friends that I had never met before and that came to change a lot too. So, I made these new friends and back then I always played Counter-Strike but the game they were playing, it, they were always talking about in school was how they played and how fun they had on Call of Duty. So, I stopped playing Counter-Strike and I bought myself Call of Duty 4 for the Xbox 360. Exactly one week after, I started playing Call of Duty 4, they actually released Modern Warfare 2. I really got into sniping, watched a lot of YouTube videos, so I said why not try myself? So, I took a bunch of books and I borrowed my parents' camera and I put it in front of my screen, and I started to record my own videos. Obviously and quite naturally, I just stopped paying attention to school and I just didn't really care too much about it. I simply just didn't spend any time in school or homework. All I ever wanted to do was just play and make videos. After going back and forth a lot, whether it was worth it or not, I decided to spend every single penny I have to buy myself the legendary HD PVR to basically take my videos and my YouTube to the next level. As I just had to take it a lot more seriously, and I got myself the HD PVR, I also wanted to start off clean, so I made myself a brand-new channel and I went under the name Teeqo. Believe it or not, but only a couple of months later when I checked my YouTube inbox, I had a message from Faze Clan and specifically Faze Temper who told me to add him on Skype.

So, I decided to join Faze Clan in April 2011. Back then, Faze Clan had less than 100,000 subscribers and me myself, I had around 50,000 subscribers. 2011 was a crazy year for Faze Clan. It was really when everything started to take off and then around 2012, we were coming into the big milestone of 1 million subscribers. But I, was, also the time for me personally when yeah, even though Faze were growing, I was so bored of doing the same things and just streak shooting and trying to hit clips and spending hours and hours and hours of just playing and it simply just became too repetitive to me. So, in the summer of 2012, I decided to quit YouTube and leave Faze Clan. After I quit YouTube and left Faze, I didn't really touch any video games at all and I started to produce music and DJing with a very good friend of mine and we actually happened to release a song on one of the world's biggest DJ's record label.

Believe it or not, but at the same time I just wasn't sure what I wanted to do at all. I didn't know what I wanted to work, didn't know if I wanted to go to school. Year 2013, I can honestly say I didn't really do too much. I was just a bit lost and I just wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my life at all. As crazy as this may seem, one random night out of nowhere in 2014 I had a dream that I was with Faze Temper and Faze Banks in Boston and about to move in with them, so I woke up the next day and I told Tommy about the dream even though we hadn't spoken for a month and he basically told me that I should give it a try and come back. So, at this point, obviously my parents were kind of tired of me. They told me I need to go out and get a job. I need to go out and do something. I can't just lay around. I can't just lay in the couch and just be unproductive and not do anything at all. I'm 20 years old and I'm not doing anything. Basically, forced me to go get a job. I didn't really have too much of a choice. So yeah, I got myself a job at a grocery store but at the same time I told my parents, and I said, "Hey, I'm going to try and make it back to YouTube and I'm going to try and make it back to Faze Clan and I'm going to start playing a lot of Call of Duty again". I saved as much money as I could and I bought myself a flight ticket to go and hang with Temper and Banks; as I was with them, we got closer and we became way better friends. And around the same time, they have started talking about a potential Faze house and moving in with Faze Rain, Faze Apex and a couple of other Faze members and they actually asked me if I wanted to move in with them. Obviously, I got extremely happy. I said yes in a heartbeat without even thinking too much about it. So, I flew up to Sweden and I told my parents and I said, "Hey, I'm going to be quitting my job. I got asked to move into the Faze house and we're going to be living in New York and I did, I just I just have to do it. I just have to give it a try."

So, here's what a lot of people don't know. When I quit my job in Sweden to move across the world to try this out, I didn't even make enough money on my YouTube to afford food for a month. I didn't even make enough money to have a bed in my room. I slept on the couch for three months. I'm not saying this for you guys to feel bad about me. I'm simply saying it. I don't think there's that many people that would have quit a job that actually paid relatively good to try out some YouTube thing where they didn't even make enough money to pay for food. Yes, I was surrounded by other people and yes, I was fortunate to be around these guys, but it was still a huge risk on my part. In November of 2015, I moved across the world to move into the first official Faze house with Faze Temper, Faze Banks, Faze Apex, Faze Rain and Faze Sensei. That was the first original core in the house. That was the first people to ever move into the

Faze house. After living in the house for almost three months, I simply wasn't allowed to live there any longer without a proper visa so I had to move back to Sweden but all I wanted was to live in the house and live with these guys and make videos every single day, but unfortunately I was forced to move back to Sweden and this was a really weird time for me because I was back home in Sweden. It was almost like living in a grey zone. I wasn't sure what was going to happen - am I going to get this working visa? Am I not going to get it? What am I going to do? I was just laying home being in this so-called grey zone in my life where I wasn't really sure what was going to happen, and I was just so anxious whether I would be able to move back to the Faze house or not.

Finally, after almost four months of waiting back home in Sweden, in May of 2015 my visa got approved and it still to this day one of the most valuable and one of the most life-changing days in my life. So, in June of last year I flew back to the United States and I moved back into the Faze house. So, this was also around a time where I happened to meet a person who would change my life till this day and that was Jason Falco, who came to the Faze house for the very first time. But at the same time when I was so happy and I was so ready to be back here, I started to feel sick. It's still till this day haunting me and it's still till this day something I'm dealing with every single day and that cost me in a lot of stress, panic attacks and I just couldn't handle it. I couldn't do it and after only living in the Faze house for about a month, I decided to fly back home to Sweden because I simply couldn't deal with it anymore. I was hands down, and I'm not ashamed to say it, I was in the absolute worst state I've ever been in my entire life. After around a month back home in Sweden and trying to recharge and just, you know, get back on track, I decided it was time to move back into the Faze house and give it a try and just try and be happy and try and just appreciate what I actually had. I basically told myself and I was like, "Let's just try and get lost in YouTube, try to get lost in videos and try to just take in all this crazy shit that's actually happening and just try and keep moving forward and at that time, I started to gain a lot of subscribers. I got to 200,000, I got to 300,000, I got to 400,000 and just kept on going. Even though all this was happening, I was gaining subscribers and in a lot of people's eyes I was like, oh the happiest person ever. Like people left comments like Teeqo is so happy, you're always so positive, my parents are telling me how good I'm doing and friends from back home and my sister and you know everyone's just like congratulating you like all you're doing so good and I'm just sitting here. I'm not happy, I'm genuinely not happy and it's so hard to tell people that when all they can see is everything you're achieving and all the good things and they're like "Oh, he's got to be happy, he got all that!" and I used to be the same. I used to look at people for what they have and simply just think that happiness came with certain things, but it doesn't. Now I realise I have so much, and I had so much even back then, but it doesn't matter if you're not happy. I just didn't tell anyone because all they could see was everything I had which for me didn't matter, but there was this one night when I was on Skype with a very good friend of mine from back home in Sweden and we were talking a lot and I sat there and I was like, "Who am I to sit here and complain?", like "Who am I?" Like, I have so much. Like, who am I to sit here and not be happy? So that night I did something I had wanted to do for a very long time but that night I just pulled the trigger and I'm so happy I did.

That night I contacted Jason Falco and I invited him over to the Faze house, so Jason put me in contact with his dad so we could organize this and I just said that I just want Jason to come to the house to spend a day with me or day here in the Faze house. Your son is going through stuff no one should ever do in their life and I just want him to come here and do what any twelve-year-old should be doing and that's playing video games and having fun and not thinking about or having to worry about the stuff that he had to worry about. That's the least I can do for someone and if I can do that, then I'm happy. That's the shit that makes me happy. If I am in the position to make someone else happy, then I'm happy. I just wanted him to come here and spend a day or spend a couple of hours where he didn't have to think about the things he's going through and that's when I developed an amazing friendship and what I call the second family that I have across the world and that's the Falco family, and I'm forever thankful to have them in my life. Once again, I just told myself "let's just get lost in the videos", and just get on the grind and just try and make as many videos as possible to make the absolute best of it. Shortly after that, I happened to fly to California for an event and I met a girl called Megan and she turned out to be my girlfriend. Some of you guys can probably relate but long-distance relationships aren't the easiest to maintain but we're doing our best and this is basically what it looks like when we're talking to each other every night.

So, I got back on the grind and my YouTube started blowing up again. I got 600,000, I got 700,000, I got 800,000, I got 900,000 and we finally hit the huge milestone which I will never forget in April as of this year: 1 million subscribers. It's still till this day probably the biggest accomplishment I've ever done in my life and I'm very, very happy and I'm forever thankful and I appreciate everything I have, and I just want to say thank you guys. Thank you guys for showing support. Thank you guys for always being here and I'm so happy and I cannot thank you guys enough for reaching a million. Even though I haven't gotten my 1 million plaque yet because it got lost on the way, I'm still forever thankful for coming this far and I have so much more coming but I just want to say thank you guys so much for watching this video. I really hope you enjoyed it and as I mentioned in the beginning of this video, if you're still watching shout out to you. Thank you so much and make sure to drop a like if you enjoyed it. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Any feedback, any support means the world, so thank you so much for watching as I said, and yeah, thank you for everything. I appreciate every single one of you guys.

## MDML #58

Hi, my name is Tom Daley and today I'm going to draw my life. I was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May in 1994 in Derriford Hospital and apparently the midwife thought I would be a water baby because I had big hands and big feet. I guess the whole water thing started when I was about four, because my parents always thought what would happen if I got chucked into the sea and I couldn't swim? So, I started to learn how to swim and it all kind of started from there.

I started diving at the age of seven. It was basically luck. I went to a local pool, saw people diving on the diving board and I just thought I'd give it a go. I didn't really think about it too much as a serious sport at the beginning. For me, it started off as an after-school club really. I had a relatively normal school life. I went to St. Edward's primary school and then I went to secondary school and I made some of my best friends that I still have today at that school but things kind of took a little turn when I went to the Olympic Games and things started to get a little bit out of hand. I guess people were a little bit nasty, some of the comments and all that kind of stuff and I guess I didn't really have as thick as skin then as I do now, and I've learned to kind of ignore lots of things but it got sorted out and I ended up moving to Plymouth College.

One of the hardest things that I guess most athletes that go to the Olympics don't have to contend with is going to school full time. I still had to go to school, I still had to get my grades because I mean, what would happen if I fell over or got run over by a bus? What was going to happen? I wouldn't be able to dive anymore so I had to get myself some kind of education.

I knew it had kind of got serious when I had to make the decision of which sport I wanted to do. I chose diving and when I started going away on my first trips, I mean some of those things are something I would never even been able to dream of, to go away to some of the places like Australia I went to when I was 10 years old, and it was one of those amazing experiences. That's where the National Lottery comes in because without their support, I would never been able to afford all these different places for, for competitions because it's expensive flying around the world.

Ever since I started diving, my dad had been to every single training session, every competition, no matter where it was, he was always there. He had a massive flag that he used to wave. But, I mean, it was one of the hardest experiences of my life in 2011 when I lost my dad to a brain tumour. It was, you know, incredibly tough on all of the family but for me it gave me a massive motivational kick because it was always my dream to win an Olympic medal but it was a dream that we wanted to carry on as a family to get to the Olympics and get one of those medals around my neck because it was something we'd worked so hard for. So, my dad had a massive impact and has always been my inspiration ever since.

Leading into London 2012, it's always been something that I dreamed of ever since I was 9 years old when I first drew a little picture in one of my medal books of me doing a handstand with the Olympic rings and said London 2012, and for me, it had always been a dream to compete in London in front of home crowd at an Olympic Games and when I was actually able to stand on that board and see the Olympic rings on the bottom of the pool and dive to win a bronze medal, I was just so over the moon and I guess you could probably tell by the fact that me and all my teammates jumped into the pool and celebrated as if we had just won the lottery. It was one of those experiences that I will just never ever forget and I was obviously so happy that my mum and my brothers were there but I would have loved for my dad to be able to see it but it was just one of those things that I will never forget.

2014 was also an awesome year. Going into the Commonwealth Games, I was able to come away with a gold medal at the individual event but still to this day my ultimate dream has not ever yet been achieved, and that is to win an Olympic gold medal and Rio 2016 is the next opportunity that I'm going to get to be able to fight for that medal, and I'm going to give it everything I've got to be in the best possible shape. I can because I would love to come away with an Olympic gold medal around my neck.

Thanks for watching me draw my life and a special thank you to National Lottery players. Without your support, athletes like myself wouldn't be able to do what we do. Don't forget to like and subscribe for more athlete videos and I'll see you in Rio!

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## MDML #59

Hey guys! I'm Conan and today I'm going to be doing draw my life which was a lot larger of an endeavour than I really thought it would be, but I thought that since we reached 100,000 subscribers, which is insane, I don't really know what to say, that I would try to tell you guys my entire life story in a video. It was really hard, but I guess let's get started.

I've been waiting to tell the world my story because I always thought that it would be too different from what people expected. Despite what many may believe, my life has been quite a ride. Good or bad, I guess that's for you to decide. I like to think of my life in pieces because it's been picked up and moved and rearranged so many times that you can barely even tell that it's been lived in the same lifetime. My life has just been lived in eras or clips and once one movie



would end, another would start completely new. This is about to be very long and very complicated so let's start with the first: Lemon Grove.

Despite the pleasant name, **it was not a pleasant town**. But I was an unknowing kid, so **I loved it - I thought it was great**. My family consisted of my dad who is Irish, my mum who's Japanese and my sister. When my sister turned 3, my mother became pregnant with me. Shortly after becoming pregnant, my mum was diagnosed with an early form of cancer. All the doctors told my mum to abort me, but she never took that into consideration. She knew that she would keep me, and she knew that she had to live. **By some miracle, the cancer went away, and I was born. December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1990. It was a really magical time of my life**. My dad was in the military, my mum was taking care of my sister and I and she was going to college at the same time. **I have really fond memories of this time because it was just my whole family having fun in our tiny house**. We didn't really have any money, but the house had white picket fencing and kumquats in the backyard, Bougainvillea growing all along the fence and there was a giant tree that my grandfather planted in the front. **It was just such a carefree time of my life** and although it was short-lived, **I really did love it**.

My mother says that **I was the happiest baby in the world**. I didn't like to sleep. I would just stay up and quietly wait for my mum to come into the room. Every single morning, I would be jumping and dancing and singing to get out of my crib. My mum says that I've always been singing my entire life. When I was about one and a half years old, my grandfather on my mum's side was diagnosed with cancer so me and my little family packed up our bags and moved to Hiroshima, Japan, just to be able to take care of him and be with him as he passed. From ages one to three-and-a-half, I was raised in Japan speaking Japanese and just being completely Japanese. We moved back to California shortly after my grandfather passed away. My sister and I were very unaware of any problems that had arrived, and we were simply kids just being weird and doing funny things that kids do. **Something about me and my sister's relationship**, we were like exceptionally weird kids. Once I shoved a banana into the VCR machine. I used to eat dust and my sister convinced me that she was magical for two entire years.

Then on a normal day while my sister and I were watching PBS KIDS, my mum ran out of her bedroom and just whisked us away. Our lives would forever be different from that day forward. My parents got divorced. **At the time it was detrimental to me, but I know now that it was definitely for the better**. Thus began our very sporadic journey through life. After the divorce, my sister and I were split between two homes. My dad kept the house and my mum got a tiny one-bedroom apartment where all three of us would sleep in one queen-size bed. Though conditions may have seemed subpar, **she always found a way to make every single day bright. Even the bad days**. We would make pancakes, play games, go on road trips, go swimming at the beach. **She just always found a way to make us feel loved and normal**. Meanwhile, my dad was working hard on his pool business which is growing really quickly and doing dramatically well. So well in fact, that we moved into a bigger house just down the street. One day after kindergarten I got into my dad's new Mustang. Remember the pool business was doing really well? And we drove into our slightly larger house. Upon opening the door, I was attacked with a hug by a stranger. Once the attacker let me down, I looked up to a face that I'd never seen before. Later that day I found out that that face would become very familiar because my dad informed me that he was going to marry her. Therefore, she would be my stepmum. **My sister and I were a little bit sceptical** about having stepmother, but she gave us candy and presents, so we were like "this is going to be perfect". **Life is great. This is going to be fantastic**. Also **we were slightly sceptical** because we were going to be getting a new brother because she had a son from a previous marriage, but we saw videos of him playing with LEGOs and **we just kind of were excited to have like another person to play with** in the house. My dad and my soon-to-be stepmum from Korea got married in Vegas and **things were very, very happy for a while**.

Back to my mother. To shorten it, we moved a lot, which for me my sister meant a lot of making friends, losing friends, packing stuff, but as I said before, **my mum always found a way to make things feel homey and safe**. Because I moved so much, home never really meant a house to me. **My home resided in the people who loved me**, not the places that held me. It was a really hard time for my single mother trying to build up a business by herself and trying to raise my sister and I, but eventually **we all found solace in church and so many people welcomed us into their lives**. My mum began to bring my sister and I, **slightly traumatized by the unstable life we were living**, to a program called Confident Kids. It was an organisation that let kids who were living crazy lives understand that they weren't alone. **It helped a lot**, as sick as it seems, knowing that the boy next to me had a father in jail and that the girl next to me has been living with crazy parents her entire life. Confident Kids still exists now and I would just like to take a moment to **thank all the people there who really helped out our small family so much**. My mum was struggling but **we were doing actually very, very well for ourselves** just the three of us. After moving to about a billion apartments, we moved into **this beautiful big bright house. I remember I loved how high the ceilings were and just how happy the house always felt. I met incredible friends there**. Someone that you've actually met before - a girl named Summer and her family. And my mother began to even date again. After a few years of living in the big house just the three of us, **my mum met a super nice guy in Texas. He was amazing and he had two kids that we loved so much**, and so, like kids do whenever they want something, we begged my mum to marry him and she did. He became my stepdad and then I got to have a stepbrother and stepsister.

Now back to my dad. My dad was pretty well, for you, for a brief moment in time. In that moment, we welcomed a new member to my dad's family, which would be my half-brother. **He is super cute and I loved him so, so much**. We

moved into a new neighbourhood out of Lemon Grove where all of the houses were in the millions and everybody was super pleasant. I was in first grade. Our new house had a big pool, a deck, we had way too many cars and each of us had our own room. We were only ever clothed in Polo which I was quite opposed to because I really liked t-shirts, and our school system was extremely vigorous for being an elementary school.

One Christmas we all got computers and that's when I first discovered YouTube. I fell in love with the community and the way we all just got to peer into the lives of so many people and they were just normal people too. I knew that I wanted to start a channel, so I did. I started my very first YouTube channel and I just posted like tons of videos of me doing basically nothing. Like, I would post videos of me playing with my pet geckos and stuff like that. I was in fourth grade. Yep, I've been doing videos since fourth grade. My dad lived this "never look at price tags" lifestyle for two years. It was fun, I guess. My dad worked really, really, really hard to support our family of six. I really liked going to work with my dad because I got to, you know, like meet so many people and mess with rich people stuff and spend time with him, but money always has a tendency to destroy people and destroy families, and eventually, once we had a lack of money, our lives became not so pleasant. Things went south, literally.

This time marks the fall of an almost perfect façade. I won't tell you all the stories and reasons behind what happened in this time of my life to just respect that the people involved want to forget the times just as much as I do. They have new lives now and I'll give them their peace. To summarize the fall, here's just some events that occurred: debt, foreclosure, angry rich people, angry poor people, eviction, running from the cops, Child Protective Services and a lot of yelling. While all this was going on, I had to have like a coping mechanism. I stayed in my room a lot because when I went downstairs I usually ended up like fighting with people, and so I just stayed in my room and filled all my time with drawing and singing and just doing anything I could to fill the time. It was in this bad four-year period that I practiced and practiced all the time because I had so much time. I would draw anything; I could I would sing the labels of shampoo bottles while I was taking showers and I would steal play-doh from my little brother and just sculpt things. I hid away in my room and made lots of art. Then we literally went south. Me, my sister and my divorced parents separately moved to Texas. We left my stepmum, stepbrother and half-brother behind in California. So, I guess a little more southeast but still kind of south. My dad got divorced from my stepmum, shortly after we moved to Texas. My mother, me and my sister all moved into a pretty house with lots of space to run around with my new stepbrother, stepdad and stepsister. My dad moved into a tiny house that we had never seen before and we had no idea where we were going. It ended up being a tiny, kind of gross stoplight town, aptly, Rockdale.

It was hard to leave my best friends in California. There was Amelia who'd been my best friend since the first day of first grade when she saw me and thought that I was wearing glasses and felt bad for me, and so she tapped my shoulder and then we decided to become best friends somehow. She was my rock ever since. Then there was Summer and her incredible family who basically adopted me. I was even on their Christmas card one year. My friends loved me so much that I just couldn't explain how much they did.

I was in sixth grade. I switched middle schools three times in sixth grade until finding the right one next to my mum's house and I stayed there all of middle school and now high school. Throughout my silly life I was always blessed with the best friends I could ever ask for. I met my current best friend Gus in seventh grade. We had last names with close first letters, so we were always seated next to each other. We liked each other's doodles; therefore, we became best friends. Middle school was really sucky, and middle school sucks for everyone. I was bullied a ton but by eighth grade I learned to stick up for myself and I just had so many incredible friends that defended for me and they were just so loving. You all know who you are, you beautiful humans, thank you so much. Without them I truly don't believe that I would be alive. In sixth grade I also made my second YouTube channel which many of you guys probably still remember, which is insane.

One fateful born Thanksgiving Day, I pulled out my webcam and recorded myself talking about these little tiny things that I made out of clay. The rest is history. I never made videos for money because I didn't even know that you could make videos for money. I never even made videos for fame. I just really, really loved the process. I loved like coming up with the idea, bringing the idea to life, editing, posting and like seeing the responses. It was just everything about it I love so much. I worked really, really, really hard on it through all of middle school and eventually people just began to find me. I don't really know how. The surprise of attention kind of like swept me off my feet and I didn't really know what was going on. I had this strange new friend that I never really expected to have which is you guys. Throughout all of middle school all of my weekends were spent working on videos and I gave up a lot of time that I could have been spending with my friends through middle school, which is a little sad to me but at the time, I knew it was worth it. My channel grew a lot and by the time I was in eighth grade I had reached 10,000 subscribers but still nobody in my middle school knew that I made videos. The only problem was that I kind of, I just moved on from that phase of my life and I wanted to be able to be free to make whatever kind of video that I wanted, so I made a new channel beginning of freshman year called Conan X Cannon. I was free to make whatever I wanted to, so I did. Being in high school and trying to make videos was a challenge but I had such incredible friends that, like throughout the week of school, I often forgot that I even made videos at all. I went to every single function and I made so many friends, and I pulled a lot of friends closer, closer than ever. My friends became my everything. They knew how scarred I was, but they could still love me despite all of my flaws and despite how hard it could be to be my friend at certain times.

Throughout all the new troubles that arose during my high school years, they were always only inches away, ready to keep me from falling. I'm not a miraculous human by myself but with them, I'm able to stay standing and I'm able to do all the things that I never ever thought that I would be able to do. To my friends, thank you so much, you don't know how important you are to me.

I spent absolutely every single weekend working on videos, staying up until 3 a.m. to finish uploads and spending 5 hours editing. I loved making videos but as my numbers grew, it just became a lot of pressure to succeed and give people what they wanted. The support of you guys and your love and acceptance when I made videos that I was truly proud of and truly loved is what kept me going. It kept me inspired and reminded me why I worked so hard and why I started making videos in the first place. My dad got married again and had another child, but it didn't really affect my life that much because the past two years I've stopped living with him. I live with my mum full-time now, where the house is more stable and I have the most incredibly loving friends in the world. My father created a new life and I have a new life as well. I wish him the best.

I don't know if you could tell but junior year I really stepped away from YouTube. I wanted to really do well in school and just take it all in. I also wanted to make sure that I wasn't doing YouTube out of obligation but out of passion for what I was doing. This year I only made videos when I truly felt like I wanted to make videos. This family of ours grew so quickly that it was kind of a shock. I'm so grateful for all the love and for all the support that I've been given throughout all the years of this journey. Reaching a hundred thousand subscribers is something that I never really thought would be part of my life. Because of you, I was able to be so much more than I thought I could be, and I was able to do so much more than I ever thought that I could do. I never expected to have so many people to talk to and so many people to love. I never expected to be loved by so many people and I want to make sure that I don't waste this blessing. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything that you taught me: to work hard, be grateful, be passionate, never compromise and to make the most out of every single situation you were given. I love you guys so much and the fact that I can sit here on my bed in a safe house with a roof, with great friends who love me despite all of my flaws and you guys, such an amazing group of people who love and support me, is a success story in itself. Not just reaching a hundred thousand subscribers. Thank you so much. I'll see you guys next week. God bless and goodbye!

3251

#### MDML #60

Welcome to draw my life. I know a lot of people start this by saying that they are bad artists, but I assure you, I am horrible. This will be one of the worst you've ever seen because I have the motor skills of a four-year-old.

Anyway, hi there, my name is Gregory Scott Williams. Many of you know me strictly by Sky. I've lived my life as two people and I hope that this video will give you insight as to why I choose to live as the latter. I'm going to start with the sad and depressing stuff and the fun will come later.

Let's start from the beginning. I was born in San Jose, California or something, on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1990. I'm the youngest of three. I have a sister named Alex, a brother named Nick, my mum's name is Sharon and my dad's name is Greg. I was an accident. I figured that out when I deciphered the lyrics of a song my mum kept singing to me titled the bonus baby. God, I was so stupid when I was an infant. I grew up in Gilroy where white people are made, so saying that I'm whitewashed is putting it mildly. When I was three years old my parents got divorced and not more than a week later of my father leaving, my future stepfather entered the picture. There are many things that I would love to call him, but for now, we'll just call him Bob. In elementary school, I was skinny, athletic and a bully, and I was very popular for two reasons. One time during dodgeball I kicked this ball in reaction with being thrown at me, and it landed in a basketball hoop and I said I did it on purpose and also my mum would bring pizza for lunch sometimes, which made me really cool to everyone. My mum did everything in her power to keep my mind off the divorce. I was spoiled rotten and I guess I just wish I would have said thank you more. I was part of this gate program called "gifted and talented education". I took some tests at a library and they called me one of their brilliant minds. I didn't know what it meant but as long as I was able to get out of class once a week to draw random shit then I was cool. I got a tad depressed after sixth grade because I had a very big difficulty with change and I still do. I was excited for school but at the same time I knew things would be different. I didn't want change. I had associated change with what I had experienced when Bob came around more and in my mind the word became so negative that I just hated it, you know? So, I became a little less social, little less confrontational, I changed my personality completely, and I think I was just trying to enter junior high with a little bit of caution.

But my apprehension of change wasn't the thing that ruined Junior High for me. It was my mum's overbearing love. Okay, so it was cold when I returned to school, and my mum bought me a sweater with one pocket that looked like a boob and, like, right away I was picked on from all the other kids and when I didn't stand my ground because I didn't want to be that confrontational, all the other kids jumped on the bandwagon and suddenly I became a complete loser. What's worse is the kids that I picked on in elementary school were less than sympathetic to my newfound situation and to make matters even worse, the only friend that I did have recognized that I was unpopular and had plotted to ditch me as a friend in the middle of the year. One time I was late to class when my teacher Miss Mittman was taking roll. I

had an ear to the door when I heard that she declared me absent and AJ said, "Oh, thank god" and the whole class laughed and the teacher promptly scolded each and every one of them. While I appreciated the gesture, I couldn't handle it. I ran home and I didn't show up to school that day. To cope, I stayed inside a lot, played video games a lot, and grew very overweight. See, I was angry. I was keeping a secret. It was around this time of my life that I knew that I was gay. I knew because my father had sat us all down and told us about homosexuality and the Bible and when he explained that he would forbid us laying in the bed of our homosexual partners, Nick and Alex were cool but I raised my hand and I was like, "Well, how do you feel about camping outside?" That's real.

My mum was from Guyana which made it a little harder to be gay because in Guyana the men are supposed to be strong to protect their house, you know? They believe that you can beat the gay out of somebody, else you'll probably be taken advantage of or killed, and my brother and sister made things worse by constantly calling me fag and gay as if it was the new thing to do. I was completely shut off. I didn't have anyone to talk to. I didn't want to disappoint my family, so it was around that time that I took this oath to never come out to anyone. Family or otherwise. See how well that turned out! See, I was the type of guy that said those awkward jokes that nobody would laugh at, and then I'd say the punchline again, just in case anyone didn't hear, you know? Like, hey, get it? Get it? Well they heard it, but they didn't even give me pity laughs. Some people would straight-up just tell me to shut up, so I did that. You know, for four years, I just kind of shut up.

Okay, well this has been pretty dark. Let's go ahead and get to some of the fun stuff. Remember when I said I would stay home and play video games all day? Well, I got pretty good at them. Particularly one called Super Smash Brothers Melee. I would beat everybody in my neighbourhood after a lot of practice and I had this addiction to being the best at everything. While browsing the internet, I found websites dedicated to cartoons and video games where I actually felt at home and I was very lucky. I stumbled across a tournament for the video game I played so much. That very same weekend I drove to a tournament and the room was filled with these people who shared the same passion that I did: video games. And I was confronted by this big burly guy who asked for my entry fee and that's probably where I got the attraction to bears. After I gave him money, he asked what my gamertag was and I was at a loss for words but I instantly spoke up and said Sky. He wrote it down and from then on that's what everybody called me. That might have been the best day of my life or one of them. See, nobody knew that I was a loser. Nobody knew that I was gay. Nobody cared. They just cared about the game. I could reinvent myself. I could become something awesome, something great. Like a fresh start. Going to these gaming tournaments became an addiction. I would go every weekend to various events, and when I was at these tournaments, I tried to be the person that I wanted to be at home. You know? Social. I wanted to make people laugh. I told my mum about this and she was really sceptical. She told me that I needed to focus on school and forget about this gaming thing and I know she wanted what's best for me, but this feeling of a new person was something that I just couldn't let go. I told my dad about it, but he didn't really understand it either. We'd usually talk a lot watching stand-up comedy on Comedy Central and those guys would just go on stage and make people laugh and I was infatuated with that. I looked at them and I decided one day that I want to make people laugh like that. That's what I want to do. I made that my mission. As I went to tournaments, I would, like, take jokes from comedians that people probably haven't heard of to practice, like, comedic timing, you know, not to steal their jokes, and get a sense for what works and what doesn't. And every time I would say something that wasn't scripted that was funny, I would put it in my phone and then try it out on a different audience. I got so good with coming up with unscripted material that I found out that I was making a lot of people laugh in multiple conversations. I couldn't just keep putting it in my phone, I just kind of winged it.

One day as I was leaving a tournament, I overheard a conversation. It was like, "Dude have you met Sky yet?" "No, who is he?" "Oh, he's this kid that plays Smash. That dude is funny as fuck!" Not going to lie, I cried a little bit on the way home, out of happiness, of course. I had used, like, you know, Sky to become this new person and I could use the skills that I'd learned to turn Greg's life around and I felt like it was finally my turn. See, the talent show was coming up at my high school. I had so many jokes in my phone, but my killer was going to be a joke about how my stepmother acted really black and how she uses her finger to increase the level of her volume. It was the volume finger joke. My first joke that ever got an applause break. I entered the contest and performed my material and I ended up winning. That year I became extremely popular and it was then and there that I took full control of my life, and by full control I mean I straight-up went to my mum and my family and I said I want to be a comedian, and I was shut down completely by dissuasion and doubt. You know, my mum was worried that I was making the wrong choice. I love her so much that I always try to listen to her but there this was something that I just couldn't ignore. My family had expressed their doubt and while I understood they came to this country with nothing and used education to be successful, their methods were less than effective when it came to trying to convince me to follow their path. One of my uncles played a trick on me saying they had a connection with, like, Konami and they were going to sponsor me as a gamer which was obviously a lie. My other uncle explicitly stated that I would never be smarter or more successful than he was, ever. I would always be number two to him. And my stepfather had told me that my mother would always choose him over me, and that I was doomed to live a pathetic life and to their face I was tough, but, you know, between you and me, behind closed doors I don't think I've ever felt more hurt.

But I turned that pain into determination. I mean what? Who the fuck were they to tell me what I can and can't do? What is and isn't possible? I couldn't stand it. I couldn't stand the lack of support. I needed to get out. I had so much pent-up anger from, from the betrayal of my friends to the stupid divorce and sexuality which made no sense at all. I just had it and I was sick of it. I had to just leave. My stepfather and I got into a huge fight and that very same night I packed my bags and left. My mum was crying, and I still miss her just as much every day. It was that same year that my best friend Henry died of bacterial meningitis. He was somebody that I played brawl with a lot and actually the first person I ever told that I was gay. He knew that I had a crush on him and he didn't care. In fact, he was the only person that just blindly supported me through my goals and dreams. You know, unconditionally.

When he died, a lot of things changed. I stopped playing Smash as much and became a very strong person. I fell into a depression but used League of Legends to get out of it. I didn't really want to go outside of much but League of Legends was, like, easy because you can play with your friends on Skype or whatever and you don't even have to leave your home and you feel like they're right there next to you. So, before I knew it, I wound up in LA. Before this I'd been working from Applebee's to Applebee's for a total like six years as a server, you know? And while working at Applebee's, I tried some of my material like I usually do at tables when this lady told me there was an audition at a place called Flappers for stand-up. I didn't think I was good enough to do anything worth hiring but I figured hey, whatever, let's give it a shot, and to my luck, I was the only one out of 40 who got picked for this competition. And throughout these years, I've made so many friends from video game tournaments the people that I met were more than happy to watch me do stand-up. The first night of the competition was difficult, you know? It was LA, the place where comics are born. The intimidation, I really hope I never relive that, but I placed and I advanced. The next time I went up I actually ended up placing first and I qualified for the final championship round. The night of the finals was packed, and I had been competing against people who were, like, on Comedy Central, people who were doing this for years, real comedians. And it had only been my ninth time on stage, and I'm not saying that to brag or anything. I'm saying that to get it into your head how scared to death I was. I walked up on stage, I took a deep breath and I had the best set of my entire life. I've never had a great response like that doing anything. But I didn't get first and didn't get second or third, nope, I got fourth. I didn't get any prize, but I didn't care. I placed fourth out of 400 comics throughout the whole competition and that's the first time I told myself I can really do this! I can make something of myself. I can be somebody, you know? And I believed it.

And it was around that time that I had developed such a passion for League of Legends that I wanted to give more to the community. I wanted to try to incorporate my own thoughts and ideas, you know, to the community and the role I played was nothing but frustrating, so I made this video expressing myself uncensored about why I hate the people I play with sometimes. My best friend Sean was on Skype with me at the time and I posted the video to Reddit. I never posted really anything to Reddit before, so I wasn't expecting anything. It was like a shot in the dark. When I posted it, you know, not too many upvotes. I went to the restroom and I came back and Sean was screaming, "Sky, Sky, get here quick! Oh my god!" Before I knew it, my post had over 400 upvotes and I was quickly climbing on the top of the Reddit page, not only Reddit league but all Reddit as well and I was on the front page for one of the biggest websites in history. Number one even. Thousands of people were sending me emails, leaving me comments, tweets, adding me on Facebook. It was unreal. I instantly got it invited to a group of, like, famous YouTubers and Skype and my Facebook blew up with my friends celebrating my success, and while I'd like to say that the shock is worn off, it really hasn't.

In two months, my life has changed so much. You watching this right now have done so much for me. You've shown me that if you push hard enough, you know, any dream is possible. If you have the will to do it, you can do it. I'm not even just saying that. If I can make it, you can make it. Like word, like real. Okay, you've given me a direction, a goal, a starting point, you've given meaning to my life but most of all you've given me a new dream. My current dream? I want to be the face for eSports Comedy. I want to do live shows at various tournaments, you know? Ripping on multiple games and people and making hundreds of thousands of people laugh. Now, I want to be invited to different states to perform for gamers around the world. I want to be the Dave Chappelle of gaming comedy, you know? I, but, those are distant dreams, I know. Though honestly, I feel like I am ready to do a small stand-up bit at PAX primer worlds for League of Legends. Oh right, please, mmm, just saying, but I know that I have a long way to go, you know? Thanks to you guys that I'm on here on this path and while YouTube isn't forever, I know that I'll be here for a while.

And let this be a lesson for all you though, you know. I don't care what your dreams are. You need to go out there and chase them. I would rather live my life alone than be with somebody who doesn't share the same level of passion, ambition and drive to achieve something. The meaning of life is to share your talent with the world to contribute to the development of the people that you share this earth with, and if somebody tells you no, you tell them, watch me! Because for me, as long as I still have a pulse, I will work every single day until I'm high on that stage proving every living soul that had ever doubted me wrong because revenge is a dish best served cold and nothing is more cold to somebody than humbly living the perfect life they never said that you could. But I'm not there yet, you know, I've got my fair share of imperfections and all this weight to lose and maybe my dreams will change, who knows? But I'll be damned if I don't try my hardest to succeed because what the fuck do I look like being old as shit wondering what if? I hope the future is awesome. I've never been in a serious relationship, but I think it'd be fun. I don't go out much due to my job being basically YouTube so I'm restricted to meeting people online and that's fine for some, but as luck

would have it for me, I found nothing but liars, homewreckers and crazy people, and people who were in it for the fame, but I really hope that my super-awesome dope bear of my dreams is out there somewhere. If you're watching this, hit me up! God, I'm a loser! I want to end up living in Seattle because I love the rainy weather. I also love the overcast and the trees and I hope to one day be on television and mum, if you're watching this, I want you to know that I love you so much and without the strength and lessons you've given me all these years, I wouldn't be here today. I'm sorry this isn't what you had planned for me but I'm happy, and I know that I'm not your college graduate, but, you know, I hope that you can one day genuinely be proud of all my choices, and I hope that I continue on this path of success, and I hope that one day I'll be able to look at myself in the mirror and wholeheartedly say, "I did it". Thanks for watching guys.

3478

## MDML #61

Hi! What's going on guys? And welcome to another video. This is definitely a little bit of a different video. This is a draw my life, but this is also a highly requested video from you guys that I've been wanting to do for a really long time and today's the day we're going to get into it. So before we get started, all I'm asking for you guys to do is leave a like or click that subscribe button because I do upload a lot of vlogs on this channel so if you do want to see them more, definitely be sure to click that subscribe button. But this video is going to cover the first 20 years of my life, so let's go ahead and dive into it.

So, the first day I was brought into this world was on December 5<sup>th</sup> of 1997. Oh yes, I'm an old boy, and I was blessed to have an awesome mother and father. I was born and raised in Houston, Texas, as well, and that's where I started to learn my life. You know, I started to learn all the basic things like how to eat and walk and how to poop as well and all that fun stuff. So, I won't go into much detail about the basics of me growing up. I had a really good childhood and I was really blessed to be born with awesome parents in an awesome city.

So, let's skip a little bit to when I was a little bit older. So, when I was around 6 years old, I was in Boy Scouts and I loved to camp. I loved to always be outdoors on the lake, on the road, camping but I also, there's one more thing that I love just as much as that and that was video games, and when I was growing up as a kid I was always really, really into video games. Every Christmas, birthday, holiday, anything, I would ask for the newest games and anything about video games. Of course, one of my favourite games was Pokémon on the Gameboy. I also had like Nintendo DSes and stuff like that as well, but I think the Gameboy was definitely my favourite. I was a very creative kid. I would love to build and create my own things. For example, one day my dad bought me an RC car for my birthday, and I ended up taking apart that RC car taking out all the components and turning it into a functioning boat. I ended up putting it in my bathtub and it couldn't really go very far because I didn't have the biggest bathtub in the world, but it actually worked, so I would do this with a lot of things such as like nerf guns, toys, I would take apart everything and recreate it and modify it to be better. I would also try to build massive Lego towers literally the size of me with all my friends so I did have a very creative mind when I was a kid which I believe that is one of the things that has helped me build my YouTube channels in the future because doing YouTube, you've got to be a pretty creative person.

As I grew up more, making friends through school and of course hating my homework, I figured out that I love to make these weird videos. I had this little flip camcorder that was about thirty dollars and I decided to make a lot of videos about Legos but I never uploaded them to YouTube or anything because at the time I didn't even know YouTube existed and for the next couple years I continued being a weird little kid building things and just living life and going to school. My childhood didn't have a lot of like super exciting moments to share so let's fast-forward a little bit to where things get really interesting. So now fast forwarding to me being 13 years old. As I grew older, I got more into these videos and making just the dumbest and funniest videos I could with my friends and myself. I eventually discovered the platform called YouTube. I saw YouTube as a platform where people can be free, post whatever they want and have millions of people see it. This opened a huge eye of opportunity to me and I was like, oh my gosh, I must do this! I saw all these big creators on the platform, and I saw that they were amazing, and they looked like they were having so much fun, so I was like, if they could do it, why can't I? And that is where it all started.

So, around 2012, I started my very first YouTube channel and it was called Mr. Gaming 1000. I was about 15 years old at the time and I uploaded three Minecraft videos on that channel and then I made a different one because I thought about how dumb the name was, and yeah, I just, I just made a different channel. So that was when Unspeakable Gaming was born. In November of 2012 I started with basic Minecraft survival videos, survival games and anything that I saw that was trendy or different that no one else did in Minecraft such as top 5 and top 10 videos. I didn't even realise that money could be made on the platform. I was just making videos because they were so much fun and that's what I did in my free time and of course I was learning more and more and more every single day. I was learning how to create very entertaining content, edit my videos, make thumbnails and turn myself into an entertaining person. This took a ton of work and a ton of time and I uploaded hundreds of videos before I even started getting a lot of views so now we're around eleventh grade in high school and I had nearly a hundred thousand YouTube subscribers. I ended up building my own computer with the money that I earned from YouTube and by this time, I learned so much. I mean, think about

it, a hundred thousand subscribers. Before I even started YouTube. I never, never in my life would think that I would reach a hundred thousand, if not even a thousand subscribers. Besides YouTube and all the crazy stuff I was doing with it, I did also run track cross country and I ran track for about four years, from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and I also ran cross-country for one year in 12<sup>th</sup> grade. My last year of high school, back over to YouTube, because in high school YouTube was really the only thing I focused on all the time. Teachers, parents, friends, anyone would ask “what are you going to do for a living? How are you going to make money?” And to be honest, I didn’t know the answer to that. All I knew is I wanted to do YouTube and nothing took my mind away from it. Creating videos and content is where I saw my future and I didn’t see it anywhere else.

I was also experimenting with a bunch of other fields such as engineering, car mechanics, computer maintenance and computer building, however, I wasn’t nearly as passionate about those things as I was with YouTube. With that decision, basically set my head straight and I was like, alright, YouTube, this is what I’m going to do. So, from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, I was failing most of my classes and never really doing my homework. My parents were really upset with me, grounding me and trying to help me as much as they could so I could pass my classes. School was pretty hard for me and I had a really hard time focusing in class and I barely got by in school, just barely passing but I passed and that was okay with me because I just knew that school wasn’t for me and you’re probably like, “Unspeakable, what were you doing? Like, why were you failing?” Because I was making YouTube videos! This is what I was doing. Right when I got home from school, nearly every single day before I even took my shoes off when I got home, I would get straight onto the computer, start planning, recording, editing and doing all the things I can do to get the video up for tomorrow. There would be a ton of nights where I would be even up till 2:00 to 3:00 a.m. and then I would have school the next morning at 7 a.m., so I’m just really glad that I had parents that would let me stay up late and work because if I didn’t, then I would probably have a pretty early bedtime.

So, through this time period, I was very motivated. I had a huge mindset to be different from everyone else and I didn’t really want to go to college and get a normal job. I didn’t really want to get a degree like everyone else was. I just wanted to do YouTube. I wanted to build and learn and grow my YouTube channel and my YouTube audience and that’s all I wanted to focus on. Besides this whole crazy YouTube thing, I also met my incredible girlfriend Kayla that I’m still currently with today. I’m sure you guys know of her, but not to get all head-over-heels but, ever since I saw her in school, I was like, honestly, I don’t know how a human can get more perfect than that! But we ended up dating, which honestly, I don’t know how she liked me, but I never really questioned it. Kayla was always with me through the hardest times and we got together just as I was beginning YouTube. I would probably say around when I had thirty to forty thousand subscribers, and the funny thing was is she never really knew I did YouTube. I always kind of hid it from girls because I was like I don’t want girls to know I do YouTube and make Minecraft videos, that’s kind of, like, weird! Like, I thought it was just kind of a weird thing to say. Like if a girl comes up to you in high school, they’re like, “Oh, what do you do? Where do you work?” and I’m like, “Oh, I make Minecraft videos”. Not that I was embarrassed to make Minecraft videos because I love doing it but when you’re trying to impress a girl that’s not really the thing that I was looking to say.

Besides all that, I started traveling across the US and meeting fans and going to conventions around the United States and most of these conventions I met a ton of awesome YouTubers such as some of my best friends today, Moose and Shark, and many other YouTubers that I still have today, so this was a really long journey of learning and improving myself every single day and I kept working seven days a week and I finally got by and graduated high school with passing grades. When I graduated high school, I had nearly 1 million subscribers on YouTube and I think that is insane. And for me after high school, I didn’t want to continue my education. I didn’t really want to go to college or anything like that. I just wanted to do my passion, YouTube, and that’s it, so I kept doing it and then later down the line I decided to open up my merchandise brand called Unspeakable. Unfortunately, I had no one to help me begin the business so I kind of did everything myself. I was reaching out to print screening companies and ordering a couple hundred shirts and I ended up making a website by myself learning all the shipping and ordering envelopes and just everything I needed to start a clothing business. And the first day I promoted the clothing business we had nearly a hundred orders. I ended up doing all the packaging in my parents’ garage and I kept doing this for weeks and weeks until my mum finally volunteered to take over all the fulfilment and customer service and as of today, Unspeakable merchandise has multiple employees and my mum runs and manages the whole entire business. I think that is so, so awesome. Moving past that, when I was only 19 years old, I decided to move out of my parents’ house and I bought my first house in Dallas, Texas. I moved over to Dallas to further improve my YouTube career with a team called Proper Idiots and it was an awesome experience living completely away from everything that I’ve ever known in a brand new place, but unfortunately I ended up leaving the Proper Idiot’s team along with some other members and those other members ended up moving out of Dallas, so I decided that I had no reason to stay in Dallas anymore, so I moved back over to Houston where I’m living currently. And as of today, I currently have over 5.4 million followers. I live with my beautiful girlfriend and our two beautiful and weird cats and I’m still working harder than ever every single day to improve.

I’m currently only 20 years old and this is only the beginning of my life. I’m so blessed to have what I have, all the friends I’ve made, and every day I will only be working harder to improve and grow more. So, for now this is the draw

my life video and this is only chapter one. I know many say I've accomplished a lot for being so young, but I feel like I've barely accomplished anything. I feel like I have so much more potential and passion inside of me. Every single day I love what I do more than anything and I want to thank you guys so much for watching. This video covered the first 20 years of my life and it's been absolutely incredible. I'm so thankful and so grateful for everything I have today and all I want to say to you guys is if you have a true passion toward something if you are dedicated to putting in the time and the work, your dreams can truly, truly come true because that's exactly what I did. So, I want to thank you guys so much for watching. I hope you guys have a safe and fantastic rest of your day and before you guys go, of course, be sure to leave a like and let me know what you think in the comment section below. But that is the first 20 years of my life. Thank you guys so much for watching and I'll catch you guys in a couple days in a brand new vlog!

2495

## MDML #62

Welcome to my draw my life. For those of you that don't know me, I'm Chris and the Mike, your favourite YouTuber extraordinaire. You've all been requesting this for years and I am finally ready to deliver. This draw my life is not meant to depress you. It is meant to provide you with hope inspiration and strength, so here we go.

I grew up in a rough part of ghetto Los Angeles, California. My father also grew up in this rough neighbourhood and my mum immigrated from El Salvador to this rough part of town as well. They had relationship problems like any other couple, but this was different. My father was an abusive, cheating, drug-addicted manipulative husband, while my mother knew little English and was very naïve. My father's downfalls were caused by his anger towards how he was raised, and he loved to reflect this anger onto his loved ones, including me. I was verbally and physically abused daily my whole life by him. My mother would always try her best to protect me and she would divert his anger towards her instead. If I did something wrong, I would get hit. I remember when I was six or seven, my parents were arguing about something and I just wanted to get away. I rode my bike to the library without permission to go play games on their computers. My parents somehow found me, and I got a black eye that day. My father didn't let me go to school until my eye healed to avoid questioning from authorities. Another time I was stuffed in the closet for hours at a time. One time there was a pair of scissors in the closet during my punishment and I cut every single sleeve off of my father's clothes. He had to replace his entire wardrobe. I was never put in the closet again after that.

When I was nine, my mother really wanted me to have a better life and in order to do that, she decided that growing up in that part of LA was not going to cut it. So, she took a job at a strip club to make extra money for a down payment on a home in a better neighbourhood. I was so excited for a new life, a bigger house and a fresh start. I thought everything would be all right, but it wasn't all right. My mother continued to work at the club and my father grew really jealous and he accused her of cheating on him. One night their argument grew way too intense and when I came out to see what was going on, I witnessed my father choking my mother. Man, I flung my little body at my dad as hard as I could to save my mum. She was my protector, but in this case, I became her protector and to this day, she says I saved her life that night. Another night, my mother never came home from work. She grew strong and refused to return home to him. My father was a wreck and he would never be the same again.

They decided to get a divorce. Throughout the whole process my father would manipulate me into thinking my mother was the most horrible person in the world when in fact she was the smartest and the sweetest person. I was told that I had to choose who I wanted to live with. I was angry and I felt abandoned by my mother and chose to live with my father. Because of my choice, my mother let my father have the house during the divorce so that I can grow up there and not have to move to another place. She felt that she worked so hard to get that house for me and didn't want me to lose it. My father exited mentally. He broke down, he quit his job and we started to lose lots of money. At one point we only ate canned food from the 99-cent store, and he was still verbally and physically abusive. Then he met my stepmother and she brought along her two daughters - my new stepsisters. Eventually my father and stepmother's relationship fell apart. They stopped sharing a bedroom together and things got really weird in the household. My dad started to do things he wasn't supposed to and the household tension grew and grew and grew.

At 16, I got a job at a bowling alley and the day I got my check, my dad started to charge me rent. I was livid. I grew very depressed and to get away from the weirdness of that family, I immersed myself into the world of video games. I continued paying rent and then I went to college. I decided to major in Microbiology. Despite all the continued abuse, I graduated with an AS in Microbiology, but I grew more sad and more depressed and played more games with continued abuse. Then I started uploading videos to YouTube of my gameplay. People started to enjoy my outlook on game environments and wanted to get away from their reality just as much as I did. I started my biggest series ever: Minecraft Family. My father, stepmother, younger stepsister and I played Minecraft together and acted like a normal functional family. It was very fun for those brief moments of recording but as soon as the recording was done, that fake reality was gone. People loved that series so much because they also loved seeing a family come together to play, but little did they know about the truth. If you watch the later episodes of the old Minecraft Family, you can almost feel the tension between us. It's such a weird vibe.



I continued on to university to pursue my bachelor's degree and that's where I hit up Losada on Facebook. She went to my old high school, but we never spoke to each other. I said, "Sup girl?" and we went on a movie date. Eventually I told her about my home life, and she said, "you need to get the heck out of there because it's really unhealthy". That's when I met Car Flo. He was my chemistry lab partner as we became closer friends, my only friend at the time. he found out more about my home life and told me if I ever needed a place to stay, I could stay in his living room. Losada provided me with strength to do what was necessary. That same night I told my father I was going to move out. He tried to fight me, but I shoved him away and packed my stuff into my 1972 Volkswagen Beetle and I moved to Car Flo's living room. It was about a year later that my dad was arrested and truths about the crap household that I lived in started coming out. That's when I flunked out of college and grew more depressed. I didn't know how to feel. My father's side of the family was very angry. They started to throw out all kinds of theories for why it wasn't his fault. All kinds of excuses for why my father is innocent, but I lived through it and I went through six months of very expensive therapy for it. To this day, they still make excuses for him. They keep telling me I need to help him and appreciate him because he's my father. Well yesterday, my father pled guilty to his charges and he's going to do 20 years in prison. I think in all the time he was in jail, I visited him about three times and in all the three times I saw the same lying, manipulative man. He was no longer my father - only a broken, deranged man.

In the time that he's been gone, my life has improved immensely. My YouTube channel is doing great. I get to do it as a living, Car Flo and I are the best of friends. I recently got engaged with Losada and my relationship with my mother has greatly improved. Now that this whole mess with my father is over, I felt that I can finally share my life with you. I've never been happier in my life than I am now, and I hope I can make your days brighter by making entertaining videos for you. That's always been my goal: to put a smile on your face even on a crappy day because you've all done the same for me. That's why I still upload and why I was able to stay strong during these hard times. I hope to do the same for you. Also, if something weird is going on in your home, report it, question it, nip it in the bud immediately because not only did I suffer - everyone suffered. Both family and victims. In this case, justice was served, but it was served much too late.

Thanks everyone for watching and supporting me for as long as you have. Feel free to share this video with anyone you know. I didn't make this video to make you guys feel sad or sorry for me. I made it because you are all a part of me and you deserve to know my life.

1556

### MDML #63

A long, long, long time ago two military officials were working hard and being badass. Then they noticed each other from across the room and then, they fell in love and then they had that first baby and they named him Jordan. It was a very emotional moment. Two years later, it was just a normal sunny day. They were having a nice stroll with the baby, then something happened. Mama got all bug-eyed and then, she started twitching and then she was screaming and then all of a sudden, her stomach got huge and I bursted from my confines in the womb. I'm xxx and this is me drawing my life.

It all started January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1993, in some dingy hospital somewhere in New Mexico. Hell, for all you know, my mama could have really liked aliens and I bet she probably did work with aliens since she was in the military. So, she could have picked me up from out of some garbage dump or something like that and took me home, who knows, you know? But we'll save that story for another time. Anyway, we only lived in Mexico for about a year. Then we moved to an Air Force Base in California and stayed there for five lovely years, but then we took up to a magnificent trip to live in Alaska. Drove to the Canadian border, then we drove alongside mountain cliffs. Thankfully my brother and I had this mini VHS TV to keep us company during the trip. Once we got to Alaska, despite the popular assumption, there were actually no people living in igloos. It was actually a big city called Anchorage and it was beautiful. I was going to be starting my first year at school in kindergarten. I quickly became known as the class clown and of course doing all that crazy stuff got me in trouble a lot. Most of times it was because I was talking or because I was too loud or because I was talking too loud, or because I was drawing and now you ask, how can you get in trouble for drawing? Well you see, I'd like to draw female characters - you can probably see where this is going. Because I was so young, they ended up coming out disproportionate - they had big boobs. One day I thought it'd be a really good idea to draw this girl that I liked as a badass comic-book character, so I gave it to her in class to show it to her and I was preening. I felt so good. I was like "yes girl, you is fierce" and then she looked at it like "umm, what the fuck is this?" and then she smiled and all happy and stuff and then she took it to the teacher and then she complained about how uncomfortable she felt with the drawing and then the teacher was like "oh" and then I got in trouble, and that was the last time I ever drew something for her ass. My teacher was still getting pissy over me drawing female characters though, so I just started drawing my own comics. One comic that I drew that was inspired by my brother was called Mrs. Plop and it was about a piece of superhuman poop that came from the ass cheeks of Superman. The next one I drew was kind of dark, no pun intended, called Black Knight and was about a slave that falls down a magical well that transforms her into her superhuman vampire being that transports her to the future and she kills racist white people, all while trying to find out the true identity of her parents. I was fucking hardcore in elementary; you all don't even know.

Anyway, we stayed in Alaska for six lovely years until we moved over to a Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. We drove part of the way, then we took a ferry and then we drove all the way down to California. It took three days, and I was so excited. I was growing up and becoming a big kid and going to middle school and it was amazing, but that was until I found out there were no playgrounds. I was like “what the hell, how does anybody have fun around this bitch besides talking?” Soon, I found out that kids like to be prejudiced and mean and hateful to people they didn’t even know for their fun. Every dumb question or statement you could possibly think of was coming out of their mouths, and this made me briefly consider a career in becoming a serial killer and how successful I might be at the ripe young age of 12. Middle school was teaching me new things I didn’t even know about myself like how much of a low tolerance I had for bullshit. But I didn’t have to go through that by myself for very long. I actually made my first friend by just asking him if he would be my friend and he was like “sure, why not?” and he was really sweet and cute and kept swallowing my fucking gum that bastard but I liked him anyway, but it didn’t last long because he moved.

Not long after that my parents that I thought were in love actually weren’t and then they had a divorce. My mum sat my brother and I down to tell us the bad news and then I started laughing I was like “ha ha ha, you kidding right?” and then she was like “no” and then I bursted into tears because she joked about that before. I thought she was joking again this time. It turns out that she was not. So, then my daddy moved out into his own little apartment while me and my brother and my mama watched him go. It was sad. Alas, this made me hate my middle school, so much more so than when I already had started there that I had vividly pictured blowing the school up and actually wrote a story about it, but pretty soon I was out of despair because me and my brother got our first video cameras. We created the weirdest stuff you could possibly imagine but we had the best time doing it and I still have the tapes. Soon this thingy site YouTube that made me think of the band U2 came out and I decided hey, why not upload my weirdest videos there? And I was in love! After a year and a half in Vandenberg Air Force Base, my mum retired from the military and we decided to move out to Las Vegas because most of our relatives lived there and because it was hot. My mum loves it hot. But oh Lord, I did not know what I was getting myself into. I learned the true meaning of ghetto when I went to my first Las Vegas middle school. Somebody was always going “Oh my god Miss, I didn’t hear the question! Why you so mean Miss?” While she was being all rude and ignorant and sometimes the classrooms were so big, everybody was always screaming and yelling, and teacher was saying shit and I was trying to understand what was happening in the classroom. Shut up!

But there was one class that I loved and that was art class and in art class I could draw as many lopsided boobies as my heart desired but soon in that class I got asked out by a girl and my dumbass said yes. I immediately knew what was wrong and I just ignored her until I moved schools and come eighth grade, I moved from a crap school to a less crappy school. I was in the yearbook staff and it had to be my favourite class. We were all just kind of like a family just making memories together. I even met one of my best friends in my class, Daphne, and we still keep in contact to this day. Then on comes Satan High School and it was so shitty. No, but literally, there was a pig farm not too far from the school and the smell drifted to the high school made everything smell like shit - it was so bad. It was like starting middle school all over again. I didn’t know anyone, and people was getting stupid and rude and mean and ignorant. The number one question I usually got was “are you gay?” but I normally didn’t feel like answering that question because I felt like it was none of their fucking business, until I finally just got tired of the bullshit and just said “I’m bi”, and I got the reaction that I expected. “Oh my god, oh my god!” What they didn’t know is what I meant was bye to the pussy, hello to the dick.

Soon I met this really amazing girl named Jamila. If you ask how we met, I would say we just gravitated towards each other like it was meant to be. We were easily the two craziest motherfuckers at that school and Jamila did an awesome thing for me. She blared this beautiful music in my head that just said dress however and do whatever makes you happy and don’t fucking apologize, as long as you’re not hurting anyone, you’re fine. And soon after that I started dressing up in tutus and going to fucking school not giving a fuck, and then I permed my hair and snipped it off and became the cutest little scene queen you ever did see. Soon I started experimenting with makeup and mascara and doing my eyebrows and being all artsy fartsy with my face. I was really happy that I found a new way to express myself that made me feel confident and secure in who I was and that I had an amazing group of friends to talk to about the amazing things that we all love together. And people were hating but we didn’t give a fuck.

Then a YouTube opportunity suddenly blasted in my face when I found out that Gays of the Week, this gay collab channel on YouTube, was auditioning for a new Friday, so I stood my happy ass up and did an audition video. I didn’t really think I was going to win but then I got a message in my inbox saying you won! I was like “Oh my gosh, shut the hell up!” and I freaked the fuck out for a solid good hour, and I was so happy. I was going into my senior year feeling fabulous, looking fabulous and then BOOM! The school announces that they’re going to be cutting half the school employees, so half the teachers I loved got laid off and then fast forward, I get a two-day suspension for something that was completely stupid and my broken little heart combust into a million pieces and then I became so wrapped up in my own self-pity that I never ended up graduating high school. And then to punch it all off, my mum kicked me out to my dad. See what I did there? Punch, kick, get it? Because football. Anyway, there was nothing to do in boring old Lompoc because I didn’t know anybody, so I ended up just filming videos of myself and putting them online. I would film videos of myself dying my hair and film videos of myself talking about my life and stuff, and then soon I made this

one video called Lock my Status about how much I hated the LMS bullshit and that video got a lot of recognition and I did not see that coming.

Soon I found out that one of my favourite YouTube vloggers, Tyler Oakley, saw the video and had posted on his Tumblr and I made a reaction video. It was a little bit of an overreaction video to be honest, but I was really happy because my dreams were actually coming true, as cheesy as that sounds. I was able to fly places, get my hair did and I was able to see my friends and family, and I was also able to make money to go to awesome conventions like VidCon and at VidCon I met so many amazing YouTubers that I have spent years watching like Soundlyawake and now here I am, working on becoming a fully functional self-maintaining adult working on my GED, working on getting a car and then I'm eventually planning on moving to LA and it could be this year but I don't really know for sure, but we'll see. For now, I'm just trying to work harder, to try and find that inner CEO HBIC Beyoncé that I know is inside me and I hope you guys will stay with me every step of the way. Thank you guys for watching and don't forget subscribe.

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#### MDML #64

Hideeho everyone! My name is Mr. Fruit and thank you so much for 1 million subscribers. To celebrate, I thought I'd do a video that's a bit more personal so that you guys can get to know me a little bit better. To do so, though, that means you need to hear about Christian - that's my real name, not some split personality, just speaking in third person. Anywho, let's begin.

It all started when I was born in a little city nobody has ever heard of called Las Vegas. Lights, camera and baby fruit. It was here that my journey began. I was a chubby old baby. Seriously, I packed in that baby fat and I made it work. Not only that, but my mum always liked to remind me of how I started to do the splits before I started walking. My father was a Junior Olympist, so perhaps it could have run in the family, but nevertheless, I would perform a full split and then just tumble around rather than walk; I mean, walking is pretty overrated at that age. I also liked to eat a lot, so I guess some things never change. My parents are papa fruit and mama fruit. Papa fruit is a strong man with a chiselled butt chin. Seriously, he used to be a bodybuilder and he was massive. He's incredibly hard-working and I'd like to think I picked up my work ethic from him. My mother was a southern girl born and raised in the heart of Georgia whose accent used to be thicker than molasses. I imagine that's how it would have sounded coming from her. She's got a big open heart for anyone in her life. At the time, I was the fourth son of the family. A year and a half later and the Fruit family would welcome the last son to the gang to make up a total of five boys. My three older brothers are all half-brothers, but we've never gone about treating them like that. They're family and I have to say we're all incredibly different people. I lived and grew up in Las Vegas for five years and I'll admit I remember very little from that time in my life, which I think it's pretty understandable. After five years, our family packed up and went to live on the other side of the country, in Jacksonville, Florida, close to my mama's family in Georgia. Now having since moved from there and grown to appreciate and experience different climates, I have no idea how I didn't just keel over and melt away on the hot pavements. The humidity there is insane, and I guess I was just so young I never paid any attention to it, but, oh man, you walk out of an air-conditioned house and there is a physical wall of moisture waiting to soaked you right up. That's beside the point though.

Florida was where my dad began to shape and form his company he now runs today, while mother has always been on and off with teaching and helping out with us. For me, it was there where my love for video games began. Pokémon had already come into my life in Las Vegas, but it consumed me while I lived in Florida. From playing the original blue and red version on the original Gameboy to Pokémon Yellow on the Gameboy Colour so on and so forth. Not only that but I made a lot of great friends while I was there, one of them being my childhood friend who for the sake of anonymity - is that how you even say it? I don't know - I'll just call Jimbo. Jimbo loved all the games I did and usually got all the cool ones before myself as well, so a lot of my time was spent at his house nerding at every little thing possible, which, don't be fooled, a lot of time was spent outside with the cul-de-sac kids playing football or baseball, but seeing as my career in sports never quite kicked off, it makes more sense to focus on video games. One of my earlier birthdays I had saved up all the money I had received and went to go buy myself a Nintendo 64 and Super Smash Brothers. That was a game changer. I'd played on all the older consoles, but this was the first one I owned. I'll never forget picking Ness and pitting my brother into a corner while endlessly picking fire much to his dismay.

As time passed, eventually Jimbo got a Gamecube and then it was Super Smash Brothers Melee. I was a Nintendo fanboy to the day I die since I had never really played with anything else and I knew that Pokémon was Nintendo, so that's all that mattered. Apart from that, it was when I started kindergarten and we lived there until halfway through my fourth-grade year. I was a loud and rambunctious kid who usually tried to hold centre stage wherever I was. I was the class clown and incredibly outgoing and evidently, I was pretty right too - I don't mean to toot my own horn. One of my teachers pulled aside my mum one day to let her know that she was thinking about getting me tested to go into a gifted program, which is essentially a separate group of kids who are the same age but faster at processing and learning new things. My mumma told me about it before I took the test and asked the important questions like will my friends be there and do I have to do more work? Once young fruit realised he'd have to leave his friends and work harder, his

plan was set in motion. In typical fruit form, I bombed the test purposefully. The written portion I apparently passed all metrics by a mile, but the oral exam was where I faltered. I would give answers I knew were wrong in the hopes of not getting accepted into the program. It worked so huzzah, reunited with friends and more time for video games meant I was a happy little fruit.

Well, not too long after and my little heart sank, as my parents informed us we were moving across country to Colorado. Everything I knew and loved at that point in my life was all in Florida. My brothers and I all had a hard time with the move. I said goodbye to Jimbo and everyone else and off we went to the Midwest. I can't tell you what it was exactly but something about that move changed me forever. It's hard to say if it was just the natural way I would have grown up as I matured but I think the circumstances had some play. I was in a new place with no friends and everything just felt colder, both literally and figuratively. I had never seen so much snow at all in my life before actually and now there was a couple feet of it piled alongside every roadway. Almost immediately I ended up meeting someone whom I'm still lucky enough to call my best friend today. We'll call him Jim Bob because, ironically enough, he had the same name as Jimbo from Florida. Jim Bob liked a lot of the same stuff I did, one of those being Pokémon and immediately that was enough to spark our friendship. While I maintained some friendships during my elementary years, they were fewer and farther between and it wasn't as comfortable being out there as I was before. Jim Bob and I mainly stayed inside when we could and played any game we could get our hands on. It was in part of this new move, the new climate and the new circumstances, that I think I began to spend more and more time indoors. Naturally, that soon equated to more video games. We'd received a family PS2, Playstation 2 rather, as a Christmas gift in Florida and brought it along with us and I put in plenty of hours on that bad boy. Star Wars Battlefront was my jam. It's also important to note that I really loved Pokémon. So much so that one day when Jim Bob was over in my house, we were going through my Pokémon card collection, we realised we never truly learned how to play the game. We just thought the cards were cool. It was at this point we looked online and realised there was this entire competitive Pokémon card game scene and some of the events happened near us. We both took to the game really fast. We both developed a love for it, so much so that I began competing in the tournaments come a few months after. I went around to these various events, state to state, and competed for two years from sixth to eighth grade. Along the way I became the number one rated Colorado senior player, which was the age bracket I was in, and eventually made it to become the seventh highest rated senior in North America. I played in the World Championship, I got placed 12th and then the second world championship I got invited to; regrettably I didn't attend because it was my first week of freshman year of high school, and I didn't want to miss it. Probably one of my biggest regrets to the day. I didn't miss anything.

Anyway, I loved the competition and the strategy and all the friends I made along the way. It was the highlight of my younger years. However, around the same time there were some of, if not the worst, years of my life. Seventh grade is a very dark period in my timeline, so much so that I think my mind has blocked out and forgotten most of that time in my life. It was another transition since I was now in middle school and throughout the entire seventh grade year, I retained my one friend, Jim Bob. It wouldn't be for another few years until I realised what was wrong with me because for so long, I woke up every day and kept asking myself, why do I feel like this? Why do I not want to do anything? Why am I so pathetic and why is everyone else able to be so happy and I can't? I was reclusive and shy; I would just hold my head low and go through the motions. I remember pretending to cut my wrists in class just to try and get attention from someone, anyone. These were the only times thoughts of self-harm and suicide had come to my mind and I'm forever thankful to my younger self for never carrying anything out because the thought of doing something like that to my family and friends still makes my stomach turn today. The thing I kept wrestling with and was so upset with myself about was why I felt like this. I have a loving family, my father works tirelessly to give us everything we need and more. My mother is one of the warmest souls if not the warmest you could meet on this earth. My brothers, while they could get on my nerves, were always there and we always did things together. I didn't have some huge gaping hole in my life that would explain why I felt like this, because comparatively, I was living a blessed life. The worst part too was that no one ever knew what was going on. I just got really good at internalizing and saving face to ensure no one really saw behind my fake smile. Days blended together and everything seemed to lose its meaning. It's like I was living my entire life on mute.

Seventh grade finally ended, and I don't think I've ever felt more of a relief in my life. Eighth grade was going to be at a different school and without me realising it, a fresh start was just what I needed. Eighth grade became a little more comfortable with myself and made more friends while enjoying the company of others, but that great cloud that haunted me in seventh grade never left. It was with me the whole time. It's just that I had found ways to suppress it as much as I could. I can't tell you how bad of an idea it is to suppress something like that.

It wouldn't be until my sophomore year of high school where inevitably things came to a boiling point. It was at this point that I finally realised why everything seemed so off to me. Why very few things made me happy, and why I cared for so little all the time: depression. It was a word I wasn't too familiar with. I didn't realise that my own worst enemy could be myself. Nothing is worse than trying to fight your own mind when it comes to living out a normal daily life. More specifically, I eventually learned it's hereditary depression and had to come to terms with the fact that this feeling I have is never just going to go away. There's various cases of depression or sad spells that people encounter where you can apply the usual phrase of there's a light at the end of the tunnel, but for me that's not the case. For me, I'll

always be stuck in that tunnel unless I educate and learn to handle it better. I'm never going to be 100% and that was a really hard pill to swallow. To this day, I've only told a handful of people that I deal with depression because, much like seventh grade, I've made myself someone who's not prone to opening themselves up to weaknesses. I didn't want people to know I have depression and to look at me differently or pity me. I just wanted to try and pretend it wasn't there. However, I now realise that I'm in a position to spread awareness and I've learned ways to handle it better. There's a common misconception with depression that it's all in somebody's mind, but the thing about depression is it's physical. My body just doesn't produce nearly enough serotonin and that's a large factor as to why I battle with this every day. Nothing irks me more than hearing someone say that so-and-so just needs to get over it, because trust me, I wish it were that easy. Due to my depression, like I mentioned previously, I started to spend a lot more time indoors. Thus, was the birth of my Halo 3 career and everything you see today.

It's because of my circumstances that I am who I am today and I'm no longer ashamed of who that person is. I found ways to combat the sadness the best I can and look out for signs that I'm getting overwhelmed before it becomes a major boiling point again. For me, I found that talking to someone helps. I go to therapy and I don't feel like any less of a human being for doing so. I've tried medicine, but so far, I haven't found one that works for me, but that doesn't mean it doesn't work for everyone. Everyone is different in how they deal with problems like this and that's why I wanted to take this time to tell you or someone you know to look for help. If you think you know someone going through something like depression, just letting them know that you're there for them can mean a lot.

So, while I was struggling to figure out who I was, one thing was always certain. I loved video games. Video games continue to be one of the only things I can truly get excited and happy about. They've always been there for me and they've always acted as an escape more than anything. When I'm zoned in and playing video game, nothing else at that moment matters so I would bury my head in the Halo, then Call of Duty, so on and so forth. The 360 became my stomping ground for years until the next generation of consoles, where I ultimately made the choice to switch to PS4. The main reason was I knew Destiny was receiving PlayStation exclusive content and I could not wait to see what Bungie, the creators behind my beloved Halo were up to next. Had actually started making YouTube videos under my previous alias "A bowl of fruit". It was nothing more than a hobby at the time and I would make one or two videos a week if I felt like it. It was extremely casual, but I loved it. It never took off, but I continued to post for about two years. I'd originally been inspired by the likes of the machinery spawn crew being Seananners, Hutch and Sark. The entirety of the Call of Duty gaming community felt like home to me for years and so I would work doing basic data entry while having all their commentaries on in the background so I could save enough money to buy some equipment to try my hand at it.

Fast-forward to my freshman year of college after I tried YouTube on and off again. I was sitting in the dorm with more free time than usual. Side note: majority of my freshman year was nothing but League of Legends and I decided to try some videos again after watching the likes of Markiplier and others and getting reinvigorated. I wanted to do something creative again. It was here that this channel and Mr. Fruit was officially born. I posted the video every day for 30 days before I ultimately burned myself out. I jumped the gun a little bit, but oddly enough, I had been in a really big slump in life with college since I had no idea what I wanted to do with myself and so depression had continued to get the better of me. Those 30 days of video making though changed something in me and at the end of it, things were looking up despite me not making videos. The summer between freshmen and sophomore year of college was when my girlfriend and I started dating and also when I became rather ill. It certainly felt deathly ill to me at the time though, just want to put that out there. I not only had mono but a few other things tackled on top and I was almost at the point where I was going to have to pause college to take a semester off to rest. I pushed forward through, more like crawled forward, and made it to the fall semester of 2014, or as I now know it: D-day, short for "Destiny day". Destiny came out on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and little did I know those sixty dollars would change my life forever. I played Destiny with friends I had known from before, mainly Robby, whom you're all very familiar with now, and it wasn't until November that I finally decided to give YouTube another go. At that point, I had been sitting around sick for months and had been doing nothing productive with my life because it felt like there was very little to be productive with. I began to witness one of my good friends from years prior whom you all know as Aereos finally start to see some significant growth on YouTube and he'd been doing it for years on end. Seriously, that man is insanely dedicated and if it wasn't for him, I wouldn't have been pushed to start my channel again, so I began posting again until I eventually decided to make a video on Destiny. I mean it only made sense, it's what I spent about 90% of my time playing anyway. The video caught a little footing and so I continued to post them until one fateful day, I hit the front page of the Destiny subreddit. I still remember my friend calling me on the road trip because I was with my family and he was trying to tell me my videos had 40,000 views in between all the excited panting, and it felt like a dream. 40,000 people. It was unreal and most notably the growth hasn't stopped since and I'm forever grateful as many of you know after one semester into my junior year of college, I ultimately decided that my time is best spent full-time on YouTube, since college just wasn't for me in the first place, and I finally felt I had a purpose, and that was to make people laugh and forget.

I'm lucky enough to be doing what others did for me when I was in middle school and high school. I used to listen and watch YouTubers and use them as an escape and now I receive messages that I do the same for people going through depression or a number of other things and it couldn't fill me with more happiness even if it tried. The truth is that you

guys do just as much for me as you say I do for you. Being able to make these videos is still an escape to me and I love what I do. When I say I want to remind people to laugh and have fun with games and friends, I'd be lying if I said I wasn't also reminding myself. So, to sum it all up, take that mum and dad when you said I played too many video games. Also, I love you a lot and thanks for supporting me.

So if you didn't catch the drift I'm very thankful to be where I am. Thank you guys so much for giving me this kind of platform and I know, bit more of a serious video for sure, kind of hard to make, like I said I haven't told a whole bunch of people that, but I wanted to make light. Make it known and I know there's, well there's a specifically, mental health kind of stuff, something like depression, there's a lot of taboo a lot of confusion with some people. Some people think, like I mentioned, that it's a placebo thing. Like people just need to be happier and so I just want to say it can happen to anybody. As we've seen a lot with celebrities, and it tends to be that a lot of people that suffer from sadness like to use comedy and laughing as a way to you know either hide behind it or counteract it, and I'm certainly one of those people. I have turned to comedy and that kind of stuff because honestly, I have enough of the rest of that stuff in my life already like you can already imagine, and there's plenty of time to be sad, so I like to try and focus my YouTube especially, that's why I started it, with the whole goal was for it to be lighter and funnier or that kind of stuff.

But I did want to thank you all so much for watching this video and I do have the 1 million shirt to finally announce. I know it's been a little while this video was delayed but this one million t-shirt will be going for two weeks. It's going to be limited run. I'll show it to you in a second. It's going to be going to charity, which is going to be awesome, so without further ado, let me show you the shirt real quick. Well, the revised version will have this line right there, but point is, gold foil of my new logo as you probably start to see it crop up here for the channel, so going to be gold foil edition of this. Won't ever do gold foil again. I've never even done gold foil so you know it's special, so for 1 million subscribers doing the gold foil logo t-shirt and all proceeds, so all the profits I get from this t-shirt will be going to charity. I will take screenshots and stuff and I'll be making a post and I'll probably also be highlighting it and a video after the campaign is finished showing how much we raised and how much we were able to donate to the charity. So, you might be wondering, okay, well what charity? I'm glad you asked. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Now I know obviously, I wanted to do something more specifically that I talked about and we talked about depression and a big part of depression is when people don't have enough awareness about it or it gets out of hand they don't have anybody to talk to. Things can get to a point where nobody wants it to get to and because of that I think it's going to be a great cause that we can hopefully raise money and like they said, I'll just read their like one sentence mission statement so that you all know what their main goal is: the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention raises awareness, funds scientific research and provides resources and aid to those affected by suicide. So, it's not just completely suicide, it's about giving assistance to those that may be on the brink of it or thinking about it or affected by somebody who has, so just the whole general circle. I think it's a good cause. They've been known to be very transparent and stuff, so it's going to the right cause and that's where all the proceeds for this t-shirt will be going. Now the t-shirt campaign store itself doesn't reflect that, like some t-shirt things you can see, like you can, you can see it's directly going to one of them, but we're going with a new t-shirt company this time, Designed by Humans, and they're not partnered with the AFSP, and so for that reason again I'm going to be completely transparent, because I don't want any confusion, again I'm not taking any of this money, I want to make sure that all the money I get goes straight to the foundation with one big donation from all of us to them. So, if that sounds like something you want to be a part of, link will be down in the description. There's probably a link somewhere around here too you can go to see the campaign. The t-shirt is going to be for \$24 and there are kids sizes now, thanks to the Designed by Humans, so we have kids sizes as well as regular sizes. Get yours while you can and thank you very much for watching this video. Hopefully it was a nice way to round out 1 million, you got to learn a little bit about me and I'm looking forward to reading the comments and seeing what you all have to say. Some of your stories and stuff. So, with that said, from the bottom of my heart, thank you very much for watching, have yourselves a fantastic day I'll talk to you in the next one. Farewell.

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#### MDML #65

Hi! My name is Matthew Santoro. I'm Canadian, I'm bald and I'm a YouTuber. Okay, that's all you need to know. Bye! No, just kidding. But, for real, you guys have been watching my videos and following my journey for years now and you probably think you know me pretty well, but the truth is, there's a lot more to the story that you don't know. In this video, I'm going to tell you everything that you've ever wanted to know about me: where I came from, how I got to where I'm at now, and everything in between. If you've ever wanted to know more about me, this is the full story from start to, well, now.

So, let's start from the beginning. I was born in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada, on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1985 in a hospital to my two loving parents, Mike and Kathy Santoro. I was an only child so, from an early age, I learned how to entertain myself and be creative. I think you get why that becomes important later in my life. Shortly after being born, my parents decided to move to a small city called Welland. It's a relatively small city of about 52,000 people and, truthfully, there isn't really much to do there. I mean, we have a mall and a bridge. That's about it. Basically, it's a quiet town where people move to retire. Not exactly an exciting thing for a kid. When we moved there, my parents bought me my very

first pet, my dog, Barney. He was the cutest little fluffy dog I'd ever seen, and I loved him very much. He was the only boy of the litter and that made him extra-special to me. We would snuggle and play together all the time and he'd even sleep with me every night as I grew up. My dad named him Barney, after Barney Rubble from The Flintstones. Still not exactly sure why, but hey, why not? We gave him so much love that he lived for a really long time, around 16 years, but eventually, he got too old and we decided to put him down. Luckily, my uncle is a veterinarian, so he was surrounded by a loving family when he passed, but I'm getting ahead of it.

As a kid, I attended St. Kevin's Elementary School. It was a Catholic school but not one of those hard-core uniform-wearing ones where the boys aren't allowed to talk to girls. I was always the class clown, always doing things to make people laugh. But, despite that, I was never very popular in school. Now, I wouldn't say I was a loser. More like, I just didn't feel like I fit in with any cliques. I always felt like I just never belonged. I always felt different, like I didn't understand why the other kids acted the way that they did. I always tried really hard to fit in, but it never worked. Eventually, I figured out the harder you try to make people like you, the less they will. I was always thankful that I was never really bullied. I mean, I was picked on, but never beat up or anything like that. I had some pretty great teachers growing up, as well as a few close friends and I was pretty happy, except for when I turned eight and my parents divorced. I definitely didn't take that well. I honestly don't have a lot of memories from that time, but I do remember that it made me a really sad kid, as well as confused. I felt sad for a long time after that and I couldn't explain a lot of the emotions that I felt but, despite that, my parents did all that they could to make it as easy on me as possible. The biggest thing I always give my parents credit for is that they never talked crap about each other around me. Ever. Despite their differences, they only ever spoke highly of each other. That's something that I'm still thankful for to this day, because I know that not every kid has that privilege.

Next up was high school. I attended Notre Dame College School, which I always thought was a weird name, considering that it wasn't a college but anyway, high school was similar to grade school for me except that I now had a whole bunch of hormones rushing through my body all at once. Yeah, that didn't make things awkward at all. Out of all of my classes, I loved Improv class the most because I got to be onstage making people laugh. In fact, I would do this thing called the Mother Lobster, where I'd snap my claws together and throw myself against the chalkboard. Yeah, I was weird. It was in my first year there that I met and started dating my first ever girlfriend. Her name was Holly. She was nice. That same year, I found my first job. It was at a grocery store called Zehrs in the hot deli department, where I fried chicken and, believe it or not, I ended up staying there for 10 years, and even fully paid my way through university. That's basically the summary of my high school days, but there were two important lessons that I learned during my time there that are still true today that I want to impart upon you. The first is to never envy anyone else's life, ever. No matter how great someone's life looks on the surface, I promise you, everyone has demons that they struggle with and no one is as perfect as they seem. I learned that one the saddest way possible when one of the most popular kids in my school, who everyone looked up to, took his own life one weekend without any warning. It turns out he had been terribly depressed, and nobody knew about it. The other important lesson is to never hesitate. If you want something, act today, because you might not get your shot tomorrow. This was another hard lesson that I learned. I had a huge crush on this girl named Jen and I waited days to gather the courage to ask her to prom and when I finally did, she told me that she was just asked earlier that same day by another guy and, what makes it worse is that she also said that she would have gone with me. That one stung.

It was in high school that I chose to go into accounting. I know, I know. Boring! The truth is I only went into it because one of my teachers, Mr. Graffi, told me that I could make a lot of money, so I set my sights on Brock University, switched all of my classes to accounting and dove in.

Next up was university and it was a really good time in my life. It was during this time that I started to become more serious about fitness and weightlifting and I got into pretty good shape. In between my studies, my friends and I would go out two or even three times a week. I still don't know how I went out that much and managed to pull off a 75 average. During my second year there, I ran into my high school crush, Marcy. We started hanging out and then started dating. Fast-forward and, after five and a half years, I graduated with a Master of Accountancy degree and moved in with Marcy. That's also when I got my first job at an accounting firm. Things were going really well. Just after I graduated, near the end of 2009, is when I first discovered YouTube, specifically, the YouTubers who inspired me to begin making my own videos. My biggest influence at the time was Ray William Johnson. I was in love with the concept of making videos and putting them online for everyone to see. It was just so exciting and new. After moving to St. Catherine's with Marcy, I bought a camera and taught myself how to edit and shoot video. Fun Fact: I almost didn't even post my very first video. It was only because of Marcy's encouragement that I gained the strength to do it. From there, I started making videos twice a week and, despite the fact that I was only getting about 100 views a video, I still loved it. For a couple of years, I would work long hours crunching numbers then come home and write scripts, shoot videos, edit them, and post on Saturdays.

Then, one day, everything changed. I got laid off. Now, you'd think I would have been devastated but oddly, I wasn't. In fact, I was happy. For the first time in years, I felt like I was free to do anything I wanted. I decided to vlog the experience, calling it I Lost My Job Today. In fact, that video is still on YouTube today. Feel free to look it up if you want to see Chubby Matt. It was at that moment that I learned another hard but important life lesson. To paraphrase the

great Jim Carrey, "You can fail at what you don't want to do, so you might as well take a chance on what you love." So, I did. I decided to pursue this YouTube thing full-time, despite having no idea how I would make it work and feeling completely lost. For an entire year, I took making videos really seriously. I was determined to make it, so I did everything I could to put myself in a position to do so, including going to VidCon and networking with bigger YouTubers. It was during this time that I met and became good friends with Scott Kinmartin, who introduced me to HouseholdHacker and Rob Dyke. Needless to say, we all became good friends and would even do a weekly Livestream together called Let Your Google Hang Out. In fact, we became such good friends that we decided to take a cross-America trip together. Luckily, it was in a free car that Scott had won through the Ford Fiesta movement, which was great because we were all broke and it's a tough economy. But, in all seriousness, little did I know that this would end up being the trip that would change my life forever. Other than quitting accounting, this was the second big risk I had ever taken in my whole life. Up until that point, I was always a very small-town conservative guy who was really just happy being safe in his little bubble, but all of that changed. Over the course of two weeks, we travelled from east to west coast together. It was a ton of fun and I still have many great memories and hilarious stories from that trip.

While we were on the road, I decided to take another big risk: to switch from comedy skits to exclusively Top 10 videos. Up until that point, I had always done list videos and skit videos separately but one day, I thought, "Hey, what would happen if I combined the facts with the humour?" And boom! Soon, I started getting 5,000 subscribers a day, then 10,000 and then 25,000 subscribers a day. In three months, I went from 15,000 subscribers to millions. Keep in mind, it took me four years of making videos to get those 15,000 and I got millions within three months. I had never felt a high like that in my life. I even passed many of the YouTubers who inspired me to begin in the first place.

My patience and hard work had finally paid off, but another big change was coming that I couldn't predict. The sudden fame was shifting my life in another direction and Marcy and I started to grow apart. Eventually, we realised that things just weren't right anymore and, after being together for five years, we decided to split ways. Luckily, to this day, we are still good friends and I am forever grateful for everything that she did for me while we were together. At this point in my life, I had finally gotten everything I worked for and it was exciting, however, despite that, the truth is I didn't handle my sudden fame very well. I lost the sense of who I was, and I didn't even know who I was supposed to be. From July to December 2014, I became very depressed and isolated. In fact, there were some weeks when I was so depressed, I couldn't even bring myself to make a video and unfortunately, the next two years were equally as confusing and difficult for me. If I could summarize that entire time into one word, it would be rollercoaster. There's a lot that happened during that time, but I'll summarize it for you like this: I met a girl that I thought loved me and that I thought was my dream girl, but ended up just using me to launch her YouTube career and put me through a lot of pain. But I also was on over 40 plane rides, visited places I had never seen before, and even moved to Toronto. Then, I got into some unnecessary YouTube drama with some friends that really sucked, but then I travelled to South Africa to be in the final Resident Evil movie. Then, I got into some more YouTube drama, this time with a gnome in a cartoon. I know, it sounds weird. It was. But then, I released a book with a full tour, won a Streamy Award for Breakout Creator of the Year, and even went to the White House, so yeah. Like I said, rollercoaster.

That brings us to the end of 2016. I still found myself lost and unhappy, so I decided that I needed a change of scenery. I took another huge risk and moved to Los Angeles. It's taken me six months but I finally, just now, have adjusted to living here and, to be honest, it's nice. But the truth is, I often miss Toronto a lot and all of the amazing friends that I made there. I miss my family a lot, too, but the good news is that I travel back there every couple months, so it's not so bad.

So, that's basically it. I guess I'm still finding my way and I'm still figuring out life as I go but, through it all, I learned one more important thing. I've realised that life itself is not something that you figure out. Maybe it's not about the destination, but about the journey instead. Maybe it's all about making mistakes, learning from those mistakes, and being a better person tomorrow than you were yesterday. It's about enriching the lives of those around you. It's about taking risks as often as possible and doing things that scare you, because growth lies just outside of your comfort zone. I don't know what the future holds for me, but that's okay, because throughout all the crazy ups and downs that may be to come, I know that my life will be about creating what I love, continuing to try to make the world a better place for the people I care about, and of course, sharing it with you.

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## MDML #66

Hey guys and welcome to a draw my life. I'm Wade, Lord Minion 777, and this is my story. Back in the late 80s, my mum was going to a party where she found my dad. My dad was a drummer in the band at the time. He was big into drums, he's a pretty musical guy, a funny guy. He was always the life of the party, my mum said, which is kind of funny. I mean, I guess I've been told he and I kind of have similar personalities as far as that goes. But anyway, they met, got together and a few years later, in 1989, I was born. When I was born, I was told I had enormous ears, enormous. Like, my dad said I was ET when I was born, and I quickly developed into Yoda and Dumbo. And that was me as a kid: little Yoda, little Dumbo. Before I was born, my mum had had two other kids - my older brother Josh and my older



sister Ashley. So along with my mum and my dad, there were my brother and sister, technically half, but I never considered them that. They're my full blood in my mind. A few years later, 1993, my younger brother was born, Zack. Zack and I had a pretty fun childhood. I picked on him a little bit, probably was a mean brother at times, but he and I used to have tons of fun playing with toys whether it was Star Wars, Pokémon, pillow fights, blanket forts, we did all kinds of fun stuff when we were young. I was kind of mean though, because at one point I kind of, well, played this one game with him where we would race to be the fastest to go to sleep and the whole point of the game was, you know, for me to get my brother to fall asleep. It was pretty evil on my part to try to get my brother to fall asleep like that just so I could run away, but you know, what's a true older brother if they don't do mean things every once in a while?

Our fun as children though was kind of short-lived. I think it was later that same year, 1993, my dad got bad into alcohol and was drinking a lot of tequila and I actually found a couple brown paper bags of tequila and told my mum about it and pretty soon afterward I regretted the decision because he started to get a little bit, I wouldn't say abusive, but violent is the word, and punched holes in walls. And unfortunately, one of my earliest memories of my dad is him hanging on a car door as we drove away trying to get to a hotel, my mum in her pyjamas without even getting a chance to put shoes on, so when I found those other two bags of alcohol it basically sealed my father's fate and my mum made him move out. I put a lot of that guilt on myself, so I didn't really understand the situation at that time, and I thought the reason he had to leave was because of me. I was only four years old at the time. Life didn't seem to get much easier after that. I mean, don't get me wrong, I had a really great childhood. I was spoiled rotten, had all kinds of toys and such. My mum was afraid I was going to become a nerd, so she actually made me join a basketball league and a bowling league because I just wanted to stay inside, not spend any time with friends. I just wanted to play with Star Wars toys and build puzzles and such by myself.

But growing up, one of the hardest things I really had to deal with was choosing my dad, my mum or my grandparents. Truth be told, they were going to be happy no matter what I decided, but it was hard being a kid and being asked where I wanted to go spend a weekend or a couple weekdays. No matter what decision I made, I didn't feel like I was making one person happy. I felt like I was making two groups sad. Either my mum would be sad and my dad would be sad and my grandparents would be happy, my mum would be happy or my dad would be happy and the other two would be sad. I hated making that choice. I still hate making decisions to this day, probably because of dealing with all of that. All through this time I dreamed and cried every night, most nights hoping that my parents would somehow fell, fall back in love and get back together. Unfortunately, it never happened, but that hope's what got me through a lot of my childhood, and the fear of losing any of them one day, to death, my mum, my dad, one of my grandparents scared me to death. I didn't think I could make it through that. My best escape though was when my grandparents would take me down to Lake Cumberland and Burnside, Kentucky, and getting to go out on the water in the boat. I used to sit as a kid and watch the motor sitting on the back of a pontoon. I'd fall asleep watching that motor and running around with my cousin and my brother playing in the water and running around down in Cumberland. Some of the happiest memories of my life were down there. I still think of it is my escape.

When I was in a junior high, I had a health class and for one of our exercises one day we had to try to meditate and take ourselves to a peaceful place. The first and only place I thought of was down in Lake Cumberland. It was truly a home away from home. Eventually we moved out of my first home and when I was in first grade we moved over to another little house and around third or fourth grade, I met a guy named Scott, kid named Scott. There was a guy named Mike who used to live at the end of that street and I talked to him every now and then, we weren't really close friends, but he was about the closest thing I had to a good friend at that point, and I ended up doing a school project where I had to, like, make a mouse maze and I kept the mice and they ended up breeding and I ended up with like 10 or 15 mice, and one day I just had to go show Mike one of the mice, so I put one on me and ran down the street to his house and knocked on the door, but to my surprise, Mike had moved out and this lady opened the door and looked kind of weirded out at the fact that there was a mouse running around on my clothing, and I asked if Mike lived there and for some reason she must have been pretty desperate to find friends for her son because she immediately said, "Oh, but I have a son right around your age, Scott or Scotty!" I don't even remember what she called him, maybe Scooter. Scott had all kinds of nicknames back then, but she yelled for him, Scott came out, thought I must have been nuts and before you knew it, we were best friends.

One of our biggest shared interests growing up, Scott and I, was basketball. My mum had made me join a team when I was in second grade and I played it from second grade all the way through high school, a little bit in college, and I just recently actually joined another basketball league. I can't draw a basketball to save my life, but I loved playing it. Basketball's kind of been an escape for me; it's been another way that I've found peace through the years. Whenever I felt heartbroken or just down, sometimes I'll go play just to get my mind off of everything. But one of the biggest things Scott and I did was spend time playing video games. We played Diablo for hours and hours and hours, another game called Smugglers Run on the PS2 and then a lot of time playing Roller Coaster Tycoon together. We loved playing games together. He used to come over and eat all my mum's chocolate chips we'd just play games all day long and that's really whenever I got into video games, was whenever Scott and I used to play, and I felt more in my zone playing games with somebody else than I ever did alone.

Tragedy has been a common theme throughout my life as well as happiness. I've had a very big mixture of both - very big highs and very low lows. In 2011, August 19th, I went to spend the night with my dad and my brother came with me, and my dad wasn't feeling well so I kind of took care of him throughout the night and got him hot and cold water bottles and he kind of had some nosebleeds and thought he had food poisoning. The next day my mum picked us up and Tuesday we got a call from his best friend Doug asking us to go check on him and we went to check on him. My mum went inside and found him dead. Drinking alcohol had caught up with him and his oesophagus erupted. He bled to death. I was 11 years old. I always believed that if I'd called an ambulance, maybe I could have saved him or at least kept him alive long enough for my grandmother to get to say goodbye, and that guilt stuck with me for a long time.

Later that year, my grandpa passed away. Just a few months later, actually. It was a very hard year for our family, but I put a lot of responsibility on my shoulders from those deaths and tried to my best to make my family happy after that. I felt like it was my fault and I owed them something so instead of turning to drugs or alcohol myself, I decided to try to be a better student so despite the tragedy, some good at least did end up coming from it. When I was in junior high, we moved from the little house that we lived in to a much bigger house because my mum's mum, my grandma, who had just lost her husband with a lot right after my dad had died, was unable to really take care of herself so we needed more space so she could move in with us. Unfortunately, the family went through some more deaths during that time period, actually all between 2000 and 2008, we lost a lot of people, and my grandma that lived with us passed away in 2004.

Times were tough and it's tough being a teenager, but I made it through despite having my heart broken a couple times. In 2003, I started dating a girl and we were together for about four years and unfortunately a shift in our relationship came in 2005. In 2005 we were getting ready to go to our winter or to fall homecoming on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005. My grandma hadn't been doing well and I had actually walked in on her death sentence a couple weeks beforehand, where she was told she had brain, lung, all kinds of cancer, and they couldn't do anything about it. And two days after the school dance she actually passed away. This was my dad's mum, my grandma that took me down to Cumberland and between her and my mum, those were the two that raised me I feel like the most and when she died, I went into a very deep depression, one that still resonates within me a little bit today. Her death shook up my life like none other and I still miss her so much every single day. She was my inspiration for getting good grades, she was the one that always showed pride in me and encouraged me whenever I was down, and she's truly one of the biggest reasons I am who I am today. I still love you and miss you. It's still hard to talk about her.

A couple years later, that girlfriend and I ended up breaking up right after I graduated high school. Graduation was exciting but the break-up was hard. We'd been fighting a lot and I just couldn't take the fighting anymore. I just wasn't happy. Not too long after, I started talking to another girl and got into another long relationship that would actually last all of my college career, and I went to the University. I don't even know the name of it - it's Miami University, not the University of Miami. It's been so long since I've been there, I can't remember the name! That's okay though - I didn't actually end up graduating from Miami. I transferred over to the University of Cincinnati which is also the school where Mark went and my girlfriend at the time. After I transferred to Cincinnati, I decided to change my major. I started off as a Poli Sci major, political science, and switched over to Philosophy because I enjoyed those classes a lot more. I was a pre-law student and I absolutely loved my classes, and a couple years after I transfer, after I was at UC, I think it was my sophomore or junior year of college, I got engaged, which turned out to not be such a great idea.

In 2011 I graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Degree in Philosophy and upon graduation, I tried to apply for jobs thinking my college degree would get me anywhere, especially with a 3.93 GPA, but alas, the only place that called me back was a gas station called UDF, and I liked my job at UDF. I worked there for a couple of years, but for the kind of money I made there, I didn't feel like it was even worth it to have my college degree. Despite that, in 2011, backtracking a little bit, I still planned on going to law school, so I got all my law school applications ready. I took my LSAT and did pretty well. Along with my GPA I thought I was a sure fire to get in, but in late 2011 my fiancée decided to take a break and I later found out that she'd also cheated on me. We'd had a house and puppies together and were planning a future. We even had a wedding date set. That hit me pretty hard. It took me about a month to get back on my feet. I started hanging out with my friend Jesse and Jesse was kind of mean but only in the sense that he told mean jokes, but honestly if it wasn't for him, I don't know how would have gotten through. He was living up at Oxford finishing up his master's degree, Miami University, and we used to go out to bars, and we'd get a drink once every week or a couple weeks or month or whatever. We hung out a lot during that time and actually it was at a party that Jesse and I were at where I first started really talking to Mark about YouTube.

Throughout 2012 I dated around every now and then. I wasn't really the party type and I wasn't really looking for anything more than a long-term relationship. I wasn't looking for someone just to have fun with or anything else. I went on various dates and didn't really find anybody that I was that interested in, but whenever I started talking to Mark and he told me his passion and desire to do YouTube and how much he really wanted to get into it, I was just blown away by the amount of passion he had. I definitely encouraged him. I told him he should do it and that he'd be great. He and I stood on a balcony talking for hours about it. I still remember it pretty vividly. I started showing up and watching his videos and his live streams and eventually he made me a mod where I could monitor the chat of the live streams, and there were so few people in there back then that mods were actually able to do some moderating and

control chat, whereas now if he tried to go it's just too crazy and that's why we use Twitter, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

One day I was on Vox Populi and Zombie threw me into Marc's town. I got thrown into a gladiator pit and fought to the death and before you know it, Marc and I decided to do drunk Minecraft. He and Bob and I started the series and before you know it, I was making a Tumblr account, Twitter account and one day, I met Molly. We were recording an episode and Mark and Bob had gotten married and said, and I typed in the chat, who wants to marry me? And Molly replied, "Who wouldn't want to marry you?" And so later I ended up finding her by coincidence on Tumblr and we started talking on Tumblr. Decided to play Minecraft together and then Latin Goddess married us and the rest is history, and I've never been happier in my entire life than I am with her. It wasn't easy at first. Molly lived in Minnesota and I was down in Cincinnati, Ohio. The distance was quite taxing for us but between Skype and Minecraft, we managed to keep our love strong and growing and now she's here living in Ohio. It's awesome.

Almost exactly a year ago, maybe a couple weeks in a year ago, I also started my own YouTube channel and, you know, thanks to fan support from live streams and Drunk Minecraft and Molly's support, I finally figured that I could be successful doing and have fun doing it. And here I am today with almost 30,000 subscribers. It's awesome. You guys are awesome. My home life isn't always easy. My family has some financial struggles and such, but we've managed to get through it so far. We're trying to get out of the hole. I think everyone's home life is hard at some point or another and fortunately. June of this past year, Molly moved here to Ohio like I said, and finally became an American. Take that Molly! Yeah, Minnesotan. And life's tough, but I'm happy Molly and I are happy. I'm having a lot of fun on YouTube and I wouldn't change a thing. We have a lot of pretty big plans for the future. I plan on keeping my YouTube going and thanks to you guys, I've got the motivation to push myself harder than I did even before, so thank you guys so much for watching. This has been a draw my life. Until next time, see you.

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#### MDML #67

Ok, so I'm going to do the Draw my life video thing for myself now Martina is doing hers as well. But hers will probably come out next week. FYI, her pictures are a lot better than mine. She's really awesome at drawing, while I suck at it. All I can really do is stick-figure, so bear with me.

Ok, so it all began for me back in London, Ontario. My parents and my brother just moved to Canada from Poland and they were pretty dirt poor. My mother was a lawyer in Poland and my dad was a VP of some food technology company or something or other. And both of them had really successful careers back in Poland. But they thought that the life would be better for the kids if they went to Canada. So, they gave it all up and came to Canada with next to nothing in hopes that things would be better for us. Soon after they moved to Canada I was born, January 20<sup>th</sup>. I was a 10-pound baby! My mum is something like 5'3 and I have no idea how she survived birthing such a God-forsaken-fat-ass baby. Mad props to you, mum. Good job. My parents didn't speak any English when they came to Canada, so they spoke to me in Polish and I spoke with them as well. But I only spoke it like a child. As a result, English is technically my 2<sup>nd</sup> language, kind of. I learnt English with my mum as we watched "Sesame Street" together. I stopped learning Polish, though, when I started going to school since everyone in school spoke English. Now, I can still speak Polish, but I speak it kind of like a kid. And I also swear a lot without knowing it. I learnt that from my dad's angry driving. He has come up with a lot of combinations of words to make phrases that should be banned from the presence of anyone under 24 years old. That could be why I swear so much in English, though I try to keep it clean for these videos. Fuck.

Anyhow, we spent a bit of time in London, Ontario, together but things weren't easy for us. My parents were not lawyers and vice-presidents in Canada. My dad had to deliver pizzas and my mum cleaned motels. Though I wasn't aware of the sacrifice they made for the kids at the time because I was just a baby and barely aware of anything at the time. I truly appreciate how hard they worked for us now. And I wish I could repay them somehow. I love you mum and dad! I'll never take you for granted again. Eventually my parents did find jobs that they could use their degrees in, and we moved out of London to Toronto right around Rexdale for a few months and then we moved to Pickering into a house that was haunted. I'm not joking. My mum had her friend come over to visit from Poland and she just died, died! She was healthy and just caught a case of death. We taped off the room that she died in, and then called a priest to bless the house and the kitchen caught on freaking fire. Fortunately for us, we didn't do the thing that stupid white people do in horror movies when they try to investigate the history of the house and wind up dying as a result. We were like fuck that shit, we getting out of here! We moved to a different house in Pickering and my parents have been living there ever since.

I have two siblings. I have a brother who's 13 years older than me and a sister who's 10 years older than me. Both of them are technically my half-siblings, since they are each from my parents' previous marriages. But I don't think of them as half siblings. They are my only brother and my only sister. The are no halvies there. They're my full brother and my full sister. I love them. I grew up basically hero-worshipping my brother. He was a phenomenal basketball player, and I learned how to play just because of him. Even though I wasn't into it, I just wanted to do it because my brother did it. And as a result, I became pretty phenomenal at basketball myself. I never got to his level, because I never

really played organized basketball, only street ball, son! But damn I was really good. Then I got married, and was like who needs sports? I got me a wife! Time to get fat!

I was a really smart kid when I first started school. I remember being in kindergarten and doing so well on some of my Lego buildings that the teacher would take me to the principal's office to show the principal what I made, and I'd be so freaking honoured! Teachers of young kids, take note: we remember those things and they change us forever. In fact, I was so good at school and so smart that I skipped a grade. Grade 3. They were just like "no, you don't need grade 3, move to grade 4." And so, I did. It sounded like a good idea at first, but I wound up hating it. It was a terrible decision. The grade 4 kids resented me, and I lost all of my friends from the grade I should have been in.

I was basically a loner and bullied until grade 5, when I started getting into basketball, and so I started making friends that way. I stopped being a good student because trying hard at school didn't make me happy anymore. Basketball was what got me friends. So, I threw myself into that. Anyhow, you might hear me talking gangsta from time to time in my videos and not really sounding all prim and proper like a dorky white guy with glasses should probably talk. I was basically the only white guy that I knew growing up. All of my friends were from Jamaica or Trinidad, or Nigeria, or Detroit, and I got a lot of my expressions and mannerisms from them. I listened to only hip hop and R&B growing up. I walked around with a fake limp, literally I walked around with a fake limp and I called it my pimp walk. I had one pant leg rolled up. I had fake gang signs. I even had cornrows for a while. Don't laugh. Really... Don't laugh, I'm quite embarrassed.

Anyhow, I made really good friends through basketball, and hung out with them just about every single day. We'd play basketball for hours, go back and play video games, and just hang out. Then, for the summer of my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, I visited Poland to see the family members that I basically never see, and my friends knew that I was going. They knew how long I'd be gone for, also they knew how long my parents were away from the home when they went to work and so, during that time, they decided to rob my house. Four of them broke into the house while nobody was home; they took all my stuff, they took my sister's stuff, they took my video games, CDs, DVDs, and they took jewellery from my grandfather who died, and they basically just trashed the place. They got caught afterwards trying to sell it all at a pawn shop, but - well, let's just say that's how our friendship ended after that. I never asked any questions. I didn't hold any grudges. I just totally cut that out of my life. I just realised how difficult it is to trust people and to make good friends, and so basically from then I didn't make any friends. I decided not to do so. I became a lot more reclusive. I still played basketball a lot, but I realised afterwards that I'd never be good enough for the NBA and at the same time my grades were so terrible at school that I basically would barely be able to graduate.

So, I went to a whole new school for my last year, where I didn't know anyone, and I just threw myself into studying. I made no close friends. My only goal was to get my grades up high enough to get into University, and so I did. I somehow squeaked into University of Toronto, and I considered myself extremely lucky. At U of T, I studied English Literature, and I remember going to my first few classes and realising that every freaking person in the building, basically everyone on campus, was smarter than me. They were on scholarships, and they were part of student councils and had great grades in high school. I was just a dummy that busted my ass to get good enough grades to be in this university, but I wasn't smart like these people. So, I decided to bust ass in university as well. I had done all of the readings for every class soon after my realization like, maybe like a month later, I had read everything. And from then on, I'd read all of the books before the semester started; before they started, I even actually bought the recommended secondary material and I read all that too. I was hard-core. For the first two years of university I had a perfect GPA. Perfrakinfect! My dream was to be a university professor, and so I knew that I'd have to get used to studying and reading and writing non-stop. I realised, though, after doing this for roughly the first two years of university, that I wasn't really happy. I didn't have a girlfriend in, like, 5 years and I hadn't really spoken much with just about anyone apart from professors and that was just to suck up to them. I had made no friends basically since I was 16, and I barely left the house at all, since all I wanted to do was study. There also was a problem that I read nothing but sad books. Seriously: English literature doesn't make you read happy books. They're basically miserable. They're all about the struggles of different people in different societies and shit like that. It is not uplifting at all. It's crushing. So, after two years of university and being a damn near hermit I realised that I wanted to try something different: I wanted to try making friends again. But it wasn't easy at all. I wasn't as sociable as I was when I was 15. Now, I was anxious and awkward, and I was really low-confident and pretty freaking depressed as a result.

Fortunately for me, though, I was lucky enough to meet a really cool girl in one of my classes. She was just so pretty, and she had a lip ring and she had tattoos, and she wore chains on her pants, and she was really funny and smart in class and she had big boobs. I fell in love with her right away. I even remember the day that I first saw her. It was September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Her name was Martina. She really changed my life. She got me out of my shell, and she made me laugh, she introduced me to music, and she taught me how to drink coffee and she introduced me to her friends. She even tried hooking me up with one of her friends. Whoa, what? That a bad idea! What the fuck was she thinking?! That was such a bad match. Holy shit! Martina had a boyfriend at the time, though, but that didn't bother me. I didn't hit on her at all. I respected her relationship, and I even tried helping out when things were rough in her relationship. I was just happy enough to know her and to hang out with her. We studied together for our classes and we helped each other out for essays. It was after that failed attempt at hooking me up with her friend, though, that Martina broke up

with her boyfriend and we started dating. You see that guys! You can get out of the friendzone! I was there for like six months! And I got out! We started dating on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005. I proposed to her one year afterwards, in 2006. And on June 16th, 2007, we got married. Booyah! I even wifed her! You see that!? Now she's mine for life! Ha! I still feel like I suckered her into this though, you know? I feel like I, I tricked her or something. She's seriously the awesomest, most compassionate, sweetest, most light-spirited person I ever met in my entire life and I feel like I somehow tricked her into marrying me. I don't deserve someone as good as her. I just hope that she doesn't realise this. Oh shit. I should probably not say that on video. Hey Martina, you didn't see that part, ok? Just move along now. Hey, whoa. What's the Spudgy doing? Let's check that out.

Back to the story: we moved to Windsor, Ontario, to a small three-story apartment on Wyandotte St. the day after we got married. We went to Teacher's College there, where we both were flat freaking broke. I had a buttload of student loans. We didn't have anything saved up. We basically lived that entire year on our credit cards alone. Our apartment was so old and rickety that I once leaned against the wall and my hand fell through the freaking wall. We went up covering the hole with a clock and left the clock there when we moved out. Oh shit. I probably shouldn't say that in a video. Ugh, oh landlord, you didn't see that! Okey?! Ugh, move along now, hey... While we were in Teacher's College, we saw a presentation on Teaching in Korea. We loved the idea. I had taught in an afterschool program for Korean students (AKA Hagwon) while I was in Toronto and Martina was totally into Japanese and Korean cultures, so we figured that it'd be great for us to go! We spoke with the presenters afterwards and a week later we had job offers to go teach in Bucheon. We signed all of the papers, we finished up our Teaching Degree, and basically went to Korea right afterwards. Some of you might know the rest of our stories from here on out. We taught in public schools in Bucheon. And in our spare time, we made videos for our families in Canada, to show them that things were okay here. Because at that time, five years ago, North Korea was threatening South Korea with a sea of fire! Does that sound familiar? After doing this for a couple of years, we got the idea that maybe we could pursue YouTube videos as a career. It seemed doable. We didn't have a bagillion followers and we wouldn't be rich but being wealthy doesn't matter to us. We just want to spend as much time together as possible. Being teachers means you've got to be separated every day. And that sucks! Doing website stuff, though, full-time, is a dream-job for us. We get to play around with each other every day, we get to be creative and - as an awesome bonus - we get to talk to you, cool people, online every day, you people in the comments, you likeminded people who are fascinated by Korea or Korean music, people that want to travel and explore and people that are just looking to try something different, people like us.

Where we're going from here though, we're not sure. At first I was a punk-ass kid that thought I'd be going to the NBA and then I was a depressed hermit that thought I'd be a professor and now I'm a husband with a studio in Korea where I do interviews with K-pop people and I make silly videos and stuff. So, is there a moral to the story? I'm not sure. Never take your partner for granted. Move somewhere else and experience something new. Where you end isn't where you begin. Things change. Things get worse. Things get better. And, above all, it is, in fact, possible to get out of the friendzone. Thanks for watching, everyone. If you want to know more about our cheesy-sappy-love story, here's a video about how I proposed to Martina, and also here's a video about what our wedding was like. If you didn't check those out, please do so now. And don't forget to subscribe for more videos where we draw stuff? No, we don't draw a lot of stuff. Not really.

2791

## MDML #68

Hey guys, Ron here, and now that I have 300,000 subscribers, I believe it is time to draw my life. So, I was born in Brooklyn, New York. I never acquired the New York accent though, considering both my parents are Israeli and we basically spoke Hebrew 100% of the time until I was old enough to go to school.

My dad's a wedding photographer and owns his own studio in which my mum is the manager. When I was four, my brother was born and when I was almost nine, my sister was born. One reason I was hesitating to make a draw my life video was because, well, there wasn't much interesting drama at my home. We had a close, loving family and both my siblings share all my basic interests, like video games and animation.

At age 4, I started watching Pokémon after my mum bought a couple episodes of the first season on VHS. My neighbour had the n64 and by the time I was 6, my parents finally got me one along with Pokémon Stadium. I barely played it because my friend had it too and we mostly played Stadium at his house, but it only grew my love for Pokémon. At age 7 I got a Gameboy Advance SP and for a year, my brother watched me play Super Mario World on it, so he finally got one and eventually became a bigger gamer than I am. You see, even though it was at that point that I got Pokémon Ruby and then Emerald and became a huge fan of the anime, I wasn't much of a gamer like my brother. I was more of a fan of animation. At school I was the artist, so it made sense for me to enjoy the medium, but it wasn't until I watched Avatar the Last Airbender that I realised I wanted to become an animator. I would draw so much. I kind of created a new fakemon every day. During class, all I did was draw. At first, my teachers were incredibly annoyed by it, but here's the thing - my grades were really good, and I guess they slowly realised that drawing in class was actually a way for me to not get bored during the lesson. I was able to listen to the teacher because drawing didn't take much concentration.

In fact, drawing made me concentrate on the teacher even more since I wasn't bored out of my mind. Over time, I kind of grew to enjoy school. I really liked learning and I love showing people how much I know about certain things.

Now understand, I went to a Yeshiva which is a Jewish school in which half of the day was dedicated to secular studies like math and science, while the other half was dedicated to Judaic and religious studies, and I actually enjoyed learning a lot about my religion and culture. That's why when it came time for high school, I also decided to go to Yeshiva high school but that meant that for four years, I had to wake up at 6 o'clock, take a bus to my school in New Jersey, get to school at 8:00, partake in morning prayers until 8:45 and then have classes until 5 o'clock. I would get home at 6:30p.m. every day except Fridays. Most of you are probably thinking that I'm crazy for doing this, but here's the thing - I owned school, I won school. You see, I made it my goal to work my way up all the cool clubs in school. I became the head of the graphics department in the school newspaper and yearbook and became part of the quiz bowl team which just means that I know a lot of random facts. I became student council secretary and then student council vice-president and I ran to become president but lost to the most popular girl in my grade. I was devastated at first, but it all worked out in the end because after being part of the video club at school for three years, I became its president. I was in charge of all video production at my school. I filmed everything. I even got to miss class to film things. I also learned a lot about filming and editing by running the school's YouTube channel. And it was at that time that I created my first Pokémon video. My top ten favourite Pokémon video. It was just a one-off thing. Although I watched a lot of Pokémon videos, I wasn't considering becoming a poketuber. The video didn't get a lot of views or anything and I didn't expect it to. I just loved making videos.

In school I created tons of short films, sketches and school news broadcasts which all the students looked forward to. In high school I was the artist and video guy. Everybody knew my name and I'm not exaggerating - there weren't that many students. It also helped that I was one of the only students that socialized with every clique and group. I was friends with the nerds and geeks because I was a nerd and geek. I was friends with the jocks because the jocks were also nerds and geeks. I was friends with the more popular kids, and I was friends with the outcasts and artists. One thing I noticed was that in high school all the artists like me were the biggest Pokémon fans and it also wasn't taboo to enjoy Pokémon in general. Everybody knew I loved Pokémon, Nintendo, films and animation and it only brought me closer to other people. Now I'm not bragging, I just want you to know that you shouldn't be ashamed about what you find entertaining because it'll only help you find friends. If it makes you feel better, one thing that I didn't excel at was actively socializing and talking, especially with the girls. I never had a girlfriend in high school but that was mostly due to the fact that I lived in New York City and 90% of the students lived in New Jersey, 40 minutes away from where I lived. Plus, there were almost twice as many guys in my grade than there were girls, so basically all the girls I had crushes on were already taken. And I never practiced socializing with people because people just ended up talking to me. I didn't even want to sit down and just talk to people during lunch because I was like the busiest student at school, but I digress.

In senior year I finally applied to a few art schools, but instead of choosing to be a traditional 2D animator, I did end up deciding to pursue a career in computer animation or 3D animation, and I was accepted pretty early in fact to my first choice: the School of Visual Arts. During the summer before entering college, I decided to make more Pokémon videos on my channel. Again, not a lot of views, but I wasn't complaining. After creating my fourth video, top 10 cutest Pokémon, I decided to post it on Pokememes, and a few days later it got to the front page. A lot of people were watching the video. I was at the Metropolitan Museum of Art with my friends when it was happening, and I kept on getting tons of notifications. This really boosted my confidence and I decided to just message people asking them to watch my content, and they responded positively. Now I don't condone doing this until you're completely confident in the quality of your videos, but I did stop doing it once I hit 1000 subscribers. And from then on, my channel grew steadily. My goal was to become the standard in quality Pokémon videos, and I wanted the entire community to step up its game in regards to audio and video and they did. People subscribe to my channel for so many reasons: top ten, fact videos, misconception videos, music related content, sketches and more. I really couldn't complain about the rate in which my channel was growing: it wasn't slow enough to lower my confidence and it wasn't too fast so I always strove to make each video better than the last. I really think that is the best way to have a channel grow - you got to earn it, you know? And it always helps to make friends within the community, and I had tons of lovely interactions with fellow poketubers and considering I still read every comment, I recognized comments and recent videos from long-time subscribers and fans that like to be engaged. There are things to complain about as well but the good always outweighs the bad. I made this video to celebrate 300,000 subscribers and told my life story as a way to get closer to my loyal subscribers. I hope it was successful in doing just that. If for some strange reason, this is the first video of mine that you watched, click on the right for some pretty good videos. And if you haven't, make sure to follow me on Facebook and Twitter to become part of the true green gang. I'll see you guys very soon!

1546

## MDML #69

Hello internet! And welcome to Behind The Meme! Today we do something a little bit different and we have a look at, well, we have a look at me! And I figured the best way to do that was to create a draw my life video. **I also suck at drawing** so I'm going to do what I can to properly tell my story.

Believe it or not, my birth name is not Behind The Meme. I know – weird, right? My name is actually Kyle Bryce, but my friends call me Ky. Yeah, I have friends. Sure, they're invisible but they still count. I was born when the stork dropped me off at my mummy and daddy's doorstep. Wait, what do you mean storks really don't do that? Then how in the hell was I born? Wait, he did what?! With his wiener? In her cooter?! Oh my god! I'm sorry you guys. **I just had an image of my dad and mum that I didn't want to have. Yuck.** My mum and dad had sex in the 80s, which means I am old as hell! 28 to be exact, which isn't exactly old, but on the internet I'm basically a dinosaur. When I was born, I was pretty fat! The story goes that I weighed like 10 pounds. I was so big that I couldn't fit out of my mum's vag, so we both almost died during my birth. Which would have been a total bumner, but **luckily**, the doctor cut me out of my mum's stomach. Because stomachs are where babies come from, right? My father wasn't there the day that I was born. He has been in and out of my life for the majority of it, and when I was born it was one of the times that he was out of it. No, no hard feelings though, it doesn't affect me.

For the most part, **I had a wonderful childhood.** **I have a loving mother who went out of her way to make sure my siblings and myself were always taken care of,** but it was also a bit confusing at times. I grew up not fully understanding who my father was. You see, I grew up with a dad when I was young, but he just wasn't my biological father - he was my younger sister's dad. **He was a great person and treated me like his own son.** To the point that I didn't even know that I wasn't for a portion of my life, because I was a kid that couldn't comprehend my mum was a skank! Joke, joke, I meant to say floozy. Don't worry, she has a sense of humour. My stepdad was a police officer, **which I always thought was super cool as a kid. It also had its benefits.** Like, one time I got to go in a helicopter high above the city. All my friends were so jealous when they heard the story because as a kid, **helicopters are pretty effin cool.** Another memory that I remember, **which is scary looking back now, but at the time was pretty awesome,** was this one time when we were in our family vehicle at the drive-thru window of a fast food place and in the road in front of us we saw somebody do a hit-and-run. We literally went on a car chase after them, going through alleys and roads at crazy fast speeds. We eventually helped the cops corner the bad guys. It was literally like a scene from Fast and the Furious, just with a lot less steroids.

**It wasn't all fun and games though.** Other times he would come home covered in blood. You see, he would respond to reports of car accidents or injured people in need of assistance. Sometimes you could see in his eyes that the events of that night had really taken a toll on him. He really didn't talk much about the stuff that happened. **Life was good for a while, and then suddenly one day things just kind of changed.** He wasn't a cop anymore. My mum was sad pretty often. I would walk in the room and find them both crying. I didn't understand exactly why. We started going to the doctor every week and then I wasn't allowed to use the same bathroom as him. My mum became very protective of what we touched and used. Everything started to smell like bleach. Then, he started to get pretty skinny. He was stuck in bed and didn't look like the same dad that we once had. Then one day, he was gone. Back then, HIV and AIDS was a newer thing that doctors didn't have much experience with. It was practically a death sentence. The medicine they had wasn't like the stuff today. Nowadays, medical science has luckily evolved to the point where a person can contain the sickness. But in the 90s, **unfortunately, it was a different story. That was my first experience with death.** My mum was and still is a very strong person for enduring all that pain, struggle and I'm pretty sure, fear. **She was able to help us kids understand** what had happened to our dad while dealing with her own loss. **It was traumatizing but thanks to her, it didn't mess us up mentally.**

After that event, my biological father slowly came back into my life. The guy that I really didn't know existed up until that point. Along with him came a brother that I had no clue was alive. But before I knew it, I was spending my weekends with my dad and my brother. We would spend hours playing Nintendo 64. For you younger viewers, that's the system before the Switch, that came before the Wii U, which was before the Wii and the Gamecube. Yeah, remember? I'm old! It may sound kind of silly but **during our time playing video games, my brother and I created a strong bond that has lasted decades. Even to this day when we get together, it's kind of like were still those young boys playing video games with how we laugh and joke with each other.**

The rest of my childhood was pretty typical. I'll sum it up so we can get to the good stuff. Nickelodeon, Pokémon, soccer, karate. That's about it. Before I knew it, I was a teenager. Complete with acne and new strange hair. My teenage years were a mix of **awkwardness** and **awesomeness.** I learned how to masturbate, so **that was pretty awesome.** Little did I know **it would soon become one of my favourite hobbies.** My high school years were defined by a few key events. One of which was music. In middle school, I started playing guitar and that eventually evolved to multiple instruments by high school. **I soon discovered Nirvana and Kurt Cobain, which ended up changing my life. Kurt Cobain made me want to start a band,** and before I knew it, I was in one - Wish on Violet. Don't ask me why that was our band name, but it was. We played a bunch of house parties and **had a ton of fun playing music for people. Some of my best memories**

in life come from those days of playing music with my friends. The beauty of high school is that nobody knows that your band sucks or that you can't play your instruments.

Plus, being in a band in high school is a total chick magnet. Which brings me to one of the next big events of high school. Finally getting laid! Oh yeah! I remember how important this was. It seemed like everybody I knew had already had sex, or at least lied to me saying that they did. So, it added an undertone of urgency to my quest for the vag, as it does for most teenage boys. Remember kids - wait until marriage! But if you decide not to, wear condoms.

One of the biggest stresses and pains in my life started in high school and lasts to this day. Those of you who have experience with it will totally understand. It is one simple word yet behind that word lies misery, pain, stress, sadness, as well as every other bad word that you can imagine. I'm talking about cancer. My mother was first diagnosed with cancer when I was in high school. It was a total bummer of a situation, still is. This forced a couple events in my life to happen. One was to start driving at the age of 14, before I even had a permit or a license. You see, my mother was going through chemotherapy and was too ill to drive so I was left with the responsibility of getting myself and my younger sister to school. From an outsider's perspective, it may seem kind of cool that I was driving at such an early age, but, in reality, it was pretty stressful. I lived in fear of the day that I got pulled over and ended up getting our only car impounded, which would have been a whole mess of problems. But luckily, it never happened; I was always very cautious and careful with driving. Another pivotal thing that cancer caused to happen in my life during high school was weed. You may be thinking to yourself, you smoked weed in high school? No biggie. Everybody does. Well, I did a bit more than smoke. I grew plants. Much like the driving situation, it was an event that sprouted out of necessity. So, by the age of 15, I was growing and taking care of a handful of plants to help my mother as well as other cancer patients she had met during chemotherapy. I would be a liar if I said that my friends and myself didn't partake a few times as well. Shh, don't tell my mum.

For the first couple years after high school, my life consisted of playing music, smoking some weed, and writing a ton. You see, one thing I love to do is write. I write poems, short stories, essays, lyrics, scripts. Now I can't spell, and I have a horrible grasp on grammar, but I love writing. If my house was on fire and I only had time to save one thing from the fire, I would save my notebooks. After a couple years of writing music, reading books on various subjects, writing words and being a stoner, I realised that I should probably go to college, so I did. So, I took classes focused on music, art, film, business and marketing. As you can tell, I knew exactly what direction I wanted to go. I'm being sarcastic, I had no effin' clue. But one thing I did know was that school wasn't making me happy. All I wanted to do was create; I didn't know exactly what I wanted to create, but I knew that it wasn't happening in college, so I left.

I decided to get a job and start using my creativity to fill my spare time. Along the way, I began to experiment with YouTube. In total I have been creating content on YouTube for 7 years. Yes, 7 long ass years. During that time, I have had numerous channels, but none of them seemed to really get any momentum going, but I didn't care so much because I loved creating videos. Although in the back of my mind it was always a huge dream of mine to have 100,000 subscribers. I knew that it probably would never happen, but people need dreams and goals. I actually have a pretty firm belief that a person should always hold on to their dreams and believe in themselves. So much so, that I actually got those two words tattooed on my wrists to always remember that philosophy. So, I kept dreaming of 100,000 subscribers. I never expected it to happen, but I knew if I kept trying, something would happen.

Then one day, serendipity happened. I was on YouTube watching a live stream of a crazy guy climbing Trump Tower with effin' suction cups! Seriously, it was wild and amazing. But that's not important. What is important is what happened that day that changed my life forever. In the chat box of the stream I was watching, I noticed people saying a phrase that really confused me. "Dicks out for Harambe." So, like any curious person living in the 21st century, I did a YouTube search to figure out what exactly people were talking about. There had to be a video on it because there is a video on virtually everything nowadays, but to my surprise, there wasn't. I eventually found my way to Reddit where there were numerous posts that were asking the same question I had been wondering, "What does dicks out for harambe mean?" So, I decided to make a video on the topic to help people like me who were interested in the information and wanted to learn visually. When I first posted the video, I really didn't think much of it. I was just happy to do something productive with my day that would hopefully allow for other curious minds to obtain the information they were seeking. But I woke up the next day and was surprised to see that my video had 3 thousand views. My channel had 10 subscribers, and I had comments thanking me for the help. I also had some requests for information on other memes. Before I knew it, I had 100 subscribers and my Harambe video had 15 thousand views. Then one day I had 500 subscribers; the video had 50 thousand views. My new videos were getting views and I was getting more and more comments asking for more videos. Before I knew it, the channel had 100 thousand subscribers. A milestone that I never felt I would achieve. Then one day I had 200 thousand. 300 thousand. 500 thousand!

Now currently this channel that we have built together sits at over 700 thousand subscribers! But this goes much deeper than just the subscriber number. This channel has helped change my life in so many ways. It has made me happier. It has given me direction. It has opened up doors. It has given me the opportunity to help my mother with bills that I was never able to do before. And after all she has done for me throughout my life, it means so much to me to be able to give back, even if it's a small amount. And I owe it to all you beautiful people. Every time you click one of my videos.



Every time you watch one of the ads. Every time you comment. It helps my channel grow and it helps a dream I never thought I would have, be a reality. You guys mean the world to me. I truly mean it. So, thank you. From the bottom of my heart, that, due to my family health history, is prone to having a heart attack one day and more than likely killing me. But until that day comes, much love and appreciation to all you beautiful people.

2543

## MDML #70

Hey guys! What's up? Not really sure what I'm doing with my hands. I'm giving a really awkward thumbs up. So, I've decided to do a really special video today; it's very personal. It's a draw my life for the milestone of 100,000 subscribers. It's really amazing and I wanted to do something really special to connect to you guys, to really show my appreciation, so I hope you guys enjoy it. Let's get started.

It all started on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1992. I was born two months premature and I'm lucky to be alive. My family all have told me that I was so small they could hold me in one hand, and that if you tickled my feet, I'd make the meanest faces. My mum almost didn't make it either. I don't know what the details, but we both made it. I don't remember a whole lot from my early childhood, other than I was a very, very angry child. Once, my dad told me that I walked up to him one day and punched him square in the nuts for no apparent reason. I still don't know why either. I still laugh about it.

As long as I can remember, I have held a controller in my hand. It was my grandmother who introduced me to the Super Nintendo, and it was then that I fell in love with Mario, Donkey Kong and Zelda. That changed my life more than I would ever know. And you probably think it was a bit odd that my grandma was the one who introduced me to games, but to be honest, I had the coolest grandparents you could ask for. They were loving, caring and would always be playing the guitar together. Me and my sister spent a lot of time at our grandparents' house because my parents didn't really have it together most of the time. Yeah, sorry to get into the more sad stuff, but it's kind of important. I was too young to remember much, but my sister who was seven years older than me told me that my parents were always arguing and fighting, and my sister would be right there by my side when they weren't. Honestly, it's always been that way. My sister is my mum as far as I'm concerned. But one way or another, drugs and everything you can think of rolled over my parents, but my loving sister and my grandparents were always there for me, and I thank God for them. My parents got divorced and separated when I was a child, but enough about the sad stuff, okay?

Fast-forward years later. It was me, my sister and my mum. There I was again sitting there with a controller in hands, eyes glued to the TV playing video games. Video games have always been there to distract me from all the crap that was going on around me and that explains the bags under my eyes because my Tweaker kit self just wouldn't go to sleep or school for that matter. I would often fake being sick just to stay home and play video games, but when I would actually go to school, I would spend my time doodling Dragonball Z characters on everything, even my textbook sometimes. All the friends I made in school basically started out with me asking, "Hey, you like Dragon Ball Z?" and I went on to bond with my best friends over things like anime and video games, more specifically a game called Tales of Symphonia. I mean my friends Wyatt, Francisco and Joelle would spend all of our time outside of school playing that game just religiously. We became really good friends.

At the end of seventh grade, my sister who had been kicked out by my mum told me that she would be taking custody of me and that I would live with her from then on, so I left my friends and moved with her to the next town over. Changing schools was tough and it was hard to make any real friends in the new school but things at home was much better and calm thanks to my sister. We always had food and she bought me any kind of video game I wanted and we always had TV, you know, satellite, cable and thanks to my friend Jason back in seventh grade, I started watching Naruto which is still to this day my favourite anime of all time. My friend Wyatt moved to the same town I was in and we quickly became really good friends and bonded over things like Naruto, My Chemical Romance and any kind of nerdy stuff, and that's when he introduced me to my first girlfriend. I should also mention that I was actually skinny all the way up until seventh grade when I moved with my sister and that was probably because I was not used to having food in the refrigerator, and I ate a lot. So here I was, a fat pudgy teenager who was a nerd and who only wore black and was addicted to NCR, somehow had a girlfriend who I stayed with for five years. Don't ask me, I don't know why. So it was high school and we moved back to our first town that I grew up in, that me and my sister both grew up in, and I reunited with old friends, and even met new ones, and things were pretty great all thanks to the sacrifices my sister made for me.

I graduated and got my first job with my sister at a fast food restaurant called Generals. It was there that I grew up a lot and learned what it meant to work with customers, most really bad horrible customers and some good ones, and I was finally able to buy my own video games, which I did. Let me tell you! At this time, me and my girlfriend were living in an apartment with my good beanie-wearing friend named Ramon who we actually called Kirby. It was really fun and exciting to be living on my own, making my own decisions, but me and my girlfriend at the time argued a lot. At this point in my life, I got into exercising. I just randomly started running one day and just kept doing it, and I lost a good 90 pounds. Other than looking better, doing this also gave me a huge boost in confidence and made me realise that things are actually possible if you work at it. Eventually we all got kicked out of the apartment we were staying at

and I had to go back with my sister. The arguments with my girlfriend got so bad that we broke up and this was extremely tough for various reasons. We went our separate ways and that's when I fell in love with a girl at work who is now my wife. That's us getting married, and my best man was my good friend Osiris, who I just had to mention in this video, because I love, I love Osiris. Shout out to my mountain man.

So, as you could probably tell, at this point I haven't really expressed any interest of anything of value and I never really had a goal. I mean sure, I was with a smoking-hot girl and I had a job, but I grew depressed because I had no direction for my life. My family was all Christian and, you know, we all came from a Christian background, but I never really knew what it meant to be a Christian. All that I really knew is that church was boring and if I ever did bad things, I was going straight to hell. So that's what I thought Christianity was. So, I started seeking answers for myself. I started reading my Bible and the words would literally speak to me and my life, you know, exactly what was going on in my life, and it was crazy, or at least it felt that way. So, my advice to all of you who don't really understand or don't agree with your religion, you should really seek answers for yourself and trust me, God will show you. I realised the word "religion" is stupid and what Christianity was really about was having a personal relationship with God, and loving each other as your neighbour, even if they don't deserve it. It's about forgiving and serving others and it makes you humble, and I just can't disagree with loving one another. I think what the world needs now more than ever is just love.

So, I moved in with my girlfriend at the time who eventually became my wife and was still confused about what I wanted to do with my life, and that's when I found PewDiePie. I had seen one of his videos for the first time and I actually stumbled upon his draw my life. I thought to myself, it's amazing that he inspires people and gets to play video games while doing it. So, I thought I'd give YouTube a shot. So, I started my own channel on this decent laptop that was really not for gaming at all - it was really slow. I actually used all my income tax money that year to buy the laptop, and I mean every single dollar, and that's when it began. My wife bought me a camera and I began making videos. They were terrible and no one would watch them of course, just like anyone who starts YouTube, but I didn't really care at the time because for the first time in my life, I actually enjoyed doing something. I kept uploading and uploading and uploading, motivated by people like PewDiePie, Markiplier, Jacksepticeye, Cinnamon Toast Kin, and I started getting some amazing scrubs which are probably watching this right now. If you guys didn't know, I, I call my audience scrubs. Don't take it personally, okay, you scrub?

I kept learning more and more about what it takes to grow a channel and was extremely motivated by the jobs that I hated doing. It's probably one of my number one motivations - was the jobs I hated going to. It's been really hard and it's still pretty hard. Along the way, I lost my father to cancer and even my loving grandmother who taught me so much. I will always miss her. Losing my dad was tough because even though he wasn't a very good father, he had a great personality and was very fun to be around. He always made me and my sister laugh and I wish I could have had more time with him, but of course drugs and bad choices got in the way and to be honest, I'm not really resentful to my parents, even though they put me and my sister through hell, because it taught me what it meant to be thankful for what I actually have. And it showed me what not to do with my life. I am really so thankful for my sister for sacrificing a big part of her life to support me. She didn't really deserve that, but it taught me so much. She's now married to an amazing man who I can call my brother. He's actually there for his family. We all really needed that. Thanks to all my family's support, I kept uploading and took the leap of faith to do this YouTube thing full time and your support has been very, very mind-blowing. It's been crazy. Lastly guys, I just want to say thank you so much for making my dreams come true. Don't ever let someone tell you that there's anything you can't do, because I'm living proof that dreams come true. Thank you.

1974

## MDML #71

Hello people of the internet! Lhugueny here. A lot of people have asked me that I do a draw my life video to get to know me better. Since my channel consists mostly of animated content, the creator of these videos has probably been a mystery to most of you, until now.

My full name is Logan Hugueny Clark. I was born in a little hippie town just outside of Los Angeles called Ojai. My mum and dad met at work in Manhattan, New York. Apparently, my mum disliked my dad at first and farted during a long elevator ride in the World Trade Center to stop him from flirting with her, but he was persistent enough to eventually win her over and make me. I'll skip the gruesome details. Soon after, they moved to suburban California where it would be a bit more convenient to raise a child than New York City.

My dad comes from a long line of Scotsman who originally immigrated to the US in the 1600s to escape persecution from the British. However, as much as my dad acknowledges his Scottish roots, he's about as all-American as they come. He was born in 1935, so he's been through a lot, including listening to the attack on Pearl Harbour happening live on the radio, being one of the last Americans to leave Cuba in 1961 during the Missile Crisis, serving as a lieutenant in the US Army and surviving going to Saigon, Vietnam, in 1968. What can I say about a guy who's casual about having to pick up his friends' brains after their army truck flipped? I grew up hearing a lot of stories and learning a lot of cool stuff from him and I'm really thankful for that. And frankly, I'm not surprised that my dad lived through so

much, since he came from a long line of family members who had survived major conflicts, such as my great-great-grandfather Brazil Miller, who fought in the Civil War for the Union. He first saw combat at age 14 as a drummer boy and by the end of the war, he was awarded a medal for beating a Confederate soldier to death with the butt of his gun after taking a bullet in the gut.

My mum is a French immigrant born into a former colony in Morocco, North Africa, as her dad escaped there when the Nazis conquered France. She was the last of nine children born to my grandmother and grandfather, who was a World War one veteran who fought on horseback against the German tanks and was subsequently mustard gassed in the trenches. My mum came to the United States when she was 8 years old on a freighter ship. Luckily, that means that I have French citizenship as well. Oui, ce vrai, je suis francais et américain. I must admit that it's funny growing up split between two cultures that aren't typically fond of each other, as if one half of my body should hate the other.

But enough about distant history, and let's go back to my story. I was born and grew up in Ojai, California, until I was 5 years old, when my mum, dad and I had to move for my dad's work. We briefly went to Dallas, Texas, and Atlanta, Georgia, but finally ended up settling in London, England, which was very different from California. I moved from a quiet town that was trapped in an endless summer to a fast-paced metropolis that seemed to never stop pouring cold rain on my head. I also could barely understand anybody at first, since it was my first exposure to British accents. I definitely felt a lot of culture shock at first. One time, I got detention for saying the word "fanny" because saying that word in England is the equivalent of saying "cunt" in the United States. After a while though I adjusted to my new environment and started to fit in. I made new friends at school who shared the same passions as me.

I was obsessed with drawing as a kid. I used to always get in trouble at school for doodling in the margins of my school assignments. I also loved playing piano and took lessons from a great teacher and of course, my mind was blown when I got my first gaming console - a Sega Genesis. It seems like an ancient device now but at the time, it was revolutionary. I would spend hours playing Sonic 3, Primal Rage, Desert Strike and tons of other games either with friends or by myself. A year after moving to England, my mum and dad had my little brother Grant. We were best friends growing up. Nintendo 64 sessions, making up ridiculous voice impersonations and playing with action figures and hopping between furniture pretending that the floor was lava were just a few of the many things we'd do as kids. I was also a major sci-fi movie geek as a kid. I loved movies like Aliens and Star Wars and would watch them over and over. My friends and I would always play and do voice impersonations and pretend that we were in the movies.

Now let's fast forward a few years. My father started living separately from my mother back in California in what was the beginning of a very long dragged out and brutal divorce. I moved in with my dad when I was 14 and started going to high school in California. I was sad because my little brother had to stay back with my mum over 6,000 miles away, but there were a lot of good things about moving back to California. Even though my parents were going through a very rough separation, I was very close with my dad and he was very supportive of my love for the arts. I took a lot of music classes at my school and learned how to play and compose music with a lot of different instruments. My teacher was actually a former roadie for the music group Van Halen when he was younger and was a really cool and supportive guy. My dad always took me to play golf and was obsessed with it. It was very relaxing and great bonding with him over the sport, but my true calling in terms of sports was skateboarding. I fell in love with it in high school. I started hanging out with a group of kids who wanted to get sponsored and become professional skaters. On the weekends, we would drive to LA and film ourselves skateboarding downstairs and handrails at famous spots around the city. We'd fall a lot more than we land tricks, but the adrenaline would always keep us going.

However, even though I would have loved to be a professional skater, I had neither the skills nor the balls to compete with kids who could grind down 30 stair handrails, so instead of pursuing that for a living, I sought to follow my passion in drawing and art. After I graduated from high school, I went to college at an art school called the Rhode Island School of Design, or RISD for short. I majored in animation and lucky for me, I had the same animation professor as Seth MacFarlane, the creator of Family Guy.

After graduating college, I moved back to California to seek work in Los Angeles. I thought it would be a piece of cake, seeing that LA is the entertainment capital. However, I found it very difficult to get a job. Having done a few bottom level jobs such as interning at Cheech & Chong's animated movie, I began uploading my own animations onto YouTube for fun. One of these animations, a music video parody of the film Titanic I created, went viral on YouTube. Financially, I did much better with this video than what I was making working on other traditional jobs thanks to the ad revenue through Google placing advertisements on my videos. I quickly realised that it could be possible to make a better living creating my own content on YouTube than working as an animator at a Hollywood studio. So, even though it was a risk, I decided to pursue this and kept making videos on my YouTube channel, and thanks to all of you, it worked.

After a few years, I surpassed 1 million subscribers and 600 million views - something that I never thought I'd achieve in my entire lifetime, and amidst all this, I met an amazing girl named Whitney. We had been friends in high school and reunited years later and soon became best friends and after a short time, we fell in love and started dating. A while later I asked her to marry me and wouldn't you believe it? She said yes. It made me the happiest guy in the world.

Of course, though, like most of life, with ups there are also downs. One day I was on a train with Whitney and I fell asleep only to wake up in an ambulance with no recollection of how I got there or what had happened. Whitney explained to me that after falling asleep that I began having a seizure. My eyes rolled into the back of my head, I started foaming at the mouth and blood started streaming out the sides of my lips. After undergoing medical analysis and getting an MRI, the doctors discovered a brain tumour in my head. I know this may seem terrible, but I actually consider myself lucky. This is because the tumour is not growing for now, and if it starts to, it's on the outskirts of my brain so that it wouldn't be too difficult to remove. I might have to get surgery soon and I hate the thought of getting my skull sawed open, but at least I know that it can be treated and I am extremely thankful for this because when the whole ordeal started, I assumed the worse.

But instead of facing death, I got to resume the life that I loved, being married to my best friend and making videos. I'd like to say that it took a lot of perseverance and hard work to get to where I am today, but the truth is it's YouTube partially, but even more so, it's all of you that allowed me to have this life. Yes – you. You there, watching this. It's because of you that I'm able to do what I love for a living and be the person that I have become, and I can't thank you enough for this. Thank you so much. I am so happy and thankful to be able to make videos that I want to make, and even happier knowing that you enjoy watching them too. And who knows where the future will take me and what lies ahead? But what I can guarantee you is that if you keep tuning in to my channel, you'll find out.

I hope you enjoyed this video and getting to know me a little better. If you did, let me know by hitting the thumbs up button and if you're not already a subscriber, hit the subscribe button to get new videos from me. What have you got to lose? It's free! Also, leave a comment. Let me know what video you want to see me create next and check out my vlog channel, We Play Life, for additional content that my wife and I create together. Also follow me on social media. I'll be doing a Q&A video soon and I'll be taking all the questions from my Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts. Until next time, thank you very much for watching and supporting my channel. I love you all so much and this wouldn't have been possible without each and every one of you. I'm really looking forward to making a ton of new videos and hope that you enjoy them. So anyway, until next time, I'm Lhugueny, peace out.

2011

## MDML #72

Hey guys! So, I figured I was going to go ahead and jump on this whole draw my life bandwagon. A lot of you guys really wanted me to do it. I thought it would be kind of hard. I didn't really know if I wanted to throw that much personal life out on YouTube, but I figured what the heck. You guys are fans of JayzTwoCents and you want to know a little more about me, so I figured I'll go ahead and do that.

For starters, my real name is Jason and my middle name is Scott. However, I dodged a bullet because my middle name almost became Rutherford but my dad said, "Hell no" and he put his foot down and my middle name became Scott. I was born on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1981, and what I think is funny about that is when I look at old family photos, my dad still had an afro, but I was supposed to be born on May 12<sup>th</sup> 1981, so I was a little late to my own party. I was born in a suburb of Boston called Newton. You guys may have recognized that name from recent events in Boston. I wasn't born to a very big family. In fact, my mother and my father had previous marriages in which they both had other kids. We'll get more to that later. My dad's name is Robert and my mum's name is Peggy, and I had a six year older sister and her name is Debbi. She wasn't too keen on having a little brother. In fact, she asked at one point if she could put me back. And: an important point - there is no e on the end of her name. It is Debbi with an i. Do not make the mistake of putting an e or she gets very upset, and that's me running around terrorizing her, going "bang bang", shooting her with guns, and really terrorizing her life, because that's what little brothers do to big sisters. As I mentioned, both of my parents had previous marriages in which they had other kids by the time I came around, all of the other kids were already grown and out of the house except for my older sister Debbi. My mum had a daughter named Nanette. She was a half-sister, we call her Nan, and she has another daughter which you already heard of, it's my half-sister Debbi. She's still close to me to this day. My dad had three boys on his side. He had Robert Jr., Daniel and David, and all three of them were also grown and out of the house long before I was a twinkle in my mother's eye, as my dad used to say. So, I don't have very close relationships with them because I never really got a chance to know them.

My dad was a career military man. He spent over 20 years in the Navy as a weapons instructor, he was in the Seabees, he was also in the Frogmen. He did a lot of stuff in the military. He was a bona fide badass. You've heard me talk about him before. After putting in more than 20 years in the United States Navy, my dad retired from the military and started his own business doing project management for the government and private businesses. My mum, she was a records keeper and a police dispatcher for the Dallas Police Department and then the Ontario Police Department once we moved to California. She retired and she worked nights which was fine with me because I didn't get to see her much during the day when I was young. We had moved from Newton all the way to Upland, California, when I was only one. And then from Upland, when I was four, we moved to a little city called Rialto. It's about 60 miles east of Los Angeles. Not a whole lot to see here. Most of you have probably never heard of it, can't say I blame you. When I was a kid, I remember my father spending lots and lots of time on his computer doing programming, writing software, working and

being a self-employed entrepreneur, and our entire livelihood depended on it. From the time that I was a little baby leaving dollops of poop behind me apparently, I can remember my dad playing around on his computers, and as I started to get older, I started to get interested in computers, and my first computer was a Commodore 64. And it was a really old computer that you had to do command lines and he had to hit command prompts to make the programs run and I was so excited that I could run my own programs, that my dad, I remember him sitting behind me and saying "that's my boy!", because I was only three years old the first time I ever learned how to use a Commodore 64, and if you've never seen one, it's not like today. You don't put in a, you know, CD and push play and off you go - you had to manually do stuff.

My sister, on the other hand, since we had such a big age difference, since she was six years older than me, by the time I was old enough to do anything - and that's a cord coming off the phone by the way, we're talking about the 80s here - I was an annoying little brother and almost anything I did really seemed to bother her, but I think that's kind of normal when you have that kind of age gap. Leaving my toys around and I'm asking her to play with me and she's telling me, "go away, you're annoying!" and she's trying to play with her boyfriends and, you know, her friends and do the things that girls do which I didn't understand whatsoever, and to this day I honestly still don't.

My parents tell me that when I was a small child, they could put me on the floor with some toys or a colouring book or a book, and I would spend hours and hours just playing and being quiet and not making messes, and just being the best little boy that you could possibly imagine, because I wasn't a whole lot of trouble. I was very quiet and I was very, very shy but then came the very first day of school and that all changed. I do remember my first day of kindergarten. I was terrified. My mum dropped me off and she went off to work and I was afraid because I didn't know what was going to happen. I didn't know any of the kids and it was very, very scary but the school had this racetrack out front where we could take our tricycles and we could ride around, and some of them had a wagon, and I always pulled the girls around and I became a ladies man at the age of kindergarten, and I became known as the kindergarten pimp, hah, no I'm just kidding, but I loved school so much. I came home and I haven't shut up since. I was blah-blah-blah-blah-blah school school school, and my mum said I never stopped talking since the first day of kindergarten and here I am going on 32 years old, and I'm still talking and doing it somewhat for a living.

But as with most people in school, there became a time when I was bullied. I was called stupid, I was called retarded, I was called fat, even though I wasn't fat I was still called fat, and of course it was happening by a group of boys that were constantly making my life a living hell. And I didn't have any friends, so that made things just that much more lonely and that much more difficult. This same group of kids every single day never let up. They used to sit there and block my entrance into the cafeteria and tell me that I wasn't welcome and that I was ugly and that I had no friends and that I shouldn't be in there and I didn't belong and that I should just go out into the schoolyard and sit in the grass by myself and eat lunch because nobody want to be around me because I smelled, and I spent basically every day of school by myself, outside. This didn't only happen at school. This same group of boys would hide behind trees and hide behind bushes, and they knew where I lived and they would stop somewhere along the path of the school in my house and they would wait for me behind trees and when I would come riding by on my bike, they would be waiting for me and, next thing I know, they're throwing rocks at me and one of them one time hit me in the face, and I remember falling off my bike and all of the other school kids were there and saw it, and nobody did anything. Nobody tried to help, nobody tried to make them stop.

I just was completely alone in that situation, but I do remember one day in the second grade, a new kid moved into the school and he immediately became my friend. His name was Nathan and he was a little bit older than me, and so he was kind of like a role model because he told me, "Don't listen to those guys, those guys are stupid. They're, you don't worry about them, just come hang out with me". So, we did all sorts of stuff together, and we'd play tetherball, and go on the swings and we talked about games because we had Nintendo and we just had a really good time and I wasn't being bullied so much. But one day, Nathan told me that he had to move. His father was in the military and they were moving, so once again, I found myself by myself in the playground, rocks being thrown and being bullied every single day of my life. It was so bad. I looked for reasons not to go to school. Like every other kid who's ever been bullied, I pretended to be sick but that only works for so long before your parents realise you're faking and they think you just don't want to go to school, but you don't really tell them the truth because you just are kind of ashamed that you are being bullied and you're not sticking up for yourself.

One day in middle school, this had been going on for a solid five years by this point, at least, this same kid every single day would keep pestering me and calling me names and blocking my way and knocking things out of my hand, but by now, I had grown taller and I had grown bigger, but my self-esteem had been so damaged, that I still allowed myself to be bullied. And I remember once I told my dad about this bully and his advice to me was "Defend yourself", so one day this kid cornered me in the locker room at the gym and he wouldn't let me leave, and at this point I became very angry and I saw red and I remember just losing control and I punched this kid square in the face, and next thing I knew he was on the ground, and all of his friends couldn't get out of there fast enough. I've never been bullied a day in my life since that event. That's the first time in my life I felt like I had actually stood up for myself and my confidence was running high. I was feeling good. Nobody was messing with me and things were going pretty good for me. In fact, that computer thing I talked about earlier, the computer aids and the computer lab used to regularly call me out of class

because they needed help fixing the computers because they didn't know how to fix them. So, you can kind of consider that my very first IT gig.

Life went on as it generally has a way of doing. I went into high school and I became into sports. I was really good at tennis. I even coached tennis. I played on the tennis team for the school. I played football. I was big. I was strong, and I had a lot of friends. Things were going pretty good for me and then, I noticed I really was shy. I had a hard time talking to people. I, girls would approach me, and they would want to hang out and they would tell me that they thought that I was cute or that I was funny. And I noticed they had boobs and I liked it, but I was still really shy. But my very first girlfriend, I remember we did everything together and one day, she cheated on me and she broke my heart. But that's okay, a new girl came along and once again she cheated on me and broke my heart. I started to really have a hard time trusting people because of the bullying and the girls making fun of me, and I just had a really hard time dealing with it, and I noticed I started to cope with food. And I started to put on weight. By this time, I figured, who would want to be with a fat loser like me? And all those things that the kids used to call me back in grade school and middle school started to come back and haunt me, but this one girl came and she said, "I think you're cute and I think you're funny", and she started to bring back my confidence, and I started to work out and I started to lose weight. I had just graduated high school and we were falling in love, and when I was 18, I asked her to marry me. And she said yes. I was really excited; I thought my life was going forward and I couldn't wait to see what was next, but one day she told me she was moving to San Diego because she was going to live with her mum. She had been living with her grandma up until that point, so I said, "Okay, that's fine, we can make this work", so every single weekend, I would hop in my truck and I would drive down to San Diego and she would be there waiting for me with her boobs, and everything was great and I was happy and she was happy and we were planning out our life, and I'd spent all of my money to get her an engagement ring. And she lived at the marina in San Diego, which is where they parked the boats and she lived on a boat. I came to surprise her one day and I brought some flowers and I didn't tell her I was coming down to San Diego to visit her and one of her co-workers she worked at the restaurant stopped to tell me that she was at the pool, so I thought that was a little bit weird because he had kind of a weird look on his face, so I went to the pool to see what was going on and there she was. She was in the pool and I could see her. She was kind of swimming around, there were other people in the pool and next thing I know she grabs one of the muscly 6-pack marina guys that you would expect to see, and they kiss, and right as I was walking up. I couldn't believe what I saw and I yelled out "What the hell?" and she turned around and she was very sad and that guy she was with told me to get lost, and at that point I just walked away, and she chased me down and I asked her for the truth and the truth was a little more than I think that I could handle, because I found out that there were a lot more people. In fact, she had cheated on me 13 times since we'd become engaged. I was entirely crushed. I didn't know how to handle it. I had never at that point been with anyone who hadn't cheated on me, and every single relationship I had just ended with the same result of being cheated on and I thought about ending my life on that trip home from San Diego and just driving off of a cliff.

But I decided that I was going to get even. That this was Jay's turn to make somebody get hurt. Why did I always have to be the one who was being hurt all the time? So, I set out to find somebody that I could get to trust me and then intentionally cheat on them. That way for once I'm not the one that's always being hurt. So I met this really cool girl after dating somebody that didn't work out for only a couple of days and it turned out that she thought I was cute and I told her that she was pretty fly because it was 1999 and that's the way we talked in the 90s, so don't judge me. I still think she's fly to this very day, but I told myself, I don't care if I'm falling out with this girl. I'm going to break her heart because that's what I set out to do. But next thing I knew, I forgot all about those plans and I fell in love with this girl and she had entirely rekindled my hope that maybe I could be married one day, but alas, we broke up because all of the things that had happened to me in the past just kept coming and haunting me and I was a mean person and we broke up. But we got back together and next thing I know, I asked her to marry me and we're getting married and everything is happy and it's beautiful and she's got this gorgeous dress and this beautiful music playing and on October 15<sup>th</sup> in 2005, I married my soulmate and you guys know her today as Miss JayzTwoCents. This woman took me and returned to me back to the kind of person I thought I was going to be, but something was happening to me. I was changing. I was putting on a lot of weight. My self-confidence was gone, and I was turning to food as a comfort coping mechanism, and I had grown to nearly 500 pounds.

But one day, I was on my way to work and I was sitting in traffic on the freeway and a big truck hit me from behind doing 60 miles per hour. And it completely crushed my vehicle. And this is when I realised I had hit rock bottom, because it took eight firefighters to lift me on the gurney and to put me in the ambulance. I was so big I didn't even fit in the MRI machines. I couldn't even get a cat scan because I was too big to fit in any of the emergency room equipment. That's when I made the choice to get bariatric gastric bypass surgery and on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, one of the nation's leading experts on bariatric surgery gave me a laparoscopic version of the surgery and I began to lose weight. And next thing I know, day after day, I'm getting skinnier and I'm getting skinnier and my confidence is coming back, and I'm starting to be a happy person again. And on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the best thing that could possibly happen in my life was about to happen. My wife and I had gone to the hospital and she had a baby monitor hooked up to her and she was having contractions and she was screaming and I was terrified and it was all worth it, because next thing I knew, I was a dad, and I was so excited, and it was a girl! I couldn't believe it. She was so cute. She looked like her mum, she looked like me. I didn't know what to do. I was terrified. I didn't know what kind of dad I was going to be. And I've got my

daughter and I've got my wife and I've got my health. But for some reason, that didn't really seem to make any sort of a difference because **I kept finding myself sad.**

**I still had no confidence because I had never developed any confidence in myself** because of that group of kids my entire life that sat there picking on me. And when I was fat, and that as an adult, I had adults picking on me, so **I never had an opportunity to develop any sort of confidence.** So last year, on a dare, I started a YouTube channel just where I wanted to talk about different technology things **that I really like.** **I didn't expect it to go anywhere, didn't expect anybody to watch, I, I, who would have watched me?** After all, I was a boring guy, but next thing I knew, people were saying I was funny and I was cool and I was smart and my channel was growing and we're almost 10,000 subscribers. Sure, **there's people on YouTube who still like to say mean and hurtful things,** but **for every mean comment there is, there's five or six good comments that you guys give me that make me feel better about myself every single day and it makes me want to go harder. It makes me want to try and do better and it makes me want to bring you guys the best content that I possibly can and just keep going and just see how far we can take this thing together. Thank you for that. You guys have been instrumental in getting my confidence back. Thank you.**

3703

### MDML #73

Hi everyone! My name is Zachary Graser and I'm a 19-year-old YouTuber. **It's taken me a long time to become comfortable enough** with sharing my life to you guys, but **I think I'm finally ready.**

After putting my mother through 53 hours of blissful labour, I made my entrance to this realm on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1997 at 4:30 9 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. I have two brothers, one older and one younger. I'm the middle child. Their names are Josh and Adam. My dad had Adam before he met my mum but **the three of us brothers are very close.** When Josh was born, **I was quite excited** but only for a few days. Then my parents caught me loading him into my wagon to take him out to the garbage. I'd rather not talk about it. Moving on, **he has since grown on me and I have a great relationship with both brothers.** During my toddler years, I would memorize my story books and read them back to people. I couldn't actually read, but I told my own versions of the story. See, I was an entertainer even then. **That's how awesome I am.** At about 3, I experienced my first tornado. A very small tornado. It was in the fall and mum and I were at the park, when suddenly all the leaves started to flow in a circle all around us. We hid under the play structure and held our breath for seconds that seemed like hours until it passed by. Dad was quite perplexed when we arrived back home on a seemingly sunny day covered in scratches, leaves and mud. It took me a long time to go back to that park again.

On the first day of school **I became totally in awe of school buses and had the overwhelming revelation that I would grow up to be a bus driver one day.** But only for the flatnosed buses, not the others. Now although it hasn't happened, I'm certain one day I'll be able to pursue those dreams, becoming the best flatnosed bus driver around. Yeah, hopefully kidding. In my primary years, **I was very much into the colour yellow. It's probably from the bus obsession,** and I only wore yellow shirts. My favourite shirt had a huge yellow sunflower on the front, and I wore that until, well, my mum finally threw it in the garbage. At one point I also changed my name to When. Only my little brother called me that, so the name didn't take for long. I have no real recollection as to why I did that, but it seemed like a good idea at the time. It's probably because I could never stop asking questions. **I love to learn,** yeah, no? During those formative years, I tried my hand at washing the windows in our house. Guess I should have checked to see if the windows were closed before using the garden hose on them, yeah. That resulted in my first flood. It was around this time that I got my first pets: first a fighting fish named Fighty, followed by a guinea pig named Guinea. You know, I wasn't overly creative with naming back then, but **I still loved them** both. I then discovered how to use the front brakes on my first speed bike, and then flew face-first into a parked vehicle. There was no damage to the vehicle or bike though, only me. At about eight, I discovered filming. **I was very passionate** and played the Joker character. I think I had a version of every Joker scene from every single Batman movie ever made.

Turning 10 was **a huge deal.** I had finally entered double digits, and that's when I created the character Grazer 10 in Club Penguin. I was the penguin king. Yeah, I had kind of gotten past the whole When name by then. Club Penguin videos provided me with my first fan club and additionally the money to buy my first real computer. Well, I actually ended up buying two, as I accidentally spilled pop all over the first one. It was around this time that I got my first kitten, Shadow. Today I still have Shadow and have added Marley and Max to the family. Some would even go as far as to call me a Cat Lady. Yeah. In junior high, **I learned that you can't demand payment from people that annoy you. It was considered an act of bullying,** and my mum took my Xbox away. Locked it in the trunk of her car and kept the keys in her pocket. **It was a long couple of days for both of us,** but I did learn a valuable lesson. I'm just less of a bully now.

When high school came around, I got detention for passing out surveys to find out how I could improve my YouTube channel, oops! Next came Minecraft and The Cube and all of you. **I never really wanted to go to class** every day in high school. I had very creative arguments prepared for my parents as to why I should just finish it online, instead of what I thought was wasting my time, but I did go to class and I graduated. **Made some good friends and I suppose the routine was good for me.** I mean, other than the fact that I don't think I ever actually slept, school all day, videos all night, I

still don't get a lot of sleep, but I've been trying to improve. I truly believe that self-improvement is a lifetime journey and that we should all strive to be a better person today than we were yesterday.

As a kid who rarely left my room, I decided to leave the country and go to Seattle for PAX Prime in 2014 and yeah, I kind of caught the travel bug. Next came Boston, Los Angeles, Texas, New York City, London, Paris, New Jersey, yeah, you get the point. There's a lot more. I had laser eye surgery in 2015. After all, what kind of robot wears glasses? It was quite disappointing to find out that I couldn't actually shoot lasers with my eyes, but my vision is perfect. I've always had a strong fear of heights. As a kid, even on the play structures I was nervous. Well, with the help of you guys, I always determined to face that head-on. On many of my trips now, I seek out the highest structures and make myself go right to the top and then when in LA, I thought why not just jump out of an airplane. It was exhilarating, well until I decided to prank my dad by calling him and saying I'd gone to the hospital. Luckily, I was not in Canada or my dad may have actually sent me to the hospital after that prank. Last year when in New York I continued with the air theme and took an open helicopter ride over Manhattan. I must admit, I still have a slight fear of heights, but it no longer prevents me from doing anything that I want to do. This year, I finally got my braces off and even though I'm 19, the orthodontist staff still sang a silly song and gave me a bag full of treats, as they normally do with kids much younger than me. I remember when I first got my braces on, they were tight and they hurt a lot and I actually begged my mum to bring me in to have them removed. I even offered her, like, thousands of dollars to do it, and she refused. She advised that I would be glad in the end. Short-term pain for long-term gain. And she was right.

My fans have become so important to me. It is through your support and faith in me that I've lost over 60 pounds. I work out every day and even turned my mum's garage into a gym. Yeah, I guess she's gonna have to figure out somewhere else to park the car. And there you have it! A long story made short - the boy that arrived on the scene in January of 1997 has come a long way, and with you all beside me there is much yet to do. Thank you for watching.

1393

#### MDML #74

Over the last few years, I've had quite a few of you ask me questions like how did you start? When did you decide to be a YouTuber? Now, I've always said I'll answer you guys when I get a million subs. Late last year, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 2014, C4ETech became the most followed tech channel in India and I want to thank you guys for that, so I'm going to tell you that story, or a part of it at least, since I need to have some material left for when I hit a million subs! So, here's a chunk of what happened. It was, wait a minute, aren't we forgetting something? If this is your first time here or in case you've forgotten, my name is Ash, this is C4ETech, and you're about to watch my life being drawn on the 4 Note phone.

The 11<sup>th</sup> of September 1987 was the day I was born, right here in Chennai. I spent a part of my teens in the Middle East, in Sharjah to be precise, then I came back to India for high school. A small school on the outskirts of Madurai. Later on, I moved back to the city I call home, Chennai, and joined the Adam William Engineering College. When I was 17, my parents separated and due to various issues related to that, I had to drop out of college. Overnight, I had responsibilities. I had to grow up, I had to get a job. It was a bit of a shock but thankfully, a good friend of mine helped me land a job with a BPO. It wasn't great but it kept me occupied, distracted from everything else going on around me, and anyway, for that 17-year-old me, as long as I had enough money to put on the table and fill gas for my bike, things were good. For the next 7 years, I worked with various BPOs, switching between American, British, American again, undergoing accent training everywhere - a major reason why my accent is all over the place, by the way.

Those of you who've been following me for a while would know about my fondness for diet soda and I would say 12 cups of coffee became a casual affair at the office, so to get some sleep, I started self-medicating, but in late 2011, my insomnia got real bad. My shrink told me I had to quit. Working nights was just not an option anymore, so quit I did. There I was, 24, no family, no degree, no job, and that's when I started to feel, well, cursed. Cursed about everything. My date of birth 9/11, by dropping out of college, my insomnia. Like I said at the start, I really like gadgets. They cheer me up. So, I decided to cheer myself up and bought a smartphone: the Galaxy Note. So here I was with a phone that blew me away, and being the geek that I am, I tried telling my friends about it: it's got a dual core processor, an espen, an amazing AMOLED display but now all they wanted to know was if they could play Angry Birds on it. Seriously? So, I finally decided to shoot a video and share it. I uploaded the video and you guys, people that I didn't know, were telling me it was good. Later on, I learned about AdSense, monetization etc. and that meant I was getting paid for doing what I love doing. But still sometimes, cause of everything that happened in my life so far, I felt pessimistic. What if this failed too? What if Google goes out of business? And in my warped sense of sarcasm, I named my channel Cursed Forever. I guess it was my way of saying "screw you" to the universe. But two years in, that feeling finally went away, or rather, you guys made it go away. Thanks to all your support, the wonderful comments and the constant encouragement. Around that time, I had previewed the Note 2, which is my only review till day to get over a million hits. Anyway, I got serious, started writing scripts, shooting bureaus, learnt Adobe, was trying to get more professional and that's when I started to feel the name Cursed Forever just didn't fit the bill anymore, but then again, I didn't want to forget my roots - where I came from. That dark place that you guys got me out of, so I rebranded the channel



C4ETech. From the original Galaxy Note preview to me today noting my life on the Note 4, I feel I've come a long way, and I guess this is my way of saying **love you all. Thank you for being you.**

798

## MDML #75

What's up guys! It's Jeffrey. So, today, I'm going to draw my life. It all began on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1994. I was born in the small French city of Montreal in Canada, which is also where both of my parents met. I have an older sister named Karen which completes my entire family of 4. Before I get into more details, I want to rewind a little. My dad is from Hong Kong, so growing up, he spoke Cantonese. And my mum, she's from Madagascar. She also spoke Cantonese, but she was even more fluent in French since that's what a lot of people spoke there. Because of that, I grew up speaking Cantonese but mainly French. That's the language people speak here in Montreal, so my parents wanted me and my sister to adapt. The thing is, most Asian parents didn't speak French. So, during my childhood, I hung out with every ethnicity except Asians. Because most of them usually hung out together and spoke Chinese and I couldn't relate to that. Nonetheless, **I made a lot of cool friends** during Elementary School. **One of my best friends invited over and showed me his Game Cube and Nintendo 64. Yup! He had both gaming consoles. I thought it was so fun** I asked my parents to get me one, but they couldn't afford that, so they would often drop me off at my friends just to play games. **I didn't really mind it.** My friend was really good, and **it was almost more fun watching him play and have him teach me.** Later on, I found out my classmate Ralph lived across the street from me. He had this basketball hoop. Joshua, another friend from school, just moved nearby at that time too. I'd often look outside my window to see if they were playing Basketball and when I saw them, I'd go join and we'd play until sunset. When I didn't hang out with friends though, I'd watch TV shows, Animes, to be exact. **I found them so cool.** I would draw them out. My parents only purchased English TV channels and that's how they made me learn how to speak English.

In school, however, I wasn't doing too well. My grades were below average, while my sister Karen always had straight As. My sister was only 2 years older than me, but she was really mature for her age. She was smart, well-mannered, talkative, and because of that, my parents always compared me to her. **I quietly envied her.** In the meanwhile, my parents took ballroom dance classes every week as a hobby. Since they didn't want to pay for a babysitter, they'd bring me along. I'd be on the side watching while doing this thing called Origami. A friend taught me how to do that in school, so that's what I did to pass time. Since I wasn't doing too well with my grades, my parents secretly enrolled me into ballroom dance classes to see if I could be better at that. When I learned the news, **I cried for literally 48 hours. Je ne vais pas.** To me, even though I was 8 years old, ballroom dancing was the least manly sport out there. My friends played hockey or basketball, so I never told them I danced. **I was embarrassed.** After a few classes though, **I was performing really well. I started entering dance competitions and won 1st place. Almost every time. Félicitation! I was finally good at something, and for once, it felt like my parents were proud of me.**

For High School, my parents enrolled me into a private school. It was predominantly Caucasian. Yup! Majority of the students were white. It made no difference to me though since I was so used to hanging out with non-Asians anyways. But for many of them, having me around was different. So, **I got bullied verbally and physically. During breaks or recess, students insulted me, pushed me around.** I tried not to let that bother me. **I fell in love with this girl at the time and that really helped cope with things. We were really close,** so close, people teased me about making it "Facebook official". But days later, **she started dating this other guy who I guess was more popular. It broke my heart. To make matters worse,** the boyfriend somehow learned I had a crush on her. He stopped me in the hallway and publicly shouted: you're Asian! look around! you will never amount to anything! Pf I, I didn't cry or anything but for some reason, **I concluded that what he said was the reason why girls wouldn't date me.**

During weekends, Joshua, Ralph and I still met up to play basketball. Ralph's parents just got a camera and he asked his sister to film us do basketball tricks. He said he'll upload the video on this site called YouTube and send a link to me later. It was my first time hearing about this website. A few days later, Ralph sent me the video and **I loved it.** I immediately met up with the boys to tell them and they suggested me to watch these two other funny guys they just discovered. The 1<sup>st</sup> one was called Ryan Higa and the second: Kevjumba. So, I did, and **I was blown away. Yeah! They were really funny, but there was something even more captivating that made me keep watching.** It was the first time I ever saw other Asians fluently speak English in all of my 12 years. **So, they became my role models.** Until this point, I never told anyone I was a ballroom dancer. One day, my grades weren't doing well, so I had to stay after History class. The teacher asked if I had any hobbies and **after hesitating,** I said I was a competitive ballroom dancer outside of school. **She seemed really passionate about it, so I opened up even more.**

A few days later, in the middle of my French class, the intercom rang, and my name was called. **I thought I was in trouble,** but it was actually to tell me that my history teacher secretly signed me up to our school talent show. I immediately said, "No thanks!" **out of fear.** All of a sudden, I was surrounded by the girls that were organizing the show. They insisted that I should, so I gave in. My sister attended the same school, so I asked her to perform with me. People loved it. From then on, I was labelled as the dancer, which I didn't mind. Sadly, **that gave my bullies another reason to mock me, saying I was a girl for dancing,** but although their words were degrading, I noticed I wasn't

physically bullied anymore. So, I guess things were getting better. I still had trouble finding my crowd though. One day, this guy I wanted to be friends with pushed another student in front of me because he was in his way. Everyone around laughed. I was confused but I concluded that, that's what I had to do to be acknowledged. So gradually, I became a bully. A guy joked about me once, so I pushed him so hard against the locker shouting: "Say that again and I'll beat you up!" He almost teared up. I thought acting tough and cocky was what made people cool. I think deep inside I just wanted to prove myself or others that I could be loved. But I was wrong. Honestly, I was more scared that people would see through my fake image and fight back. Ironically, instead of making more friends, I pushed the ones I already had, and other students didn't want to be near me. Even this girl I had a crush on avoided me. So, one night, I messaged her asking: "Can you be honest and tell me what's wrong with me?" She answered: "You're just not a nice person anymore. You're not being yourself." That left me speechless. Truth is, I didn't know who I was. I just wanted to fit in. I thought the person I was before was the reason I was rejected in the first place. What I thought defined me, well, my bullies ridiculed. I didn't know how to express myself anymore.

From that point on, I thought if I couldn't make myself happy, I'd try to make others happy. I started to socialize and say "Hi" to people I found more quiet, bullied or rejected. Unexpectedly, that was the first time I ever saw any of them smile. Seeing that made me really happy for some reason, so I kept doing it just for that, to see them smile. I didn't realise the impact at the time, but at the year-end gala I was voted as the "Most Respectful and Social Person" by my classmates. Maybe that's what life's all about. Happiness doesn't always come from receiving but from giving.

When I turned 15, my sister kept nagging me about getting a job and to start paying for my own things. It was annoying but I admired her for being responsible. So, I applied around and got my first job at a restaurant as a "Salad Boy". I made soup, cut fruits and made salads. I worked there during the summertime until school restarted. In my last year of high school, a friend told me to audition for the school musical, because he didn't want to do it alone. I never sang in front of people before but auditioned anyway to try something new. I've never been so nervous but eventually, I was chosen as the second lead role, and my friend, he got the lead. The experience was life changing. I found out I loved singing. Simon, a friend in my school bus, heard I liked to sing so he invited me over to his house where he had built his own little music studio. He started improvising some crazy jazzy music on his keyboard. I was fascinated. Turns out, he was ranked as the best piano player in Canada within his age category. While he was playing, I would sing on top of the music and he would always yell at me saying: "Wow! This could be a hit on the radio. Keep going!" Honestly, I had no idea what I was doing but his comments made me feel good, so almost every night, I'd go over to his place and we'd play music.

While I was in the musical, I met this girl. I thought she was out of my league, so I didn't think much of it. But we got along so well, we started dating and she became my first girlfriend, an amazing one too. She did a really good job at making me feel loved and I thought our relationship would last a very long time. However, I too often let my insecurities get the best of me, which led to unnecessary conflicts. So, after a few months, we broke up. I learned love is a huge responsibility, so from that point on, I told myself I'd make sure to heal my wounds before getting into another relationship. Now, throughout my entire high school years, I never had a dedicated group of friends I'd hang out with. From math class to lunch, recess and even outside of school, I'd jump from one group of friends to the other. I was always the guy on the side listening on conversations and have that occasional awkward smile when I saw the others laugh. I never had a voice. I was always the follower. I think that's why by the end of the school year, I yearned to express myself.

So, with the money I saved up from working at the restaurant, I bought my first HD camera and decided to start making videos on YouTube for just myself to watch. Days later, comments from people I didn't know started coming in. I couldn't believe being myself was okay for once. I couldn't believe people listened. I started to imagine people smiling from watching my videos, just like the students I'd say "Hi" to. That made me really happy. So yeah! Through these videos, I slowly healed my scars and accepted myself again. Joking and talking about my insecurities always felt like 1000 pounds lifted off my shoulders. Call me weird, but watching myself felt like I was meeting the real Jeffrey for the first time. And that's what motivated me to keep going. I just wanted to know more about me. That's why, you might have seen a common theme throughout all my videos. They're either personal stories I connect to or insecurities I've encountered.

For college, I didn't really want to sign up because there wasn't a program I liked. I just wanted to be a performer at that point, but my parents really wanted me to get a degree, so I enrolled into the closest thing I could find: film class. In the middle of my second semester, this TV Show called Canada's Got Talent came along and I convinced my sister to audition with me for ballroom dancing. Crazy enough, we made it past the Semi-Finals. The day we got back home I received a call from The Ellen Degeneres Show. They said they loved one of my YouTube videos and wanted to invite me to be on their show in Los Angeles. I said "No!" Ha, just kidding! I said: "Yes Please!" Being on one of the biggest talk shows in America is a dream come true. I was freaking out! It would be my first time in LA and my first time taking a plane on my own. After these few trips, I had missed so many days of school, I couldn't keep up anymore. I also wasn't happy with the program I was in, so I decided to quit and concentrate on YouTube full-time. This one quote kept resonating in my head: "The biggest risk you will ever take is not taking one at all". One of the friends I met in film class named Ben told me to go for it but that was it. The rest of my family and friends were disappointed and

mad at the idea of not getting a college degree. Even my friends' parents got sceptical after hearing the news. My best friend's dad scolded me, saying: "If I don't see you in school next semester, you don't come back to our house anymore!"

A week later, my film class teacher called. Apparently, the word got around that I wasn't coming back to school. I actually performed above average in his class, so I was interested to hear what he had to say. He was no different though. Saying I'm making a huge mistake. **I stopped opening up about my feelings and vision at that point.** I couldn't reason with anyone, but truth is, they weren't wrong. My career choice is risky and I barely had results. Soon after, me and my friend Ben from film class signed up for this online competition to find the next Internet Icon. We convinced two other friends to join us. It was in Los Angeles though, so we had to pay from our own pockets. It was a huge opportunity to me. **I felt like my chance to prove my peers I made the right decision.** To top it off, the main judge on the show was also **a very successful YouTuber whom I looked up to.** And also, he's the first one I ever watched: Ryan Higa. **I couldn't believe that after all these years he would now be on the other side of the screen watching one of my own videos.** **Unfortunately, the judge's comments were mostly negative.** We didn't even make it past the first round and flew back home. **I'd never felt so much like a failure. Not only did I fail in front of a guy I looked up to, I let my friends down for making them invest in this too. To make things worse,** all the money I saved up, gone.

I couldn't take any other risks, so for the following year, I applied to find jobs. A lot of them. At one point, I was balancing four jobs, working 60-70 hours a week. During the day, I was an Apple Computer salesman. At night, I did customer service for another company, I taught students how to ballroom dance, I was a part-time extra on a TV show. On top of that, I tried to make videos on YouTube. **Some would say that's absurd. But for some reason, dealing with clients wasn't as bad as facing friends and family who looked down on me.** Because of the lack of time, I didn't practice ballroom dance as much. My ranking started dropping and after ten years of dancing, I stopped.

It was December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013. I remember it like it was yesterday. I was taking a walk for some fresh air and my phone nudged. It was a notification. KevJumba is now following you on Twitter! A few seconds later, a message followed "Been watching your vids for a while, someone tweeted me your last one. Wanted to say thanks and to keep the dream alive." **I started shaking. My all-time role model has been watching my videos** this whole time and I didn't know? I took a breather and messaged him back asking if we could hop on a video call to get some advice for my career. He agreed. I said a lot of nonsense but after half an hour, we've talked about the ups and downs of being an artist. After that call, I had a weird idea to try revisiting Los Angeles, but I put that thought in the back of my mind. **I also wanted to improve my singing but didn't want to pay for vocal lessons** because it was expensive. I saw auditions being held at a local church to be in their Youth Choir. I auditioned, got accepted, and every week that's how I practiced my vocals. A few months later, the choir was invited to serve food and sing for the homeless and I was chosen as the lead singer. I thought we'd be performing for about a dozen of people, but over 100 showed up. To think that we were all innocent babies for once. No different. **That experience was really touching. It gave me a feeling of purpose and made me feel so thankful for what I had, despite the hardships.** It also made me rekindle the idea of moving to Los Angeles.

So, weeks later, I quit all my jobs and moved to LA. I guess the media also falsely convinced me that that's where the dream was. **Unfortunately,** I miscalculated my plans. LA was a lot more expensive than I expected. I ended up sleeping on a bunkbed in a small room with 3 other friends for over a month. Eventually, me and 1 of those roommates found an apartment that fit our budget. It was in a small city not too far from LA called Hawthorne. At the time, I somehow connected with this more established YouTuber, Lamar Wilson. **He was one of the rare YouTubers that believed in me** and when he learned I was struggling with my move, he often paid me Uber rides and invited me to have dinner at his apartment. He also had game consoles, so that kept my mind off things. We'd talk a lot about what I could do next and **he'd try guiding me with my future goals. I'm really thankful for him.**

However, four months went by and, well, nothing really happened. I didn't have any plans. **I cried and questioned my move more than anything. Out of desperation,** I messaged this one person whom I thought could give me some mentorship. He happened to be my favourite YouTuber, Ryan Higa. Yeah, he also happens to be one of the most successful and that's seen me fail on the show he was a judge on a year back. Remember? How unrealistic was I, but within seconds, he replied and asked if I would like to play as an extra on a video he was working on. I immediately said yes and went to his place. After that, I went back home reminiscing what just happened. The following day, I called my dad. I admitted to him that **I wasn't really happy in LA and I was barely getting any results.** He suggested I should try moving to Las Vegas to be closer to Ryan and learn from him. So, I did. A month went by learning from Ryan and my time was up! See, because I'm Canadian, I can't stay over 6 months in the United States or else I'd run into legal trouble.

So, I returned home to Canada. From there, even though my family didn't fully understand it, **they slowly accepted my career choice. I think they saw how much I went through and sympathized.** Turns out, they were so hard on me because they were just worried and ultimately, **that's because they loved me.** I kept making videos from that point on but had **a lot of ups and downs. I wanted to be a successful artist** but thought, how can I become a big fish in the sea if I'm not even in the same sea? Also, from those 6 months spent in the United States, I once again spent most of my savings. **I felt stuck again.** A lot of people were curious about why I never asked Ryan to collaborate with me while I was with

him. Well, although it could have helped, after seeing him work, **I knew I had to work 100 times harder** to even think about being in the same league. To have immediate recognition for something I don't feel like I earned makes no sense to me. I think trying to be the best artist is what matters, so **I reconnected with my friend Ben** from film class. He happened to be getting started with his own YouTube channel, so **we'd encourage each other**. **The only thing we could do is to try doing our best work**. Despite that, **I still had a lot of mood swings. I figured it was because I wasn't growing into the person I wanted to be**.

You see, with this full-time YouTube journey, **I let go of a lot of things I liked**. And when I realised that, I signed up for a Chinese School I saw in the newspaper to learn Mandarin. **I figured it was time to reconnect with my roots** since I rejected it for so long. I then signed up to learn Hip Hop dancing. It's **something I've been wanting to try** for a while. I restarted taking singing lessons, playing the guitar and even tried acting. **It was hard** going back into student mode, but **it was a fun challenge** to me. I learned education will follow you forever, whether you're in a school or not. **It kept me humble** understanding that. It also made me have a better vision on what artist I want to become. And on May 28<sup>th</sup> of 2016, I uploaded my first live cover to YouTube. Very quickly, it became one of my most positive talked about video of the year. **I think it was exactly what I was missing in my life. To perform again**.

Fast forward to today. I now realise that what defines me was never about the medals, people's approval or making the least amount of mistakes. What defines me is how I chose to confront every situation I faced and learned something from it. Oh, remember some of the people that bullied me? I got in touch with several of them. I learned they never had bad intentions. They were just blinded by their own insecurities and acted in ways that didn't define them. **So how could I not forgive them? They were no different than me**. How ironic. Although **few more wounds appeared**, **I think the bigger ones healed**. I don't know what challenges are ahead. Nobody knows. All I know is that if God put it in my path, it's because **he'll give me the strength to face them**. And you know what? **I'm excited** to suffer again. Growth will never be easy. But I also believe it's life's biggest gift. Who knows, maybe you're the one someone desperately needs right now.

Anyways, this video is called a "draw my life" but I feel like my life just barely started. I truly believe that every one of us has a purpose. Everyone has a voice. You just wouldn't know until you actually start using it. So why am I making this video now? Well **there's still a lot of things I want to learn and improve**. And **I guess that's scary to me**. So, this video, is it **one of those insecurities I want to let go of?** Maybe, or maybe it's just that I can imagine someone smile for the first time while watching this one, and perhaps that's life's purpose after all.

4213

## MDML #76

Howdy toasters and welcome to draw my life. I've literally got thousands of comments in the past to do a video like this and I felt you know what? Now is the perfect time.

And even though that's not a perfect representation of me as a baby, I was a chubby bunny. I was a chubby child. But I grew out of that stage as well as my pacifier stage. I wasn't necessarily a thumb sucker but damn, I was, I, always **dearly in love with my pacifier**, let me tell you. And also guys **I just want to say thank you** for all the responses from the depression video I put out last week. It just your guys' comments and messages, which I got hundreds of, and I can't get to all of them but I, **I just love you guys so much and just thank you, thank you, really. It means the world to me that you guys wrote what you did**.

**And here's my lovely home** in North New Jersey. It's in a town called Byram and no, it's not like pump fist Jersey Shore style, but I do live on a lake and **there's just really no place like home there. It's a sweet getaway**. So when I was born, I was born into a family that I no longer live with anymore, and that might shock some of you, or maybe some of you already know or maybe some of you guessed, but I was adopted, and I've never met them or seen a picture of them before, but two months later, after my birth, a brave young couple strolled up to the nursing home and they said, "We want a baby boy" and later on, they became my parents. And that's my dad jumping for joy. And even though there's not a price on a person's life, or price on love, I'm sure I was expensive.

The next chapter is middle school, and **I was super avid into sports. I loved playing baseball which was influenced by my dad** who used to coach me. He used to play himself. **I was really into soccer** and really, **I was horrible at it**, but **I really liked it, and then I loved running**. I could never stop running because I had so much energy, and **I like quading**, going on camping trips up in New York State, New Jersey, **it was a lot of fun**.

And then five years later, after my birth, came my sister. And she was also adopted. And oh my gosh, me and my sister used to fight all the time. **I used to make her cry and I was, I was a horrible brother**. But I'm trying to make it up to her now when we're older and **we love each other**.

So, I was thirteen years old, **everything was going great**, baseball season. I was in the championship and dad has to go to the hospital a couple days before Father's Day. He starts getting really sick and, you know, my mum wants me my

sister go away, so we go with my uncle, travel away, as she takes care of my dad in the hospital and then she calls us and we have to come back to the hospital because something, is something's wrong she wants us to be there. And we've got no idea what's going on, but we finally find out that dad passed away, and **it was a really tough time**. My sister was, was so young and I was thirteen years old. We had no idea what to think. **I remember not even being able to cry. I was just numb**, but **the love and support from our family friends in the community just really helped us pull through that moment and I, I remember everything they say to me and, you know, I'm forever grateful for everything they've done and still am**. Even though **there was a lot of help and a lot of support**, **I dug myself into a hole and I wouldn't eat, and I didn't feel like there was any hope. I slipped into this depression** and I had this phobia when I was afraid to become fat, but I still got good grades. **I still worked hard, played baseball and I kept it as my motivation and then I picked up beatbox. I used to listen to my dad's old records and just hum them and when I was sad, I did all that and it made me happy. It was that escape for me.**

So, moving on up to a big old high school. You know, **I had a good group of friends around me**. It was a couple years since my dad passed and just **everybody was friendly with me and I was friends with them. It was great atmosphere and I really loved high school**. I really did. I got good grades and the most important thing to me was that **I didn't have to do drugs or alcohol to fit in or be popular**. And I, it's sad that people have to do that. But I kept up with sports and I got on the varsity team of baseball and varsity for running and in my freshman year I got my varsity jacket **which meant a lot to me and it was a huge accomplishment**. I was one of the first people in my grade to get one, but I don't even wear it anymore. I think I wore it for a year and that was basically it. So, it was in the moment!

But fast forward my senior year, let's talk about a whirlwind of decisions and emotions. So much going on and **I just tried to make it the best year I possibly could**. I actually got homecoming king **which was huge** and then something really big happened to me, which I entered this contest called Mr. OVR and there's a talent portion and I ended up doing a beatbox and dance routine live in front of all my classmates and hundreds of people and I won the runner-up and the talent portion of the contest and that will be **one of the most unforgettable nights in my life**.

Community college, that lasted a week. I just figured I needed to go. **I needed to get away from home and, you know, enter the next chapter in my life**, so I ended up moving out to the city of brotherly love, Philadelphia. And I'm currently attending the art institute of Philadelphia for digital filmmaking and video production, **which I picked up a huge passion for** when I was in high school with my friends and we started a group and, you know, we posted videos on YouTube since 2007, and **we love doing it**. We did a bunch of shenanigans, but it sparked enough where **I wanted it to be my passion and I wanted it to be what I do you know for the rest of my life**. Even though my friends from back home and **I still wanted to post videos**, we just couldn't. We're in different directions in our lives.

I eventually met Dennis online through Call of Duty and **we just hit it off great**. He loved gaming, **I love making videos** and we decided, why don't we make gaming videos? So, we created So Close to Toast. **It was going great**. We got partnered, **met a lot of awesome people** that I'll never forget and then eventually Dennis had some personal issues and we went our separate ways. I didn't know where to go. I didn't know where to take the channel. I did commentaries, I did skits, I went to all kinds of different directions that I normally wouldn't go and then I think, why not just do what I've been doing on Call of Duty for the past four years and that's beatbox, funny moments and then beatboxing became a huge thing on the channel and YouTube started growing crazy and school was going crazy. **still did good**. My mum was like, "I don't know about this but, I guess!" and she still doesn't understand YouTube, but two weeks left now of college. Life's going to change and I don't know where in the world I'm going to go, but all's I have to say right now is that **I am a hundred percent thankful and I owe everything to you guys** for 500,000 subscribers that we hit today - a number that I'll never believe. **I never sought anything like that out when I started YouTube, and I never thought that was even possible, but I have all of you guys and I owe it all to you, and I hope that one day I can, I can do something to pay you back, because you inspire me every single day and I'll never forget that. Love you guys. Thank you so much.** Peace out. Shake them and bake them.

1505

#### MDML #77

So, guys, this channel has just hit 200 thousand subscribers, and **this is the best day of my life**. If you could watch the video from the beginning to the end, that would mean the world to me, and with that being said, let's get started.

24<sup>th</sup> of October 1995, I was born in the Queen's Medical Center Hospital in Nottingham and two days later, my airway became blocked. I couldn't breathe. I turned totally blue and was carried straight to emergency care. To cut a long story short, yeah, I survived, but **that was scary, looking back**. Moving forward a little bit, I was always creative from the age of two, I was drawing elephants, baking cakes and making dinosaurs out of play-doh and matchsticks. **I used to love dinosaurs**. My level of concentration was such that when I started working on something, everything else became secondary to the point where I would sometimes even forget to eat meals. My dad picked up on this and he started training me to play chess. I was slow to start with but very soon, **I started to enjoy the game** and **I got good fast**, started beating my dad and not too long later I would be playing for the England chess team. **I handled junior school with no**

problems at all. Over there, it is all about being nice and having a decent head on your shoulders. I used to be that guy who answered all the questions in class and came into school 20 minutes early. Yep, I was that guy.

But as soon as we hit high school, things started to go a bit wrong. All of a sudden, it was cool to be dumb and chess became an activity for nerds. At the same time, acne started to kick off all over my face. I started growing and became quite tall and with the copious amount of gymming I wasn't doing at the age of 12, I became lanky. In not too much time, I'd gone from that talented little genius to that twig that plays chess. Things had really changed, and I started to feel just a little bit alone. Yes, I had friends, but this loneliness was almost inside of me, and it was at this point that I felt my confidence leaving me. From that guy who used to ride into class on the vehicle of self-satisfaction, I became a bit of a library dweller. And don't get me wrong, I wasn't depressed. I've always had parents that loved me more than I can even understand. I've always had a group of close friends who are there for me when I need them. I've always had my brother and sister who can somehow make me laugh even in the darkest times. It's just, I was a shell of a human. I used to walk around with my head down. I used to barely make eye contact with people and never said much, and I could be in a room without really being there. And then came one of the worst days of my life. In what must have been my greatest moment of stupidity, I told a classmate that I used to put lemon in my hair. Seems pretty normal? In fact, it's actually quite beneficial for the scalp. The rest of my school didn't seem to agree. For about one whole month afterwards, I couldn't get away from it. Wherever I went, I could hear people shouting the names of citrus fruits after me. I could hear them bellowing with laughter, and yeah, it sounds ridiculous looking back, even kind of funny, but 14-year old me felt trapped. I literally felt like the entire universe was against me and it was at this point that I hit an all-time low.

Not too long after, March 2011, I got my first smartphone. The ZTE Blade, and I was honestly blown away by this thing. I couldn't believe the technology I was holding in the palm of my hand, so I started researching. I wanted to understand everything there was to know about smartphones. I started getting into modding, hacking and customizing and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2011, aged 15, I uploaded my first ever YouTube video: how to optimize the ZTE Blade. Now I don't even remember the specific moment when I decided to upload it onto YouTube but looking back all I can do is to thank God, to thank every God there is and ever was, because it changed my life. And there I was, on YouTube. My video quality wasn't great by today's standards but, you guys, people that I didn't even know told me it was good. You told me that I had just rescued you. One guy even said I'd made his day. It gained some traction - first it got a hundred views, then a thousand, then 20,000, and all I could do is sit there and gawp at the statistics. It took me longer than it should have to realise that there was an opportunity here, but in August 2011 I started uploading regular videos on phones, tablets, games and at this point I was effectively broke so I used to borrow my dad's camera and review everything I could possibly afford, borrow and trade-in. But as well as all the love, there was a lot of hate. Some people used to say things which honestly hurt me. Things so bad I was just embarrassed to show anyone. Reading the relentless hate started to make me stronger, and before long I was using it as motivation to move forward and one night, in March 2013, it got to me. I was lying in bed and I started to imagine what it would be like to be a YouTuber. To create videos that thousands of people would want to click on every day, and I realised something - that amidst all the hassle, the hate, the setbacks, I loved what I was doing. YouTube made me really, really happy, so I got up, I grabbed a sheet of paper and I wrote 100,000 subscribers. I wanted to show those haters that I could achieve something. I wanted to make the naysayers regret the day they lifted a finger but most of all I wanted to prove to myself that I could make a difference.

Before long I bought a camera of my own, basic as it was. I covered my wall with subscriber targets and when I should achieve them by. I started editing, uploading daily, improving my quality and it made me feel really good. I could feel that dark cloud over my head clearing and all I could see now was a sky of opportunity. Yes, I was still lanky, but I had something, I had something that none of the naysayers did. I could feel my confidence returning and I was at this point I decided to start putting effort into the way I looked, and this was when I came up with that hairstyle that you guys know and love today, and since then, I've always associated it with this feeling of freedom. When the hair was up, I didn't just feel like Aaron. I felt like I could be anyone, like I could do anything. I felt ready for the world again and when I said to myself that I wanted 100,000 subscribers, I meant it. And I don't say "wanted" in a casual sense of the word. Needed. I wanted it as bad as I wanted to breathe. YouTube began to consume my life, whether I was at the dinner table on holiday or at work, my mind was churning with the next video idea. I was sitting my final school exams at this point. I'm starting to feel very stretched. I wanted to get the best grades I could. I wanted to spend time with the people I loved, and I wanted to get 100,000 subscribers. The constant pressure I was putting on myself to come up with ideas, to film, edit, voiceover, make thumbnails and research tags on a daily basis alongside everything else made me start to feel unwell.

So, there I was, trying to do everything but ending up spending no time with my family, no time working and not achieving my YouTube targets. In the end I got so bad that I had to slow down dramatically. Nearly half a year on, I stumbled across a tech channel which used to be the same size as my own and whilst I was now on 20,000 subscribers, he had surpassed 80. Looking through, I realised the only difference between myself and him was that he persevered. I start to re-evaluate, and I came to the conclusion that YouTube is my passion. I had never felt this much satisfaction in anything I'd ever done in my life previously, so I made the decision to buy a 4k camera and grit my teeth and get filming.

Within two weeks, ideas start to flow. I was buzzing mentally and gaining subs faster than ever and not too long after hitting 35,000 subscribers, something life-changing happened. One of my videos went viral, and by viral I don't mean a hundred thousand views, not even 1 million views - 15 million views and counting. Within about a week, my channel had doubled in size and I was honestly just in awe. I went in overdrive. I began uploading better and better content faster than I've ever done before, and I felt on top of the world. Through trial and error, I started to learn how to optimize content, make thumbnails that stood out and take Mrwhosetheboss to the next level. It wasn't long before we hit 100,000 subscribers and every goal and expectation I had for myself at this time had just been obliterated.

This channel has come so far since the day that I decided to pick up a camera. YouTube is no longer a hobby - it is a part of me. It has shaped me, made me stronger, more confident and more determined than ever, and it's all thanks to you. The lovers, the haters, the likers, the commenters. You have made me the person I am today, and I just wanted to say thank you. You have taught me that the only way to achieve something is to persevere, to keep trying, learning and then trying some more, and however unrealistic your goal may seem, you can get there. There'll be a thousand people who will tell you can't, will tell you to get real. Had I listened to even one of those, Mrwhosetheboss probably wouldn't exist. Everyone has lows and highs and the most important thing is how you deal with them. Be modest in your success and determined in your failure. We are going to get to 1 million subscribers and for everyone who thinks we can't do it, I'll see you on the other side.

1840

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This is the most real video I've ever made and if you could watch it till the end it will all make sense and it would really mean a lot to me. In 2016, Mrwhosetheboss hit 200,000 subscribers and to commemorate I made a draw my life video explaining how I got to this milestone and essentially how I was hell-bent on making it to a million subscribers. What I didn't realise at the time is that I had barely scratched the surface of YouTube. All the great things that were about to happen but also the dark places it would lead me. Up until this draw my life video after five and a half years on YouTube, I'd never met a subscriber in person, I'd never worked with a company, I'd never flown to a different part of the world for work. This was about to change very quickly.

As soon as I graduated university in 2017, I went for it. For the first time I could say that I was a full-time YouTuber. All those videos I couldn't make because of my studies, all those pent-up ideas, there was nothing holding me back. Now it had so much momentum I was uploading one video every single day and very soon, the channel's daily subscribers turned from hundreds to thousands, and companies started taking notice. I don't consider myself some sort of big deal. I'm a guy who makes videos on tech because that's something I love to do, and so when company started flying me to Munich, Barcelona, China, just to attend their events, it really in moments felt like a dream come true. I've bumped into people who've told me that I inspired them. People who felt forever thankful that I helped them save money. These are moments that have stayed with me and I'm so lucky and grateful to have had them, so understandably it is tough to sympathize with all this and I don't want you to feel sorry for me or anything, but I've not been feeling great for a while now.

And I'd consider myself a tough person, but this is the toughest thing I've ever done. Back when Mrwhosetheboss was on a hundred followers, I remember having a conversation with a friend. We sat down and dreamt about what it would be like to have 10,000 subscribers. 10,000 people, enough to fill a stadium, all wanting to watch what you could do I would look at channels with this number and I'd think to myself wow, this person must be so happy. Little did I realise that soon enough, I would also be passing this momentous figure but when I did, I would smile a little, give myself a pat on the back and carry on. That was it. Why couldn't I appreciate what I just achieved?

The problem stems from this: being first matters on YouTube, especially in tech. Nobody needs to see two of the same comparison video; people rarely need a second review once they've seen one good one. Two days late on an unboxing is the difference between a million views and a tenth of that. And having some pressure can be a great thing but on YouTube for me at least, it wasn't once a year or once a month, it was every hour of every day. This world is moving so fast and I felt like I had to keep up with it. This was my job. It felt like every day there was a new phone or new app or a new story and I had to be first, and as I started to raise my quality, the pressure only mounted. Now that I've produced a video at this level, I can't go back. Every video needs to be this good or better. As your audience grows, there are more people you don't want to disappoint and then you've got your emails piling up throughout the day, deadlines looming, you've got tweets, comments questions to attend to, these people need your help. It is your duty to help them. I was completely overwhelmed. Add to this the massive amounts of admin I had to do just to set up a company and the weight of this article 13 potentially destroying everything I've been building. I didn't really know where to turn. It wasn't unusual for me to work 14-hour days, 7 days a week. There was no distinction between morning and evening, weekday and weekend, and it just felt like this continuous unending race to remain relevant against some of the most creative, hardworking people on the planet, and hard work is great but there's something I didn't anticipate when I made that draw my life video and when I was at university surrounded by friends: YouTube is lonely. Whilst it's not obvious when you see a polished cut up video with upbeat background music and a smiling Aaron, 95% of the

time I'd be on my own when I'm filming. I'd been on my own for the whole day prior scripting and would quite possibly be on my own for the rest of the day editing. There are creators who have a healthy work-life balance, but **I was my never-ending determination to keep getting better that** started to drive me a bit crazy. I wasn't just physically alone but emotionally alone. There wasn't a single person I felt like I could talk to who could actually relate to the stresses I was feeling. To put it another way, **YouTube is a privileged job to have, but can also breed an attitude that creates relentless unhappiness.**

So, I found as the channel was getting larger, I was somehow and ironically becoming more busy, **more lonely and less happy. I'd lost touch** with all my friends from school, most of my friends from University and by the time I'd usually finished working in the night, my family was often asleep.

So, where do you go from here? There are three things I've come to realise and the reason I'm making this video is just because these three things are a stark shift from who I was in 2016 when I made the first draw my life before YouTube hit me full force. And each person has their own way of living so I'm not going to say this is the key to life or anything, but these ideas have massively helped me out in this uncertain world. One: it is good to be determined, to have a goal and to be willing to work like crazy when you need to, but not to always make it your life's mission to chase the next thing. By telling yourself you want something you're also telling yourself that something isn't good enough as it is, and this kind of attitude can leave you always wanting, never settling, as it did for me. Determination is what got this channel to where it is, but at the same time it's what stopped me seeing how great things already were. Number two: it is crucial to just try and be present. A lot of the time I was working I'd be so caught up in my to-do list. The minute I'd finished scripting, I'd start filming. The minute I finished filming, I'd start editing. It's only when I'd look back at the end of the day that I'd see that I was on autopilot for the entire journey. It's fine, it's natural. People do that but more and more I'm starting to realise how powerful it is to unplug, to take a step back and to realise that just to be alive and breathing is a miracle. Say a video you spent an entire week working on completely flops. So what? Say an exam you spent the last month revising for you fail. It doesn't matter. You've still got 20, 30, 50 years to figure it out. And number three is persistence: a lot of people come to me asking for advice. Everything from how to start a YouTube channel to how to study for exams, and the best bit of advice I can give is to just do it. Just make that first video. Just take that leap and then make it a mission to use every bit of feedback you can get to make each attempt better than the last. I've done it for 8,000 videos already and **I can say for sure that I'm not going to be stopping now.** And really that's it. For the people who've just joined the channel, for the people who've been there from the beginning, **I really appreciate it now or more than ever before, so thank you.** I'm still learning but at the same time, **the progress this channel has made in the last three years is crazy and I can't wait to keep creating videos, to keep making those mistakes and to keep getting better every single day.** I've just expanded the team for the first time ever. I've just upgraded our video gear and I'm learning to approach the inevitable difficulties with a slightly healthier mindset. **I think 2019 is going to be a pretty great year.**

1537

#### MDML #78

So, I was born in Torquay on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1990. Roughly here. Now other people seem to think that they had the best parents in the world, but **they're wrong because I do.** Dad was an officer in the Royal Navy, and he worked at the Naval College in Dartmouth, which is where he lived. Mum worked at the Ministry of Defence until I was born but then she took some years off to look after me before she went back to work and did a couple of jobs. Now, we didn't have a huge amount of money as a family, we didn't go on fancy holidays or have fancy things, but **we were happy. I wouldn't have changed it for the world.**

When I was three, we moved to a village called Combe Down just outside of Bath, here. And dad started working away from home. Now sometimes this was in London, so we would see him on the weekends but sometimes he was on ship, which meant we wouldn't see him for weeks or months at a time, so for lot of my childhood it was just mum and me and **I was largely influenced by her, which is great because my mum is ace. I learned to love books and reading from her; I learned to love music.** The big thing which mum did in her spare time is to sing and to sing opera, so I went to a lot of rehearsals - a lot of rehearsals! And from that I guess **I learned to love performers,** not just music but also drama and from that, **I got into films.** From a really young age, I would write scripts and draw concept art and act out scenes from films, but more on that later. I guess the most important thing which mum and dad both gave me was to always be curious and to always ask questions. Neither of my parents went to university but they're both really intelligent. For as long as I can remember, **I was encouraged to learn to read** science books, to watch TV programs like Natural World and Horizon. I remember going to London and just doing the big museums not the normal tourist stuff. **I bloody loved dinosaurs.**

So, at primary school **I was always the keen one,** the one who stuck up his hand to answer the teachers' questions. I was pretty good at most things but not outstanding at anything, but **Maths was by far my least favourite subject. I was much more interested in English and History, which I found way easier. I did get bullied a fair bit** for being the keen one, but **I did have some good friends.** One of them was this kid called Charlie McDonnell. He went on to make a



channel called Charlie So Cool. He was actually pretty big influence later in my life, but I'm getting ahead of myself again. My two best friends were John and Mark. We met in playgroup at age three and we're still really good friends now, at age 24. We went swimming together with our families but the most important thing we did together was Cubs and later Scouts. We progressed through the Scout system together for about ten years and we picked up lots of new friends on the way, notably two guys called Tom and Theo. The five of us formed a core group that did everything Scouts could offer us – we'd do gliding, rock climbing, power boating, hiking in Switzerland, canyoneering. We had a pretty awesome Scout group. You name it, we did it!

The funny thing is though that despite having great friends and the best parents, I remember a lot of my time at primary school being lonely and unhappy. I read a bunch of my old school reports recently which said that I was a happy child, but maybe that was just a performance I'd already started, or maybe my memory's being selective. Things definitely started looking up when I started going to my secondary school. We moved all of eight miles from Combe down to a town called Keynsham, partly to be close to my elderly paternal grandparents and partly to get into the catchment area for Wellsway school. My parents and I had looked around a whole bunch of schools in the area and they decided that they liked the look of Wellsway the best. I was actually later told by my parents that they could have afforded to send me to private school or supported me through uni, and they basically gambled that I'd be clever, so they sent me to Wellsway, which was a state comprehensive. Studying more seriously there suited me right down to the ground and I started being really good at English and Science in particular, but towards the top of the class in basically everything except Maths; I was still really bad at that, though just about in the top set.

I also started getting involved in some extracurricular drama and music, I started playing the alto saxophone, I threw the discus at county level. The disadvantage of going to Wellsway was that I knew no one there. I was only one from my primary school to go and I got to know some of my tutor group really well, and I became good friends with David and Michael, who I walked to school with every day. They lived on my road and it helped that we all played and collected Warhammer. For the emperor! But my best friend was and is John. We met in a situation straight out of a Nicholas Sparks novel. In year 8 we did a house rugby tournament and this lanky ginger kid got crunched in a tackle and laid out on the touchline. Play carried on and it was winter so this kind of began to freeze and he went blue and then purple. I wasn't playing so I went out to my blazer and I help them up to the school nurse so that he could warm up. Because of that we started sitting together in German, we bonded over marking test scores in Roman numerals, then GCSE History and then we just kept going. I love him. He's like the brother I never had. But anyway, getting distracted.

Now, in Year 10, normally kids in my school went on two weeks of work experience at local companies, but I didn't end up doing this because as part of a team from my school, I won a national competition to design a new invention to be used in space. We designed a tent which would be used on the surface of the moon with the imaginative name "team space tent" and generated a breathable atmosphere for the astronauts inside. Winning the competition meant when you spent two weeks in America tour in the Johnson and Kennedy Space Centers, which was absolutely awesome, not least because we got to see the space shuttle land. At GCSE, I got the top results in my school, only because I seemed to do more subjects than anyone else, more than the school would even let me do. I couldn't decide between GCSE History and Geography, as was required by the option blocks, so I just decided to do Geography in my spare time. This meant that I ended up doing 11 GCSEs and I got nine A stars and two As, the two As being in double computing and they still plague me to this day. It was in my GCSEs that I decided I really liked Physics. I wanted to go on to uni and study it. I realised when science split into Biology, Chemistry and Physics that all the cool stuff was in Physics, so that was what I liked. So, I choose my A-levels accordingly. I did Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Geography. Now, my Maths teacher, she was an absolutely inspirational woman called Miss Skyrme, thought that Further Maths was up step too far for me. I'd scraped an A star in GCSE Maths which she also didn't think I could do, and so she reluctantly let me take Further Maths. The subject, particularly the statistics and the pure stuff, really pushed me, but sixth form was when I really came into my own. I was elected head boy, I captained the school debate team, won awards of public speaking, played mixed men's hockey, went on expeditions to the Alps, the Pyrenees and somehow, I also got into Oxford. I applied to Oxford, Durham, Manchester, Leeds and Warwick, and all for Physics, and I managed to get offers from them all, despite having my Manchester interview sprung on me and not even going to my Durham interview, but Oxford was the one that I really cared about. A big influence on me applying was going on the UniQ summer school. I stayed in Magdalen college for a week and loved every bit of it. It was the first time that I thought maybe I could get in. So, I applied to Jesus College and that was partly decided by looking at the research the physics teachers did, which incidentally is a dumb idea - don't choose a college like that. And I basically chose it because it felt like home when I walked around. That, incidentally, is a much better way of choosing. I went up for I think three days of interviews in Oxford. Three interviews at Jesus and one at St. Peters which was the randomly allocated college that I was given when I arrived. They all went pretty well, though my Maths interview at Jesus was one of the scariest things I've ever done. As it turns out, though, Jesus was very oversubscribed for Physics and I just missed out on a place there. Fortunately, however, St. Peters were very happy to take me! Finding out that I got in was one of the happiest moments of my life, though also one of the most stunned. In a sense, it was a huge relief; even though I'd always told myself that I probably wasn't going to get in, I knew that I was going to be really disappointed in myself if I didn't. I also didn't want to let my teachers or my parents down. As it was, I remember how happy mum and dad were. Dad shook my hand and

knew for sure for one of the only times that he was really proud of me. Of course, I still had to meet my three A offer. This was before A stars were a thing, and in the end I got A's across the board as well as passing an open University module on planets I took and getting one of the first ever A stars in a trial for the extended project which I did on manned missions to Mars. So, I became the first member of my family to go to university and the first one in my school to go to Oxford for Physics. Well, we actually had a great year for Oxbridge admissions and instead of sending the normal one or two, we sent four people to Oxford and Cambridge. I was really good friends with them all and I have no doubt that we all spurred each other on to success, particularly my friend Chris who graduated from Merton College, Oxford, with a disgustingly high first and is to this day the smartest person I've ever met.

Going to uni is one of those big changes in life, like every TV show and film tells you that you step into adulthood and you become who you are at uni, and I only really realised the significance of what was going to happen the night before I left, when I was lying in bed looking at all the bags packed on my floor and I realised I wasn't going to be sleeping in my room anymore. Adjusting to Oxford life was something simultaneously easy and tough. I was made to feel so welcomed by everybody in St. Peter's. It really is the friendliest college and instantly felt at home. So that was easy. The hard part was dealing with the work. I'd always told myself that I was going to be at the bottom of the pack of physicists - that I wasn't good enough to be there, and that to counter this, I should work as hard and as constantly as I could. I'd work 60-hour weeks and do nothing but work and see my girlfriend who studied three hours away in Cambridge on the weekends. Nothing else. It was only at the end of my first year that I started to play in the university wind band and to be honest, I think that saved me. It gave me something else to do. An opportunity to not feel like crap about myself and a chance to make music.

Because the thing about working all the time like I did is that it doesn't work. Without something else to anchor your life around, everything slows down and you end up accomplishing less than if you'd allocated half the time and then done something else in your free time. Because of this, I didn't do so great in first year. Admittedly, a third of the year failed, but I take full responsibility for my personal failure. That summer, I stayed in Oxford and I revised and in my resits, I got just under a first and going that was really significant for me. I felt like I beat my personal demons. Things started looking up from there. In my second year I became the manager of my wind band and I took part in the departmental public speaking competition. I also took the teaching physics in schools option and I won the department award for that too. I even got a practical commendation for work in the lab. I got a good 2:1 in 2<sup>nd</sup> year and had loads of enthusiasm for going into third year. I loved the range of modules from particle physics to general activity and in the end of year exams I got just a hair's breadth under a first. And then it all went wrong. After I took my third-year exams, in the space of a weekend, my childhood pet, our beautiful cat Henry, died, and my girlfriend of three years left me. I was absolutely devastated. I was faced with the summer of no work and no girlfriend and basically my life from the past three years had vanished and I had to rebuild who I was because I'd made the mistake of only doing two things and I hadn't diversified my interests.

That summer I was very lucky to get an internship at the Abstract Physics department in Oxford, which I took to work out if a PhD was for me. As a student on a four-year course, I only started to think about my career after my third year. The internship was fantastic for that. It was a good routine to get into. It was a chance to learn new things and some time by myself. It was also important because I became okay with who I was and obviously did that and I got some good work done. But while I was okay with summer, when term started again in October, things got worse. While I did start to socialize more in college and even took a few classes on meditation and yoga, I still worked far too hard and I didn't give myself enough personal time. As the year went on, I became really seriously unhappy. I don't think people realised at the time because I'm very good at putting a brave face on things and not being honest with my emotions, but I also wasn't honest with myself about my situation. I suppose I didn't want to admit that I was struggling because to do so would have been to admit a weakness. I was still functioning though and just about got my problem sheets in, though I seriously struggled. Just see my day in the life video for example. And I applied for some PhDs. I was offered places at Oxford and Reading, and I was over the moon to accept my place at Oxford with a three-year scholarship at Oriel dependent on me getting a 2:1 or above at my degree. I was riding on a good 2:1 and I felt confident no matter what happened I should still get one overall.

However, my depression was starting to get out of control. In the run-up to my exams, I found myself locking myself in cupboards in the library and just crying, sometimes for over an hour. I just didn't know what to do. I couldn't understand what was happening to me. It all culminated when a few days before my exams, I had a full-blown panic attack. At first, I thought it was a heart attack but upon googling symptoms of panic attack, I realised what was going on. It seriously shook me up. I genuinely felt like knowledge had tumbled out of my head and it made me feel like crap. The logical thing to do here of course would have been to tell someone and ask to defer my exams maybe. It was obvious that I was in no fit state to do them, but I didn't. I hinted to a few friends that I was struggling, and I just carried on. I was just too proud to ask for help. The days before I finished my exams were the darkest of my life. I barely slept. I worked all day on things I didn't understand and I started to hate myself so much that I would cut myself. It was horrible, but I did it. And I'm not sure why. Of course, I did terribly in my exams but passed them both, which meant that I still got a degree. Now the requirement to get a 2:1 is to achieve 59.5% average overall. What I got was 59.45%. My PhD supervisor told me that she didn't care and she would take me to the department to get me my scholarship

anyway, but they flatly refused and they pulled my funding. I later found out that she was absolutely furious about this and made a formal complaint to the university. **By the biggest stroke of luck possible** though, while this was all happening, she was at a conference and she mentioned to a colleague the situation. This colleague had a career integration grant from the EU and could take on PhD students while he was in the Maths department at Exeter. We exchanged emails, the college okayed it and I got my place here.

From this point, **everything started looking up**. I moved down to Exeter and I threw myself into student life. I took courses on Advanced Maths and I started doing some original, if for now, guided research; I started lifting weights seriously and I got myself in shape, I joined the A Capella Society because I thought that one of the musical directors was fit and knew lots about gaming and **we've been going out ever since**. I've been busy around the clock with so many different things and **I'm incredibly lucky to have the friends I have**. I moved into a house with three guys from the department and I get to sing almost every day with **some of the best people I know, including my girlfriend**.

But there's a big element of this story missing. "What about YouTube?" I hear you cry. When I applied to Oxford, I tried to find out information about student life by all possible means and one of the things I did was of course to search on YouTube, but I turned up nothing. At that time, only the business school had a channel. Instead, the most useful thing I found was talking very briefly and by email with someone who did Physics via a mutual friend. The personal, honest depiction of student life **really reassured me** and meant **I had no qualms at all about accepting my offer**. After spending a few months at Oxford, I realised that I had a really valuable perspective, not just as somebody on the course but also having talked to the admissions tutors, so I made a video. I used my terrible 4-megapixel camera and I edited it on a machine at the university computing department because I didn't own any editing software. I uploaded it to my channel, and I watched as its views crept up one by one. When I hit a hundred views, **I was so happy**. **I thought I'd really hit it big**. So, I decided to make more videos, seeing that people were benefiting from the first one and I went for my interview questions and I did a Q&A and an FAQ and a video on studying and people somehow kept watching. Eventually I went to St. Peters and said that they should make a YouTube channel, because what I was doing was working and they said, "Okay, you make it!" So, I did. Originally it was only going to be interviews with a few people that on a student perspective I talked about, but it seemed to grow into something much bigger. It went live in 2011 and it changed how many colleges do their access work. Building on its success and trying to find something to do with myself in my fourth year, I hit on the idea of making weekly vlogs to give an honest student perspective on Oxford life and the Oxvlog project was born. It started slowly but especially after I was joined by Jamie, aka Jamie Mills, it grew in size and by the year's end, it amassed hundreds and thousands of fans. I pushed the university to continue the project the next year as a collaboration between undergraduates from across the university but there wasn't much interest, so I created a channel myself and I recruited five amazing students who went on to get over a hundred thousand views and a devoted following. This year we have six students who will take the project even further and **I'm confident** they're going to blaze a trail and universities across the world will follow.

So now I'm at an interesting crossroads. I've always imagined that I would finish my PhD, I'd do a postdoc and I continue down that path as an academic, but now I've done so much media production, hundreds of videos all told, as well as radio and journalism, I find myself drawn down another path. The idea of producing scientific video content whether in an online format like Scishow or Crash Course or on TV **is a very appealing one**. After my doctorate, I will need to make a choice to go in on one path or the other, and right now I honestly don't know which I'll choose. Maybe I'll go down a third path. I've been increasingly thinking about maybe directing a short film. These days **I'm at a really exciting position in my life where I have an awful lot of opportunities presented to me and I'm incredibly grateful for this amazing online community** which has sprung up around the videos which I've done, and **I know no matter what I choose to do in the future will support and be there for me**.

3932

## MDML #79

Hi guys, this is Doug and I'm going to draw my life. Before I was born, my mum was actually expecting a girl, but then on May the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:22 in the morning, in a little town in Sussex, England, out popped a boy - me. **Hopefully my parents weren't too disappointed**. My earliest memories are from nursery, or preschool for you Americans, when I was about three or four. I don't remember a lot. I know it involved a lot of play-doh and specifically squeezing it through a garlic press because it came out all stringy and cool. I moved to my first school when I was four and **I loved it there**. My first teacher was Mrs. Goad. **She was awesome** because she kept a jar of Smarties on her desk and we'd get one if we ever did something good. I remember the first time I got in trouble and had to stand facing the wall. **I felt so bad** like it was the worst thing ever, but I made it through. It was my first or second year at this school that I started having piano lessons - something that I've kept going ever since.

I have one brother who's three years older than me. **We used to fight quite a lot** when we were younger, although he did save my life from a falling mirror once, so I guess **that kind of makes up for some of it**. When I was 8, my mum took me to go see some puppies that had just been born not far from our house. After playing with them for a bit, she whipped out the **biggest and best surprise of my life** and told me we'd be taking one home. We called our new dog

Ralph after a family vote and I'm super lucky that Ralph's still around today. He's still fairly fit and healthy although he's turning 15 in September and I don't know what I'm going to do when he's gone as he's been keeping me company for basically most of my life. School was pretty normal for me and I really enjoyed it for the most part. I was, however, one of my naughty kids and did get in trouble quite a bit. Luckily, I managed to not get suspended, although I think I came close quite a few times. Music was a big part of school for me. I joined the school jazz band when I was 9 and my continued interest in music led me to get a music scholarship which meant my parents did just about afford to keep me there until I was 16. It did mean I had to sing in choir the whole time which I think I used to pretend to hate, but kind of probably secretly loved, although they did make me learn the bassoon for a year so I could join the orchestra which I really did hate. Fortunately, that didn't last long though.

I started my first job when I was 12. I cleaned the golf carts at my local golf club in return for being able to drive them, which I loved, whenever I played, as I was still too young to earn money. I remember some of the kids in my class would laugh at me for having this job, but I never really cared or even understood why as I was proud to be taking on responsibility from such an early age. When I was 14, I moved into the kitchen at the same Golf Club which I also really enjoyed as the chefs are really nice and I probably wouldn't be as good a cook today if they hadn't taught me so much.

Back at school I was more of a Maths and Science boy than English or Humanities and I actually hated English so much that for the whole of year 10 I pretended to have a piano lesson in the middle of one of my English classes, but I'd actually just go to the music school and play the piano for an hour. I don't know how I didn't get caught. I love drama as well and performed in all the plays and musicals I could, including Titanic the Musical which is still one of my favourite musicals to date. At 16 I left my school of 9 years to go to sixth form college, which is kind of like senior high school in America. Whilst I enjoyed the newfound freedom of only having to go in when had classes, it was a pretty average two years of my life as I didn't have loads of fun there. It was, however, the time that I started YouTube. I'd been watching videos on YouTube for about a year or so, but during the summer of 2007, I began to find people just like you or me talking to the camera and uploading to the website.

One of the first people I found was What About Adam? He seemed really cool and interesting and along with my previous love of making little home movies, he actually inspired me to give it a go and upload something of my own. So, I uploaded my first video, a lip-sync to this song I really liked at the time. My second video was a response to Adam in the hope he'd seen my videos. I was lucky enough to finally meet Adam five years later at Summer in the City last year and we've been friends ever since. It was amazing to see those first few subscribers coming in at the pace of a couple a day. It was crazy that people I didn't know were watching and encouraging my videos and it made me so happy. That hasn't changed and I still get excited when I get nice comments on my videos. I still read every single one and always thank you in my head, even if I can't say explicitly to each of you every time.

I worked hard at my A-levels and despite an offer from Cambridge University, I knew in my heart I wouldn't enjoy it there, so I ended up going to Bristol University to study Computer Science. I'd been in love with Bristol after going there the year before to see some YouTubers perform on a live BBC web show, so I guess YouTube had already begun to make a big impact on my life from an early point. Unfortunately, after I started at Bristol, student life took over and I kind of stopped making videos. I guess I still wasn't all that comfortable telling people I make videos in my bedroom for the internet. University did have a big impact on me as a person though, and although it wasn't all easy going, especially when I wondered if Computer Science is even the right choice for me, I wouldn't change it if I had the chance to go back.

Without a doubt, the best part of university was having the opportunity to leave Bristol to study at the University of California in my penultimate year and made some really good friends and had the best year of my life, not only getting to take interesting classes that Bristol didn't offer, but of course getting to travel lots and enjoying the whole American party lifestyle that is so much more fun than a typical night out. Other highlights were going to Coachella Music Festival and having the hottest but most awesome weekend of my life and also spending spring break in Cabo, Mexico.

Coming back to rainy England after the best year of my life was a little bit depressing, but I kept myself busy over the summer holiday and then went back to Bristol to finish my final year at university. It was at Summer in the City last year that I was inspired to start making videos again, although it has been a little bit tough to balance with the workload in my final year of uni. However, I've just graduated with my master's degree, and as you know, I'll be uploading every Sunday for the foreseeable future. I've no idea where I'll be in five years, but I do know I'll be making the most of every opportunity that comes my way, and I look forward to taking you guys along for the ride.

Whether this is the first video of mine you've watched or you've been subscribed for years, I really do want to thank each and every one of you for sitting here right now and joining me along the way. I hope you enjoyed this video as it's been a little bit different to normal. If you did, be sure to give it a thumbs up to let me know and if you're not yet a regular viewer, I hope you'll join me every Sunday for my weekly videos by clicking subscribe. Thanks again and I'll see you again soon. Bye!

## MDML #80

Hello, it's me, The Ukulele Teacher, but you can call me John! I was born all the way back in 1980, in Bournemouth, a sunny seaside town on the south coast of England. It was me, two younger sisters, my mum, my dad, and quite a lot of cats. I love cats, though it turns out I can't draw them very well. When I was very young, I went to stay with my grandparents in London for a couple of days. Oh, hang on a second. It was still 1980-something. I don't think the London Eye was there then. Anyway, they took me to the Natural History Museum, and I became obsessed with dinosaurs for a while. In fact, I went back to the Natural History Museum as a grown-up and that big dinosaur at the front is still there. I was kind of surprised, but I guess it was already 68 million years old, so another 20 years probably isn't that big a deal.

Anyway, a few years later, my parents took us on holiday to Pontins and we had a great time. Two things on that holiday changed my life. One: they had a live band that played live every night and watching them made me really want to learn how to play the electric guitar. And two, one afternoon that they had a wrestling show, and I became fascinated by this. I'll come back to the wrestling later. So, for my tenth birthday, my parents gave me a small acoustic guitar, and I taught myself how to play from a book I bought in WHSmith's. This was pretty cool, but I still wasn't able to rock out like the band I'd seen on holiday, so, after much begging and pleading, they got me an electric guitar for my 12th birthday. I was finally able to rock and roll, and eventually joined a band with some friends at my school. We actually weren't too bad and even played a few gigs. But just as we were starting to get good, it was time for us to go to university, and we all ended up in different parts of the country, so we split up.

I went to Essex University where I lived in a tower block for a couple of years. Even though it was kind of scary living away from home at first, I soon made loads of new friends and it was probably the happiest time of my life so far. For my third year, I went to America and studied at the University of Minnesota. I've loved America my whole life, so this was awesome. That said, it snowed - heavily - for about six months, so I got used to being very cold.

After university, I moved back to Bournemouth for a bit. It's a nice place to live a while, but after being away for four years, it did seem a little bit boring, so I decided to look for a job in London. Yep, this time the London Eye was definitely there. I eventually found one calling people up to try and sell them expensive magazines, but it wasn't very exciting. Luckily, I found a wrestling company nearby and started helping them out as well. This was much more fun. First, they let me put up some posters for them to advertise their shows. Then, they let me help take the ring down at the end of the evening. Then, they let me ring the bell at the beginning and end of the matches. And eventually, they let me MC the shows themselves. This was really exciting for me, so even when my real-life job seemed boring, I was always daydreaming about the next show. Eventually, someone decided to set up a channel on Sky TV dedicated to just wrestling and the company I worked for had their own show, which I was the presenter of. From doing all this stuff, I was able to give up my boring day job - for a bit, anyway - and do lots more announcing work: boxing, cage fighting, wrestling - even a roller derby show. Anything I could get my hands on. I even ended up writing a few pieces for a wrestling magazine, which was one of my life's ambitions. In 2009, I was part of a film called "Wrestling Road Diaries", with Colt Cabana and Daniel Bryan. I followed them around with a camera for two weeks as they drove around America doing shows. This was great fun, and it's pretty good actually. You should check it out.

Even though I was able to give up my main job, I did spend a few months doing subtitles for the videos on a company's website. I won't tell you the name of the company because I added some of my own "special" subtitles and I don't think they've found them yet! Around this time, I did stand-up comedy for a bit. But the less said about that, the better.

Eventually I decided I probably ought to get a real job again. Here I found out that one of my colleagues played the ukulele and some reason I found this really funny. I then found out that he'd put up a video of himself playing the ukulele on YouTube, and I found this really funny. As a joke, I decided to buy a ukulele myself, and put some videos of me on YouTube. I'm not sure why, but it seemed funny at the time. Although I only really made it as a joke and to teach myself how to edit videos, when I checked a few months later, quite a lot of people had watched it and subscribed to the channel and there were lots of requests asking me to do some more. So, I did. Now I have a proper office job, I make ukulele videos, I also present a wrestling show and an MMA show, and I do some subtitles for my friend's motorbike show. But don't worry, Ralph, I haven't put any of my own "special" subtitles in, yet. What else? Well, I go to a ukulele group on Mondays and I like cycling. In the future I'd like to spend more time making YouTube videos and less time in an office. Oh, I'm also going to be in a film about boxing, but I've already filmed my bit of that and it's not coming up for a while, so I won't say anything just yet because I don't want to jinx it. And that's basically it, I think. If there's anything else you want to know, just ask. I'll be back again soon with another lesson. Until then, I love you all and I wish you the best.

1128

## MDML #81

Hi, guys. I am Charlie of Charisma on Command and you voted that I should do this video, so this is Draw My Life, and I really shouldn't have done this myself and you'll see why in just a second. So, I was born in Bucks County,

Pennsylvania, which is a small suburb outside of Philadelphia. My mum was a nurse and my dad was a salesman, but more than that, they were both awesome parents who loved me a lot and any success that I've had in my life is really completely their doing, so I love you mum and dad.

I was the first born and my sister, Jackie, was born two years after me, my little brother Henry was born two years after her and he instantly became my sidekick in trampolining and video gaming and sometimes in beating up my sister when she wouldn't get off the computer so that I could use AOL. I am sorry, Jackie; I swear I'm past that. My childhood was really pretty awesome suburban fare. I loved Ninja Turtles and Power Rangers and playing make-believe and sometimes, I would pretend that this tree in my friend's yard was Zordon and he'd give me missions to go beat up my siblings which I'm pretty sure that they never appreciated so, yeah, I was kind of a pain in the butt as a big brother. When I was six, I spent a month begging for a cat because I loved animals so much. I used to scribble messages on printer paper and then leave them over the house. The most ingenious spot was stuck to the back of the toilet seat so that when my parents went to the bathroom, they would know that I really wanted a cat. Eventually, they gave in and we got this black cat named Jack who was a girl but that was her name and I loved her. I even slept Indian-style so that my legs would make this little bed for her and somehow, I managed not to move the entire night for years on end. She got sick though and died when she was only three, and even though I was only nine, I felt so guilty that I couldn't save her. I felt like I should have loved her more and that feeling of always needing to do more for the people around me really stuck with me and kind of led to trouble later in my life, but I'll get to that.

I was a smart and introverted kitten and as I grew up, my interest shifted to fantasy books like Animorphs, then to RPGs including every single Final Fantasy and all the variants and finally into paintball, which at least was semi social. I almost never made new friends beyond the three or so that I hung out with but in 10th grade, I met this guy named Ben in health class and he liked paintball and RPGs too, so we became best friends pretty quickly.

As I grew into senior year, my interest shifted again; this time to something I knew nothing about - girls. And Ben and I would play video games and discuss who we'd liked but outside of conversation with him, I was so shy. I would have these year-long crushes on girls and never speak to them. Other people noticed me for being so shy which is ironic, I know, and I won the senior superlative for most likely to break out of his shell in college. My other friend won most likely to be President so yeah, we were basically tied. I really did try to break out of my shell when I got to college, and there was this one girl that I had a huge crush on, and this time I stepped way out of my comfort zone and we actually spoke. In fact, we became good friends. After several months, we kissed, though she had to make the first move, and it was the highlight of my life; I thought I was such a stud. I'd already planned how we would be dating and all the things we'd do together so I was happy that it had finally become a reality. But the next time we hung out, we didn't kiss. I was confused and, on her way out, she admitted that she didn't like kissing me; I was bad at it. And she said that I was so nervous around her that I could barely look her in the eyes, which was true and made me immediately stare at my feet. A few days later she had another boyfriend and we stopped talking so much. I felt so stupid and embarrassed and hurt and made a vow to never feel that way again. I decided that I needed to get the heck out of my college town; after all, I hadn't broken out of my shell, I'd made basically two friends in my first year, and now, the girl that I had a crush on was dating someone else.

So, the first chance that I got, I joined a study abroad program. That turned out to be one of the most pivotal decisions of my entire life. When I arrived in Costa Rica, no one knew me and so I could reinvent myself. I spoke to everyone. I'd walk up to people on my college campus, look them in the eye and ask the dumbest questions — anything to just be more social. I said yes to every single invite I got to go anywhere, and I took salsa dancing classes to meet more people. I even managed the courage to ask a girl in my class out and we wound up dating. My schoolwork wasn't the best, but I had a more important project and that was learning to be charismatic. One day, about halfway through the semester, we were out at a karaoke bar and a girl said to me, "Charlie, you are naturally the most confident, outgoing person I've ever met." I was stunned. I told her that, "No, I'd only started being social three months ago," and she didn't believe me. After a year abroad, I came back for one final college semester in the US and it felt like everything had changed — people were responding differently to me, girls were saying that I look good even though I hadn't changed at all physically. One girl that had flat-out rejected me when I asked her on a date was now back-channelling through a mutual friend to let me know that she had noticed me and, I won't lie, that built my ego up quite a bit; I felt special. I felt like a leader, like I was in control. It was wild.

But the real world hit and soon after school, I got a job as a consultant in Washington DC and I was almost instantly miserable. My work consisted of spreadsheets and PowerPoint presentations and meetings about things that I just really didn't care about. Every morning when I got up and put my suit on, I felt like a fraud, like I was living the one precious life I had doing something that wasn't meaningful to me. Now, don't get me wrong; my co-workers and bosses were all very nice people and they even liked me, despite the fact that I obviously wasn't fully engaged. But I missed the adventure of traveling abroad, I missed learning about things I cared about, and I missed my best friend. Ben, who was in New York City and putting in 16-hour days at an investment bank. But a book came to the rescue, and that was The 4-Hour Workweek. When Ben and I read it, we instantly saw a way out of the corporate climb that was going to be our futures. All we had to do was start a successful business and that is something neither of us knew anything about, so easy peasy, and that's how BCX Parkour was born. We made a DVD teaching people how to learn parkour and it

worked. People were buying it, but it still wasn't enough money to support me and **I was slowly losing my mind** in DC. **I wanted to be** in the same city as Ben so that we could grow our side business, but I couldn't afford to just quit my job, so **I tried something bold**. I asked the president of my company if I could just not come into work anymore. I told him how I was feeling in DC and I asked if I could do remote work from New York where Ben lived. **I was shaking** because this was a ludicrous request from someone who hadn't even gotten a single promotion at the company. Shockingly though, he said yes.

So yeah, I made a ludicrous request and got a life-changing answer, **thank you so much** to both Leto and Raj for that. I spent the next five months sleeping on Ben's floor, **happy as a clam to be reunited with my best friend**. Our parkour business pattered around making a little bit of money, but **our hearts weren't in it**. We didn't really care about parkour and **we were having too much fun just hanging out with one another**. And then **the rug got pulled out from under me**; my company let go of everyone that wasn't a full-time office employee which was corporate lingo for Charlie-no-longer-had-a-job-or-income and that created crossroads in my life. I was now unemployed with a struggling side business. Would I scramble to find another job, or would I do something else? I thought back to how I felt putting on that suit every morning and the answer was clear. **Even if it cost me everything, I was all-in on this entrepreneurship thing**. But given how BCX Parkour went, I knew my only chance of success was if I made my business about something that I loved, **which terrified me**. Failing at parkour, that was one thing. **But failing at something I loved, I felt like that would rip me apart**. So, with my finances dwindling, **desperation finally kicked in and I just started**.

Because **I had personally become more confident** and seen success in my relationships with women, I started helping other guys to learn the same thing and I began sharing dating tips on different forums with my new business being named Kickass Academy, which **I thought was the coolest name ever**. Now, to make some cash, I held an in-person class on how to get a date by meeting a girl in the park and I know it's cheesy, but that was the only thing that existed back then - dating coaches. The idea of teaching charisma or confidence really wasn't out there. So, I posted it online and I gave away five seats to my class. I charged 15 bucks for the remaining five seats and we, last minute, I swear, we sold out. And after paying for the room and splitting the money with Ben, who taught the class with me, we each made 18 bucks. It wasn't much but **it felt amazing to make any money doing something that I cared about and even better**, there was this 19-year old Australian kid who stuck around after class. He loved what we were doing, and he offered to help in any way that he could. We said, "Sure," and our first fan actually wound up becoming a business helper and **one of my best friends**; he wound up dropping out of college and traveling the world with us, but I'm getting ahead of myself. You see, **Ben and I had this dream. It was bigger than just running our own business; we wanted to live on the beach in Brazil with our best friends and we wanted to do work that we loved, to never have to wear a suit again and to become the best versions of ourselves while we had a blast doing it**. So even though Kickass Academy was getting clients in New York, the answer was clear. As soon as Ben's full-time work contract ended, we'd leave our clients, our income, and our families behind to move to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. But we would take our friends, because when we started telling people about this dream, some of them got super excited. Benji, the Australian guy who came to our first class didn't even hesitate; he dropped out of college with basically no money and didn't even tell us how tight he was. He couldn't afford a mattress, so he slept on this box spring for the first month in Brazil and somehow, he convinced all of us that he didn't mind it, saying, "It's good support for my back, mate!" Sorry for the terrible Australian accent, Benji. All in all, seven other people left jobs, school and their lives behind to come live with us in Rio. **It was a blast**. We played football on the beach, we set up house-work sessions to do our business, and we were always exploring for fun parties. Our new housemates even gave us a huge business tip - kill the name Kickass Academy; it sounded like a lame martial arts dojo. **Ugh**. I knew that they were right, so I had to give in; Kickass Academy was done. We also started focusing on more than just dating, since **our real interest was in confidence** that permeated all aspects of life - the type of confidence that inspired us to quit our jobs in the first place. So, with that, Charisma on Command was born.

Now, **Brazil wasn't all roses**; I was pretty tight on cash after quitting my job and firing all the clients in my new business, so to save money, I survived off of eggs, weight gainer powder, and acai bowls, which made me really grossly sick. I'm going to spare you the details even though **they make me crack up today**. To make rent, I had to Airbnb my tiny room and sleep on the couch but even that wasn't enough. Within a few months, I had to face the truth — I was failing as an entrepreneur, again. Charisma on Command wasn't covering my bills and I was facing the prospect of the dreaded suit if I didn't do something. **In that desperation**, I realised that I needed a way to impact more people. Now, I was doing Skype-coaching at the time but that was just one person at a time. And on a per-hour basis, it was more than our younger fans could afford. So, I took everything that I knew, and I packaged it into a video course — the first time I'd ever done anything like that. I called it Charisma University which is very grand, I know, and I was so close to having zero dollars in my bank account that I had to ask 25 of our biggest fans to pay for the course before it was even done. **Luckily, they trusted me enough that they took a chance on me**. Overnight, I had enough money to pay my way through Brazil without Airbnb-ing my room and **that was a huge success**, and because **I wanted to do such a good job for the fans that supported me**, I wound up creating a video course that is the core of our business to this day - no motivation like desperation, I guess.

We spent the next three years travelling Brazil, Colombia, Vancouver, Las Vegas; **it was amazing, and I was finally able to afford rent, finally**. I assumed that this would be my life — a modest business in **an industry that I'd loved**

funding a lifestyle that wasn't extravagant, but it was full of freedom; I had it made. Then, one day, I was just clicking around and I wound up on this old YouTube video that I put up back when I was shooting Charisma University on the effectiveness of Bill Clinton's eye contact. It was the one that I happened to put up on YouTube just for the sake of it and when I glanced at the view counter, I was shocked. It had 100,000 views without me even realising it, so I thought, "Hmm, maybe this side project needs to become the main project." I did a video on Conor McGregor, then Trump, then Game of Thrones, and we started getting millions of views each month and our modest business exploded. Not only did it completely change my finances, but it opened my eyes to the magnitude of the impact that I could make if I used YouTube as a platform.

Now, it was around this time that I started dating a girl and I swear, I fell for her so hard. Like, I was obsessed, and she felt the same way. When we weren't in the same city, we were on the phone for several hours a day and eventually, she just moved abroad with me. We had this intense connection that was phenomenal, and I've never felt anything like it. At this point, I really thought I had it all figured out because I had everything. I mean I had the friends, the girlfriend, the successful business that I loved... I had achieved my dream and then some. I would never feel those feelings of sadness or rejection again and I was like, "Okay, cruise control from here to 90 years old because you have done it, my man."

What a joke, because our relationship had issues and our mutual obsession only served to cover those up. After a few years, we broke up and I was sadder than I've ever been, which is crazy because after years of work, I had finally achieved my ultimate dream. I was living with my best friends, running a business that I loved, affecting millions of people... how could I be sad? But I was. I was so upset that I couldn't sleep at night and as thankful as I am for the many things that I learned from my ex, the biggest gift that she gave me was that sadness, because it forced me to take an honest look at myself. I realised that I'd spent years focused on the outer world — the charisma, the confidence, the friends, the girlfriend, the business — all wonderful things. And I thought that I had created the circumstances that would make it so I never felt the pain of rejection again, but here I was feeling something even worse. And so, I had no choice, really, but to look inward, so I grieved. I flat out cried for the first time in a long time and I faced the feeling of not being enough - that I'd run from ever since I was a shy introvert getting rejected way back in high school. I confronted the guilt that had driven me since I was six years old when my cat died and heck, maybe it had even been there before that. This was not a fun experience, but on the other side of it, there was this feeling of peace. I don't know that I can do it justice here but I feel more integrated — more in balance with myself — kind of like there was this background fear of being alone that got instilled in me from those early rejections and now I'm just not really afraid of it. I've more embraced an idea that has always served me well: no matter what happens, I'll be okay.

So here I am - the beginning of 2018, 30 years old, living in Santa Monica, California - and I don't want me ending this video to give you the impression that I am done with my journey. Truthfully, I've never felt like I had so much to learn and discover about myself and the world, which is awesome. In terms of what the future might look like, well, I have a vision of Charisma on Command that is beyond just YouTube - I dream of having in-person centres across the nation where an amazing community can get together all in one space to practice those important life skills that most schools just don't teach. I see it integrating with our current online program so that you can have the benefit of a community to push you through those big hurdles, but also simple reminders in your normal life to help make those improvements unthinking habit no matter where you are. It's going to be a multi-year journey but keep an eye out for that. And if you're curious about joining Charisma University today, we would love to have you so I'm going to put a link in the description where you can learn more, if it's your cup of tea. I'm also taking singing lessons and while you won't see any of that on this channel, you can keep track of that on my Instagram if you're interested, @charliehoupert. Perhaps another multi-year journey, I don't know where it's going, but I am enjoying the ride on that one as well. No matter what the future holds though, I cannot wait to share more of it with you guys. Knowing that any breakthroughs I have could potentially positively impact millions of people makes me feel like the luckiest guy in the world, so thank you for watching and thank you for learning alongside me. I hope that you enjoyed this video and I'll see you in the next one.

3602

## MDML #82

Hey bobbleheads! Muyskerm here and welcome to my hundred and fifty thousand subscribers special. In this video I'm going to be doing a draw my life, but first I wanted to just do an intro and talk to you guys. It's been a whirlwind. I just started my channel. I know I've been around on Markiplier's channel doing drunk Minecraft and other stuff for a while, but I feel like I have just started YouTube and, and everything was crazy at the beginning. Took off like crazy, continues to take off like crazy and 150,000 people is an unbelievable number of people. I mean, I was thinking about it the other day. I think I tweeted about it - that's more than like a football stadium full of people or a soccer stadium or whatever, whatever kind of stadium, that is a ton of people. I can't believe it. It's still shocking to think about, but it's so awesome and I just want to, I know everyone says thank you a lot, and I, I did for a long time. I said thank you like every five minutes, like for every three subscribers I got I said thank you and I haven't done a vlog in a while so I haven't said it in a while, but I still think it all the time. Thank you guys so much for subscribing and commenting and



tweeting at me and everything. Telling your friends, whatever. Everything that you do. Sharing my channel or, or communicating with me on my channel. Telling me what I could do better or worse or whatever, it helps me. It makes my day. Some days, that's the best part of my day, so just thank you so much. I can't think of a more eloquent way to say it - I wish I could, but it's unbelievable and so as a way of saying thank you, I guess, I'm going to do a draw my life. A lot of people have asked me about this. I guess it's a very popular thing for YouTubers to do, and honestly, my life is not that outstanding. I haven't done, you know, I haven't done anything crazy, nothing horribly tragic or ridiculously, you know, crazy has happened to me in my life. I've had a lot of blessings and I've had a generally pretty good life but lots of people have asked and continue to ask, and so just to let you guys know a little bit more about me and how I got here, here we go.

I was born in Michigan. I was actually born in a town called Lake Orion, Michigan, and I lived there just for a few years before my family moved to Columbus, Ohio, so I am from Michigan and all my family's from Michigan. I don't remember much from my childhood except that I started gaming at a very young age. I remember very vaguely, I think I remember mostly because I've been told, but my dad used to sit with me in his lap and play his NES and, we actually, I think we still have the NES at my parents' house. Had classics like Duck Hunt and Mario and, I mean, he would just sit and play and, and, you know, I would sort of just sit there and do whatever babies do, but it got me hooked on video games at a very young age.

The next part, I got to be honest, is a little fuzzy. From my very young childhood through about middle school, I don't remember too much. I know I played soccer, played football and I did some stuff. I didn't have a whole lot of friends. And that was about it. But then we come to middle school. I did not particularly enjoy middle school. I played football for my school which was a cool experience, but I didn't really get along with the guys on the team. They were sort of the stereotypical athlete, jock guys and I was the fat kid on the team so I got picked on quite a bit for that and they, you know, we just didn't get each other. I was always more creative, let's say. That sounds, that sounds positive, but the guys on the team and me just did not get along. We'll leave it at that. My real friends in middle school, however, gave me some of the best times and some of my best videogame memories of my entire life. We had a whole group of dudes. It was all guys, but we would all, whenever we could, as much as possible, we would get 4 Xboxes, 4 TVs, a router or a bridge of some sort, a bunch of land cables and as many guys as we could get, and we would just have all-night raging land parties. We would literally have like dinner on a Friday night after school, we would all get together, have some dinner, grab all the stuff, go to whoever's basement we were doing it in, and just set up and game all night, through the night. Usually we would be done in the afternoon on Saturday or dinnertime even on Saturday, when we were all just like sweaty and covered in Cheetos orange powder, and just be so exhausted that we passed out and then we would wake up and, you know, sleep it off on Sunday, go back to school. But those nights were some of the craziest and most fun that I had as a kid. I loved the land parties. I still love a good land party. It's harder to do as you get older, so the land parties were great, but as everyone grew up, we all got older, year by year. You know how it goes. The land parties eventually stopped. I still loved video games and I played video games, but a lot of the guys who would spend their weekends playing land parties when they got a little bit older spent their weekends with their girlfriends or with their travel soccer team in another city or, you know, everyone just got more diverse interests and, and the group dwindled and the land parties were sort of over.

And as everyone else moved on, either by choice or because I had to, I moved on and I decided at some point between middle school and high school, that I wanted to be a football player. For those of you who've seen pictures of me, I look like a football player. I'm a very huge dude, have big, broad shoulders and I just decided I was going to be a football player. I was going to play football at the University of Michigan - great school. Go blue! And then become a left tackle in the NFL, in the NFL, and play pro football and it was going to be sweet, you know, I didn't want to be like a quarterback or anything. I don't like being the, the star that does all the fancy. I just wanted to be like a pro offensive lineman, no big deal, how hard could it be? And that was my plan. And that was kind of life for the first part of high school. I had football and the guys on the team. I still didn't really get along with them but, you know, I loved football. I tried my best but the other thing that I had, other than football, was the internet. I remember spending so much time on the internet. I had a blog. I believe I had a Xanga if you're familiar with what that is, and I wrote my, in my blog all the time about all of my angsty emotions and everything that was going on, and, and I made some friends in the bloggyverse, just commenting on each other's blogs and, and I remember I used to go onto this one site that was like a role-playing forum and I was in this one subforum that was a was like a bar, and an inn for vampires. I know it's nerdy but those guys accepted me as I was, and we had some fun times. Everyone would just come hang out and we would think up all these adventures and, and, they were my friends. They were my internet friends. They understood me better than most of the people in the real world around me did. So those guys were my friends through high school and that was it. That was life. Football and Internet.

And everything, all of that, changed dramatically one day when I had an accident at football practice and wrecked my right shoulder pretty bad. I, my arm didn't fall off or anything crazy, but I slipped and I fell in a way so that almost all of the muscles and tendons on like the front half of my right shoulder were damaged and torn or, you know, damaged enough that it hurt and I had to wear a sling on my arm and every time I tried to play football after that, even after I gave myself a while to recover, it hurt like crazy and it was just never as strong. It was never right, so I had a choice at

that point. I could either go through the physical therapy and the pain of trying to get my shoulder go back to where it was. Potentially have surgery to fix it, was what the doctor told me the last time I went, or I could move on from football and find something else to devote my time to. When I thought about it, I ultimately decided that I should do something with my time where I liked the people that I was spending time with as much as I liked the activity itself, so I picked a totally new, you might think random direction, and I went with music.

Now, I had been playing musical instruments since middle school. I started playing trombone and I played tuba in the, in the, band but when I quit football, I devoted basically all of my time to music. I joined as many music groups as I could. I was in school jazz band. I was in a regional jazz band, and we, you know, we played around Ohio, different places. I was in an English-style brass band with all brass instruments, and we played a lot of really epic sounding brass music, and I just really did anything that sounded fun as much as I could. I had rehearsals, like, every day of the week. I mean every day in school we had jazz band rehearsal and band rehearsal and then after school I would have private lesson, or I would have another rehearsal, or I would have a performance or whatever, and I loved it, and I still love music. And when I graduated from high school, I decided to stick with what I was doing, and I went to university for a music education degree. I decided that I would go to the University of Cincinnati. They have a fantastic, unbelievably good, college Conservatory of Music there and, and I went for it, and was not quite what I had imagined. After two hard years, took me two years to realise that, as much as I love playing music and it's fun, there is a whole 'nother level of passion that it, that is required to really make music your life. There are a lot of sacrifices and a lot, of a lot of hours and days and weeks of your life you have to devote to practicing and getting better if you want to get anywhere as a musician. And I love music, but I just did not have it in me, so ultimately, I switched out of the music school and I ended up graduating from the University of Cincinnati with a degree, a bachelor's degree, on Organisational Leadership.

And as luck would have it, even after I switched out of the music school, I actually got to perform the coolest thing possibly that I've ever done. I was in a great Cincinnati band called the Cincy Brass. It's like a New Orleans style funk band and it, it was really fricking cool, you, well, even though there were some struggles and music school was a hard time for me and it was hard to drop out, because it, you know, it felt like I was giving up on this big dream that I had, despite all of those tough memories, they are entirely overwhelmed by the most important thing and the best thing that has ever happened to me and that is my wife, Mandy. If I had not gone to music school at University of Cincinnati, I would never have met her, and I don't know where I would be today without her.

The first time that I saw Mandy, we, it was actually at a Halloween party and she was a flapper and I was a 1920s mobster, so we matched perfectly. We should have known that very night that we belong together, you know, that's fate or whatever was trying to tell us, but took me almost a year to get up the courage to ask her out after that night. Don't ask me. I guess I'm just a wuss, but when I did eventually ask her out, we fell in love so fast, and the rest is history. I mean I shared a lot with you guys about the wedding this past summer and we've done some streams together, Mandy and I have, so hopefully you've seen her, and you've seen how awesome she is. But she is everything to me.

So, right about the time that Mandy and I got together and we're falling in love, Mark, my friend Mark started doing YouTube, and there was some other stuff that happened while I was in college. I was roommates with Mark, that's where we met. We've talked about that a lot, and I, you know, Mark and I had some fun times, gotten up to some shenanigans. Lots of fun stuff, but you guys have been here since then. That brings us up to basically the point where I got on YouTube, so I'm sure there are a lot of details that I could have gone into that I'm forgetting or that you might want to know that I didn't talk about, so please in the comments, if there are any huge gaps, huge glaring mistakes that I've left in the story, you can ask me and I will try to respond. I, I suspect there will be a lot of comments on this one, so it might take me a while, but I'm going to try and look through the comments if you have any questions. Yeah, I mean, just, even while I was doing that, while I was reading my little script there, I'm still a little bit out of breath at the idea that there are 150,000 plus subscribers to the YouTube channel right now. It's a lot of people. It's really cool and you guys have been there for my previous charity streams and you've been there when I've done streams with Mark and Wade, but we're going to do even more in the future. I know I've been busy with school and I haven't done a stream this month, which is kind of a let-down to myself, but I have plans to do more streams. When I can find the time, I want to give cool stuff for you guys to buy, cool charities for us to support, and the more subscribers there are, the more bobbleheads there are, the more good we can do, the next time I do a stream. So it's exciting, it's a little terrifying to have that many people who, who, you know, watch me make a fool of myself, but I just can't say, I can't express in words how grateful I am to have this, this opportunity in this position in the world, and how excited I am at, you know, the opportunity that presents for us all to work together and come together and do great things.

So anyway, I hope that you enjoyed that. I hope you don't laugh too hard at my horrible, horrible drawing abilities. I am not an artist. I don't even know if I ever took an art class. I think I weaselled my way out of that when I was in school, so I, I apologize, but you know, the story, story hopefully kept it interesting. Thank you guys one more time. 150,000 is unbelievable. This has been Muyskerm and I will see you in the next one.

2815

### MDML #83

Hi, I'm Sam Tucker and welcome to my life. I've been a bit reluctant to do one of these draw my life videos, because all of those seemed to have a really happy ending where the person telling the story has achieved all their dreams and everything's looking up Milhouse, and I don't feel I'm quite there yet, but then again, I thought, hey, that's probably kind of relatable so, so here we go.

I was born in Victoria, Australia, and I'm the youngest of three brothers and the shortest, hammit. Now for me, primary school was the best. I used to love inventing worlds and drawing cartoons. Oh look, there's my character Kevin. Oh man, you got Space Kevin, Cool Cat Kevin, Ching Chong, no, don't worry. And I had a best friend and he'd make characters too, and we'd have sleepovers, play PlayStation, then go into town and play trading card games. Anyone remember Machination? No? And it was in primary school that I got my first taste of being on stage. I had a small part in a school play, it was called Seven Seas and it was the longest, most boring play you could imagine, but I had a part and it was wicked. And I remember stuffing up my lines on the first night, but when I recovered, the audience cheered, and they were on my side. It was awesome. And at the end of primary school we had a big party and it was pretty out of character for me, but that night, I just let go and had a hell of a time dancing and having fun. I think it's the only party that I've ever enjoyed, but more on that later.

At 12 years old it was time for high school, and high school, well, it was a little less fun. To start off, no one I knew was going to the same high school that I was, and on top of that, I was homesick for the first few days while everyone else was kind of teaming up. So right at the start, I felt like a bit of an outsider, trying to work my way into other people's friend groups. I did eventually make some friends, and were pretty cool, but I never had another best friend like I did in primary school. One thing I found weird was everyone seemed like they were trying to act more grown up all of a sudden now that they were in high school. There was no more drawing silly characters or running around having an imagination. Now it was all just standing and talking or sitting and talking about boring things like the real world. My favourite subject though was Media Studies. We watched movies in class and learned about cameras and editing and filmed little movies of our own and sometime during high school, I got another taste of presenting when I read out a poem I won for being so cool, and when I was introduced, the guy said, "And here is Sam to read out her poem". Huh, so I stroll up and say "Ah, thank you, thank very much. It's "his" by the way". Oh Sam, you dog, the crowd loved it.

Anyway, later in high school, the people I hanged out with, I guess, felt they had to feel even more grown up, and started to get a bit weird. Like one guy would just carry around a knife in his pocket. Like, what? And one time when I showed him the characters I made in primary school, he said that they, they looked like dick and balls, so I broke away from that group and I never really made any strong friendships after that. Like, it's kind of embarrassing to admit, but during lunch sometimes with no one to kind of hang around, I'd just kind of do laps around the school and waited for the bell to ring. That's sad.

Anyway, after graduating high school, I enrolled in University for a Bachelor's Degree in Business because I've always wanted to make money. And I met some pretty cool people while I was there, but then again, I never really hung out with anyone outside of class or assignments because I kind of didn't know how. Like, where do you go? What do you do, and for how long? Probably stupid questions, but I liked how uni and work had kind of rules around it. Like, you'd hang out until you finished your assignment or you'd chat at work until your break was over and while I'd always been shy, I think now I'd become guarded and I never really trusted anyone enough to just relax and be myself, open up at all. There might be a reason why I like performing so much, because, because on stage, I'm in control. It's like a one-way thing where I show people my good side and what I'm good at, and rather than people asking any personal questions, they, they just clap.

So, I graduated university, like a wizard, and started to wonder what to do with my life. I was still working at the job I picked up in high school. It was pretty cushy. I mean, my main job at the time was just to say hi to customers. Some people suggested that I take my business degree and work in head office, but I did some work experience there as part of my uni course and I just didn't really like the over serious stuffy corporate atmosphere which is probably what a lot of big companies have, and I thought, well, if I was just going to work for the money, I might as well stay where I want. But of course, the endless nine-to-five cycle, or, for me, the one to 9:15 cycle, started to take its toll, and I began to feel frustrated and stuck and filled with a sense that I was made for more than this.

So, one day, while observing the information superhighway, I came across a little site called YouTube. The one that I knew about and everyone knew about, I mean, it's freaking YouTube, come on, and I stumbled upon a Minecraft video by Tom Mastocks, and I was amazed. This guy had managed to make Minecraft interesting. Impossible! So, after watching a few more of his videos and finding out a bit more about how YouTube worked, I realised that this guy was making a living out of making funny videos, something that I love doing. So, one day, I just did it. I bought some lights, borrowed some green fabric from mum - thanks mum! - and filmed the first ever Sam Time News, a comedy show about gaming news. And that's why my URL is Sam Time News by the way - because Sam Time was taken by someone else, possibly me, and I just forgot the code. The first time that someone subscribed to me, who wasn't my cat or my

mum, **blew my mind**, and I remember reaching the milestones of 44 subscribers, **my favorite** number, and a hundred subscribers, three digits, but after a while of making videos, things started to seem a bit slow and I realised that my dream of making this my life was a mountain, a big mountain. Then, about a year in, I made a video called How to Fake Piano Skills, and it blew up! **I was bragging to everyone** at work that I had 16,000 views - more than I'd ever had, and later in the day with my brother at a hundred thousand views. And as it crept up to the 1 million mark, **I was feeling this incredible buzz that my dream was becoming a reality** and **that's when I made a rash decision – fortune favours the bold; I quit my job**.

I was going to live my dream and do YouTube full-time and that was the exact time when everything started to plateau on the channel. It's like the world was telling me, "No Sam, this, this isn't it for you" and, and **it sucked**, but after struggling to make it work and even getting a government grant in one stage that helped for a while, I started to shift my focus away from just the bare numbers and started to think about why I make funny videos. And I think it's about **rediscovering that good stuff from primary school, when you're just a kid with endless imagination, having fun, doing ridiculous things, inventing world and making characters and I found a kind of heart-warming** and a little crazy that people were into this whole weird funky world, as well. And more funky monkeys are joining every day. I mean, the channel just hit 44 again, times a thousand. Still got a long way to go, both on YouTube and also personally, just **trying to be comfortable being myself**, but **don't feel like I'm invisible anymore**, just, just walking around the schoolyard. **And it's all because of you. Thanks for being there everyone and thanks for staying funky**. And that is my life without knowing what my life was. Okay, cheers everyone, and this is SamTime saying stay funky. SamTime signing off. Subscribe today.

1553

#### MDML #84

What is going on in munchkins? I'm TrollMunchies and **thank you so much** for stopping by. Welcome to draw my life. This is a long-awaited video that I've been trying to do, but it's been set back and set back and set back because I had never had the time to get a dry eraser board, but I figured let's go ahead and do Microsoft paint, so that's what I'm doing, so **excuse me for my horrible, horrible skills**. **I really do appreciate that, but I just want to say thanks from the bottom my heart**, but let's go ahead and jump right into it.

It all started on July 8<sup>th</sup> 1990, and I was born in Springfield, Illinois, and a lot of people are wondering if I still live there, and I don't, I don't really know too much of my childhood, just because, you know, from the age of zero to five essentially I don't remember anything and that's because the memories that I had in my past are very faint and we'll go ahead and get more into it. But like I said, July 8<sup>th</sup> in 1990 was when I was born. If you guys didn't know, I actually have a twin, which is crazy, yeah. I have a twin and **I love him to death**. His name is Casey and yeah, we were both adopted actually. We were adopted at the age of five and that's why, that's why I said I didn't know too much about my childhood and the memories that I had, but I remember, you know, getting picked up and it was the most bizarre thing ever, because I didn't know what was going on, and my mum and dad, who, my mum, I've never met before in my life and that I don't remember, and my dad, who I've met a couple times essentially, they said that they can no longer provide for me, and it's just bizarre. I didn't know it and I didn't understand it at that age. I thought I was just going on a trip, but now, looking back to it, is **probably one of the greatness moments of my life just because the life that I have now is amazing. I love my mum to death**, and **she's taken care of us from, you know, since day one**. And **she's the best mum in this world**. And yeah, we were five. Oh, it was crazy, just because, like, everything was going on, you know, just a blur and, you know, what she tried to do? Since we didn't really do anything, you know, we were in poverty and stuff like that, it was just crazy, so what my mum decided to do is get us into sports. And what other way to get into sports is the swim team? But first we had to do Swim A Lap, and we're taking swim lessons and we had a Swim A Lap and it took us forever! It took us literally a couple hours just to swim one lap down and it's really hard at that age, especially not stopping and holding onto the lane, so **that was really exciting and I just remember, you know, just having a blast with that**, and then, so, since we joined the swim team, you know, it was only for a certain amount of the season, so my mum's like, "You should do soccer", so **just remember going beast mode on soccer and scoring all of these goals**. I soon joined in Park District team and club team and, you know, I did a whole bunch of stuff. I did ODP which is Olympic Development Program, and I made the Junior Olympics in swimming. **It was all awesome** and then we moved to Florida, and **I didn't have any friends**. I, I remember all my friends growing up, you know, from home establishing **a cool group that I was with** called the Wilcox team. I was leaving them, and **it wasn't a very happy time for me**. My mum wanted to move. She had met a guy and she went down there and things didn't go so well. **I didn't have a lot of good friends. I actually didn't have any friends and I had to get picked on. I had to get bullied on**. A girl, I remember a girl was roller-skating in, rollerblading, in the suburbs and this girl didn't like me. **She picked on me all the time** on the bus, and, you know what she did? She threw a bottle of French dressing all over me. **It wasn't very fun. I cried all the way home**. I just rushed all the way home. And I don't know why she did that to this day, but **I remember that memory was just forever in my heart. I can't believe anybody would do that to anybody**. I don't know about you, but **that sucked for me**.

So, things weren't going well, but I was doing really well in school. Since I didn't have any friends, I didn't have anything to do, so it focused my time, and soon enough I actually got the highest grades ever. Got all As and one B. I became the most improved student in the middle school and in Florida, and then, so we moved back. After one year of going there, we moved back and I went back to Peoria, Illinois, to high school and I had so many friends. I was so popular, and it was the greatest time ever. I had a lot of friends, sports, I did. I was captain of the soccer team and track team, and I just remember all these members that we had, we did really well. The track team, we always were undefeated and conference, I was undefeated in the 800, did well in the mile, and so after high school, I got a cross-country scholarship to a junior Community College called ICC Illinois Central College. I went there, had a blast and the only thing is, it wasn't really fun and wasn't my really cup of tea. I met a girl there and she was the love of my life. We dated for two years at ICC and she decided to break up with me and I became, you know, really depressed and, you know, lonely. I just can't believe, you know, that it ended like that, and I didn't know what to do, so I went to Illinois State for half a semester, which was a four-year university to study Information Technology. I left that. I started working in cell phones. I started working for a company called I Mobile, which is a company for Sprint. I did phenomenal. I thought that was my good thing to do. I was very good at it, and then, I also did gym on the side. I thought, you know, since my girlfriend broke up with me it was because I was too skinny, so I start lifting and started watching YouTube videos and watching Barthel Fitness and that's how I got into the whole YouTube thing. Barthel Fitness. I remember working out and trying to get big, and he'd recommend all these supplements, start taking keratin, all this stuff.

So the job that I had for Sprint, I remember going to California for the job in September of 2012, I believe, and I went out there and it happens that Barthel Fitness was out there, my boy JR, and we talked in Santa Monica at the Muscle Beach gym - the world's famous gym out there. And he was like, "You know what, Cody?" He said, "You know, if I can do this, so can you". So, I started doing it and I start playing Xbox and I started a fitness Channel and it was poorly, so I deleted it. But I was playing video game, video games, in the meantime and I wanted to look up this, this glitch that everybody was doing on MW2 and while looking in the search engine, I found D-4. D-4 was so funny to me, his shoutcasting was so funny. I figured if he could do that, I know I could do it. I think, I could do shoutcasting way better than him, so I started to get my algato, I made my first ever videos and then, you know, maybe a couple months later, got partnered by Yao and then Minnesotaburns, Jimmy, Nice Trip Knives, everybody. And I met those guys and my whole life changed. I mean, now I'm doing YouTube, meeting all my friends and from YouTube, I mean, a bunch of fans, going to events, going to MLG, partnering with Team Caliber - you guys are crazy. You guys are amazing, and I really do appreciate that. Follow your dreams. That's one thing I got to say is this whole ride, this whole journey, it's just the beginning, and without you guys, I'm nothing. So, I just want to say this is awesome. I'm still working, I still have YouTube, still in the cell phone business and I just want to say thank you. And never ever give up your dreams. If you ever start something, don't ever quit it. Always finish something out. But I want to say thanks so much for stopping by. If you guys didn't know who I am, my name is Cody, 23 years old, and I love life, and I'll talk to you guys later. Peace out.

1591

#### MDML #85

Hey you guys! So, I'm here to do this draw my life video that everyone seems to be doing and I figured I might as well use my whiteboard for something. So, let's draw my life.

So, it all started when my parents moved from the Philippines, which is in Southeast Asia, to America, and they actually moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to be exact. And a cool story is that I was actually with them because my mum was actually pregnant with me while she was on the plane to America. So yeah, that's pretty awesome. My mum actually had a hard time giving birth to me and she couldn't actually deliver me the normal way, so the doctor stated that he should give her a c-section which is basically cutting open her stomach, and I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 21<sup>st</sup> 1991. I was a big baby. I was about nine and a half pounds and, you know, just all sorts of sexiness.

The only thing I actually really remember about Philadelphia was that we lived in a condo. I lived with my parents, obviously me and my grandparents from my mum's side. And the next thing I knew, I had a baby brother. I don't even remember my mum being pregnant! And she had a c-section with him as well, so, my poor mum! It snowed a lot in Philadelphia, and I remember being bundled up in like thick jackets all the time, going outside to play in the snow, but I didn't really like the snow.

Eventually we had to relocate because my dad's job offered him a new position down here in Houston, Texas. Growing up, I had this skin condition called eczema which basically meant my skin was really, really sensitive and I would scratch all over the place and then eventually I'd scratch really hard to the point I would be bleeding everywhere. It was not cute, and so I had it all over my body. On my hands, arms, legs, even the corners of my mouth and the other kids would make fun of me because, you know, I looked funny and I had all these rashes all over my face and hands. I was in day-care once. After I finished changing, my day-care teacher looked at me and she noticed the rashes and she was concerned. She was like, "Do your parents beat you?" and I was like, "What the hell are you talking about, lady?"

and because of this, the kids would make fun of me in like elementary school and with that, I became really, really shy and quiet.

A couple of years later my mum had an announcement that she was pregnant with a little girl, and my brother and I were so excited. So, when she gave birth to my sister, as you can probably guess, she had another c-section. That's why I consider my mum one of the most strongest women I actually know, because she went through three c-sections, so good for you girl!

In 2004, my dad was offered another job offering to California and because of this, he moved to California, leaving the four of us behind. He was in California for about a year. He would visit us once or twice a month and one month we all went to a pet store and we adopted a cute little shih tzu puppy, and he was only five months at the time, and we named him Snoopy, who happens to be my best friend ever and he recently turned nine years old. My dad decided that California wasn't for us and he decided to move back, but till this day, I still wonder what our life would have been like if we moved to California.

During middle school, in seventh grade to be exact, there was this guy that came up to me one day and he was like "I think you're cute", and I looked at him and I was like "what?", like "excuse me?" and at the time I did not know what was happening because I didn't know why this guy like me and what the word "gay" meant. And throughout middle school, people would make fun of me because they noticed that I was a little bit different. They would point and laugh, call me names and make fun of me. It was really sad. There were even times and they would knock down my books and papers and then they would all gather and watch me pick them up while they all stared and laughed. For those who didn't know, I was in band in middle school and I played the infamous French horn and I made the best of friends in band class. They were also accepting with me and they knew I was going through a hard time because I was trying to figure out my sexuality, so I'm so glad they were there. With the help of my friends, I was able to survive middle school, so I'm so grateful to them.

I was still in denial whenever high school came around and I remember the first day of 9<sup>th</sup> grade, I was walking down the hallway and I walked down this classroom. This dumbass girl stuck her head out and called me out saying, "Yo, are you gay?" I totally ignored her, but I was so sad. I just kept on wondering why people thought I was gay. The name-calling continued even in high school, and this time they even called me more words because I guess high school, they developed their vocabulary or something. But yeah, it wasn't cool. I was hurt and I was really affected by it. I was really alone during this time, and I still suffered from a little bit of eczema, so I still had these red rashes all over my body and I would get called so many different names because of the way I look. Let's just say I wasn't looking my best during 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Throughout all this, I had a lot of things on my mind. I couldn't really accept the fact that I was gay and this whole eczema problem was really getting on my nerves. This caused me to be really, really shy and I became really independent but unconfident in myself. During high school there were many, many moments when I would cry myself to sleep because I didn't know what I was doing with my life. I even went to the extreme and even prayed to God to make me straight, and I know obviously that's impossible, but I used to pray so hard. I hated the world and I even had thoughts of committing suicide from time to time because I just thought the world would be better without me and I just didn't know what to do - didn't know who to turn to.

I was in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. My grades weren't looking so good. I remember crying to my parents because I was struggling in school and I had so many emotions and going through so much stuff that I eventually came out at night and thankfully, my parents accepted me. One day I discovered this website on the internet, and it was called YouTube, and basically it was where normal people could just upload videos, and I discovered so many cool people during this time. Plus, Ryan Higga is a cutie. One YouTuber named I Like Joaquin would be the biggest inspiration I've ever had in my life. I looked up to him so much and used to watch all his videos all the time. He was everything I wanted to be when I grew up, and what made it better was that he was gay and Filipino, just like me. So, he was basically my role model. I was so inspired to make YouTube videos myself, so that's when I created Freshly Flipped on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008. And as you could probably guess, I started off by lip-synching to a camera. Oh, how things haven't changed! One day, my cousin called me over and she wanted me to watch this music video with her, and she showed me this music video of these nine girls dancing and singing in Korean. And the song was called Gee by SNSD and I had no idea what I was looking at. My other cousin showed me another Korean music video of these guys fighting over some girl, I don't know, and it was called Haru-Haru by Big Bang and as you can probably tell, I loved it. From that day forth, I started listening to more and more SNSD and Big Bang and I started even lip-synching to Kpop songs on my YouTube channel and I even started talking about other groups that I was listening to. People were actually watching my videos and I was so surprised that I was getting some views, but all I could think was Kpop because I was just so obsessed with it and I gave me so much confidence and as cliché as it sounds, I wouldn't be here without you guys. So, thanks so much subbies, you all are awesome. Ever since I started YouTube, I've always dreamt of becoming super-duper YouTube famous and having so many people spaz over me and just screaming my name and stuff. Eventually I graduated from high school, you know. Was so happy I even graduated with honours you all. like what you know about that right? Class of 2010!

So, let's fast-forward to the present day, and today I am in college, but I don't know what the hell I'm doing with my major. I don't even know what I want to be when I grow up. Plus, YouTube is always going to be here so, I always have fun making YouTube videos, and I could just be myself on camera and I don't really care what people think anymore, so, it really has given me confidence now. So, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for all the support you've given me these past few years, all the love and all the gifts you've sent me. I really appreciate it. And all the friends I've made on YouTube. And most importantly, to the fans. And I know there's probably someone watching right now who probably is going through the same thing that I went through, but always believe in yourself and don't give up. You can always change your life around for the better. So, I went from this very depressing struggling gay kid to this gaysian that talks about Kpop. I never imagined I'd be here right now in my YouTube career. So, I've had so much fun. Thanks again for watching and you don't know how grateful I am for each and every one of you. Thanks so much. I'll see you guys very soon, so, till next time. Ingat, Wiong I love you.

1839

#### MDML #86

Hey there! My name is Adorian Deck and you guys convinced me to get off of my butt and do a draw my life video. So, let's go.

My life basically sucked until was about eleven when a large man busted through my door and told me I was a wizard. I was like "Girl! Don't you be playing with me!" Yeah, that wasn't my life. My mum in the early 90s moved to Palm Springs, California, which is a desert city where she had lived previously and never intended on going back to. She also never intended to get back into her real estate career, but she did. Her boss wanted to pair her with another agent - a man, and my mum denied the offer, explaining the man was too cute and would be a distraction. Her boss told my mum that this man and her would be married in six months from now with a child cooking. She also denied that, but apparently her boss knew them both well because that statement became true. My parents were very excited for their new-born Christopher to arrive. While my dad was meditating one day, the name Adorian popped clear into his head from out of nowhere, so they decided to make Christopher my middle name because he liked the name Adorian much better. This answers my most frequently asked question, where did your name come from?

Twenty-three days after my due date, on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1993, I was born. Hip hip hooray, woo, yeah, okay, next. 15 months later, my brother Adrian was born. Yay, brothers! Wait, Adorian, Adrian, yeah, I still don't know why our parents made our names so close. It's caused mistakes growing up in doctors' offices, getting called to the principal's office, etc. It was always my brother getting into trouble and they would accidentally call me. My brother was always the outgoing and fun troublemaker while I was a very quiet, to myself, innocent little boy.

When I was three, my parents decided Palm Springs wasn't a good place to raise children, so we moved to a small town called Arnold in Northern California. My brother and I had the most wonderful childhood here with a lot of time spent outside on adventures through the forests or with our mum inside cosy by the fire, that kind of stuff. We'd always anxiously await for our dad to come home from work. A lot of those nights in blizzard conditions. He would get home and we'd spend time as a family and eat delicious food. I couldn't have asked for a more heart-warming childhood. My mum grew up only wanting to be a mum. My brother and I have been very treasured our entire lives and I'm very grateful for that. While living in Arnold, my dad started his own real estate company called Mountain Home Realty. Perfectly placed when you first enter town. It was very successful. He always won the award for having the most Christmas lights every year. I was the cute little son that sat at the front desk messing with papers when somebody walked in. The hook for the customers, what made them go "aww", until my dad came in and swooned them into buying a house. I guess we'll go with that. In the third grade, my grandma passed away, so my dad closed up his real estate company to take care of my grandpa. Back to Palm Springs we went.

Before leaving the mountains, my dad hurt his back while moving firewood and he became addicted to the pain medication he was taking and shortly after that, alcohol. He couldn't even take care of my grandpa because of these addictions, and very quickly, the wonderful childhood spiralled. We became poor pretty quickly after so much success in my dad's real estate company and I remember having to leave school for a couple of weeks with my mum and brother to a getaway shelter away from my dad. The shelter was for wives and children getting away from abusive dads, but my dad wasn't abusive at all, so my mum decided that that wasn't the place for us. One night while my dad was drinking at a buddy's house down the street, she stole his car with my brother and I and drove us to Los Angeles where we had other family, which is only two hours away.

We lived in another small shelter, very poor, where we didn't fit in and I didn't see my dad for a few months. The only good thing we had at this time in our lives was our Gameboy and Pokémon. It was our happy getaway, but my brother and I always fought over who could play with the Gameboy, so my mum pawned her wedding ring for \$25 to buy us another Gameboy from a used game store. Remember that part about being treasured? My heart still stings to this day every time I tell that story. It was so important to my mum to make sure that my brother and I were as happy as possible during this really hard time. My dad was sobering up, so he came back into my life. We were still very poor and living in a shitty motel in a bad part of Los Angeles. I watched a gang steal everything from one of the other motel rooms one

night. We couldn't pay the cheap rent from this motel, so we were kicked onto the street with all of our stuff sitting outside of the motel. The man across from us saw us and offered us a super beat-up car he had for free. A literal miracle. No joke, the man same day was raided for some crazy offense I was never told about because I was too young. We asked the police officials if the car he gave us was stolen and they cleared it and said it was ours.

So, we ditched that place for Lake Arrowhead, California. The mountains right outside of Los Angeles. We only spent five months in Lake Arrowhead. We were still really poor but at this time my dad was sober, and we were building a happy family again. A couple days before New Year's 2004, my dad got a call saying his father had passed away. The one we had moved back to Palm Springs for in the first place. We moved back to Palm Springs for a third time on New Year's Eve. We inherited everything he had, so we became wealthy overnight. This part of my life was where I went out for steak dinners every night, lived in a nice house and we owned a lot of expensive things like four cars. Back in Palm Springs for middle school I was bullied a lot. I didn't have any friends. I was nervous I was going to get beaten up every day. I was a quiet, unsociable person. I always tried to sit with people from my classes at lunch, but I was never accepted there.

After selling the house we inherited, we moved to Portland, Oregon. I had a lot more friends here. Finished middle school and had a great two years up there. I still visit my old friends about every six months. In Oregon is where I actually discovered YouTube. I was 13 years old and my life had changed forever at that point. Took a lot of really bad videos to do it but my outer shyness started to go away and my personality was coming out on the Internet, a place that I could be myself with no fear of embarrassment or shyness.

After two years of making videos, I went to my first YouTube gathering. It was the summer of 2008, right before I left Oregon and I still see some of those friends that I made today. After a year into high school, I moved again back to another Northern California mountain town, a little bigger this time, just outside of Sacramento. This is where YouTube really came into play for me. I had a few close friends throughout my time in high school, but I didn't participate in much or see people outside of class very often, being the new kid again. I was busy on the computer making videos and bonding with my YouTube friends I had been making.

One day my dad told my mum that we had no money. He spent it all over a couple of years. I've learned how to save money well from my dad's mistakes. We were running out of hope again, but I actually turned to YouTube and made a video asking for donations to help my family. Now, I was 15 and didn't know what else to do. The video got a hundred thousand views in two days, which is a lot for 2008. I've never experienced more hate than that in my life, but there were good people in the bunch that I will always remember that helped us enough to move into a small apartment in town. I thank all of those people today and I'm going to pay it forward.

Less than a year later, as a fun side project, I created a Twitter account called OMG facts. The Twitter account blew up and today has 5.5 million followers. I was at my highest viewership on YouTube at this point as well. I was having a lot of fun on the internet but meanwhile in my home life, my dad became addicted to alcohol again and we had some of the hardest times. My brother and I now were old enough to understand and help support our mum. There was so much yelling and sadness in our lives. It got so far low that my mum kicked him out. I was fatherless for another few months. YouTube was my happy getaway from all of this. He went to a place where alcohol addicts went to. One day I was receiving an award for a school project at the local movie theatre in town, and as I was walking off of stage, I see my dad near the front row for the first time in three months cheering me on. I didn't know how to react. I didn't know who told him that this was happening, and it scared me a little bit. At this point he had been sober for three months and actually moved into his own house in town.

For the next year after that, he lived in his own house and started visiting my home often. It was confusing because my parents were still married but so much trust had been broken that would never be fixed. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011, my dad passed away after a heart attack. 36 hours later, on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011, I found my dad on his bed. The details about this will stay with me but this moment will haunt me for the rest of my life. My heart was broken into many pieces. There were so many things happening in my life at once at that point. I was turning 18 the next month. Along with my prom and the month after that I was graduating high school. That moment was the end of something and the start of something else. It was totally unexpected, and I had to grow up fast. I'm proud to say that my dad was sober for the last 15 months of his life. I didn't think it would happen. He was one of those embarrassingly proud dads. He supported me so much in anything I did. I still can't believe how lucky I am to have had him as a dad. He's with me every day in my heart. When you work out muscles in your body, they break down at first and then become stronger than before. That's how bodybuilders get so big. I took spring break that year to figure out what was going on in my life, but after that I got back up on my feet. I had an amazing finish to high school, continued to make YouTube videos and stayed strong. My emotional muscles rebuilt, and I was stronger than ever.

I want you to know that bad things happen, well you already know that. You're all going to have traumatic experiences in your life if you haven't already but take a second to imagine life without the lows. Without the lows, we wouldn't be able to grow stronger and be better people. It also makes the happy things in life so much better. We're born to go through these things. These experiences are how I've become the strong individual that I am now. And I've got a lot



more strength to build from here too. I live in Los Angeles now and I'm in control of my life and I'm very happy with how it's going. It wasn't always like this and it probably won't always be this way, but I want you to take something very important from this video. I want you to stay strong and make your way through your struggles that are going on in your life right now. Because there's a light to the end of that tunnel. I promise.

I want to thank you guys once again so much for your support. You've gotten me through a lot now, as you know. You really make me happy and feel like I have meaning by attempting to return what you've done for me as much as possible. You deserve a happy and strong life and I love you. Thank you for putting up with my hideous drawing. I just, I'm just not a drawer. Look at those stars! I don't even, I don't know. But, yeah, all right, I'll see you guys again soon.

2317

## MDML #87

Good day guys. Welcome back to Cakes by Choppa. Today we have my draw my life video for you which I am so excited to share with you. I love to draw, and I think this video concept is brilliant, so thank you to whoever started it and thank you for the inspiration for everyone who I've watched and enjoyed theirs.

I want you to say hi to my dad. This is Bob. And this is my mum, Jenny. My mum is the most amazing woman on the face of this planet. My dad's a bit of a legend, so naturally when they met, dad fell in love and mum actually said that when she first saw dad, she knew he was the man she was going to marry. After dating for a while, I guess they didn't have a TV, so they just thought it was a good idea to have a bunch of kids and weird story, that if you count nine months back from my birthday, it's actually my dad's birthday. So happy birthday dad! Best present you ever got.

So when I was born, dad named me Keith and I was so in love with this TV show, a cartoon actually with a dog named Chopper, that I wouldn't respond to anybody unless they said Chopper, and that quickly became a nickname that I had since I was very young. So yeah, I actually go by Chopper more than I do Keith.

I grew up on a farm and wasn't too impressed about that. I always felt like I was missing out. I wanted to be in the big city. You know that song, New York, New York, it was just one of those things where everything was bigger and better there, and I felt like I needed to be anywhere else but where I was. But the sad reality was with the spiders and the cowpats and all the bugs and creepy crawlies which, you know, I just wasn't impressed by that.

Yeah, when I was younger, I used to hang out with my sister a lot. She was a lot of fun to play around with and we used to play all these awesome games and do Grease and stuff and my mum thinks that was because I brainwashed her, and I don't think so. I just liked hanging out with her more than I did fishing or riding bikes with my brothers and doing all the silly outdoor stuff when I could be inside drawing or doing something creative which I loved more than anything. Something else I loved more than anything was going to my aunty Bev's house. She was my favourite aunty, still is. No one can replace her; she's just amazing. I still love helping her with the garden. She grew the most amazing candy roses and I was her favourite and she made no secret of that, and I loved hanging out and talking with her, and a lot of my childhood memories are at aunty Bev's house and we'd just lay there and talk and she'd call me Choppy darling, and it was just amazing. My dad worked away a lot when I was a kid, so we didn't see him much through the week, and he made a point of every time there was school holidays, Easter and all that, he'd take us camping and I used to hate it because there's bugs and it was cold and wet, but now I look back on them and I'm really happy that we got to do all those fun things, so thanks dad.

Now mum, I got along really well with. We used to hang out and talk and we both have a strong interest in music, and she taught me that good music should be played really bloody loud, so we always had the best sound systems and mum played great music like Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley and Madonna, and my older brother was into Madonna a lot and he gave me his collection, and I sort of became obsessed. So, I have a great attachment to pop music and pop culture, because it was just always around.

And growing up, I had a lot of friends. I was, basically got along with everybody. When you spend 21 years of your life in a country town, you kind of get sick of it and I just packed up and left and moved to WA, where I started working as a teacher's assistant and I loved it heaps and it was a big change from everything else I'd done. I decided to move back to Sydney and study and become a proper teacher, which didn't actually go to plan. I ended up just applying for a bunch of jobs and working all across Sydney and just having a great time being in the city that I was so fascinated with, and whilst I was having such a good time I met this bloke named Woody, and he became my best friend because we just liked doing the same things and hanging out and getting drunk and just enjoying what the city had to offer and even when I got really crazy drunk, Woody would still think I was funny and look after me and stuff.

So, I started working at a Kindy, and I met this girl Kate; we started the same week. We used to hang out after work and talk on the phone and she asked me if I'd heard of this website called YouTube, and she started telling me how she likes watching these people that film themselves and talk about random stuff and they were hilarious, and she said we

should do some videos and she thought it would be heaps funny if we got the camera and just made silly little skits. And I, at first, **I thought she was crazy**. I was like, **"Who is going to watch that?"**, this girl is mad. But after talking me around, I thought it would be a good idea to make some home movies and share them and I used to make them when I was younger, so I thought, why not? Let's put some on the internet. And we did some pretty crazy things **which made me love YouTube** a lot. We spent a long time **just having fun** with the community. One of the videos I made was a baby cow cake which got a lot of views when my other videos weren't. And it was, kind of made me think, hey, there might be something in making these cakes, so CakesByChoppA was born.

And **I just started making cakes that I liked**, and I made a spider-man cake which just got a lot of attention. **It hit a million views really quickly and then next minute it was 2 million views, then 3 million views, and now it's up to 22 million. It's, it's just insane**, like, I almost didn't make this channel, and thanks to Nico and One Pot, they said do it, and I did. The channel started going really well and I was still working at Kindy but the workload was getting a lot, and I had to choose between Kindy and YouTube, because I was only doing half of both, and **I decided to follow my heart and go with what I love most**, and that was YouTube. So, I told my bosses "Adios, see you later" and became a full-time YouTuber, **which made me so incredibly happy**. **The happiness came from me being able to spend time on the cakes and really create stuff that I was proud of and I was seeing growth in myself as a decorator**, and **that makes me happy**.

So that's my life up until now, and it's definitely not over. **I'm really excited to see what comes next**. **I would have to say the best part of it all is all the connections and friends that I've made through YouTube, some amazing people who I truly love and admire**, and you guys know who you are, even if I forgot your name off this list. Whether it's on or off YouTube, **thank you guys so much for being a part of my life and helping change it for the better. I love you all so much** and I hope you guys know that. So yeah, **thanks for being a part of it all** and let's make some more memories together! Bye guys.

1423

#### MDML #88

All right, what is going on guys? Welcome back to another YouTube video. Today's video, what are we doing? I don't really know. It's raining, I'm not that sure what to do. What the hell is that? "Draw your life". Oh, all right then, fine!

So, the year is 1993. My mum and dad are married, they're together. They already have one son called Louis. He's 2 years old and around this time my mum is pushing me out of her va-, you get the idea. **I was born a disgusting blue and yellow bruised up baby**. I don't know what was wrong with me. I heard the story that I just looked kind of insane when I was coming out. Maybe that's too much information.

When I was growing up, I was a crazy kid. I learned to run before I could walk. I was always climbing and I was always getting hurt. When I was 4, my dad taught me to ride a bike for the first time. I picked it up fast and in nursery we had a bike race. **I won, obviously. I did a wheelie. None of the other kids could even ride a bike. I felt like a king**. I started getting into extreme sports as a kid and I was always doing stunts and it was around this time when I was about 5 that my little brother was born. His name is Aaron, and coincidentally, around this time, my parents started having a lot of trouble, so they decided to split up, and my dad would live in one house, my mum would live in the other, we would all live with my mum and we would see my dad occasionally over the next couple of years. But for my mum, raising three young crazy boys, money was tight, so we decided to move into a smaller house in the countryside, and that is where I spent most of my childhood years.

I started at this tiny primary school. There was only like 25 people and there was one teacher for four grades! We all shared the same classroom, but it was at this school I met **three of my childhood best friends**: Jamie, Scott and Angus. We don't really hear or see Angus anymore. I don't really know what happened to that guy. **Primary school was a lot of fun though**. **I was a popular kid. I was friends with everyone** - all 25 of them at least. When I wasn't at school, I was outside playing in the forest which was around our house. My brothers and my friends would spend all day every day outside getting up to no good, like this one time we threw clay at a car windscreen, it smashed and the guy screamed at us, chased us, and **I cried. I'll be honest, I cried**. And there was this one time where me and my brother threw Chris down a cliff. He knocked himself out on a rock at the bottom. We just told his parents that he fell.

And it was around this time where my dad actually taught me how to backflip. Yeah, that's right, my dad taught me how to backflip, because you know he used to actually do gymnastics for the Queen. That's not even a joke. I started high school in 2005. I was 13 at the time, younger than most of the other kids. This school was a lot bigger than my other school, and I felt like I didn't really know anyone there coming from such a small school. Got in with the bad crowd immediately. **I thought being a bad kid in school would make me cool, and it kind of did to be honest. I eventually became quite popular** and started hanging out with a bad crowd a little bit less, and it was around this time **I started getting more and more into extreme sports**. I was into skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking, all sorts of things, and **I was actually pretty good at all of them**, and it was around this time I started watching a lot of Jackass and CKY. **Bam**

Margera was my idol at the time. Me and my friend started filming stupid Jackass stunts on a potato quality phone. I really wish I could still find those videos. They are hilariously bad.

That is when I met my friend's older brother. He could do a standing backflip on the ground and seeing that for the first time - that's when my life started to change. So, I took my mattress off my bed, I dragged it outside onto the grass and I taught myself to backflip. From what I remember, it took me a couple of hours, but what I do remember is when I landed it for the first time, I landed every single one since then, and I've never had problems landing it since.

Christmas 2007 came along and I had a choice between some money towards buying a small dirt bike, I was into Travis Pastrana as well, or getting myself a cheap video camera. I went with the video camera. Right when I got the camera, my friend Ross was actually giving away a trampoline, and I didn't have one at the time, so he hooked me up with it. So, if you're watching this Ross, you're probably not, but thank you, because that's kind of how I got into tricking. I made a YouTube account called Kyle Scalia 123, and I started making trampoline videos. You guys might not know this, but back in the early days of 2008, I was actually considered quite good on the garden trend, you know, that was back when double back was actually a hard thing. I would also do flips on the ground, but I really much preferred trampoline and then it wasn't until this random guy added me on MSN, I think he got my email from my YouTube, the little creep, his name was Sean. You see, Sean was from Scotland too. He lived about two hours away from me in Edinburgh. We were both around 14 or 15 at the time, and Sean did this thing called tricking. It was like my trampoline flips but all sorts of ground and cakes and stuff that I really thought was kind of lame. Either way, we decided to meet up in Edinburgh to do flips together and it was my first time going to a gymnastics gym. I loved it, and actually there, I met some other trickers and it was that point onwards, I decided I was going to try out tricking and see how good I could get. I basically stopped going to school completely. All I wanted to do was trick. My attendance dropped below 30% and I stopped hanging out with a lot of my friends.

I eventually left school and started college. I was studying Interactive Media Web Design but after about eight months I dropped out and decided to pursue my career as a tricker. So, in the UK, you get money for going to college. I saved up a bunch of that and I went to my first gathering in Germany: 2010 Giga Gathering. Now, it was amazing. It was around this time I started actually getting kind of good at tricking and I started to travel more and more with it. I went to Finland; I went to Poland. By 2011 I'd amassed four thousand YouTube subscribers. I know, big deal. Pretty big deal. In the summer of 2011, I went to America for the first time by myself with 10 random other trickers from the internet. We went on a two-month road trip all across America, east coast to the west coast, and in this time, I met the best trickers in the world and became friends with them, and just hanging out with the best trickers in the world, my tricking levelled up massively. Finally put me on the map of the tricking world. When I got home, I made a sampler called Kyle Skelly America Summer 2011 and it changed my life. Suddenly I was getting, gathering invites all over the world. It was a good time until I was due to fly to America for another gathering. Hours before my flight, I was having a session on wet grass. I did a double A twist, my ankle slid under me and I snapped my ankle bad. It was the worst injury I've ever had, and it genuinely ruined my life.

Six months later and it still hadn't recovered. I actually got my first job offer for a full-time job working in a web design agency as a designer. I loved it - I really did. I had money for the first time in my life but at the end of the day I hate being on someone else's time schedule. I'm really bad at being told what to do. So, after eight months working at that job, I quit. I decided to start freelancing. I was still designing websites, but it was for me. I was now my own boss and it was exactly what I needed. My tricking started getting better and my life started to get back on track. I was having fun again, but overall, 2012 was just a bad year, so let's move on.

Fast forward to 2014. I decided to combine both of my passions of graphic and web design and tricking. Plan Zero was born. Now, you guys got to understand, when I started Plan Zero, it was just a clothing brand. It was small but a lot of trickers really liked the products I was making. In 2015, I was fed up with the lack of gyms where I lived, so me and Sean decided it was time that we moved from Scotland and around this time, it also just so happened that Kojo and Omid were also trying to move out. They were two friends of ours from England. Our friend Nathan has his own tricking gym in Birmingham, so we decided, let's all move up there and start a UK tricker house, and thus, the Garrison was born. We officially moved out on October 29<sup>th</sup> 2015, and in January 2016, that is when I made the Plan Zero YouTube account, you know, the one that you're on now, that one, the big one, the good one, the great one, yes.

2016 was a really great year. I decided to set myself really difficult goals. By the end of the year I want to get 2500 subscribers on YouTube. I wanted to make one video every Friday and call it a Plan Zero episode and I also wanted to leave the country at least one time every month. After an amazing year, I had 3000 subscribers, I had visited over 15 countries and towards the end of the year, I started to vlog, and that's when things really started to change. The channel started to grow a lot faster. Videos were getting a lot more views, I was getting a lot more subscribers and for the first time ever, I was actually starting to make money from YouTube, so coming into 2017, I took the risk. I was going to quit freelancing and focus all of my efforts on growing Plan Zero, growing the clothing and the YouTube. I spent 2017 training harder than ever, taking my tricking to new heights, getting better than I've ever been. I made over 300 videos. I hit my goal of a hundred thousand subscribers. I got 10 million views on the channel, and for the first time in my whole entire life, I became financially stable doing what I love every day. And the best part is, I know this is just the

beginning. I have no intention of stopping now. Thank you guys for watching. I hope you enjoyed my story. Make sure you subscribe if you want to see more, and check back tomorrow for more videos. I'll see you guys then!

2023

## MDML #89

Hey everybody! You know, my god, we hit 50,000 subscribers! Holy crap. Oh my god. I never thought that my channel would get to this size ever. When I first started YouTube, I thought maybe I'd hit a thousand subscribers if I was lucky, but no, 50,000! What? That's crazy! I'm honestly blown away. Thank you guys so much. I don't know what to say. Thank you, thank you, thank you. This is going to be a different kind of video but it's kind of a thank you to you guys. Yeah, so I know that draw my life videos aren't in vogue anymore, but I thought that I would try it anyways. I've always wanted to do one. I never thought that I would have a channel big enough to actually do one, so yeah, here we go. Spoiler warning, I suck at drawing, so going to have a lot of verbal descriptions of what I'm trying to draw, yeah, but here we go.

I was born and raised in a small town in Arkansas, specifically Rogers/Bentonville. It's the home of Walmart - that's basically its only claim to fame. When I was born, it maybe had a population of 17,000 and whenever I left, only had 63,000, so it's a pretty small town. I was born to John and Karen. They were already divorced by the time I was born. My oldest sister Kara's from my mum's first marriage. She had my, my other sister with my dad. Through some weird cosmic divine joke, somehow my dad got custody of me and my sister. Kara was lucky enough to stay with my mum. My dad's kind of a crazy person. So, he really valued privacy. We lived in the middle of nowhere on a huge hill, but we were all by ourselves. That meant no kids. No kids anywhere ever for us to play with. My dad wasn't big on the whole parenting thing, so he'd come up with different ways to keep us busy. The thing that me and my sister spent the most time on was definitely the Nintendo Entertainment System. We'd spend hours on that thing - hours and hours and hours. We'd play when the sun came up until the sun came down. We didn't have very many games for it, so we'd always argue about what we're going to play. I liked Legend of Zelda where she liked the Mario Brothers and since she was older, she typically won. When I was six, my dad got a new job, so he reluctantly moved into the town. That meant kids - actual kids that I could play with. I don't know what happened to the Nintendo; all I know is it didn't make it to the new house, so to make up for it my dad got us a Sega Genesis. My sister was of the age which she didn't think playing video games is cool anymore, but I'd made friends with the neighbour kid, so it didn't really matter.

It was about this time that my mum got remarried to a man named Bill, and with the new marriage came a new sister named Shelly. About two years later my dad was remarried to a woman named Jan, and with that marriage, I got a stepbrother named Anthony. Me and my sister did not like this marriage at all. I never thought that my stepmum liked me. My sister just flat out left. For my seventh birthday, my mum got me a Super Nintendo. I'd always had more fun on the weekends with my mum, but after my dad got remarried, things changed, and I started enjoying my time there even more.

So, I've been talking about video games a lot. Let's go and talk about school. I fucking hated school. I was having some serious academic problems from the 2nd to the 5th grade. It was around the fifth grade that a lot of things changed for me though. In the beginning of the school year, my mum got custody of me, so I had to live with her, my three sisters and my new stepdad Bill, and six months later, my stepmum Jan filed for divorce from my dad. I never saw them again.

Things didn't stay great forever though. My middle school years were absolute hell. I started having questions about myself, wondering why I was different than all the other kids, and because they're mean little shits, they noticed, and they let me know. And videogames stopped being a form of entertainment and more of an escape for me. And when I was 11, my dad moved. I haven't seen him since I was 11 years old. I didn't find out until recently that he'd actually moved to Galveston, Texas. I still haven't reached out to him and I don't know if I ever will.

Junior high was relatively uneventful. Nothing really happened. I wasn't bullied as hard, but high school is where things really changed for me. Remember back in middle school whenever I didn't know why I was different? Well, in high school I kind of figured it out - it's because I'm gay. But living in a very conservative small town in Arkansas, that is not okay, so I hid who I was. I basically made an emotional mask for myself. I would wake up every morning and choose to be somebody completely different. But I guess it kind of worked out. Bizzaro me had made new friends and high school started flying by.

Knowing that I couldn't keep this up forever, I decide to get a part-time job while I was in high school and save up money so I could move away. I start working at a local videogame company called Game Exchange. I'd worked there from 16 to 21 years old. I started part-time; whenever I left, I was a store manager. When I was 18 years old, I was offered store manager of a store out in Grove Oklahoma, so I moved out there for eight months. I thought it was going to be great living anywhere other than where I was born, but it turns out the town was even smaller than the one that I was raised in. It was during these eight months that I decided that I needed to come out and just be happy. I needed to be myself. So, I moved back to Arkansas and I finally came out to my family, and surprisingly, they were all okay with it. I kept working at Game Exchange until I was 21. One day, me, my mum and my sister Julie were all having dinner.

My sister let us know that she was going to be moving down to Austin, Texas. Without even asking, I proclaimed “I’m going too”. I made her take me with her.

Twenty-one was a huge age for me. Not only could I drink, I moved down to Austin but also, I set in motion a few things that would change the rest of my life. After living in Austin for a few months, I was really lonely again. I was out and open but I was just by myself, so one night on MySpace - yes MySpace, remember this is back in 2007, that was the only social media platform that was even around back then other than, like, Friendster, and who the fuck uses Friendster? – I started looking around for people in my area and I found Max, and I thought this guy is super cute, so I summoned all my courage and I sent him a message. I met him at a party the next night. We hit it off immediately. We talked all night and ended up maybe even kissing a little bit, with our first actual real date the next day. After about six months of dating, we moved in together. It was around this time that I decided I needed to further my education, so I went back to school. I got a Degree in Computer Science and a bunch of certificates, and finally got my first job in IT.

I’ve always liked working on computers and electronics, except now, I was actually getting paid for it. The next year, whenever I turned 26, me and Max finally got married. We got married in December at Christopher Street Park in New York City. A few months later my mum left my stepdad. She moved in with me and Max in Austin and stayed with us for a few months. Now she has her own place with her new boyfriend. I made a friend at work named Scott. Scott’s the guy that I did the Coplay at the Last of Us with. If you haven’t seen that, you should go check it out. We started doing couch co-op stuff together. We played through all the Legends of Zelda games together and it was great, and every time he’d play, I’d just make fun of him non-stop. We had a ton of fun and thought that it was really funny, and one day he told me, “You should record this for YouTube”. I had never even considered that. I didn’t even really know that Let’s Plays were a thing back then.

So, I made a YouTube channel. I called it The Mr. Kravin, because Kravin was taken. My first few playthroughs were a mess. I did a just cos tube, flying mod showcase and Skyrim graphics settings and a bunch of other really random things, as well as a playthrough of Sleeping Dogs. I started looking around to other YouTubers to see what they were doing and saw somebody named PewDiePie doing The Walking Dead. I’d been playing it on my own for fun and noticed that he was doing some choices that I hadn’t made. I thought it’d be cool to compare his choices against mine, so I started the opposite PewDiePie of The Walking Dead. My channel was at less than 500 subs before the series started. By the time it ended, it was at 15,000. I also did a series called Adventures of Mute Lee where again I played The Walking Dead. This time I only chose the triple dot answers. It was pretty successful.

After I was done with the opposite PewDiePie and Mute Lee, I decided to check out some other YouTubers because I wanted to start doing collabs. That’s when I met John and Kat. Back then, I think Kat only had around 100 subscribers. I was at 15,000 and John was at 20,000. Me and John used to be really close sub count wise. But it was around this time that I noticed that I had mismanaged my channel. I had too many gimmicky series – Adventures of Mute Lee, Opposite of PewDiePie and plus I did other stuff like benchmark videos and mod showcases and it wasn’t exactly what I wanted to do, and so I made a new channel. I called it the Kravin Nation. I thought it was going to be like this big bro army rival but that quickly dropped off, so I realised that’s dumb as shit. So now it’s just called Mr. Kravin. Out of my 15,000 subscribers from the old channel, only 500 came over to the new one, so my base was restarting. My growth was really slow at first. I was maybe getting 90 subscribers a month. It wasn’t until Layers of Fear, Her Story and Fran Bow all came out that I really got some traction. After I made the new channel, me and John decided to make another new channel called “Dangerous To Go Alone”. If you didn’t know about DTJ, well you should go check it out. Me and John play a lot of co-op games together - mostly Resident Evil related.

About a year after I made the new channel, I decided to quit my job. I felt unappreciated. Scott had moved away, and the company had just changed. I wasn’t happy there anymore. I wasn’t happy doing IT work for people that didn’t appreciate me. I was happier making YouTube videos, so that brings us to present-day. I think that I’ve grown a lot over the last four years, not just as a YouTuber but also just as a person. I don’t wear my hat anymore and I dye my hair stupid colours, but we’re 52,212 as of making this video.

So, I’ve been reading from a script this entire time, but now this is me talking to you. This is me saying thank you. I’ve been making videos on YouTube for four years now and I never thought that I would get this far. I never imagined that me talking to my microphone and acting like an asshole in front of a camera would actually reach people, which is something I was doing and putting out there. So, thank you guys so much for everything you’ve done for me, from subscribing to liking to sharing my videos, everything - it all really helps, and all really means so much to me. So, thank you again. Here’s to 50,000 subscribers and here’s to 50,000 more. I love you guys so much. Thank you again for everything you do. Yeah, just thank you guys so much. Thank you and have a great day. Bye.

2235

MDML #90

Hi, my name is Lane, and this is the story of my life so far. I was born on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1981, in Lafayette, Louisiana. My dad was an attorney, my mum was a housewife. I’m the middle child of three. My older brother Brian and my

younger sister Lindsey. Fun fact: my sister and I are one year, one month, one day, one hour and 12 minutes apart. As a baby, my mum says that I was really good but lazy. I didn't walk until I was 17 months, years old!

In school I was never a good kid or a bad kid. I remember in first grade, this kid named Sean taught me how to flip my eyelids. **I thought this was so cool.** Then, between the third and fourth grade, my mum and dad decided that they wanted us to go to a Catholic school. So, I switched schools. **It was tough for me to make friends at first,** but one day I brought the Nintendo Power strategy guide for Super Mario to school and because of this strategy guide, **I met some of my best friends.**

In the summer of 1991, I was about nine years old. I auditioned for a community theatre show of What's Upon a Clothesline at the Abbey Players in Abbeville, Louisiana. I ended up getting the part and I got the part of Mr. Cricket and I was the comedy relief of the show, and I still to this day remember that during the curtain call, we would go on stage to take our bows. The applause always got louder for me. As a nine-year-old, **I loved this because it tells you that you're doing something great, but thinking back on this now, I loved it because it let me know that I put a smile on somebody's face that day.**

In the early 90s, I remember our family taking a family vacation to California. It seemed like almost every summer we took a trip somewhere. **We'd love to travel** as a family, and I believe that **our travels built a strong family bond** for us. On this trip we went to Disneyland at Universal Studios. We got to experience the Pacific Ocean for the first time. I went parasailing for the first time and **had some great family bonding** experiences. And **it's these type of experience that I want for my family and my kids.** Fun fact: during this trip there was a 7.3 on the Richter scale earthquake that I slept through. My mum was on her knees praying the rosary.

Then in 1995, I was 14 years old. This is a year that I would never forget. I begged my parents to buy me my very own video camera. I don't know why **I wanted one so bad, I just knew that I really wanted one,** so for Christmas in 1995, **to my surprise,** I unwrapped a box with a Hitachi camcorder inside that ran on eight-millimetre tapes. I filmed everything. In high school, my friends and I would make videos with that old Hitachi camcorder about us being ridiculous creating lip sync music videos, wrestling videos and other shenanigans. Also during high school, every summer, I would be a part of the summer theatre show at the Abbey Players. While in high school, I got my first job. When I was being interviewed, the girl that interviewed me was having a terrible day because her friend was just killed in a car accident, but during the interview, I was able to make her smile and laugh. She called me that night and offered me the job because I was able to put a smile on her face after that tragic accident. I got a job at a clothing store called the County Seat.

After high school and a few jobs later, I went to college at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. My major was Performing Arts. I was also now working at Sears in the hardware section. One of my friends had just quit because he was going to go to LSU for college, so I filled his spot. **I met a lot of friends** while working at Sears and the Sears crew would always go out for work for a bite to eat and some drinks at Bennigan's, and **I met my friend Bizo** at Sears. Usually after getting drinks and eating, we would go back to his shed in his backyard, the tardis shed, and play computer games and make all kinds of silly videos. I asked him if he could teach me how to edit and he told me no, it's too much, go get a book, and he handed me a bootleg copy of some editing software. The next day, I went to a bookstore and bought the quick guide to editing with adobe premiere 6.0. Also in 2002, I was laid off from Sears. I transferred to the rug department and they closed that down and in October of 2002, I got a job selling jewellery at Zales. **This is where I met the love of my life.** We didn't really get to talk much because we worked opposite shifts, so it wasn't until the Zales Christmas party until we actually got to have a conversation. Also, somebody broke out the game of Twister and we all played, and Kristin and I were the last two people on the mat, all twisted up together. The next day I invited her over to my room at my parents' house and we watched the Lord of the Rings movie because the new movie was coming out, and a few days later we went to the movies to watch the latest Lord of the Rings movie that had just been released. **We'd love to be together,** just to talk, watch movies, we even went and saw Elton John in concert. But **we really love to go to the movies together.** We saw a lot of movies. In 2003, we took our first trip together to New Orleans. **We had a really fun time there,** just being with each other. Over the next year or so, we took many more trips together. We went to Tulsa, Oklahoma, so that I could meet her family. We also went to Atlanta, Georgia; I have an aunt and uncle who live there. **We just had a blast** travelling together. We went back to Lafayette and we watched a lot more movies together. While we were finishing up college, my senior year in college was spent writing my first script for a 30-minute movie called Handicapped. Handicapped was an absurd comedy about this guy whose body was a TV on rolling cart and how he interacted with the other characters. I had a screening of it at the Acadiana Center for the Arts and it was selected and won an audience award at the Night Gallery Film Festival. I'd planned to enter this video into more festivals, but I just didn't have the funds for all of the entry fees.

In 2003 or 2004, I specifically remember my friend Bizo tell me that the future of video is short videos that will be on the Internet. **I thought he was crazy,** and I continued to try to pursue film while working in Zales and finishing college. While in college, my college buddies and I would put on comedy shows in Lafayette and just be goofy. One day, we came up with some silly words like "a digga douche" and "shubooome". One of these words happened to be "shiggity shank", and for some reason that stuck with me. Fun story: so, one day, me and my friends went to the mall and we all

went on two different wings of the mall and as loud as we could, we yelled “a digga douche” and the next one would yell “a digga douche” and then the next one would yell “a digga douche”. It was like this echoing of this really odd word and we all grouped back up by the mall about to leave and the security officer comes up to us and he’s like “You guys need to get out of here”.

After our shenanigans and finishing college in 2004, I was always looking for a way to make money with video online since my friend Bizo told me that was the future. Also, I proposed to my girlfriend Krista in May of 2005 after dating her for two and a half years. **Krista and I love to travel**. In 2005, we had the opportunity to go on a mission trip with a group that my college friend Dave was a part of with his family. It was my first time out of the country besides just stepping over the border in Mexico south of California, from that California trip in 1993 or 94. Our first stop on this three-week mission trip was a nine-hour layover in Frankfurt, Germany. After exploring Germany for a few hours, we got back on the plane and flew to South Africa. We spent three weeks in South Africa, playing with the local children and in the townships and engaging with the teenagers and the youth groups at one of the township’s local churches. Seeing the poverty in these townships **really opened my eyes to what the rest of the world was like and it made me appreciate all the things that I had in my own life**. It also was the catalyst for my wanderlust. More on that later.

We returned from South Africa in July of 2005 and three months later, Halloween, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005, I discovered a website called AssociatedContent.com. This was a site that would pay you for articles, photos but most importantly for me, videos. I tested this site by uploading one of my short films from college called Bum-Rushed. It was accepted and I was paid five bucks. On Associated Content I found a guy making how-to videos about simple everyday tasks, so I figured I would try this to see if I could turn a buck with online video. I made a horrible one shot, no editing videos such as “how to clip your toenails” and “how to wash a plate”. **These videos were horrible**. I was making some money in the online video world, **so I was excited because it was a step in the right direction for me**. I began to search for other online video sites that I could distribute my videos to, and apparently on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006, I made my first YouTube channel.

Then, Tax Day. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the age of 24, Christa and I were married at Levy Park in Crowley, Louisiana. Eight months later, we moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, because Krista’s parents and sisters live there, and I thought that I wanted to become a yogi. I quickly realised that **I did not want to become a yogi** and I started working for an oil and gas company as a landman. **The pay was great**, but the work was not what I was passionate about. **I wanted to make videos**. In August of 2007, I found this girl online while I was in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She made videos and she seemed to be doing what I wanted to be doing. She had a video called the “300-page iPhone bill” go viral. By seeing what happened to iJustine, **I realised the power of online video**. At this time, I also discovered Shay Carl, Philip DeFranco and Rhett and Link. I asked myself, what do people want in the online video? and I figured out that “how to” videos seemed to do really well. In February of 2008, I uploaded the Legend of Zelda Twilight Princess part one, which was the first part of a hundred and sixty-two let’s play videos for this game on my channel. This first video received over a hundred thousand views, but then the creators of the movie Twilight claimed a copyright on it, and at the time, I was trying to become a partner with YouTube and I didn’t know anything about YouTube copyright and I wanted to monetize all of my content, so I deleted all of those videos, hoping that the copyright strike would go away. Due to this strike, it would be another three and a half years before I became a partner on YouTube. This is also why all hundred and sixty-two of these videos have been deleted from that channel, and also why I started my Lanevids channel on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008, while on a summer road trip with my wife. **Remember my wanderlust? If you don’t know what wanderlust is, it’s a strong desire to travel**. I didn’t realise I had this until that South Africa trip but looking back on my childhood, almost every year our family would travel together, and **this strengthened my belief** that families that travel together create strong family bonds that help keep families together.

In 2009 I started daily vlogging on that old channel with the copyright strike **in the hopes** that more content would help that channel receive a YouTube partnership. 400 videos later and I realised that I was not going to become a partner on that channel and so I created a new channel, The Funny Rats, which is just a play on our last name. In November of 2011, I got both of my channels partnered, and finally started to earn a little bit of money through online video on YouTube. In 2011, I became a father. Krista and I had our first child together, Emilia, and 18 months later we had another, Jacques. While continuing to try and make a living with my YouTube video, I also became a stay-at-home dad. **My kids are everything to me. I love piquing their curiosities with all of the fun things that we do together, but most of all, I love bringing them to new places and letting them experience new things in this great big world, just as my parents did with me when we would travel as a family**.

In 2013, my video “how to make a homemade lava lamp” started to take off, starting to get a subscriber base, but it seems for me that YouTube is a rollercoaster **ride of ups and downs**. I gained some traction, but **it’s still hard for me to get enough views to be able to fulfil my dreams** of traveling the world with my family and creating YouTube videos. One thing that I know about myself is that **I’m passionate about sharing my stories** with an audience through YouTube. I might shift my strategies a lot because I’m such a curious person, but **will never give up on achieving my dreams**. I believe that with the right amount of patience, work and opportunity, you can make anything happen for yourself. **It’s just a matter of persistence**.

Thank you so much for listening to my story. I loved sharing it with you guys, and if you want to continue to follow our story, make sure to click that subscribe button. I really do appreciate you watching my videos as it gets me closer to my dreams with each of you, so, seriously, thank you so much. Let me know down in the comments below what was your favourite part about my story, or if you want me to elaborate on something in an upcoming video, let me know that as well, and if you're new here, this YouTube channel is all about family travel and how to create a bond with your family through travel. We do family travel vlogs, travel product reviews and other fun family videos, so if you're new here, consider subscribing and as always, thank you guys for watching and thanks for being shiggity shank.

2650

## MDML #91

Day 272. Once again, forgive the mess. I'll get this figured out soon enough. One of the things that I've been asked for repeatedly or at least was a lot in the beginning was that I would do a draw your life, which for those of you who haven't been around YouTube very long, is kind of this old-school way of like sharing your life story while drawing on a whiteboard. I don't have a whiteboard, so I'm going to use paper. Hopefully I don't regret that too much. This is one of the things I've been wanting to do for a long time that I feel like would be really helpful to bring context, like a greater sense of context to the stories I would like to tell and share, and the other things that I reference all the time like the ship. So, without further ado, let's get into that. Let's draw your life. By your life, I mean my, my life.

I was born in a small university town in eastern Washington State, Pullman, Washington. It's just south of Spokane, which is just east of Seattle. And if you don't know where Seattle is, I can't help you. My mum and dad, Sue and Nilz, brought me to the world in 1985. Three years later, in 1988, my sister Karen was born, and we soon moved into the house in which we would live through high school. Our cat Whiskers was our first pet named after a less fortunate earlier attempt, and by the time my sister turned 13, she had convinced my parents to get a dog as well named Misha. Education was God in Pullman. Considering half of the population was involved in Washington State University, it should come as no surprise. I liked school well enough and quickly discovered my favourite medium for class project - video. Ever since our faithful recreation of Jason and the Argonauts on a VHS camcorder, stopping and reshooting over old takes in lieu of real editing capabilities, I was hooked. If video was accepted, it was how I made everything. I studied French for four years and for some reason wanted to go there more than anything else. For college I took a short jaunt north to Cheney, Washington, to attend Eastern Washington University for film. I hoped for a lot of hands-on technical experience, but the program focused heavily on writing, something my pride erroneously told me I needed no help with. After getting cussed out by the program's director in the process of asking a routine question, I decided the program was no longer for me, and then turned my French minor into a French major. It was during college that I travelled internationally for the first time. But not to France - to Italy. I spent a summer in Siena but that wouldn't keep me from getting to France as soon as possible. I moved to Nice straight out of college. I taught English conversation courses for 11 hours a week in a technical school, which wound up consisting mostly of games of hangman and mafia. It was during this period that my mum was diagnosed with early onset Parkinson's. Thankfully, they were able to visit me in France and I was able to see her.

Returning stateside was difficult for a few reasons, but principle among whom was the oncoming recession and the slow realization that Spokane in particular simply didn't have the resources I needed to thrive. During this time, I freelance web and graphic designed, worked for a pharmaceutical company packaging drugs, edited school photos in mass and worked as an enumerator for the Census Bureau until my car got stuck in a massive puddle up an abandoned logging road. Yeah, the story's worth listening to. Needless to say, the work was often unpleasant, and money was always tight. I missed meeting people from other parts of the world and using my French. Enter Mercy Ships.

About that time my parents were looking for a change as well and stumbled across Mercy Ships, an organisation operating the world's largest charity hospital ship off the coast of West Africa. They gave surgery away for free basically. I looked into it for myself and discovered that they needed a videographer. It seemed perfect: make videos and speak French while traveling and volunteering to serve the poor. They passed me over, but then they said that I could come as the ship's audio-visual technician and like that, I was off to West Africa. I trained first in Texas, then Haiti, and eventually wound up in Zulu territory in South Africa at an old abandoned teaching college that had been shut down after apartheid. We were the first to inhabit it since. From there, we sailed to Sierra Leone where I would experience everything from carrying bodies out of a stampede to eating rat grilled over a barrel fire, not to mention all the amazing friends I made along the way. Sierra Leone was also where I published my first book, White Shores. My years with Mercy Ships would take me to Ghana, Togo, been in the Canaries, France, Switzerland, Guinea and the Congo, not to mention a mess of places in between. I would become a royal diamond Shellback, crashed my motorcycle into a herd of goats, be given a title by the BBC, see the ship lifted out of the water, watch pirates burn another ship off the coast, sneak into a couple of countries illegally and discover the undying love for shawarma, that would carry me into my adult years, which I think, I think I'm an adult now. I'd also publish two more books to finish my first trilogy.

My time in Paris would introduce me to a place and a way of living that I would never want to leave. A lovely woman whose generosity would ensure I always had a home to come back to and an Instagram account overflowing with Eiffel



Towers. In my final job as media liaison, I worked with everyone from Fox News to the BBC and got to see both the hospital and the Congo from a totally new perspective. I also burned out hard enough to be put on medical leave after five months of 12 to 15-hour days. When I returned to the US from Congo, I took a job training medical professionals on electronic medical records. This job put me on an airplane every three-and-a-half days on average for two years of hotel living and weekend couchsurfing. This is how I saw a lot of the US. I flew over a hundred thousand miles in 2015 alone, domestic, which plays in later as it earned me American Airlines' highest frequent flyer status.

During this time, I created Into the Nanten, the world's first real time fantasy blog, and published two other short novels. I started a tech company with some robotics friends and together we produced some really cool Bluetooth technology for kids - a bracelet we called Boomerang. I also started hitting the fantasy science fiction convention circuit pretty hard with my good buddy Mike. As the EMR work died down, I found myself in Spokane for a surgery my mum was undergoing without any real plan for what I would do after. I decided to focus my energy into my projects, taking the risk that one of them would pay off. Between the Kickstarter for Into the Nanten Journal 3, the Kickstarter for Boomerang and a book deal that I had on the table for a book called Couriers: Off Grid, we even had a trip to Taiwan to meet manufacturers for Boomerang which was really cool. Unfortunately, none of these projects came through. 2016 was an adventure and risk, and a year of learning how to cope with the after-effects of failure.

Vlogging saved my life in more ways than one. I started vlogging daily halfway through the year and in that time was a groomsman in two weddings over two days, three time zones apart. I house sat in the Caribbean, flew drones in San Francisco and managed to get one of the most exclusive visas available to return to France. I used that fancy status I mentioned earlier to fly with three oversized bags all the way to France for free. On the very last day that I could. And here we are, with no real plan but happy to be back in France, and for a much longer spell this time. I don't know what's coming next but I'm excited for the adventure and I hope you'll stick around for it with me.

Well there we go; how did I do? It wasn't like the full ten-minute draw your life that a lot of people do, but I felt like, like, I give you enough context to raise some questions and then of course, if you have any questions, you can ask. I didn't tell any stories from earlier in my life. Do make sure to like this video - it actually helps a lot if you like the videos and then subscribe if you haven't already, and tomorrow will be a little bit more of a traditional vlog. But I want to do more of these storytelling kind of semi-different project style vlogs along the way, so let me know what you think. Let me know if there's anything else that you want to know or would like to see.

1585

## MDML #92

Draw my life, Smiles edition. First things first, I'm not one of the best drawers in the world, but I do try my best. Let's go. I was born in San Diego, California, but being a Navy brat, I didn't actually have a place to call my hometown, but more on that later. I'm the oldest among three kids. I have a twin brother Matthew; now, before I move on, let me just clarify something: we are not Siamese twins. If one of us does get hurt, the other one doesn't actually feel it, and yes, at times we have the skill to speak in our secret twin language. This involves speaking very fast or through twin telepathy. Now, I don't remember how often I went, but I remember I spent a few years of my childhood in the hospital. I had asthma as a child, and I had to be held for observation. I was confined to my bed most of the time, but that's when my love of games crowded. I had the original Gameboy and when I'm not watching TV or sleeping, I'm playing Tetris or Super Mario Land. Gaming was a big part of my life growing up. Since I kept moving around, it distracted me enough to help me not realise what I was leaving behind: friends, relatives, the girl I had a crush on in school, I guess.

Since my dad was in the Navy, wherever he goes, our family followed. When I was seven, we moved to Iwakuni, Japan. Somehow, I didn't find it weird not knowing the language. It was probably because I was a full Filipino struggling to understand Tagalog. TV shows they had on the military base weren't all that great, but luckily for me, we had some Japanese channels. I remember watching Dragon Ball Z. Since I didn't understand Japanese, I only watched for the action, and thus my inner nerd grew. My summers weren't all that great. Our parents had to work and, being new in Japan, we weren't allowed to go outside. If I wasn't playing Wolfenstein or Mega Race, me and my brother were suited up in our Halloween costumes. We thought, we only wear this once a year. Let's not waste it! I was dressed like Superman; my brother was dressed as Batman. We'd jumped all over the house. It was awesome.

When I was in the fifth grade, we ended up moving to Las Vegas, Nevada. The transition wasn't all that great. I got my first pair of glasses, which made me a target in school. I was the ideal target for bullies. I was slow, chubby and nerdy. It got to the point when I considered not even showing up to school, but I didn't give up. I thought it wouldn't be long till he moves again. It was in middle school when I realised one of my true passions: music. I learned how to play the trumpet but before I actually got to learn the basics, we had moved yet again. Packed my trumpet, and we moved back to Japan; this time we headed to Yokosuka. I was nervous joining the band in my new middle school; however, my bandmates and conductors made the transition smooth. Over time, I played several jazz festivals and I even performed at Disneyland as a part of the high school marching band. It was going great till we had to move again before I graduated high school. I finished high school in Baguio City, Philippines, in 2004.

After high school, I went straight to college. I started off majoring in ECE, but after one semester, I shifted my major to Computer Science. Side note: **I suck at programming**. I'm more of an analytical thinker. It was during this time when I started to vlog. It wasn't until someone asked me why I vlogged that I realised that I do it because **I want to share my travel stories with the world**. I graduated in 2010. I was the only foreign student in my batch. My classmates made a big deal as I walked on stage. **I felt like a star as they cheered me on**.

The sad part is that **I couldn't stay**. I had to go back to where my story began. I had to come back to San Diego. **I never got to keep any real friends, since I kept moving around. It sucks**. **I sometimes wonder, where do I belong? Does anyone remember me? Will I fit in? I feel lost from time to time. Sometimes feel alone**, but then **I hear a voice saying you are not alone**. I realised how lucky I am. I got to meet a lot of amazing people. I consider everyone I meet as my friend because I believe we were supposed to meet. No matter how far I am from my friends, we are still friends. I sometimes forget about that. **To all my friends, thank you for being a part of my life. You do not know how much you mean to me. No seriously, thank you**, and to those who actually haven't met me yet, **I'm actually a shy and awkward person at first, but once you get to know me, I am still a bit shy and awkward** but you get to see how much of a true gentleman I am. **I will probably be one of the most friendliest guys you'll ever meet**. One of my friends recently asked me, "Gee Ryan, why are you so friendly?" I thought about it and I replied, "I think I'm like this because it is sort of my purpose on earth - to make people smile and essentially become a good guy who is actually a good guy". Good guy to the rescue! I'm a dork. If I make someone smile each day, then it's not wasted. **I hope I made you smile**. Want to know more about me? Leave a question below and I'll answer them, or you can stalk me. Yes, I'm on Facebook, I'm on Twitter and I'm on Instagram. Let's be friends! **Thanks for watching**. Until next time, keep on smiling.

1030

### MDML #93

Hey everyone, welcome back to another video. If this is your first time on my channel, my name is xxx, and today I'm going to do a draw my life. So, my full name is xxx and I was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1999 in Novosibirsk, Russia. Novosibirsk is Russia's third-largest city and it is about a four-hour flight from Moscow. A lot of you know that I am adopted, and so as soon as I was born, my birth mother left me in the hospital to be taken to an orphanage and put up for adoption. I was born about a whole month early so the time that I spent in the orphanage, I was really small for my age. Fast forward about 10 months, my two parents came along and adopted my sister xxx and I, just a few days before the new year. My sister is three weeks older than me and a lot of people ask us this, but we are not biologically related. My new mum and dad are named Joseph and Michele, and they were Americans working in Russia and they couldn't have children on their own, so that's why they decided to adopt.

So, a few months after my first birthday, my whole family went to America to get American citizenship for me and my sister, and to finally meet all our new relatives who of course couldn't wait to see us. This whole process of citizenship ended up taking two years, so it wasn't until I was three that we finally went back to Russia. So, growing up, **I was really attached to my parents**, **which is funny because now I'm actually very independent**. The first week of preschool, dad had to sit with me through my first class because **I was too scared to be left on my own**, and the first few days of elementary school, **I cried a lot too**. For first grade, my parents started home-schooling us, but then they decided to send us to Russian public school so that we would learn Russian better because at home we were speaking English and we didn't really have any way of learning Russian. So, for grades 1, 2 and 3, I was in Russian public school, which **was a great experience and I'm really glad that I did it**, but **I'm also happy that my parents decided to home-school me** after that. I remember in second grade, I was in a school play where I played a dog and I had a fluffy hat and the fur from a hood as my ears and then a sock as a tail, and I just think, like, **that must have looked really weird**. The school was especially hard on my sister because she had several bad experiences, like once she got punched in the nose by this one girl and had a nosebleed at school, and another time, during PE, we were playing soccer and she got pushed and had a concussion, so it was all for the better that we stopped going there. **I did have some friends** but because my name was Josh, which is obviously not a Russian name, **a lot of the kids would pick on me** because of that and they actually called me George Bush for fun, because they didn't know the difference between Josh and George, and **school was just harder in general** because it was all in Russian, which was my second language and even then I didn't speak Russian that good, like not as good as I know it now. So once I started home-schooling again, **school got a lot easier and I still had friends** from, like, church and some other places, even American friends, but as the years went by they all eventually moved away and **that was really hard on me**, especially during high school. **I didn't really have any friends at all that lived in my city**. What friends I did have were literally scattered all over the world, so I would keep up with them through like Facebook and Skype.

So, the last year that I spent in Russia, my family got a new DSLR camera, and by now, **I had started liking photography** and I started my first YouTube channel. I posted a lot of videos about my city which are still up today, and that one summer, I took between ten and fifteen thousand pictures. Then I moved to America to finish high school and get settled in for college, and **which was especially difficult for me** because I was leaving everything that I was used to and starting a new life on the other side of the world. For a while I still even made Facebook posts in Russian, even though the majority of my friends were American just because I didn't want to feel like I was abandoning my native culture.

So ever since I moved to America, I would watch famous YouTubers and just think about how much fun it would be to do what they do, to make videos of yourself and have other people watch them, and I liked photography and video editing so I thought I could at least try and start a YouTube channel. My first few videos that I filmed were really bad and I never actually posted them. I still have them, but they're not on YouTube. So about six months later, I tried again, and I posted my first video on this channel.

If there's anything I've learned from my life, it is that although change is inevitable, how you approach it and deal with it can make all the difference between whether it comes off as bad or good – whether it has a negative impact on your life or a positive impact. I believe that everything happens for a reason, and starting from day one, my birth mother had every opportunity to just abort me but for some reason she didn't, and because of that I believe God has a special purpose for me in my life, and I'm not sure what it is yet but I am excited and looking forward to whatever it may be. So, there you go everyone - this is my life which is not all that interesting really, but I love it and so I hope you guys enjoyed it too. And lastly, thank you all so much for watching my videos and liking, commenting and subscribing. I can't believe I'm almost to 1000 subscribers and it means the world to me knowing that you guys like watching my videos as much as I enjoy making them.

1113

#### MDML #94

Hey guys! So today I'm going to draw my life for you. Oh yeah, draw my life. So, I was born and raised in a city in Missouri into a family of three. We got my mum Karen, my dad Keith and my sister Megan. My dad owned his own electrical company at the time, and he was also a part of a southern gospel band that toured around the Midwest, and my mum worked at my sister's school that I would later attend. When I wasn't at home with my family or traveling around the Midwest on a tour bus with my dad's band, I was at my grandmother's house. My grandmother taught me a lot of things growing up like how to tie my shoes, how to play Mario on a Nintendo and she also taught me life lessons like being good to people and spreading love. My parents decided to hold me back in a year before I would go to school because they just didn't feel like I was ready when I honestly probably wasn't. I ended up going to a private college preparatory school that my mum worked at and that my sister also attended. It was a very tiny school.

In kindergarten, I met my best friend and neighbour, Kathleen. We didn't really become best friends until 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, but we knew in kindergarten that we were going to be best friends. We would play spy kids at recess, that is until a mean girl would take me away and make me play spy kids with her. Sorry Kathleen! I really had no say in the situation. We also wrote a children's book together in 4<sup>th</sup> grade about an outcast blue pig and won first place in a contest. Yes, I know, we're too cool for school. After elementary school, I entered intermediate school which consisted of my 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade years in school. This was when I finally got a locker - it was a big deal back then, let me tell you. You knew you were moving up in life when you had a locker. This is also when I got my first girlfriend or fling, whatever you want to call it. I was in fifth grade, so I don't really think it counts for much, but our dates consisted of hanging out on the playground and telling each other how much we liked each other through AIM. If you don't know what AIM, it is was AOL instant messaging. I remember the day I met her mum. After I shook her hand, I ran and hid in the bathroom. Hashtag shy boy problems. Yep, as I'm sure you can imagine, this relationship did not last.

After intermediate school, I moved up to middle school. This is when I first found out about YouTube and spent hours upon hours looking at content on the site and dreaming of one day starting my own channel. My eighth-grade year I got the chance to go to Brazil. It really opened up my eyes to what's out there in the world and that's when I started dreaming about exploring the world one day.

And now we enter my high school years. I spent a lot of my freshman year alone. Social situations gave me anxiety, so I spent a lot of time by my lonesome. I did a lot of creative things during this time, like messing around with photography, trying to figure out Photoshop and I also ran a blog where I let out all my feels. I was probably a little bit too open on that blog, but oh well. My sophomore year of high school is when things got a bit rocky. My grandmother passed away in the fall and it was really hard on me, since my grandmother helped raise me and it was also my first experience with death. After my grandma passed away, we found out that she had been keeping a secret from us, this being that my grandfather had dementia. If you don't know what dementia is, it basically is a disease that affects one's memory, thinking and their overall behaviour. My grandpa moved in with us and it was quite a big adjustment for our family. I had to learn a lot about being selfless and doing for others during this time, a lesson that my grandma had instilled in me, but I never really practiced. It was a lesson that was really hard for me to learn. A few months after losing my grandmother and having my grandfather move in with us, my family learned some terrifying news. My mum had been diagnosed with breast cancer. My whole life changed the day I learned that news. I wish that I could say that I was strong for my mum and that I was there for her, but so much happened in so little time and I felt like my world was crumbling right in front of me and I really couldn't do anything about it. I pushed everyone who meant something to me away. It took time for me to step back and I had a wake-up call and realised that I couldn't get through this alone. At the end of the day, all I needed was my family. Through everything my mum went through, she lost her hair, lost

her energy through the chemotherapy, but we never lost sight of our goal to beat this, and we did. As a family we fought through this hardship and we made it out stronger than ever.

I entered my junior year thinking things would get easier, but they didn't. I dealt with being bullied my junior year, but I'm not going to go any deeper into that because I'm still dealing with the insecurities that came from being bullied, but I picked up my first Harry Potter book this year and it got me through a lot. I found reading to be a great way to escape from tough situations. I graduated in the year 2011 and ended up attending a local college. I started my YouTube channel, Jesse the Reader, my freshman year and things have never been better. I've made so many friends on the site, friends that live all around the world. I've never had so many friends in my entire life. As for what the future holds for me, I'm not really sure where I'm going but that's okay - I'll figure it out soon, but right now I'm just having fun. Thanks for watching guys. I hope that you learned a little bit more about me and sorry that this was kind of depressing, but my life is depressing. I can't help it. All right, I'll see you guys tomorrow with a new video. Bye!

1135

#### MDML #95

Hello. Okay, next video. This video is going to be something a little bit different than what I usually do, but I've had a few people request it in the past and I've seen other people's versions of this kind of thing and I thought it could be really fun, so I'm going to be doing a draw my life video. Yay! So, let me start off by saying hi, I'm Charlie, or Charlie Short if you want to know my full name. I don't have a middle name, otherwise known as Pink Stylist, yay, and I should mention now, you'll notice that I, one, I can't draw very well so I'm sorry about that. I'll try my best, and, and two, I, you'll probably notice also that I hold my pen very strange but that's just part of what makes me, me.

So, let's get this video started. The best thing to do I suppose would be to start at the beginning, yeah, very good place to start. So, as most of you know, I was born in England, I am English, and I was actually born in Essex, which is quite close to London I suppose you could say. I was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 1989, which makes me 23 years old. So when I was born, my little family consisted of my mum, my dad and my sister who is actually four years older than me, and, and it didn't really affect me too much because I was quite young so I don't remember a huge amount about it, but my parents did actually divorce, so it was quite sad, but it doesn't matter too much because they both got their own partners after they separated and they're still with them now, it's all happy. And my sister, who I love completely, we did used to fight lots and lots and lots, but at the end of it we always made up and, yeah, we love each other so it's all good!

So, I'm skipping ahead a little bit here because nothing really happened in between then and me starting my second year of school really that I can remember, so yeah, five years later, so I was five years old in Year Two of school. When I think back to school, it's not very many happy memories, to be honest. There's only one real happy memory I have and that was when I first started Year Two. Me and my little pink dolphin lunchbox that I loved and this girl came up to me with strawberry blonde hair and just, we just started chatting, and like about Dragon Ball Z and Pokémon, and all that stuff and we realised that we just clicked, and that was a start of my best friendship ever with my bestest best friend Kaz. Now, the reason I said I've not got many happy, very many happy memories of school is basically down to the people. It's not very, yeah, I don't talk about it very much, but there was some awful kids, just bullies mainly, and I was bullied really badly. You can imagine the kind of names that I got and I did get beaten up quite a lot, but I can suppose you could say probably I brought on myself I guess with my little pink lunchbox and all that kind of stuff, but I loved who I was. But that's another reason why I love my best friend Caroline, or Kaz. I mean, she always stood up for me, always. I mean, I, I wasn't very confrontational, so, and Caroline always stood up for me. I mean, when I think back to school, aside from thinking about all the mean kids and that, I mean Caroline made it so much fun. We used to, I mean, it was in our own little world, basically. We used to perform plays and we used to pretend we were Jessie and James from Pokémon, and we were geeks, bless us. But we used to do little dances for an audience and we'd just do scripted stuff from the shows and I suppose that didn't really help our popularity but never mind, we had fun. We used to, it was strange, we, we, both of us used to not really socialize with other people, as such. Every lunchtime we both used to walk around our school over and over and over again until break time was up basically and we just used to talk about Pokémon and Dragon Ball Z. And yeah, that that's it. And Caroline, she was the, she's like the A star student, never in trouble, never talks out of line, nothing like that, and then there's me, who I talk so much in class and laugh at everything and I used to get us, well I used to get myself in trouble lots. I was always in detention or timeout as they called it, and one day I, unfortunately I'd made Caroline laugh in an assembly we had, and I got her in trouble and stand in a corner with me in detention. I was so horrible. I felt so mean so from then on, I thought okay, I won't be in trouble anymore. I won't get you in trouble anymore and sorry, I'll be good, I'll be a good student. And I, that was it. I was never in detention anymore after that, so Caroline helped me out there.

So, skipping ahead a little bit again, nine years' worth this time, sorry. Because nothing else really happened between then and me being thirteen really aside from some more bullying which wasn't very fun, but, and I suppose me and Caroline had a lot of laughs. We used to record little mini skits on a webcam and we used to do little, like, scenes from movies and just have a laugh. We even wrote our own book. It was brilliant. So now I guess I should talk about the biggest thing that happened in my childhood which is when I was twelve, thirteen, I guess it was. It was a very, very,

very, very difficult time for me and I don't think I've cried more than I did when I was 13 in my life to be honest. Basically, it was that time when people in my class, all the boys had their girlfriends and everyone was kissing and making out and all that kind of thing, and I just didn't want that. I didn't want a girlfriend. Girls didn't interest me like that. Girls were just, I thought were like my best friend Caroline, were just awesome people and just, just not in that way and it was really difficult, and I just, I started noticing that I didn't fancy girls basically and I had this secret. I just, I needed to tell someone. I didn't know what to do because I knew I, people would start to notice I didn't have any girlfriends and I was starting to panic and I thought I've got to tell someone, so I basically, I was I had this discussion with Caroline, basically over the Internet using AOL Instant Messenger, I miss that actually, and oh, it was so difficult. I just, I said, like, I have this kind of secret that I need to tell someone. I didn't know what to do and I'm never shaken so much of my life and I was crying, and I was like, you, she was like, what's wrong, what's wrong? Have you, has someone died? What? And I was like well, I think I'm gay, and she was like, just, she paused and she's like, really? Is that it? It was hilarious. She just was like, I really don't care; I love you, it's fine. This is, why? Why would that bother me? And I, just, I like, that just complete shock. But after a lot of laughing and joking about it, eventually came to the point where she said you need to tell your parents, so I was, it took a long time, I mean, it was on talking for hours and hours and hours before I said I'll do it. And I, I told my mum and my sister that I was gay. I've never cried so much again in my life and they just had exactly the same reaction. My sister was like, okay, and? My mum was like I thought so, I suspected to be honest. Like really? Okay. So yeah, that, that's basically my coming-out and I mean, I didn't tell my dad. I think my mum told my dad like a few years later, because I didn't see my dad very often and I still don't really. We talk every now and again but that's another story really. So, then when I was 14, 15, I think it was, I actually moved away. I had to tell Caroline I was moving away and it was me and my mum basically wanted to get away from Essex, and just be somewhere else really, and I mean, I really didn't want to have to leave Caroline, but we just needed to be away and so, I mean obviously, we stay, stay in touch and we still talk and we used to stay on the internet and talk all night and everything, but we had to move away, and we ended up moving from Essex to Cambridgeshire, which is where I am now.

I should mention at this point in the reason I've not drawn my sister in is because my sister moved out basically at that point to live with my dad when we went up there so, she stayed in Essex. And I'll quickly talk about school when I moved. I had the same type of thing from when I was 14 all the way to when I finished school - more bullies and more mean kids and it's horrible but at the end of the day, it's developed who I am now and I wouldn't change it. So, I know how to stand up to people now and yeah, and, but it wasn't too bad, because again, I made quite a few friends that were girls - always, it's always girls. I never hang around with boys for some reason and they always defended me, and they were really lovely, so I met some really great people and yes, so it wasn't all bad. But when that was finished, I didn't know what to do, so I was about sixteen years old, so thought I suppose I better get a job because it'd kind of be nice to have a bit of extra money and I think it was legal for me to work, so why not? So, I ended up getting a job in retail and that's basically that. I then stayed working in retail. That was it really. Nothing to do with makeup, wasn't interested in makeup at the time. Yeah, so it was about the same time, straight since I finished school and thought I better do A levels, I suppose. That's the next step. I didn't really put any much thought into it, I just thought it's logically the next step, so I took product design and psychology, sociology, English, I think media as well. Just random things to be honest. So, just filling time I guess, and what I did it for a year of a two-year course basically, and I just realised this is really not what I want to do. I thought, you know, I can actually do a course in something that I like. I didn't, know it sounds strange, but I just didn't I didn't think about it. So, I thought, what do I want to do? So, I got the list of courses out and I thought what could I do? I mean, there's so many and I really liked the idea of being a journalist or working in travel or I even wanted to be a nurse at one point, which you probably laugh at because I'm not, I don't think I'm stupid but I'm not overly bright, I don't think. I don't know. One day. So, but I went through a list of things I could do and what would interest me the most and I thought, it would be a bit cliché, but I guess I'd kind of like to give hairdressing and beauty a try really. And I enjoyed A level, so, media in A level so much, that I thought I would like to do something with that, so I could do like big theatrical stuff, so yeah, so I did the hair, it was more of a hairdressing course in the end, I chose in the end but it had one day of makeup in it. I didn't know if it'd be any good, so I tried that, and a year later, to quickly sum things up, I didn't enjoy the hairdressing as much as I thought, but I really loved the beauty side of it, so I thought, oh wow, I need to do another course in beauty. I need to do something with more, with makeup. I didn't realise how awesome it, makeup, could be. Because it was really funny, in the makeup classes everyone was doing, like, these glamour makeups, and there was me, trying to make myself look like Dr. Frank from Rocky Horror, and I thought, yeah, I better choose a different course, so I dropped out of that and I discovered a course called a B-Tech which is just a diploma course that was for two years that covered theatrical makeup, cosmetic, fashion, wig making, costume making, prop making, history, business studies, everything that I could possibly want. And I thought, oh wow, this just sounds amazing, so I did that.

So that was in 2008 was when I started the course and round about the same time, I met someone very special to me. And now, I don't go out clubbing very often at all. I mean, I'll be lucky if I go out like twice in a year to be honest. I'm just not a clubbing person, but when I, like, this particular time, I went out. I mean, I think of it as fate because it, yeah, I went out and I met this guy who just completely clicked and he just, it went from there. I know it's corny to say, but yeah, it is basically love at first sight I suppose, isn't it? Because five years later, we are still together and me and

Graham are just happy as ever and we've got our two little fluffy children, our little fluffy cats, Cosmo and Saffy, and that's our little family, and yeah.

It was about the same time that I turned eighteen when we started going out and I thought, okay, so I could probably, about time I really moved out I guess and, like, moved away from my mum and from this, the country. Not that it was a bad thing, I love living with my mum. It's just, I kind of wanted to support myself and that and me and Graham could get our own place, so we started renting an apartment, which is where I am now. And my mum's not on her own, she's got her partner with her, so, I'd never want to leave her on her own. I'd feel horrible. But yeah, and we still talk every day of course and I prefer now because I'm not living in the country, I'm living in the city, so everything's a lot closer to me. And now I know what you're thinking, you're probably thinking, wait a minute, you didn't, you've just met someone when you were 18 and you decided to spend the rest of your life with them? You didn't go out with anyone else before that? And the answer to that is yes, I did. I did have a dating history before I met Graham and I'm not going to go into it too much. Suffice to say, I did learn from mistakes. I had quite large dating history before that, so yeah, but that, that's private, so, moving swiftly on.

So, skipping ahead again, but after I finished the BTech course which was amazing, and I left with distinction across the board which was awesome because I had worked so hard for it, because I don't want to have two things that I've dropped out and not have something good to show for it. So I did that course which was excellent and it just opened so many windows to me and I realised just how much I loved the special effects side of things and the theatrical, as well as cosmetic, I didn't not like the cosmetic, but I really preferred the theatrical side of things. So I went in search after that for another course in the same type of thing and I found one that was a degree in artistic makeup and special effects, so the same course basically, offered exactly the same stuff, but more, at a more advanced level, like they had prosthetics, the actual makeup, and we had the opportunity to do photoshoots and runways and work experience, which is really what I needed, and that course was absolutely amazing. I could not find anything better than that and it was just awesome. The only downside was, I didn't want to have to move up to Leicester where it was, so I ended up having to commute every day which was an hour, about an hour train ride every morning to get there for I think it was 7:50, I think I had to, the train got me there, which means I'd get there an hour early which was madness. Between that, I had to get the 6:50 train, and oh my word, and these, these lessons were like, they started at 9:00 in the morning, sometimes 8:00, and they sometimes finished at 9:00 p.m. at night, so I didn't get back until like 11:00 p.m. sometimes, so very long days. And, like, on the two days off that I had from the course a week, I worked in my retail job, so I had no breaks at all, but it was worth it. I mean, at the end of the day, I can look back to that and say, you know what? I was really determined. I did that. I got up every day, train rides, spent a fortune on train fares, but then it was worth it. I mean, I was really committed, so I'm proud, of, I finished that course.

I should point out, I mean, I do, I did get the odd breaks when I was doing it, like, obviously, a few weeks here and there. It wasn't all work non-stop and like I mean, I do, I used to travel throughout the year anyway, but always have from the beginning. I travelled with my small family. My mum, my sister, we always go to, like, different countries, like, we've been to Tunisia, to Spain and Dominican Republic and we go to Florida every year. I've been to France with Kaz, and, you know, just travel like mad. It's fun. Actually, speaking about my family, there's a good point. In 2010, the newest member of our family was born. My sister had a little girl, Lily Rose, my first niece who I love so much. I love my niece, she's, she's, amazing. And I know everyone says this about their, not that she's my child, your nephew or niece, but oh my goodness, she is so smart and she's beautiful, but anyways, moving on. And also, there's Graham in there in our little family and it's lovely, it's really nice. The little family's growing.

So going back to when I was still in my degree, I think it's, what, about 2009 to 2010, something like that, and what I was learning from it and from finishing my diploma, and it's just, at the end of day, I'm just really shy, that's just what come up. I was getting such bad anxiety whenever I got asked to a photoshoot or anything. And not that I didn't do it. I love doing it and I got so much confidence after doing each one but for some reason I kept getting so nervous whenever I was asked to do one of these things and granted, I'm so much better now. But that was then, and I didn't know what to do. I thought, I've learned all these new makeup techniques and nowhere to put them. Nowhere to, like, apply them. And it was actually in 2009, not 11, sorry, I don't know why I drew that, but then I discovered YouTube, just before finishing my course. So, I thought, really? This sounds good! I could do my makeups on here! Now, I didn't really know what I was doing. I just, I started off just recording vlogs, like day 1, day 2, this is what I'm doing. I'm working here, they're doing this - that kind of thing. And every now and again I did like an old age makeup or pantomime dame makeup - that kind of thing. It wasn't anything particularly professional and then one day I saw a film, Party Monster, and I thought, oh wow, there's so many different make-up looks from that film. I could try and recreate them, oh, I could record it and upload them. That might be cool. So, I took, I put all my videos in private just so I could start making some professional videos, and I start my Party Monster videos, so, I mean, I didn't have that many subscribers at the time. I only had about 50 I think or 40, I can't remember, but something like that, but I got a few random requests for more looks in the film. The more I did, and just from the regular people that used to watch my channel, we were just liaising back and forth with and thank you so much for the requests. I really appreciate it. And I thought, oh, I'll give it a go! So, I'd started doing requests and the second I opened that door to requests, it just got to become insane. It was amazing. I got request after request after request. I'd keep track of all of them. I've got them all saved. Every

time I get requests, I save it and all these amazing people just kept requesting different looks and I was doing them, and I still am! And just it's amazing. All of you guys are amazing and you're, all these wonderful comments and everything. I think it just makes me so happy reading them. It's unbelievable. It is just such a big part of my life now and it's getting bigger and bigger. It's not just a hobby anymore. It's just, I don't know how to describe it. It's just becoming my life, which is amazing; I love that. And, and I mean, happiness equals YouTube. That's the best way I can describe it at this point in time. It sounds daft, but that and my DVD musicals collection. I, I do love that quite a lot and going to the theatre but yeah, going off on a tangent.

So, in July 2009 I had about 800 subscribers and I thought, you know what? I think I'll try this whole partner thing. With a couple of my videos YouTube was wanting to be partnered, like partnered on their own, just, but I thought I wanted to wait and see if I could get enough subscribers to do the whole channel. So, I sent an application form to YouTube just through the Contact Us section, and about two days later I heard back saying okay, accepted, you can be a partner - sounds good. So, you can imagine how happy I was. I think it was just because I'd grown 800 subscribers in just a few months and they, I don't know if they saw potential or what, but it was just really nice. It was amazing, and less than two years later, I mean, it's a year and what? Eight months, nine months later, I now have 17,000 subscribers. Can you believe that? It's amazing. You guys, just, unbelievable, I just can't thank you all enough for watching my videos and just being so supportive and just thank you everyone. Really, this is a dream. It is and it's only going to keep growing hopefully, and I can't wait to see what the future's going to bring for this channel and yeah, just thank you everyone.

So before I finish the video up, I'd probably better shout out my Facebook, my Twitter and whatever else I have now, just because my Facebook is probably the most important at the moment because I use it to communicate with everyone and let you know what tutorials are coming up and doing my live chats with everyone and I ask you guys what tutorials you would like to see next, which is the best way I can communicate with you all. So, if you could go and like that, I'd super appreciate it. That way I get to communicate better with you all. And that's it. That's my video, so I'm so sorry that it's so long. I tried to get it short as I can but there is just so much to talk about and so much that I've left out, but I just hope it wasn't that boring. That's basically my life in a nutshell, quite a big nutshell, but there we are! And if there's anything I suppose you could take away from this video, is I guess just don't let society dictate what you should do. Just if you, if you're not happy, change the circumstances. Just like I did, I mean, I didn't know what I wanted to do, so I just went along with what everyone else was doing, well my A levels, but then I did my, I found what I wanted to do. I went from there and it was amazing. I didn't let bullies or anyone like that hold me back, I mean, sod it. Life's too short, isn't it? So yeah, so thank you all so, so much for watching. I really hope you liked it. Until next time, bye!

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Hello, okay, next video. As it's been five years, I thought it'd be about time to do a sequel to my draw my life video that did back in 2013, which incidentally you might want to check that out first before you see this video if you haven't already. I'll pop the link on the screen now, as well as in the description bar below. You absolutely don't have to go and see that, but it might help fill in some gaps, and also I probably should point out you probably sussed it already, but my drawing skills have not improved at all in the last five years, so yeah, you might have to put up with my stick figure drawing, sorry about that. I also hold my pen weird still and that's honestly never going to change at this point. It's just part of me!

So, I'm going to jump straight into this and briefly introduce myself. As some of you might know, my name is Charlie, aka Pink Stylist, and that's me on the screen there. Hi, I'm 28 years old and I'm from England. Yay! I'm a special effects makeup artist, which basically means I turn people into monsters by sometimes sticking stuff to their faces. Awesome. I also teach others how to do special effects makeup on my YouTube channel which is where you are now. Yay! It's basically 10, 15 minutes of me just sticking stuff to my own face really, but that's my job and I love it, so without spending too much time on introductions, that's me. Hi! So, in my first draw my life video I spoke about my growing up and being bullied at school which was awful, but I also discussed having my fantastic friend Caroline who actually helped me all the way through it. I also spoke about my family and my makeup education in the previous video and also told my coming-out story. Surprise, I'm gay! Who knew? Well, apart from everyone in the YouTube comments obviously, but in order to keep that video shortish, I did leave out quite a few details so I thought I'd cover some of that stuff as well as some stuff that happened after 2013 in this video, so let's do this!

So, something that not a lot of people know about me unless you've actually slept over is that ever since I was a child, I've been a very, very, very heavy sleepwalker and talker. I probably do it on like average four times a week. It's a lot, and what I do tends to vary. It's always very strange but some nights I'll just wake Graham up and have a discussion, about, well, nonsense, really. Every morning when I wake up, he tells me like what I've said and every time, it makes no sense whatsoever. I can't remember dreaming about any of the stuff that I say, but on the plus side, it does make for a really interesting morning conversation. The sleep talking isn't that bad but some nights I actually get up and I start preparing meals in the kitchen which is just not good at all. I just basically wake up to a huge massive mess that I have

to clean up in the kitchen. One of the most surreal things that I do when I'm sleepwalking is I write myself notes. Not all the time but on occasion I will wake up to this weird, kind of alien-esque language that I have no idea what it means, and the worst part is I very rarely remember actually what happened. I usually just wake up and find these notes and like, that? Sometimes I wake up during an episode and I have no idea what I'm doing and sometimes I remember roughly what's going on, but it never usually makes sense. Graham has tried to wake me up before, but it usually ends up making things worse. I think the last time he tried it, **I ended up getting really upset** and locking myself in the bathroom. I can vaguely remember the end of the conversation, but **I remember being really annoyed that I was being woken up** like, I don't know, it's very strange but I just remember waking up on the bathroom floor the next morning, so now he basically just knows to let me do my thing and then I'll go back to bed on my own accord. Now that I think about it, **he really does put up with a lot with me, bless him**. But ultimately, my sleepwalking is relatively harmless, aside from the fact it does mean Graham doesn't get much sleep, **bless him**. But on occasion I will do something not so good. One time I did wake up stark naked outside my house, and remember I only waking up because I was really, really bloody cold, so yeah, **that wasn't a fun experience for me**. We now double lock the doors. I did try once to record my sleepwalking before just like so I can analyse what's going on, but the end result was walking around in circles for two hours solid and then trying to move the doorframe with my bare hands **before getting really frustrated**, then going back to bed and that didn't really give me a reason, gave me an insight into why I do it. So **hopefully someone out there can offer me some insight into why I walk, I would love that** or at least let me know if there are more people out there that do similar stuff, just **to make me feel less peculiar**, please!

Now moving away from sleepwalking and onto a different form of travel, see what I did there? Oh god, **that was terrible**. As I mentioned in my first draw my life video, I used to travel a lot with my mum and my sister. We mostly used to go to Florida every year, sometimes twice a year, but we must have gone about, at least 20 times I'm sure. **I was a very, very, very lucky child** to be able to visit Universal Studios and Disney World so often. I even got to see, like, the gradual building of islands of adventure, just being constructed. I think I was also one of the first few families to actually enter it. **It was amazing** and it's not a massive point of interest, but my favourite theme park in the world is most definitely Universal Studios Islands Adventure. **They're just amazing. It's just a shame** really that most of the classic rides are known and loved over the years have been replaced like their King Kong, Jaws and Back to the Future, Hanna-Barbera - **some amazing rides. At least I'll always have the wonderful memories**. So, I'm bringing up travel for a very, very, very good reason. There is something that I didn't have time to include in my previous video and I think it's **a good example of the type of friendship that me and my best friend Caroline have. And yes, I can confirm that me and Caroline are still very good friends**. I know a lot of people asked in the comments. I think she was even in one of my "would you rather" videos I did last year or the year before. I'll pop a link on a screen now if you wanted to see that, but as I said in my previous draw my life video, **Caroline has been my friend since I was four years old and she's helped me with so much, mostly dealing with like the awful bullies at school and just generally being weird with me. She's awesome**. So back to why I'm talking about travel - sorry, I'm waffling on - but this is the reason I'm bringing this up. So, the year is 2010. Okay, the year I turned 21, or will forever be known - **the year me and Caroline almost died laughing!** So me and Caroline decided it had been way too long since we'd seen each other, and with my having moved away from Essex in 2004 to Cambridgeshire, which is about two hours away, we decided to take a vacation to celebrate both of us turning 21, as our birthdays are only about ten days apart, so after going through a few different choices, we decided to go to Paris because it's only a short trip away and **it's perfect** for our first time like traveling on our own, plus we'd always wanted to see Paris properly because it's just a beautiful place. **Everything went perfect on our journey**. It was super simple. **The train was lovely, and hotel was perfect**, but what we didn't count on at that time was that neither of us were particularly fit. God, we were knackered. There was a lot more walking around Paris than we had anticipated. I don't know what we thought we were going to do - fly? But as I said, at that time, we just weren't thinking about it. We weren't going to worry about stuff like that. **We were just going to have fun**. So, let me set the scene. Paris 2010, day 1. So, on day 1, we decided to visit the beautiful Notre Dame and before I start this little story, I will say this: at Notre Dame, there are so many stairs. So, so many stairs. They just keep going! Again, I didn't know what we expected, whether we thought we could fly, but after queuing for a while and seeing how beautiful the actual place is, we decided to climb the steps to the roof, which I'm going to tell you now is 387 steps with no resting points at all, all in a spiral staircase. That might not sound like a lot, but when you have no idea how much further you have to go and when there are no resting points at all or any passing places for the people behind you to go ahead, **you start to freak out a little bit**. Eventually one by one, the people in our tour group started to go back, not being able to cope, but it was just me and Caroline left. Now, I said we weren't particularly too fit at that time, so **it was a miracle** we managed to make it that far, and I never know to that day or to this day even, how much a human can sweat. Isn't that lovely? But yeah, **that kind of feeling wasn't pleasant for either of us**. I think at one point went through like an entire spectrum of emotions in about 10 seconds. **We were from being like proper determined**, we were going to make it, to being exhausted, then officially delirious and **at one point we'd just laugh and then crying**. Oh my god, I think at one point we actually contemplated giving up and living on the steps just there for the rest of our lives. Suffice to say, we were knackered. Eventually though, we did make it to the top, which **was absolutely worth it**. I mean it took us about 20 minutes to try and catch our breath first, but we were able to look around and **it's absolutely stunning**. I've never seen anything quite like it. **The only downside** was after about half an hour of looking around, we kind of both looked at each other and came to the sudden **awful realization** that eventually we did have to climb back down. **Oh no! That was fun!** We didn't really walk much on the next day. Our legs were like a baby giraffe's, so we could barely move



them at all. So, after a couple days wandering around Paris and using the train system, we finally got the hang of things. We were experts, or thought we were anyway. We just failed to notice what times the stations kind of stayed open till, so cut a few days later when we were strolling down Champs Elysees at 2:00 in the morning. I apologize for my pronunciations of these places - I'm really not very good at that but hopefully I'm not offending anyone! But we decided to call it a night and head back to our hotel via the Paris Metro. What we hadn't realised is that the station where our hotel was had since closed when we had arrived, so he left the automatic turnstiles locked. And that kind of left us stuck on the underground where we weren't able to get out, so even though we had our tickets to leave, they just weren't working, so we were kind of trapped, then panic started to set in, admittedly mostly from Caroline. All I can remember her saying was, "What are we going to do? I don't want to be stuck down here", like over and over and over again, and maybe it was the one or two cocktails I had had that evening, but to be honest, I had come over cautiously optimistic and overly confident, so I just said, "Why don't we just jump the barrier?" and Caroline seemed uneasy but on board. I mean, we didn't really have much choice - we were really proper stuck, so I didn't think about it. I just jumped straight over the turnstiles in one jump, which to be fair, it was a massive deal for me at that time because I rarely exercised. Go me. yay, but then I turned around to see if Caroline had followed and to this day, I will never forget what I saw. Oh my god. I basically had failed to take into account that Caroline is only about five-foot-tall and so she's not able to jump that high, so definitely not over the turnstiles. I had also kind of failed to take into account that her legs were still stuck in baby giraffe mode from our Notre Dame quest, so when I did turn around, instead of seeing Caroline through the turnstiles, I saw her kind of stuck in them, themselves. Oh, bless her, she decided to crawl through it rather than jump over it and instead got stuck. In truth, I'm never going to forget the look she gave me. It was proper, it was, it was pure horror. I've never seen such fear in someone's eyes before, and I've never seen someone convey an entire sentence with just one look before and that look was just simply "I don't want to die like this". I can laugh now but you know at the time it was bloody hysterical, but poor Caroline, oh god, I've never seen her in more emotional pain than that day. Oh, don't worry, I mean, I did help her eventually after a few minutes of nearly wetting myself laughing but I did get her out eventually at the turnstiles of doom. Full disclaimer - she didn't hurt herself, she just got stuck temporarily which was really hysterical. Not to Caroline, but I mean afterwards it was, I think, I don't think I've ever stopped to ask her really if she found it funny. Well Caroline, if you're watching this video now, it was funny, right? Her face. But after all that, all that trauma, we, oh god, sorry I can't, that was brilliant. But after that, we did head home. We have had some pretty fantastic adventures, me and Caroline. I would never trade our friendship for anything in the world. Caroline has put up a lot with me in the past and God knows why, but she's just been absolutely wonderful to me and I'm very lucky to have her as my best friend.

So now let's fast forward to 2013 and pick up where my last draw my life video ended, because a lot has happened in the last 5 years. So, when I uploaded my draw my life video, the first one, my channel had 17,000 subscribers. Now that was on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2013. Now, 17,000 subscribers is an amazing amount of followers, and I was and still am amazed that that many people would ever want to watch my videos, but then on November the 13<sup>th</sup> 2014, my channel hit 1 million subscribers which was insane at the time. It still is. And it only grew from there because on December the 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, I hit 2 million subscribers. I mean, what? I still don't believe it to this day, I mean, today I have 2,250,000 subscribers. I don't have words for how ecstatic that makes me feel. I can barely picture 17,000 people, let alone 2.2 million. It's a super, super scary thought, so I try not to think that there's that many people that can be possibly watching these videos, but well so I do say it a lot, but I'm going to say it again and I can say it over and over and over again but thank you guys so, so much I mean my life has changed completely since starting my little channel and being able to wake up every day to so many people commenting, like, just wonderful things on my work, and being able to read such lovely things, is just something that is beyond amazing. I'm very lucky and just, again, thank you guys so much. I mean to have a single subscriber is fabulous, it really is, but to have multiple is fantastic. I mean to have 2.2 million is just bloody amazing, so if in the future, I have more subscribers, how wonderful, but if not, I'm ecstatic with the followers I have now. I mean, I could never have dreamed to have this many and for that, I'm ridiculously grateful. So, one last thing about my channel is that as of today, I've released around 450 videos on my YouTube channel, on my makeup YouTube channel. That's roughly 330 makeup tutorials, around 60 Omegle videos and about 60 fun fluffy videos like this one. And I'm going to continue to record videos for as long as I can because I absolutely love every fluffy minute of it, and I said around 450 videos on my makeup channel because I actually started my second channel on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2016, which is where I do my gaming videos and that channel is Pink Stylist Plays, which currently has around 74 thousand subscribers which, again, is amazing, especially considering how terrible at gaming I am. It's pretty fantastic that 74,000 people want to see me die in a video game over and over and over again or just scream at god damn animatronic bear. Yay Freddy!

Now onto something relating to YouTube again but not about my channel, because in the last five years, I've had the absolute pleasure and the absolute honour of being able to meet in person some amazing YouTubers I followed and admired for the longest time, so I'll write some of their names on the screen now, most of these people I actually met at like makeup events like IMATS or just meeting up for a fun, fabulous day of shopping, and they are honestly the best bunch of fluffy people I have ever met. They're all so wonderful and bubbly, and it just makes it so much more amazing that we all met thanks to the YouTube platform. It's fantastic. If you ever get a chance to meet any of these fabulous creators, please do, they're wonderful and please, please, please check them out if you get a chance - they're all amazing. This list that I've put on the screen now is really only including the people that actually physically met

through YouTube. I have made many, many more YouTube friends over the last 5 years, which I'll mention later on in this video, but for now these are the people that I met physically in person now, which is a wonderful experience.

So aside from the awesome YouTubers that I met in the last five years, some of which are very, very, very close friends now, I do also want to take a second to thank some of my other amazing friends that I've met in the last five years. Some of these amazing people on screen now I haven't met in person but have made a massive impact on me nevertheless, so just want to say thank you to my lovely friends for just making my life a little bit brighter. You're my fluffy crew and I love you.

Other things that have happened to me in the last five years is that I've really stepped out of my comfort zone and forced myself to do things like makeup demonstrations at large events, which is a massive deal for me, especially considering like I have a big trouble with anxiety, so I thought I would like jump into the deep end and force myself to do these things in the hopes that it makes it a little bit easier for me to do it in the future, and it really, really has. I got to do things like do a makeup demonstration at the Paint Opia bodypainting festival hosted by the wonderful Jenny. I got to do Dutch Comic Con and Dutch Christmas Comic Con, and that was an amazing event. I got given my own little platform to do four different special effects makeup tutorials live and it was just, it was wonderful. I even had the amazing privilege to be in one of my favourite magazines and that's Illusion magazine, where I had an article written about me which is mental. That's insane. There's something extra wonderful about something you've subscribed to for so long and read about these amazing artists to find that you're one day inside that magazine, and that was just surreal and wonderful, and that's special thanks to the lovely Claire and Julie who run Illusion magazine. And that was another wonderful life experience; I'm just very lucky. And from Illusion magazine I was introduced to the owners of Super Star face paints, a product I've used for a very long time in my makeup tutorials and that's Marco and Micah, who invited me down to their Factory in Holland to actually see and film how their products are made, which is insane. It was insane and I've never been so excited in my life. I mean, you can see it for yourself - the video's actually on this channel if you wanted to see it; you can tell how excited I am when I was there. I felt like a kid in a candy store.

Something else that happened was that I flew to New York where I got to host my own meet and greet, where I got to meet some amazing people and some amazing fans all the way from America, and it was just one of those wonderful moments where every single person just had the, everyone had the same interest. Everyone really wanted to learn more about special effects, and it was fantastic. Over the last few years, I have been able to host quite a few meet and greets and they're always wonderful. I even had the privilege of being able to hold like a contest for the screening of Annabelle II with Warner Brothers, and it was, took, my own private screening to give tickets out to fans, and that was a fantastic night. That's something I can never forget. That was absolutely wonderful. I've had an amazing past five years and things just keep getting more and more exciting, and I'm incredibly lucky for all the opportunities that come my way and I just can't wait for future events.

So, something else has happened in the last five years that's just as wonderful involves my little family. Now I already mentioned before that in my last video that, in February 2010 my little tiny family grew that tiny much bigger with the birth of my wonderful niece Lily Rose, who was actually about to turn eight this month. Can you believe that? She's so beautiful and so talented. I'm such a proud uncle. But then in 2015 in January, my little family grew a tiny, tiny, tiny bit bigger again with the birth of my nephew Alfie, who's now actually three years old which is insane, and he's just as beautiful and just as wonderful as Lily Rose and I couldn't be more proud of them or my sister. I now have a niece and a nephew. Isn't that wonderful. I'm an uncle times two! Again, something I'm incredibly lucky to be - oh it's just wonderful, isn't it? Yay!

But on the topic of wonderful things, another wonderful thing that happened to me this year is that me and Graham actually celebrated our tenth anniversary recently, and it honestly feels like it was just yesterday we started going out. I'm very lucky to have someone I love so much and who loves me that much in return and without getting too mushy on you guys, I'm very fortunate enough to have found my soul mate, like someone who completes me in every way, and, I know that's mushy, but it has to be said. Actually, something that sums up mine and Graham's kind of compatibility so perfectly is that when we first met, we both realised we had both like massive movie collections, like we proper like, love collecting DVDs and blu-rays. Both our collections were insane, but when we moved in together, we of course combined our two collections, and the odd thing is that our collections literally completed each other with only a couple double ups. So, for example where I might have, say, seasons 1 & 2 & 3 of Futurama, Graham would have seasons 4 5 & 6 - we literally complete each other. So, I'm sorry if that made anyone out there gag, but there it is!

So fluffies, that's it, that's my second draw my life video. Thank you all so, so, so much for watching it. I really hope you guys enjoyed it. I'm sorry if I waffled on too much. I do have a tendency to go off on a tangent, as you guys may well know. And it's difficult to squeeze so much information in such a short video, but here it is. But before I finish this video, I'll quickly pop on the screen now all the links I have to all my social media like my Twitter, my Facebook, my Instagram and you know, as well as my website. Twitter's probably one of the better social medias to follow me on if you want it to be up to date on everything that I do because I do update it multiple times a day; then again, it probably can get little bit annoying for some people, sorry! And yeah, so that's my video. It will be super interesting

to see if I do a third instalment of this series. I mean, you never know - maybe another five years, maybe sooner. **But yeah, thank you guys so, so much for watching!** Until the next video, yeah, bye guys!

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## MDML #96

What's popping guys? Welcome to my draw my life special episode for you guys that I'm going to draw for you right now. But first **I just want to say thank you guys so much for all the love and support during this whole entire journey. If it wasn't for you guys, I would be nothing right now, so thank you guys so much. I love you to death.**

So, you're probably wondering where this all began, and as you guys see right here, that's me right there. Damn, I'm looking skinny. But that's me, guys. I was born on Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1990. That makes me 29 years old. **I have a beautiful mother right here and I have a wonderful father,** right here guys. And when I was six years old, my parents gave birth to **my beautiful sister,** right here. Hey sister! **We were one big happy family** guys and believe it or not, I was born in a time where there were no cell phones. There was no internet. It was just raw nature – guys, there was nothing to do. There was no YouTube to watch. Oh my god! Life has changed drastically since I was born and **I'm very excited for the future.** But even though there was no internet, no cell phones, no texting, nothing like that, there was still video games. **Thank God!** Okay guys, there was still video games and I saved up all my allowance guys. I used to do chores around the house for so long, just to try to get a Nintendo 64. Because way back then, that was the brand-new system, was the n64 and guess what, guys? I finally got it! **I was so happy** playing Mario and Donkey Kong Racing. **I just loved it** guys. But you know who didn't like it? My dad. He hated it, guys. I would play video games non-stop. 24 hours a day non-stop. And he used to tell me, "Get outside and play. Do not come back until suppertime. You cannot be inside all day; it's not healthy". So outside I went, where I used to explore around the woods, the train tracks. **I used to go hang out with my friends and just build forts and just enjoy life, guys, and at this point in my life, I was happy.**

But during my childhood **it wasn't always so good** because my dad was in the military. He was in the army, guys, so he used to always get moved around over and over and we'd have to change houses all the time. And you know what changing houses means? **It means trying to make new friends over and over again. As you get older, it gets harder and harder to make friends** and eventually, **I just became shy, quiet and I used to get made fun of on a daily basis.** **Everyone used to just laugh at me and it just made me very, very sad,** but eventually, everything turned around for me in grades 7 and 8, when finally, my dad stayed in the same place for more than, like, six months, and **I actually was able to gain some friends. And I had two best friends. We did everything together and life was great during this time. I had so much fun with girls and my friends; we did everything together.**

At this point in my life I realised that **I truly loved art. I love to draw, I like to write songs,** and all my friends were going to art school, but my parents didn't let me, guys. I don't know why, but my parents took me and put me in the opposite school of all of my friends. **I finally had friends and my parents separated me from them.** They put me in a big high school, and I knew nobody. **I was completely alone, and I was really, really shy. If you're shy in high school, you will get made fun of so much and that's exactly what happened to me, guys.** **It was impossible for me to make friends and once it became established that I had no friends, I was not about to start getting them, guys. It wouldn't happen.** And **I would get bullied over and over and over again. The kids at school would beat me up, they would call me names and then I would get onto the bus to go home and then random people on that bus would pick on me and call me names as well.** And because of this, **I didn't want anything to do with school,** and my report card reflected that very much, guys. I got, like, straight Fs on my report card. All Fs. I am not even joking guys. And because of these bad grades and how I was skipping class all the time, my dad would constantly yell at me and ground me, guys. I was literally locked in my room without my n64, without a cell phone, without anything at all, all the time, and **this made me extremely sad.** **My life became this weird routine of going to school, getting picked on, beat up, spit on, going home on the bus, having the same things happen, and because of my bad grades, when I got home, my dad would yell at me, spank me, and take away my TV or my videogames and everything that I had. Literally everywhere I went was bad; school was bad, my home was bad. Honestly at this point in my life, I felt super depressed and trapped.** It was horrible.

It got so bad that as soon as I turned 16 years old, I dropped out of school and I ran away from home. This was the only way out of this bad situation that I was in, and of course if you're going to run away at 16 years old, you're not going to make a lot of money, so I went straight to the poorest neighbourhood I could find. And this neighbourhood that I ran away to was very, very dangerous guys. It had all sorts of bad, violent people that did a lot of bad things. Eventually I realised that I needed some money, or else I was going to literally be sitting on the street, homeless at 16 years old. So eventually, I got a job at Walmart of all places. Walmart was my very, very first job. Walmart gave me enough money where I could actually live on my own at sixteen years old. And eventually, through working for Walmart, I met a guy who worked at the McDonald's in Walmart who had an apartment by himself who would let me move in with him. But of course, he lived in the worst neighbourhood possible and actually, our house got broken into and completely robbed at one point. **It was very, very bad.** There was people on drugs there. **It was very, very bad** guys. This was not a nice place and I slept on his couch. He only had a one-bedroom apartment. Eventually my friend convinced me to start

selling some very, very bad things and I ended up doing that for some extra money because I was 16 and I needed to live. Walmart doesn't pay a lot of money, guys, if you didn't know. Walmart actually found out what I was doing, and I got fired from work. I had no more money coming in at all, so eventually, my friend who I was living with told me I had to move out.

And at this point I had nowhere to go at all, until my uncle and my aunt actually said that I could come there in London, Ontario, and live with them if I promise to go back to school. So, I accepted their offer and moved to London, Ontario, with my uncle and my aunt. On my first day at school, I didn't want to get bullied or picked on at all anymore in my life, so I decided I got to go into school strong. I got to go there, and I got to just start a fight first day so people know not to mess with me, and I did that guys. I got in a fight and I won. I actually beat him, but because of that, I actually got expelled from school. So, I got kicked out and my aunt and uncle said I could no longer live with them. So, I was back on my own and I went straight back to the worst neighbourhood in the city because I had nowhere to go. I didn't have any money. This was the only place I could go and since I had no money coming in at all, I had to go to this place that would actually give out free food. It was like a soup kitchen, guys, and at that point, after I ate, I left the building and I got robbed at gunpoint. They took everything I had, and I barely had anything. I think they stole like some jewellery I had, some silver jewellery, I don't know, it was probably worth \$20 but they held me up at gunpoint, so I was scared, so I gave it to them, guys. My life was so, so crazy. I was left with absolutely nothing. Nowhere to go. I had absolutely nothing. And at this point, I was very, very sad.

But I did eventually find a job and get an apartment on my own, but I had enough of it. Life was not good for me guys. I was living in a bad neighbourhood around bad people, so I had to get out and my dad was in the army, so I decided I would go into the army just like my dad. And that's exactly what I did. At 18 years old, I signed up for the army, and the army was actually the best thing that ever happened to me. I met some amazing people that I built very strong friendships with and I had some of the best times in my life ever guys, going through boot camp and learning everything to do with the army. The army was great. I had so much fun, and finally, once again in my life, I was happy.

After a while of being in the army, I realised there was something missing in my life and I became more and more unhappy. I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do in life, but I knew deep down that the army wasn't it. And since I wasn't following my dreams, I would cover this up by spending lots and lots of money. I would get credit cards and just spend, spend, spend, and then I would go out with my friends and I would drink, drink, drink. We drank all the time. I started drinking all the time. It actually got really, really, really bad until one day I finally fell in love. And after about a year of dating her, we moved in together. But eventually, she told me she no longer loves me, and she broke up with me. And my life spiralled out of control. I was so heartbroken. I began drinking every single day. Every day. Always drinking. I would just try to cover up the pain I had inside my heart, because deep down, I loved this girl.

I began getting in fights with people at the bar. I was seriously angry all the time and eventually, it led to me getting thrown in jail for 90 days. I had literally hit rock bottom in my life. This was the lowest of the low in my life, but actually, this was a turning point in my life. After the 90 days in jail, I eventually got out, but the military did not like it at all, so they told me, "You're out of here son. You got to go. We can't have nobody in here that's going to jail. You gotta leave". At this point I was 21 years old, and I know I wrote 20 years old, but I was 21 years old and I had nowhere to go at all. I had \$50,000 in debt that I owed, no house, nowhere to go, a criminal record. So, I decided for the first time since 16 years old that I had to move back with my mum and dad. But since I've been gone for so long, when I got back, I found out that my mum and dad had split up and got a divorce. At this point in my life, I decided that drinking honestly ruined my life. I can never drink again, at all. And decided I would never drink again in my life. I started to read a ton of books about happiness, success, and I actually got a job at Costco and started paying off that \$50,000 that I owed and after years and years of saving every single cent I had, I eventually paid it all back. But I found myself in the same situation that happened in the army - I was not living my dream. I became super unhappy. I worked at Costco for three years and I hated every single day of it. The only good thing about that job was not only did I pay off all my debt, but I saved up \$50,000, but at the end of the day, I was still very sad. At this point in my life, I found myself watching YouTube almost every single day, and I realised that that is what I truly wanted to do. I wanted to make videos. I wanted to be like my favourite YouTubers: PewDiePie, Fouseytube, Jenna Marbles and Leafyishere. I loved all those channels and I wanted to be like them. But I also realised I was never going to be happy working for somebody else who would tell me what to do every single day. I hated my boss at work, so I wanted to do anything to be my own boss. I went dumpster diving for money and I also sold something very, very bad for money guys. But now this thing is legal, but at the time it was a big risk. I did anything I could to free myself of Costco, or any job for that matter. I did not want to have a boss. I wanted to run my own life.

So, while I was working on freeing myself of my evil job, I opened up my first YouTube channels, and after one year, I got a hundred subscribers and ten views per video. Not ten thousand, not ten million, I literally got ten views per video, and nine of them were probably my own views checking to see if people were watching my videos yet. But during this initial year of making YouTube videos, I actually managed to save up forty thousand dollars by dumpster diving. Yes, that is a hundred percent real. I actually made \$40,000 from dumpster diving and that was how I was able to buy my very first house that I would rent out to people. And that house cost three hundred thousand dollars. I was on the right track to freeing myself of my job. I was literally making more money doing dumpster diving than I was at

my jobs. I would call in sick a lot, guys, and it was all to do YouTube videos on my spare time because YouTube was my true passion. I just wanted to free myself of my job by doing anything just so I could make YouTube videos because that was my true passion. Eventually I decided to make a brand-new channel called J Station and the reason I called it J Station was because it rhymed with Playstation and I wanted to make gaming videos, more specifically Minecraft videos.

But after about a month or two of trying to make Minecraft videos, I realised I only get 11 views a video, so I decided eventually to start trying everything. I did pranks, I did story times, I did vlogs, I did challenges. I told myself out of everything I'm doing, whatever gets a lot of views first I will keep doing it. And doing all of these different things, I still only got like twelve views a video.

Everything in my life at this point was pretty good, guys. It was actually really good. I would call in sick a lot and just do YouTube videos and I was actually living the life I wanted to live, way before I was even successful at YouTube. I was basically doing YouTube every single day, until one day, my boss called me and said "You missed so much work that you are no longer a full-time employee. We're cutting your hours in half". And I wasn't even that mad because, like I said guys, because I was making so much money in the dumpster. But about two days later, I went back to the dumpster for another dive, and they found out I was doing this, so they now started breaking all the items they threw in the dumpster. I literally had almost zero dollars coming in at this point and after a year of J Station, I only have 850 subscribers and about a hundred views per video. I was gaining views, I was gaining subscribers, but very, very slowly. Like I said guys - one year, and I still only got a hundred views a video. I was honestly panicking at this point. I had no idea what to do. I had so much free time on my hands. No money coming in, so I decided to just jump on you - even more hard. I decided to give it my all, guys. Put all my time into YouTube. And since my job cut my pay check in half, I had no more money from dumpster-diving coming in, every time the people who were renting my house gave me money, instead of paying for the house, I would pocket the money and put it into YouTube. I needed YouTube to work so, so badly.

After a couple of months of me not paying for my house and pocketing the money that people renting my house would give me, the bank eventually came to my house and said "Give me that house back, right now", and they took my house from me, guys. They took the house. I owed so much money on the house because I was taking the money, because I wanted to do YouTube that badly. I hated my job so bad, guys, you do not understand, but at this point in my life, guys, it was not looking good. I barely had a job anymore and it was not looking good at all. I would spend hours and hours sitting there daydreaming of a million subscribers on YouTube, a lot of money, a bunch of houses that I owned and because I tried to follow my dreams, I ended up with nothing again. I had nothing. I absolutely needed YouTube to work out. If not, I would have to spend the rest of my life at a job I hated with a boss that I hated, and forever unhappy. So, I decided to sneak inside of the mall overnight to do something called the 24-hour challenge. When all of a sudden, I woke up with a bunch of police and k9 dogs barking at me, and they arrested me. They said you're under arrest - we're charging you with breaking and entering, and that is a charge that will get you 10 years in prison. I thought, I literally thought, my life was over. All from following my dreams. I got out of jail after a couple hours of being there with a bunch of charges, but I decided to post the video anyway. I mean, I was already in a bunch of trouble. I might as well just try to post this video and hopefully it would blow up on YouTube, but guys, it only got a hundred views.

But about a week or two later, all of a sudden my subscribers were at, like, 4000 subscribers, and I was like, how did this happen? That's when I turned on the TV and I realised that that news was talking about me sneaking into the mall, and as soon as the news did their video about me, my video in the mall actually went to a million views! I was so, so happy. Before this point, I had literally never gotten above like 200 views on YouTube, but now, I have a million views on YouTube.

So, the very next day, I decided to call in sick to my job again, even though they were mad at me for doing that, and I decided to stay 24 hours overnight in a church. And then the very next day I would stay 24 hours overnight in a bowling alley. And I kept on doing this, over and over and over, because the views were going 1 million, 1 million, 1 million, 1 million every single time. I literally went from making \$1600 per month at Costco to \$3,000 per day at YouTube. Ok guys, like literally. Ok, 3,000 a day. I was so, so happy. My dream was finally coming true. I could be a YouTuber. I could make these awesome YouTube videos that I love to do and actually be able to make a living doing it. I was so happy guys. So happy that I went back to Costco and I told my boss that I hated so much that I quit. I literally quit my job. This was a dream taking place. I was honestly living a dream. This was insane guys. You, you couldn't imagine the feeling that I had. It was incredible. After all those years of pain, everything was finally working out and before it was even a month of me getting a million views, every time I dropped a video, YouTube said that I had \$40,000 coming my way after only one month, guys. I was so happy until YouTube said "Nope, we're not giving you that \$40,000", and they shut down my channel from making any money whatsoever, right after I had just quit my job. And the reason was I had been making content that depicts illegal activities. Sneaking into a mall overnight is definitely not legal, so they took away all that money and I had no job, no money coming in. My house had been taken away. I had literally lost everything, and I was left yet again with nothing. My dream had literally turned into a nightmare overnight, guys. My channel was gone, guys, so I decided to make a new one called ImJStation, but when I applied to put ads on my videos, they actually said "denied". I was denied ads on my videos because of my old channel. They knew it was still

me. YouTube is not dumb guys. YouTube is not dumb. And at this point again, I literally thought my life was over. Forever guys, forever. I had a bunch of charges from sneaking into these places. No money, nothing. I lost everything guys. I lost everything chasing my dream. I was so devastated guys. It was insane. I actually, like, cried. For real guys. I literally cried. It was so, so bad. So, me not having a job, not having any money, getting arrested, losing my YouTube channel and the ability to make any future money on YouTube, I was devastated. So, in my head, I thought my life was over guys. So, you know what I did? I decided to go and get a loan for \$7,500. This was the most money that they would give me, and I said, "You know what? My life is completely ruined. I might as well just go take this \$7,500 and just go make YouTube videos. It's what I really want to do. It's what I really, really, really want to do, and after all this money runs out, my life is over". That's where I would end it. But you know what guys? It all worked out. There was a miracle that happened. Somebody reached out to YouTube for me to get them to agree to let me actually run ads on my videos again. And now guys, I have 4.4 million wonderful, amazing subscribers that I call the Jay Nation. Thank you guys so much for everything you've ever done. Just for supporting me and being there and watching my videos, has made my dreams all come true. I love you guys so much for all of this. Thank you so much. It means everything to me.

4177

#### MDML #97

Hi, my name is Zachary. I was born in Sarasota, Florida. The beginning of my life started in Venice, Florida, though my mum and dad got a house there and it was just them and my brother and I, and sometimes my grandparents. They would come visit us time to time. So, I had a pretty normal life. My dad would go to work, my mum would go teach her class and my brother and I would go exploring in the backyard. We'd always hunt down butterflies and catch them or just go birdwatching. We were really fascinated by nature. I remember my brother and I would always make these forts in our backyard, and then some of the neighbour kids would come play with us and make their own forts. We'd play games like capture the flag or freeze tag.

Eventually it was time to go to school. I remember the very first day of school was very scary to me. I remember I would hide behind my mum when we were walking to my class, and when we got to my class, one of the boys started laughing at me. I knew he was laughing at me for hiding behind my mum, but what could I say? I was scared. It was my first time moving to a new place, and I didn't know anyone at the school. When my teacher saw me, she told me to stand in front of the class and introduce myself, but I was stuttering so much that I got really embarrassed and just asked if I could sit down. Luckily, my teacher was really kind, so let me go to my seat. Immediately I ran to my seat, embarrassed, and looked straight down. I tried to ignore some of the other kids right beside me talking and whispering. I didn't know what they were talking about, me or not. But around lunchtime, some of the kids started talking to me, and it wasn't so bad. Soon enough, I made a lot of friends at school, except for this one kid, Blake. He was a total jerk. That kid would bully a lot of people there, except he would mostly bully me for some reason. A lot of my friends told me it was probably because he was jealous of me. I remember Blake would love to frame me though for some of the bad stuff he did. Like this one time, the teacher had to leave the classroom for a minute to take a call, and Blake quickly ran to the whiteboard and scribbled all over it, and when the teacher came in, he said I did it and to make things worse, he made his friends back him up. The teacher sadly believed him, even though some of my friends were telling her that it was all fake and that I never did anything. The teacher really did take Blake's side a lot. I don't really know why though. She was really nice to me but would always send me to the principal's office whenever I got framed for doing something bad. Even though it wasn't fair, I still loved my school and my new friends I had made.

I remember one day after school, my dad had brought home a computer. My brother and I asked him if we could try it out for the first time and he let us. Soon, I found out about YouTube and I started watching countless hours of videos each day. Eventually my brother and I decided to make our own YouTube channel. We started recording videos of us playing video games, but no one saw it, but it didn't matter to us - we were really proud of our videos. Eventually, we told some of the kids at our school about our channel. After I told the class about my channel, some of the kids there started making fun of me or would poke fun at my channel. At first, it didn't let it get to me, but every day, kids would poke fun at my channel and made jokes about it, so I got embarrassed and deleted my channel because I just wanted the jokes to stop. Also, I kind of lost interest about making videos because of how embarrassed I was, so I started playing sports instead in my free time with my friends and my brother, or I'd go exploring still in the backyard with my bro.

But one day, my dad came home excited. He quickly yelled out for the family to meet him in the living room and when we got there, he was telling us that we were going to move to a new house. Immediately I freaked out. I asked him what about my school and my friends I had made, but both my parents already had agreed we'd be moving, so I couldn't really do anything about it. So, after I said to my goodbyes to my friends, we moved, and the new house wasn't so bad. It was bigger than our old house, except there was only one thing that could have been better - when we were going to bed, all of a sudden, we heard a ton of frogs making these croaking noises in the backyard. Our backyard was infested by frogs. They were everywhere, and they kept us up in the middle of the night. So, the next day, my dad had made a deal with my brother and I. He said that if we got four frogs, he'd give us a dollar. So, we started catching frogs the

next day. We probably got hundreds of them and after we were finished, we'd relocate them somewhere else at some other pond.

Now, some time had passed while we were living at the new house, and my mum and dad weren't really getting along. I remember they used to have their fights once in a while, but this morning was a bit different. I remember waking up to hearing glass break in the kitchen, and when I ran to see what had happened, I saw my dad driving away and my mum crying in the kitchen. My brother and I knew something was changing, and **as much as we tried to ignore it**, our parents separated that day. Now **I love both of my parents very much**, but **I missed my dad**. For the most part, it was just me, my brother and my mum all living together. I didn't really see my dad after he left that day, and for the first time ever, I spent my birthday without him. **This was probably one of the hardest years of my life. I never thought this day would even happen. I thought my family would always be together.** I even remember that a kid at school once told me he was jealous of me having a mum and a dad, and **I never knew what he meant until then**.

So, for a while, I kind of changed. **I got really depressed and I didn't really want to talk to any of my friends anymore. I had made some new friends at school, but I stopped talking to them, and even after they tried inviting me to their parties and to just hang out somewhere. I always turned them down or pushed everyone away.** It wasn't anyone's fault, don't get me wrong, it's just I was going through a lot. Around this time is when me my brother started playing video games again. **It just helped us mentally. Whenever we got sad about all the stuff that was going on, we just played games with each other and try making each other laugh.**

Now around this time, I started doing YouTube again. I thought, why not give it a shot? **I enjoyed doing it**, but just never had the time to, so I started uploading videos again, and to my surprise, **things went great**. I remember the day I hit a hundred thousand subscribers. My brother and I were **freaking out. We never thought that would even be possible** and along the journey, **I met some amazing friends** that I still have today. I met my friend Amber first. **I was really shy when I first met her**, but **she was a really good friend** and soon she introduced me to some of her friends, and I can't believe we've been friends for so long now. I remember when I first met everyone. **I was so shy**, but after a while **we just bonded really well**, and **I can't thank them enough. They helped me get through a lot of stuff.**

Now fast forward. Last year, I met Alex. You may know her as Inquisitor Master. We started off by just watching movies together and playing games. I met Alex through YouTube and I asked her if she wanted to hang out. Soon, we were watching movies together and playing games, and **when I went through some tough times in my life, she was there for me no matter what. Eventually, I fell in love with her and one day I asked her out. And to my surprise, she said yes. The tough part** is that she lived in Texas and I lived in Florida, so we were so far apart from each other, but **I was so in love with her** that I decided to move to Texas so I could be with her. Eventually I met her parents and **her cool bro. Her brother and me are, like, tight. I consider him one of my best friends and her parents are so cool. I'm proud that I'm able to call them my family.**

**I made this video to thank you all for 1 million subscribers. It really means a lot, everyone. I always wanted to hit million subscribers, but I never thought it'd be possible, but you guys made it come true. But yeah, thank you everyone so much for making my dreams come true. Without YouTube, I would have never met Alex or any of my friends, so, thank you everyone, the fans, for making this possible. Without you guys, I don't know where I would be right now. But I hope you all enjoyed this video everyone. It took me a long time to make, so if you enjoyed it, remember to drop a like and also subscribe to the channel if you're new. Join the Z squad today. But without further ado everyone, this is AG signing off. I love you all. See you all tomorrow. Goodbye, and thank you for 1 million subscribers!**

1776

## MDML #98

Alright! Welcome to a draw my life. **I spent a lot of time on this drawing. It took me like 11 tries.** Okay, so just a disclaimer, **I really cannot draw at all.**

Okay, let's get started. I'm 18 years old, so I'm an adult now. I don't think I have the most interesting life to look back at, but I just wanted to look back to my life when I wasn't an adult. Yeah, yeah that. My name is Stan, but I'm known as Brownie, and I was born the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1999. Why Brownie, by the way? We will get to that later. But I was born. **That's where it went wrong.** I was born at home - not in a hospital. Within a week of my birth, I was in hospital. I had a disease that was pretty common by babies. I had it pretty bad, and after a few weeks, I also had an infection. **That was pretty bad.** So, I got over all of that and it turned out that I had developed asthma in the first six months of my life. So, I spent a lot of time in hospital. During all of this I wasn't in a lot of pain apparently. I mean, I don't know a lot of this video. At six months old they gave me painkillers that was too much for a grown man, so I was sick and basically sick all the time. But **luckily**, I was the sweetest kid, until I became older than a year and a half, and my mum basically wanted to kill me. I was just crying all the time, just, the only thing I did was crying, and one thing that was kind of weird - **I hated milk.** There was absolutely no way I was going to drink that, except for goat milk. **I loved that.** So, until I was three and a half years old, the only thing I drank or actually took in, the only thing I took in was goat milk, and still at 18 years old, **I hate milk.** Don't know about goat milk though. I was really annoying - drama, drama,

drama - so the dream of my parents of having three kids because of me, no, no, no. Not again! But luckily, they got another one. I have a mum, dad, sister, little brother and me. This drawing is based on the truth and only the truth.

And around this time, I went to preschool. The name of the preschool had Trump in it, so must be gay. That was hell of fun. Basically, did nothing there. I spent a long time there. By the way, at four years old I went to school for the first time, but guess what the hospital said? Hey, we're back! You've still got asthma. Actually, I never hated going there. Everyone was pretty nice and pretty cool, but yeah still, asthma isn't that much fun. But I was doing alright. You know, sick, same routine, painkiller, blow. But hey, I was going to be alright. I was in kindergarten for three years. Most of the people stay two years, but not me, nah fam. It was lit there. I didn't know what I had to deal with when I was born, but hey, people say that this is why I got so smart, because I was there playing with blocks for three years. This is actually true. I started playing football at five years old. I actually had some friends - part of that because my parents knew their parents, but some I actually got, managed to get myself and I was socially a zero. My parents always said your IQ is a lot higher than your EQ. What went wrong? But I guess it was true, because I never actually bond with people a lot or have these really cool BFF for life stuff, things, yeah. You're my brother for life, bro. Not really had that.

So finally, class three or first grade in America, I don't know. I was seven and in school okay? So, school starts, and you enter life. It was okay, but I was bullied a lot. It's because I was the fat guy or the guy you could pick on easily and get offended easily or get mad easily and explodes. Yep, that was me. The bullying and me exploding, it was there a lot. And sometimes I just broke. I just lost it. I got really angry, trying to handle it on a physical level, trying to beat the shit out of people and just breaking stuff, you know, stuff like that. One day I was bullied, and no one was listening. No support, no teacher helped me, and I just ran to my classroom, shuffled all the tables, pushed him over and, you know, it was a mess. This equals teachers talking to parents, parents talking to parents with teachers observing. People having no clue what to do with, bling! Let's put the main guys that are fighting in different classes. Everyone happy - yay! So, my main bully got placed in a different class, but you know, I don't know. You still see each other when playing outside. But you know, doesn't matter. But hey, they thought, we've still got that weird guy that gets mad all the time - that's me - but bling! That equals anger-management. Yeah, I was put in this sort of class with a couple of other guys that they thought were "special". We were just basically the weird guys that they couldn't handle. Actually, a couple of these were my friends.

I did have this one best friend, my main guy, you know. This is how we met. There was this long alley between houses, and it was like a dream. I was in this end because my house was next to that, and he on the other end, because his house was next to that end. The magical moment happened - "You want to play?" "Okay!" So, we played. And I remember that this guy was in another school. They just moved. His father was from Turkey and his mum was Dutch, so I was like, "Yo, hey man, you know, your school is stupid. Join mine". So, he joined mine, and then life happened. When he entered our school, out of nowhere, he was the popular guy. Me, obviously, still being a kid that was bullied a lot. Basically, life hits you in the face. Because we're little, and we choose what's best for us, so he chose what was best for him. If some popular guys were fighting me, he could help them insulting me or he chose my side and help me. Hey, you know, that's life. That's how I see it right now. Oh, and by the way, this anger management bullshit, no. It didn't work at all. This was during school and we had no clue what we were doing there or why. I was also sent to a totally different place with what I think was a psychologist or a behaviour expert, I don't know. Something with my behaviour, something with my anger, and this did actually work, I think. I got mad less often and less quickly. To be completely honest, I don't know the exact order of all this, what just happened. This just happened in the first years of my life and school. All these memories and all these things that happened for me, they just made me who I am. I mean, the bullying was bad, even to a point where they threw my favourite bike into a ditch. Honestly, I blocked all this. By the way, I just realised that I sound really pity and sad, but it was great. Life was great. My mum actually had to tell me this recently. "Hey, do you remember when we got your bike out of this ditch?" And I was like "Oh, I remember". Nice, pretty nice.

Time passed, people settled down. They became a lot nicer and I became a lot less anxious. I do have some unforgettable moments with friends. I was still friends with my best friend, but I also had some other best friends which were equally socially awkward. That's nice. One of my best friends' dad, he owned a sort of heaven for children. I spent a lot of my childhood there. You could play football, midget golf, all the stuff that you want, and I did go through a lot with this guy, but he was just, and then this happened. This. This is where it all started. There was this guy, we had one dream: be like iCarly. Yeah! We did. We made things up, recorded it and actually spent a lot of time doing this. I do think we actually recorded like two videos. These videos are still lost. But I actually had some awesome memories with friends. They know. I mean most of my friends were pretty weird back then, so was I. Damn, did they become some weird motherfuckers right now!

When I was 10, the asthma sort of faded, and that was awesome. I mean, not a lot of people have it that bad. Experience this. Still sometimes got an asthma attack though, so dead. So, around this time, a friend of mine and also neighbour let me listen to rap, to be specific, Eminem. So, I still want to thank him for that. So, thank you.



Elementary school ended on good terms. Said goodbye to people and high school, yeah! Fun fact: I moved housing last year of elementary school, so I had to cycle this, instead of this. In-between we had this house where we stayed while our new house was getting built. I lived here in the attic, which just constantly had ice on the ceiling and walls, because it was an old house and yeah, it was just cold. But we lived here for ten months and then moved to this house. Here is the fun fact: not so much later, lightning struck that room and it burned it fully down. I'm still playing football by the way. I met this guy who was in my team that year, and we were like "Oh, are you going to that school next year?" "Yeah" "And secondary school?" "Yeah!" "Whoa, me too". This guy's name was Sten. My name is also Stan, but his is with an e and mine with an a. Also, I attended for Cambridge English classes, which I didn't pass. That's irony, isn't that?

So, school started. A new life. I met new people pretty fast. That was awesome. Also, I realised I actually had to do some stuff. My grades were shit. I had literally teachers asking me, "Stan, why are you so bad?" Actually, I think teachers and principals, I don't know, they thought I wasn't going to make it. I wasn't close to making it. They thought my mum sabotaged the system so I could get in that class. I don't know. I thought was quite funny. Yay, someone else I met was Yamich. This is why I love him. If people ask him "How did you meet?", this is what he always says: "haha, I saw him sitting all alone by himself during a tournament, loser". He's pretty important to me. You can see why. He actually did do something useful. He showed me the other side of YouTube for the first time. For me, YouTube was music. Weird Gangnam style stuff or just music that I loved listening to: Eminem and listening to other new music. He showed me what a friend had shown him: his name is PewDiePie. I started watching him and more people that I found doing the same thing or just something totally different that I love. And Sten and I had this idea, epic stean, epic stean. We had this idea at the end of the first year, which I actually passed! Yeah, Mr. Why are you so bad? I worked hard for it, but I did. The YouTube idea became a reality. We said, "We can do this too!" We started a gaming channel, which is kind of ironically too, because I didn't play any games at all in my life. But I spent two weeks of my vacation dedicated to editing and learning stuff about YouTube. Then we started it. We had big plans, 200,000 subscribers in no time, flying out to cool places and making awesome videos. Sten had to quit at 186 subscribers because it wasn't working. So, what now? Epic Stan Brownney. Why Brownney? Well, this is my last name. When people tried to pronounce it, people would say "brownie", probably the food or something. Okay, sure. Then it took off. No, that's not true. It was still shit but I enjoyed it. Made some gaming videos, but also other stuff that I really liked, like challenges, short movies, stuff like that. And I always loved the editing. This year I met a guy. Guy is called Aryen. He was on the same school as I was before this school, but I actually didn't know him at all, because I just didn't. I hate him. No, that's not true. So, we decided to become best friends. Oh, and he had a really good friend which was also a good friend of Yamich, so we decided to become best friends too. In my mind it went like this, okay? Sorry Ar. I mean, I'm glad you're there. You're my man.

YouTube now has grown to a couple of thousand subscribers and I passed the second year! Oh, why are you so bad? And YouTube grew a little more. All my friends were helping me with making videos. This was an awesome time. Looking back, they spent a lot of time. A lot of time on me and making videos, so thank you guys for that. I literally loved it, but it was pretty stressful because it was really hard to manage with school and I actually made no money off YouTube, like ten a month, doesn't matter which currency, just ten. I had a few jobs but quit them as soon as school started. At this time, I was also gaining a lot of weight just because I ate everything. Literally everything. You know, the cherry, most of the time if there was something bad but really tasty in the house, you know, it was mine.

Now, love happened. I had had a crush on this girl for as long as I can remember. And I also started liking a girl more and more, who happened to be Aryen's girlfriend. Ah, just kidding, that would be really interesting, but it was her best friend. So, I got pretty close and we talked a lot to each other. We were like yo, let's date these girls and we're gonna have both, both, we're going to have girlfriends. Yeah! And it did work out, for Aryen. They both liked each other a lot and I was really happy for him, but for me, no feelings at all. This killed me. I think I had a crush on her for a full year and a lot of hope. That was all gone. A lot of things happened in life and my mother once called me fat, and I got rejected, and I just really wanted to change. Aryen was already working out and I just, I thought it was amazing, so I started looking a little bit more into it and living a little bit more healthy. Aryen really was there for me. He helped me a lot and obviously the other friends too. Here is a secret. I haven't told a lot of people this. I did not only want to change myself physically but just in general. Socially pretty weak, physically pretty fat, and because of my EQ, my ability to empathize with other people's feelings wasn't there, so I, I just observed. Looked how people responded to behaviour: what they liked, disliked, adored and thought was funny or made them mad, everything. Literally everything. I mean, I was always interested in how people responded to stuff, but I took it to a whole new level. I'm always myself, especially around people I trust and I like, but I do filter out bad habits and sometimes replace them for better habits, so people just, you know, sometimes for first impressions, because those are really important and actually a lot of times just because I want to. I want to better myself. I know a lot I think, but I'm always learning. So that's a pretty random thing about moi in relation to how I changed myself.

Year four started. The number's in the top left corner. I don't think, I don't know, sorry. Year four, I met this girl, Sydney. No, not the city in Australia. And she trapped me. I was so done with girls after what happened. She was just so different than other girls. She was a little insecure, actually pretty a lot, not knowing at all how beautiful she is.

Never actually asked for attention or got a lot of attention from other people, she just had her best friends and that was enough, but **she really did her best for me**. Afterwards, she said, "I saw you two years ago at school already and I was like, you fine!" I didn't know her back then, but when she heard she was going to the same class as I was next year, she thought, "now it's the time", so **she seduced me, and now I have a girlfriend. Yes, you trapped me. Love you.** During this time, I did cheat, because **I found another love and that was calisthenics**. Basically, pull ups. Together with Aryen I just I made some insane gains. **It took some time, but the progress was there**, and **I loved what I was doing**. And **I passed year four. Why are you so bad?**

**My parents are awesome. They supported me a lot** with YouTube and my creativity. Well, YouTube wasn't doing the best at this time. I think I hit 23 thousand subscribers four times or something and they were saying I had to get a job, which I understood. **I was so stressed**; I didn't have the time for anything. I remember getting papers at a supermarket for a job application and I knew if I would hand these in, it would be the end of YouTube for me. I never handed these in. I gave myself a little bit more time, uploaded some videos that actually got some decent views, you know? Remember those water bottle flips? Maybe you're here because of that. Oh yeah, that. **And I had the holiday of my life, so I really want to thank my parents for that**. That's also where I recorded one of those videos, so, and then it happened. I uploaded a video - my one-year body transformation. And it just exploded, in my terms. **The video gained thousands and thousands of views in the first days and at a certain point hit 1 million views. It's really a couple of weeks before that I was celebrating that my channel had hit 1 million views in total**. I actually gave vlogging a try. People didn't really like that because, you know, they were here for funny videos and not anything related to sports, but from the moment I uploaded that video, people were asking for videos like that and **I loved it**.

**I got an insane amount of support and I actually still got that, so I really want to thank you guys for just supporting me so much. It's, it's insane**. I know it's really a basic thing to say, but for me it's not basic at all. Tens of thousands, sometimes even hundreds of thousands of people who are watching your videos. The basics: subscribing, liking, sharing, I mean, you guys are insane. **Thank you so much**. Fun fact: I did this, this transformation, like I do most of the things I do. **just spent a shitload of time learning stuff about the subject, educating myself. The Internet is awesome** these days. I actually still have the papers that could have changed everything. This all happened during year 5 of secondary school. It was, it was extremely busy. No, just, it's just so extremely busy. 18-year-old Browney, you better start changing that because **it's a little too much**. Actually, because of this, because it's so much, it's, I sometimes forget the most important stuff in life. **As simple as saying thank you to the people who support me and help me. I really want to thank everyone who has supported me throughout these years**.

3491

## MDML #99

Hey guys! What's up? So today I decided to draw my life for you which should be interesting because I'm not really sure what I'm going to talk about, but I will give it a try. And **I just really wanted to do this video** because **I like drawing**, so here we go.

I started off as a baby like a long, long time ago and I was born in a hospital and that hospital was in the Philippines. It was actually the Clark Air Base, that's where my parents met, but anyways, I only lived in the Philippines for about a year before flying to America. We ended up moving to Montana first, I'm not sure why we went to Montana, but that was the first place we went to and **it wasn't actually a bad thing**, because in Montana that's where my parents had my brother Alex and my sister Mariah, **which was awesome** because I did not want to be an only child and **that made me very, very happy**.

Well we ended up moving from Montana to Kentucky after a few years, and we actually went, ended up moving there because of family and while we were in Kentucky, I ended up going to private school and **it was awesome because at this private school I made like a lot of friends** and I played sports and **studied really hard, and I was just like a really, really good student** and **life was perfect and like life was really, really good. Everything was working out fine** and then we ended up moving to North Carolina. We ended up moving for more family and **at the time it wasn't that bad, well it actually was, because in middle school I was actually a short fat kid who had braces and squinted his eyes and had like a really weird haircut and kids were mean to me. I mean, like a lot of people, I was bullied, and I was called names and like all that good stuff, and it really sucked, like, I actually cried a few times. I mean, like, manly cries, but I did cry, and I always remember thinking, like, if I was only a taller and skinnier, maybe things would be different. Maybe friends would like actually be around**. But what I did end up doing was studying. I studied like a lot. I studied anything to get my hands on, from math to science to history, any book I could get my hands on I would read and I get As and Bs and I'd get good grades, but **it didn't really help with the whole bullying and teasing thing**. I'm not sure why. And **I actually remember, like, staying up at night dreaming, like, just wishing that one day I'd be tall, and things would be different**.

After being in middle school for a couple years then came high school, which **wasn't any better. Unfortunately, I was still the same short fat kid with braces** and **I still got teased and nothing changed**. The one good thing that did happen was my parents had Andrew. If you haven't seen him, he's my kid brother and he is amazing. Hilarious. And it was

awesome because I had him and my brother and sister it was just a big happy family. But luckily, things did change my senior year. I ended up switching high schools and when I switched high schools, things changed for me. I wasn't the short fat kid with braces anymore. Taller, skinnier, not so bad-looking kid. And it was awesome because I ended up graduating and I was looking forward to college because I knew things would be different. I had a chance to be the popular kid and make friends and have a good time.

So, I ended up going to UNC, see, it's UNC Charlotte, and at the UNC Charlotte I ended up meeting three of my closest friends: it was Ant, Kyle and Zach. These guys are amazing and hilarious, and you do see them in some my videos. But the one thing I did have an issue with in Charlotte was I kind of got lazy. I didn't like doing things the hard way. I was like trying to find an easier way of doing thing, and the first lazy thing I actually did was throw an entire bag of garbage out the window towards a trashcan. Didn't make it, but after that I started finding simpler ways to do different things like walking my dog without leaving my bed and I just ended up filming it. I filmed a lot of things. Whether it was Hiccup just looking at the camera, yeah, his butt really looks like that, or if it was just anything I could film, I would film. And I remember uploading my first video and the only thing was is that this big word "title" was there. I didn't have a name for it, but luckily, one day my brother came to visit and we kind of brainstormed and that's when we ended up coming up with Lazy Ron Studios. But that's pretty much it. That's just been me and my friends, just hanging out, making videos and we loved it. We wouldn't change it for the world.

Hey guys, thanks for watching my video. Be sure to comment and like, subscribe, and let me know what you think in the comments below, or you could just tell me how your day was. That's it. Hope you liked it and I'll see you guys later.

935

## MDML #100

Hello viewers, new and loyal. This video will be detailing my life journey 21 years in, to celebrate reaching 2,000 subscribers, which means it's going to be a long video. My advice is to sit back, relax, and grab a nice drink and maybe some popcorn and chill, while I share my little world with you. If you're all for efficiency, I've structured this video somewhat non chronologically and thematically, so head down to the description to jump to specific sections, as shown here. Oh, and special thanks to my beautiful assistant who will be helping me tell this story.

With this preamble out of the way, let's get on with the show. Like most living things, my beginning was the result of a chance union between two others, let's call one dad and the other one mum. On the left, we have the dad. Now, this guy was a country fellow; playing outside was his thing, as was tinkering with his motorbike he'd saved up for and then racing it against his brother in the woods like some sort of daredevil with an inflated death wish. In fact, let's call him daredevil dad. On the right, we have mum. This story isn't as straightforward as it's set in the exotic and troubled country of Tanzania, and I know what you're thinking, drawings look pretty cool when they're sped up. And you'd be right. And you'd also be right to think Jamie doesn't look Tanzanian. Well, I'm not. I'm actually part Indian. My great granddad took an epic voyage from Gujarat to Tanzania in search of a better life. It worked and my mum was raised with lions and tigers and elephants under the watchful eye of Mount Kilimanjaro. Alas, my mum's time here was cut short as the government, following Idi Amin's lead in Uganda, nationalized the economy and housing and began to expel loads of non-natives which happened to my mum when she was 16. I've added a link down the description if you're curious to know more about the history of this region. Being a selfish, existence clinging human, I'm glad for this turn of events as it allowed my mum to meet the daredevil when she came to England. Long story short, the daredevil sold my mum a car, they met, they married, and they had a kid. As you've noticed, this kid is too pretty to be me. That is my sister. If we fast-forward 16 months, I come into the picture.

My sister wasn't too keen, and she ran down the hospital corridor to avoid me. Which I've artistically represented by rubbing her out of this photo. Don't worry, she eventually liked me. In fact, she's one of my best friends, which is pretty cool considering siblings are not usually meant to get on. Oh, and here's a customary baby photo.

As the clock ticked by, I got older, naturally. What was I like as a kid? Well I loved watching cartoons: Dragon Ball Z, Beyblades, Pokemon, Yu-gi-oh. I also loved playing with Lego and drawing. I managed to find one of the pictures I did when I was about 8 and here are some things I drew in January of this year and I think I made a little bit of progress. Ah, and I loved cardboard. I'd literally make everything and anything I could out of cardboard. Like, I even made a pair of shoes once so I could slide around on the carpet. In fact, my first spaceship was made out of cardboard, plus it had its own Malteser dispenser. Eat your heart out, Neil Armstrong.

What was I like personality-wise? Well, I loved asking why. My dad said it was to the point of being irritating, but the daredevil and mum were pretty cool answering the majority of weird and wonderful questions that I had. I suppose it was because I was their kid. Another cool thing that my parents did was save up throughout the year so we could go on holiday, which is why I've been all over the place shown by the coloured areas in this picture of the globe that I've drawn. My personal favourites on this map are Disney World, Dubai, Canada and Mallorca. Disney because it was freaking Disney and I was seven and I got to hug Mickey Mouse, Dubai because it was a big family holiday with my

cousins, Canada for similar reasons as I have family there, and Mallorca because that was where my first holiday was. I don't remember it because I was 18 months old, but I have a picture somewhere of me catching my first fish, but I couldn't find it for this video. **Oh, thank you!** Right, here we go, FYI, **I only caught the fish because it was dead.** That's, that's how the pros do it.

Now, let's talk about primary school. **I had a wonderful primary school** that was located at the bottom of the hill near my house. My memories from this time in my life mainly involve playing and running and jumping and trading Pokémon cards and spinning Beyblades and laying on the grass. **My friend group in primary school was also fantastic,** but things got split up when we went to secondary school as people went to different locations. The next location I went to was the high school that was up the hill near my house. My high school had a pretty infamous reputation and I recall my mum saying when, that we would never go there when I was younger, however I didn't plus my eleven plus to get into the local Grammar School, so to the comprehensive school I went. The first thing I learned was how innocent my primary school was and **how nice people were there,** because **people weren't so nice in high school.** So, this is the part of the story where I tell you how **things got sad** and **how mean people were,** well sort of. Concepts would be helpful, so in year 9, i.e. when I was about eleven, I was this skinny, average height, not that sporty **semi shy kid** who was unaware of school well beyond playing and there were lots of kids who liked to pick on people like me. Also, **I didn't have an explicit friend group** as such because my old friends began hanging out with different people, so I got to work on my "will you be my friend?" skills.

**Post year nine is when I grew quite a lot both physically and in personality.** This was partly because I was forced into doing drama, as my school specialized in performing arts, so that's the subject I did for GCSE as I was told I was decent at it. **I was really glad** the teacher suggested this because, turns out, **I love drama.** A theme throughout the various roles I played was that **they consistently pushed me outside of my comfort zone.** I was a murderous father who killed his daughter because she shamed the family. I was a schizophrenic brother who accidentally killed his mother and I was a camp fairy who narrated the performance using rhyming couplets and iambic pentameter to compliment my prancing about the stage. So then GCSEs eventually happened and **my efforts paid off as I got 11 A stars and I set a new record for my school.** A-levels then became my academic focus. We have English, History, Maths and Chemistry. I picked these not really knowing what I wanted to do for a degree, but what they did reflect was my torn heart. **You have my love for the Arts on one side** and the fact that I was hardwired to think like a scientist on the other. What helped me decide what degree I wanted to do was the Uniq summer school that Oxford offered which one of my teachers mentioned. Essentially, you do a week in the life of an Oxford student in the summer between year 12 and 13. I did history, and now, **I discovered that I loved Oxford,** but **I wasn't too keen on studying history.** Eventually I discovered PPE, which I'd never done before, so I did some reading over the summer to get a feel for each of the topics. **Loved it,** applied, got in. Of course, it wasn't that simple, but I have loads of videos detailing that journey already, so for the sake of not sounding like a broken record, let's talk about what I used to do in my free time. However, just before jumping to that, I haven't mentioned in other videos the locations I applied to that weren't Oxford. So, they were Warwick, UCL, York and the LSE. The grade requirements in these places was the same as for Oxford and if I hadn't got into Oxford, I probably would have not gone to uni. At that point in time I thought going straight into an apprenticeship was the next most sensible option because I could earn money and train and learn how to set up my own business. Reflecting back now, I'm less convinced that this would have been the best move, because **the extent to which I grew as a person at university** was pretty staggering, though I'm not sure if that is an Oxford thing or a general university thing, as I have no other university experiences to draw on, because, well, I haven't been to any other universities.

The design to set up my own business linked nicely with the most interesting thing I did when I was still a kid which was to set up own online business at 12. Before diving into this, I have a confession. My name is Jamie and I used to play Runescape, an online massively multiplayer RPG game. For anyone who cares, I was a level 82 and my weapon of choice was a byssal whip paired with a poisoned dragon dagger. Amongst its many features, **the most fantastic thing about this game** was the fact that it had its own economy. People could buy and sell goods using the digital currency and prices would fluctuate according to the supply and demand of these goods. Within this economy, **I became very good at arbitrage** - buying things when they were cheap and selling them when they were more expensive to turn a profit. This is where the business side of things comes in. **I loved being independent** and most of my friends got pocket money, giving them some financial independence, and I wanted that, so I decided I would write a guide on how to make money in this game and then sell it. I asked my dad for some investment. I think it was about 50 pounds at the time to cover some fees, and I started selling the guides. Chatting to my dad about this now sheds **an amusing light** on the situation. At the time, I didn't think this was an odd request in any sense, but my dad said that he had to smile and hold his scepticism. I suppose it is kind of absurd for a 12-year-old to ask you for your bank details, he can put them on the Internet to sell an e-book for a video game that he plays. Anyway, **it worked,** and I ran that for a few years until the economy of the game became nationalized. By that time, **I didn't want to play anymore,** so I just let it go. Also, I use this as an example of why nationalizing most things is a bad idea. There are two themes from the story worth noting: one is **my love for videogames.** With the money, I allowed myself one extravagance, and that was to get a PlayStation 3 on launch day on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2007. A day that I will have etched into my memory until I die. I played Resistance, Metal Gear Solid, War Hoard, Little Big Planet Uncharted, yeah, **I liked gaming.** On top of that, I gamed quite a lot. Like not a ridiculous amount but most of my free time went on gaming, not really studying. Immersing myself in a

world made of pixels with a fantastic story and an epic soundtrack that leaves goose bumps on your skin was a compelling proposition and mix that with the ability to level up, and I am sold. My childhood gave me a fairly good grounding as well as one of my aunts introduced me to the Gameboy, and I discovered Pokémon. You know those people who can walk while looking at their phones and maintain complete awareness of their surroundings? Yeah, that's me. I honed that skill by becoming a Pokémon master while following my family around while they would go shopping.

The other big theme from the online business story is **the self-starting attitude. I wanted an income, so I thought of a way of getting one. My age didn't concern me or my lack of knowledge about running an e-commerce business. I just figured it out as I went.** This sort of attitude led me to do decorating and gardening and tutoring and CV consulting. To let you know how my mind works, I don't really see problems. **I just see a world consisting of obstacles that I eventually figure a way around.** Sometimes that's smashing through them or pivoting or going around them through some ingenious tunnelling, but you figure it out and you don't let it stop you from acting. In the context of school, however, **I didn't like the idea of joining clubs** with regard to extracurricular things. In my head, **I thought they were lame.** Why would I want to spend more time at school playing a trombone when I could be at home? **Other things that I thought were lame** were watching the news and reading fiction. I was a nonfiction guy and the idea of reading stories was not interesting at all because it wasn't fact. Obviously, I no longer hold this view, as I'm currently eating my way through a lot of books. Anyway, my perspective on doing extracurricular things at school completely changed when I got to sixth form when I was about 17 or 18, as I began to catch up on all the extracurricular things I'd been neglecting. I was part of the events organisation team and then I became head student, which **I absolutely loved.** My main role was to fundraise for the school's charities and proms, and naturally, **I wanted to raise the most money of any team before me and put on the most memorable and fantastic prom the school had ever seen.** If any of you are thinking of doing 5 A-levels, I would suggest you get really sucked into a role like this instead of doing a fifth. **I learned a ridiculous amount about people and event organisation** that made organizing lots of future events child's play. So, the value add is far greater in my opinion than what I would have gained from gaining an additional grade.

Oxford University is an exception. This part of my life was the most intense and **the most enjoyable part so far.** **The friends I've made, the places I got to travel to and the knowledge and the expertise I was able to absorb,** but with most things, **you get out when you put in, and I did Oxford kind of intensely. So, the first year of university was a huge learning curve for me.** Imagine being taught how to swim by your teacher and what your teacher does is they grab you and they throw you into the deep end and say "swim". The amount of work you're expected to do increases exponentially relative to what you do at A-level. In fact, I remember having work due on the Sunday of my first week, so Freshers week was a balance of doing philosophical logic, settling in and trying to make friends. **The other amazing thing about first year was the fact that I was now at university and I had all the freedom a young adult gets when they move away from home. With this freedom, I wanted to do everything.** In my first week, I went to tons of freshers events, from water polo to fencing to rifle shooting, and even meditation. Making friends was the other big thing I spent my first year doing. **The majority of friends that I have now I have for life,** and I met them in the kitchen, as in my first term, **I wanted to cook all of my own meals just to prove I could,** so I got chatting to lots of people. I would say **my biggest mistake** in first year was focusing so much on my own personal development that I didn't do as much relaxing as I should have, like playing games with my friends. For instance, I experimented with different sleep patterns to maximize my productivity and I worked on some side projects and while trying to juggle my degree work, so, yeah, **productivity was my main focus.** **One of the highlights from the first year was setting up this YouTube channel,** so let's check out that story for a second.

I've always wanted to do something on YouTube as **I love the idea of sharing my advice and entertaining people,** while having watched people like Charlie's So Cool Like and the Vlogbrothers. I just never got around to doing it though because I didn't feel as though I had any true value to add and I didn't want to be another piece of white noise on the Internet. However, upon getting into Oxford, I thought I would make videos about that, so **I applied for funding for camera from my student body and won.** True to my word, I started making videos and come the summer of 2012, **I celebrated 100 subscribers.** Obviously, things continued to pick up and now there are 30 times as many of you acting as members of this community through your commenting, sharing and content requests. **It means a lot to have such a wonderful set of people to share this experience with, so thank you.**

Moving away from sentimentality, **other highlights** were visiting SAN, the Physics Research Centre in Geneva as the LHE was **something I've always wanted to visit,** going to the modern ball with all my friends, think one of the Great Gatsby's parties but **with all the people you love,** a circus and bumper cars, and of course going to Tokyo to work for a Geisha. Most of you know, **I love Japanese culture, so going to Tokyo for the summer was a big deal for me, as I got to see if the country lived up to my expectations, and boy, did it!** Going to Japan is like stepping into another dimension with so many contradictions existing in harmony, like the mix between technology and nature. For example, you have a Shinto Shrine randomly appearing when walking around a busy city in Tokyo. **It's madness.** **The fact that I got to work for a Geisha made my experience in Japan even more amazing,** as I got a glimpse into an ancient part of Japanese history. "Geisha" means the highest caliber of artists, so people hire them to entertain their guests in a teahouse through conversation and performances like fan dancing. To clarify, I was helping her with her digital marketing strategy by

bringing her business efforts into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I could talk about my adventures in Japan until my voice gives out, so let's move on to second year.

In second year, I made a really big mistake and that was picking a room that was relatively far away from my closest friends because it was just a nicer room. That is when I learned that material possessions are meaningless unless you have people to share them with. Another thing I got better at was the art of juggling a ton of extracurricular things with my degree, something I wasn't so great at in first year. So, the degree is meant to take up 40 hours per week and on top of that, I was the vice president of my college's student body. I was project managing a team, an Oxford digital marketing competition and I did the Google online marketing competition while applying for some internships. With the latter, it paid off and ended up interning at Google, London, that summer, which I will talk about in a sec. Lots of you ask me how I go about juggling lots of things all at once, and the simple answer is if you really want to do something, make time to do it. If all I had wanted to do in my life was my degree, I would have spent all of my time doing it, however, I decided I didn't only want to do my degree because then I'd be wasting my university experience, so, I made time to do lots of other things and I always made time to get to special events with my friends. When someone says to me that they're too busy to do X, I am not very sympathetic, because if they really wanted to make time, I'm pretty sure they could, but maybe my bar is unrealistically high. I don't know. So yes, set yourself deadlines, continually re-evaluate what you need to prioritize and then do it. Remember to make time for the people you care about, otherwise you'll regret it when they're no longer around and make sure that you have fun. Life is far too short to do things that you don't enjoy.

So, Google. If any of you have seen the film The Internship which is all about interning at Google, it's very much like that but without the politics and there's no Vince Vaughn and there's no Owen Wilson. It is a fantastic company that really supports your personal development and provides you with a really amazing work-life balance and rewards those who work hard. They give you a serious amount of responsibilities straight away and the people you work with are all intellectually stimulating and most importantly, they are extremely nice people. My biggest lesson to share with you all is if you go into the working world or rather when you go into the working world, make sure you get to know everyone on your team. If people like you and you like them, it's far easier to get work done, because you'll naturally want to help each other out. Initially I focused on getting all my projects done and neglected as part of the process, which definitely limited my success in some areas. It may seem like a waste of time initially, but it will seriously pay off and you will look forward to seeing everyone at work each morning.

Now we come to my final year, which is split up into two sections. The first is my first term, when I spent most of my time wrapping up my extracurricular activities and the second section was when I began to focus on finals. Wanting to push myself even further, I decided to take up even more responsibilities, so on top of writing two essays per week, I was the vice president, the secretary and the returning officer for my college's student body, I did martial arts three times a week and I made weekly vlogs, I went to ice hockey every Wednesday and I did some freelance video making. I was doing 80 hours a week in the end and I spent my free time seeing friends and sleeping. It took me two years of practice, but I finally managed to crack doing all this stuff and getting a decent amount of sleep at the same time. Before, I could operate on like six hours of sleep, but I wanted to push that closer to eight because sleep is ridiculously important, and I just feel a lot better if I get more of it. People who gloat about getting really little sleep, I just don't understand. It's simply not something you should really be boasting about.

Anyway, after the first term ended, I retired from all my college duties and I had a ridiculous amount of free time. That, it was quite overwhelming at first. I felt liberated and spent most of my free time catching up with people over cups of tea and putting my energy into my degree. Here is another piece of advice: try and segment your life up for your own personal sanity. It can be hard to live and study and socialize all in the same place, as it becomes harder to mentally separate things. When I began to focus on my degree, I made the library my study space, my room my relaxation space and outside of college is where I tried to hang out with people. Also, I highly recommend socializing with people outside of your immediate social group, just to give you another world to step into if you need to take a breath of fresh air. I've got a day in the life of a finals student video in the pipeline, so I won't detail my finals days too much, but I will reiterate something I said in an earlier video about preparing for any big examination. The ideal scenario is that you work hard and you put in all the effort that you would do if there was an exam, so you put in the hours, you get as much value from the process as possible and then you discover that you don't have any exams to do. This is the ideal situation because it is the skills that you develop while preparing for something like an exam that are really important, not the exams themselves, as the vast amount of academic value I got from my degree was predominantly from the final few months than the years leading up to the time that I was preparing for my finals, because that is when everything began to piece itself together, and it all just made so much more sense. Hey look, Aroto!

That basically takes us up to the present, so I thought it'd be nice to talk about the future. My medium term goal is to found my own company, one that, you know, really adds value to the world rather than being a nice-to-have thing like Snapchat, so currently I'm waiting and building up my skills to be an awesome founder, as I currently don't know what that company will be - anyone has any ideas that they think would be cool? But in the long term I want to be an educator in some capacity. I don't know whether that would be in a classroom or through a medium that allows for a wider audience, so I have to see what's in store on that front. I also want to make sure I see the world before I get too caught

up in my working life. I love travelling, as travelling allows me to live a different person's life for a small amount of time and experience the world through their eyes, and I love doing that because I love adventure, for one, and secondly, because it builds up a powerful sense of empathy and understanding of other people, which I think is incredibly important to help us all exist with each other on this planet that we call Earth. Oh, I also need to write a novel at some point. For my current plan, I think it will be a trilogy, so we'll have to see how that goes. Regarding the future of this channel, well, I'm going to continue making content on things you want to hear about, so never stop commenting, because I do read everything you guys write. My only wish for this channel, if I could have one, is that I could do this full-time, because there are so many videos that I'd love to make, so who knows? If this channel gets popular enough, that may become a thing. On the evolution of this channel, I have an exciting project up my sleeve that I'm working hard to launch as soon as possible. The project is for you and it will aim to get you all working together to achieve your goals, so be sure to stay tuned, as it's going to be a game changer for this community at least. I'm hoping that it will be.

So, there you have it. There is a crash course to the story of my life as a draw my life. Thank you for watching and I hope I didn't go on for so long that your popcorn ran out! As always, be sure to use the comments, private message and Twitter to reach out. I am always happy to hear from you guys, and to the subscribers who made this video a possibility, I will see you on Sunday.

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