

Letter from the Editor

Hello Friends!

I'm so happy to "see" you! We love all our fans.

This issue, if I do say so myself, is chock-full of content and has something for everyone. It's the first time we welcome twin sisters on our cover, actors Bianca + Chiara D'Ambrosio, who are not only really talented, but really nice. They spill everything about their careers and we cannot wait to see what the future holds for this duo.

We also chat with Margo Parker, a young starlet who recently appeared in some hit Lifetime movies, and a teenager from New Jersey named "RayRay" who authored a book about embracing your roots--literally.

You'll also learn about some hip new bags, makeup trends, why STEM careers are awesome, and so much more.

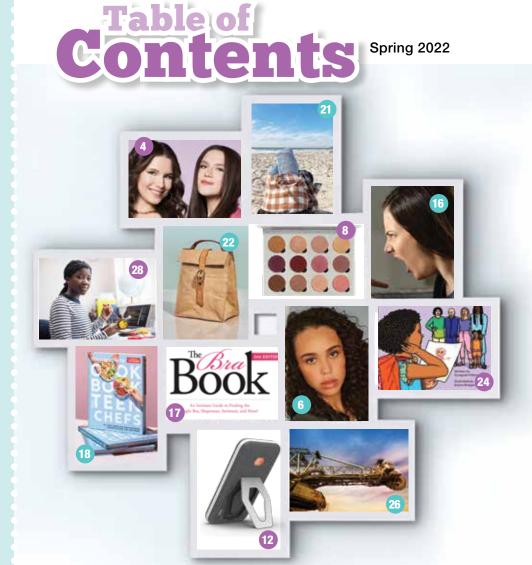
In other exciting news, we are jazzing up our website and our social media presence. Social media is all the rage and we want in on it as well. We have a new team member named Marissa who will help us with our socials and website, and we'll also do some giveaways and more in future issues. So many exciting things are happening here at American Teen and it wouldn't be possible without your support.

In the meantime, enjoy this issue, and visit us online at: www.americanteenmag.com where we'll update you on our social media status. We can't wait.

See you again real soon - and enjoy summer! Make it one you'll never forget.

Fondly,

Rachel



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LàTeen was founded in 2005 by a middle school teacher and group of students with the goal of creating a multi-cultural youth variety magazine that would encourage teens to enjoy reading.





e just love when two amazing women collaborate and create magic. New York accessories expert Emily Blumenthal recently teamed up with designer Samantha Handler of KicksBySammy to create a one-of-kind, colorful blanket great for kids, teens, and adults that retails for \$100. Sammy handcreated the designs on the large, fuzzy blanket

herself, incorporating the oh-so-cute Charmsters characters.

The Charmsters are a diversity-based animation brand centered on inclusivity, joy, and girl empowerment featuring the characters Coder Cora, Architect Aaliyah, Reporter Rita, Blogger Bailey, Innovator Ivy, and Entrepreneur Ella.



INFO, OR TO ORDER, com/thecharmsters.

STAR POWER Bianca + Chiaran Stately Stately:

TWINS CHIARA AND BIANCA

D'AMBROSIO ON TEENAGE LIFE, ACTING,

AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CONFIDENCE

By Rachel Sokol

alifornia natives Bianca and Chiara D'Ambrosio are sixteen-year-old-twins and successful actors. They've been gracing screens since they were young, sometimes together and sometimes separately. They've even been nominated for Emmy awards! Bianca will soon be featured in the Sundance film *Call Jane*, while Chiara recently wrapped up filming *Bandit*, an action thriller. Both sisters recently starred in the Sci Fi film *I Am Mortal* and the horror flicks *Slapface* and *Witchboard*. We were excited to chat with them for this issue!

Tell us about your first acting memory.

BIANCA: I vividly remember the first time being on a set. I was three-years-old and I played Summer Newman on "The Young and the Restless." I will never forget walking from our dressing room to set. My first day was the Halloween episode and I remember being so excited with all the decorations. I was also in awe that there was practically a house inside of this huge soundstage.

CHIARA: I remember going on a set for the first time on the "Young and the Restless". We were in our dressing room and Josh and Michelle, who portrayed our parents, played Disney cards with us during our breaks. It was so much fun.

What advice do you have for teens who want to act professionally?

BIANCA:

Never quit,
because then you
never know what
could've happened. One
of my favorite quotes is,
"You miss 100% of the
shots you don't
take".

CHIARA: It might be easy at times to give up once you feel rejected, but over time you will learn to handle the outcomes. If you know that you put your best foot forward, that is all that matters.

How do you handle rejection--any advice on boosting confidence?

BIANCA:

My advice is to not determine your worth based on the 'no'. CHIARA:

Just keep working on your craft and know that your hard work will pay off.

Are you horror movie buffs?

BIANCA: Yes! I love horror films. I am so grateful to be a part of them and they are so much fun to work on.

CHIARA: Yes, I loved watching horror movies or shows! After filming *Slapface*, I fell more in love with the genre than ever before. Now, I watch horror movies with my family every week.

What advice do you have for teens who feel lonely or even bullied?

BIANCA: Always know that there are people that are there for you and care about you.

CHIARA: Know that someone is always there for you, no matter what. Whether it's a friend, family member, guardian, teacher, or resources online, there will always be someone there for you.

What professional roles have resonated with you the most, and why?

BIANCA: I am so grateful for every opportunity and every role I get the chance to play will always be with me. If I had to choose one, I would say playing Frankie Sanders on *yA* and *The Bay* has resonated with me the most. There are so many layers to Frankie that were both fun and challenging to tackle. Playing Frankie was an incredible acting challenge.

CHIARA: I feel that every role will always

resonate with me. I will say that playing Regan Sanders on "The Bay' and on the spin-off "yA" is the most like me. Playing Regan has taught me things about self-love and confidence like never before, so she will always have a special place in my heart.

Did you ever keep any "souvenirs" from the set of a movie or show?

BIANCA: I mainly keep our call sheets from the set. But, there have been a few occasions where production will give us the outfits we wore in the project.

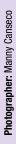
CHIARA: I keep the call sheets from every project I have been a part of. I honestly can't remember if I had kept any other souvenirs from a movie or show!

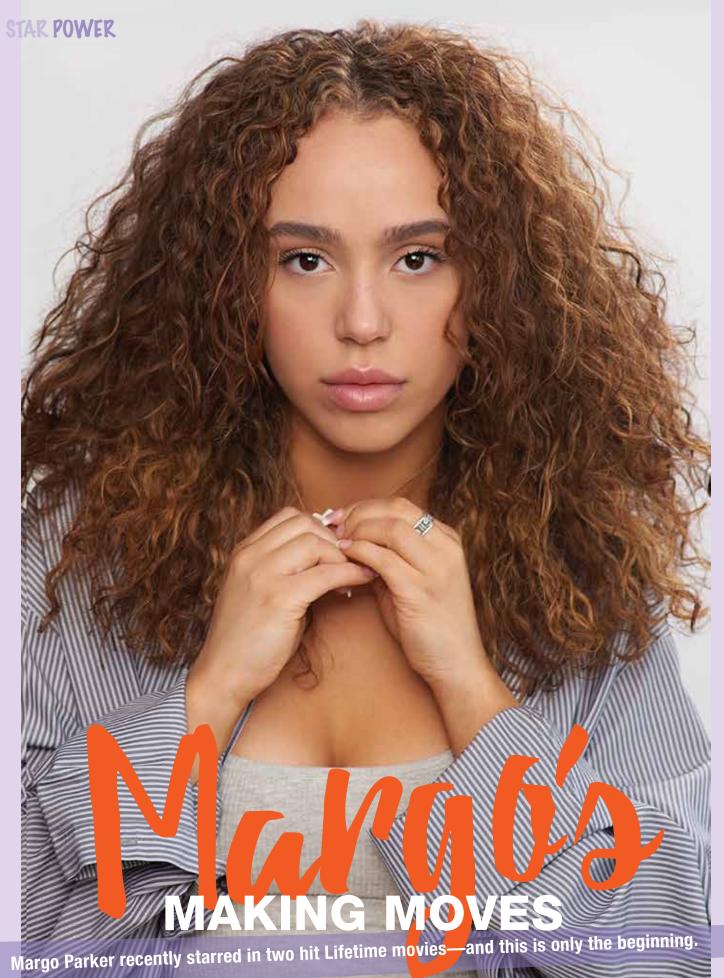
Tell us about some upcoming projects!

BIANCA: Last year, I had the opportunity to be a part of *Call Jane* starring Elizabeth Banks, Sigourney Weaver, and Chris Messina. *Call Jane* follows the story of a woman before Roe V. Wade who is unable to obtain an abortion and finds an underground group of women who are willing to help her, and becomes inspired to help others. I played Erin, Kate Mara's daughter in the film. *Call Jane* just premiered at the Sundance Film Festival as well as the Berlin International Film Festival is expected to premiere this year.

CHIARA: I filmed an action film called Bandit with Josh Duhamel and Mel Gibson. I play Mel's daughter, Jill, who is a sassy teenager who always wanted to protect her family. My sister and I filmed a movie called High Heat which is another action-comedy film that is going to be released later this year, and hopefully the first season of yA will be released soon.







By Rachel Sokol

alifornia native Margo Parker was recently featured in two popular Lifetime movies: Deadly Girls Night Out and If These Walls Could Talk. She chats with American Teen about being yourself, confidence, and "the biz."

WHAT WAS YOUR CHILDHOOD LIKE? I grew up in

Los Angeles, with my mom and grandmother and graduated from a small high school, Sierra Canyon during the pandemic. Sierra Canyon has a diverse student body and I was enrolled there for 14 years. I'm mixed black/white, Brazilian, French, and Israeli, so it was comforting seeing people that looked like me growing up. They really shaped me into the person I am today, especially my singing coach, ALL the English teachers, and my soccer coach. The only downside was thinking that because financially, I didn't have as much as most of other kids, I was always comparing myself to them. In the end, I was just hurting by thinking I had less. Looking back, I realize how much I truly had and how grateful I am. My mom was, and still is, my best friend and that's all I really need. She always made sure I had everything I needed, and could do everything all the other kids got to do, so I never missed out. She also made sure I understood we had to work hard for the things we wanted in life, be it friendships, material things, or goals.

YOU WORKED THROUGHOUT HIGH

SCHOOL, RIGHT? From ages 14 to 15 I was a junior lifequard at Castaic Lake. Then from 16 to 18 I was a lifeguard at Hurricane Harbor, and when I finally turned 18 I was able to lifeguard at my high school's pool. I graduated right before I turned 19 and it was then I decided what I wanted to do with my life -acting.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO ACTING?

After graduating high school, I decided it was time to take my life seriously. I was the most inconsistent and laziest person I knew--no kidding! I always knew I wanted to be an entertainer. I love to write and sing but one day it clicked. I was always more comfortable in front of camera then I ever was talking to people casually. So I joined Mad Acting Studios run by Max Decker, which changed my life. That's where I met my agent Robin Nassif with Media Artists Group, and several casting directors that would soon end up casting me in two Lifetime movies. Through Robin I met my managers Ryan Daly and Yoni Ovadia with Zero Gravity Management. I'm also with Rick Ferrari at Ferrari Talent Agency commercially. I'm beyond grateful that they were able to take on a development project like myself!

TELL US ABOUT THE CHARACTERS YOU PLAY IN LIFETIME'S DEADLY GIRLS NIGHT OUT AND IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK.

In If Walls Could Talk I played Olivia Garland and she is an extremely kind, strong, and caring person. It was definitely more channeling to emulate Olivia's character and personality. In "Deadly Girls' Night Out" I got to play Tia, who is the complete opposite of Olivia. Tia is an extremely conceited person that has some anger issues you could say! And with her big ego came so many insecurities. Having the chance to play two different people--that I now have with me for the rest of my life-was amazing.

WHAT ADVICE **DO YOU HAVE FOR TEENAGERS GOING THROUGH A TOUGH TIME? I wish**

I could go back and tell my younger self how much none of what's happening will matter later on--and that the only person you need to compete with is yourself. Being in a few movies definitely helped my perspective. I realized how much time they'd spend on doing my makeup and hair, and sometimes body makeup to cover any imperfections that I-and everyone!-have. Just know anyone you see on social media or in movies... hours were spent on making them look the way they do, along with editing in some cases.

WHAT ADVICE D. TUU **HAVE FOR TEENS WHO WANT TO ACT PROFESSIONALLY?** My mom

always said: "Preparation meeting opportunity equals success. You don't have to be the best, but if you're the most prepared, no one will be able to stop you." Remember that you can 100 percent create your own reality, and that the magic of believing is your best friend. If you believe you'll get it, you will, I promise. I fully indulged myself into acting this past year and was able to come out with 3 movies, 2 of which I was the lead in, and 3 shorts that I was the lead in as well. And I only started a little over a year ago, and it was then I decided what I wanted to do with my life - acting.

NEXT **PROJECTS?** WHAT CAN YOU TELL

US? I actually can't say anything at the moment. All I can say is that 2022 and 2023 are going be awesome!

WHAT **WAS THE AUDITION PROCESS LIKE FOR BOTH**

MOVIES? I auditioned for If Walls Could Talk and heard back a couple days later that they wanted to hire me. For Deadly Girls Night Out it was an offer. Paul Ruddy cast me in both movies. I am beyond-beyond!-grateful to have had that opportunity to be trusted to portray such complex characters.

THIS IS A HARD BUSINESS TO BE IN. HOW DO YOU STAY

POSITIVE? Everyone has an opinion in this business. If you can take criticism in a healthy way and apply it to the next thing you do, you'll never get worse. The goal is to get better not to stay in place. If you ever feel comfortable in what you're doing that's a bad sign. Also, never take anything personally. You can't get caught up in the "no's," because you might miss out on your "YES", and you need to give it 100% each time - so, no time to dwell in the past.



Moment—and We're Here for It

Line Up

If a full glitter eye isn't your thing, but you still want a hint of color, try lining the upper or lower lids—or both—with these vegan liquid liners. The shades shift in color depending on the lighting and angle for an oil-slick-like effect that's a total vibe.



Color Pop

Kat's signature green eye is equal Rats signature green eye is equal parts bold and fun. For a modern bright Vibe, reach for one of the many super Digmented shades of green shadows in pignienteu snaues or green snauows in this palette, and layer it with a matte shade for definition in the crease and under the eyes. Then, spritz the brush with water and pack the color onto the lid until You reach the desired degree of depth and color for more of a

Next Level Glam

We fall head over heels in love with all the rhinestone, pearl, and glittery add-ons that Euphoria makeup artist Doniella Davy uses to create Cassie's and Maddie's outlined winged eyes. These fun, red, glittery hearts are super easy to apply (and remove). Wear them around your eyes or even high on the cheeks and around the lips for a fun effect that is oh-so extra!

Gold Getter

Just one swipe of this creamy metallic shadow is all it takes for a multidimensional look that screams full-on glam. The best part: the eyeshadow precisely stays where you put it and lasts all day.

CHAMPAGNE

FARD À PAUPIÈRES LIQUDE METALLIQUE

NET 0.17 FL 0Z / 5 ML







By Stacey Feintuch

They did it! Now that they've earned their diploma, it's time to honor the high school grads in your life for their accomplishments. Whether they're heading out of town, staying home, or getting an apartment, give them the perfect present. Don't be stumped. Our gift guide is here to help you. (Or, drop hints to your parents that you'd love one of these for yourself!)

KEEP THEM COZY

Give them the gift of comfort during late-night study sessions. PediPocket's plush, velvety fleece blanket is extra-long, super soft and lightweight. Plus, it boasts a foot pocket so grads can cover their toes while they snuggle. Choose from 3 sizes and 21 colors.



LIGHT IT UP

Jazz up a dorm room or apartment. These Globe Sports Spring lights add a cool, athletic element to any area so it's always in style. Various lighting styles available--just check the Globe website! Includes 2x AA batteries so you can decorate with your lights as soon as you get them.





GIVE A NECKLACE WITH A MESSAGE

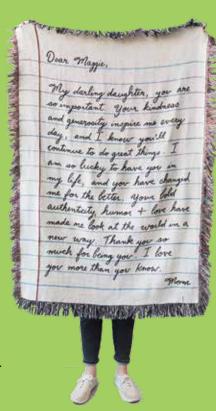
Spread your wings if you really want to fly. And until you spread them, you don't know how far you can go. Take risks, try new things and go places you haven't gone. Then, you'll go further than you could've ever dreamed possible. Gift this Spread Your Wings necklace set from Air & Anchor as a reminder that if anything should ever drag them down, soar above it.



raduation Gifts

WRITE A **NOTE ON A BLANKET**

Give them the gift of comfort during latenight study sessions. PediPocket's plush, velvety fleece blanket is extralong, super soft and lightweight. Plus, it boasts a foot pocket so grads can cover their toes while they snuggle. Choose from 3 sizes and 21 colors.





Erin Condren's LifePlanner will help reduce stress, promote organization and help your grad achieve their goals. This top-notch planner and calendar in one features dated weekly, monthly and yearly planning; productivity pages; note pages; stickers and more. Coiled by hand with quality materials, including a durable spiral, sturdy covers (which are also wet erase) and 80-pound text weight paper (which resists ink bleeding), this planner is made to last.



PICTURE THIS

Yes, kids these days have 1,000s of pics of friends and fam in their phones. Why not give new grads memories they can touch, hold or hang? Choose a framed photo print by Mimeo Photo for their gallery wall. Each wooden frame is cut and hand assembled in black or white with four size options.



BE COMFORTABLE

Every girl wants to look effortlessly put together while also being comfortable. With Skinnytees yoga pants, they don't have to choose. A wide, fold-over waist band and a boot-cut leg let these pants transition from a lecture to the library and back to the dorm.

COVER UP IN STYLE

Move over weighted blanket. A Therarobe is a weighted robe. The robe's soothing plush fabric provides relief and relaxation, helping ease stress and anxiety by simulating the feeling of a hug. And what kid isn't a little anxious or stressed? (Actress Mayim Bialik is a fan!). It's machine washable and comes in various colors and sizes.



WARM UP THEIR TOOTSIES

Dorm floors can be so cold. Keep their feet toasty with comfy slippers from Naot footwear. Their supportive and vegan slippers let the wearer kick back and relax. They're lined in soft fleece and their mattress foam padding provides comfort and support.



STEP UP THEIR HAIRCARE GAME

When bathroom space is at a minimum in your college dorm, no one has to sacrifice perfect locks. You can still have quality tools that are mini but pack the same punch as the full-size version. This set by CHI features a compact 1,400-watt hair dryer with a foldable handle, styling iron, section clips and small brush.



HYDRATE THEM

Hydrate the on-thego grad with stylish drinkware from Welly that keeps drinks cold for 24 hours and hot up to 14 hours. Fun idea: Engrave it with a special message or personalize with their name using Welly's

engraving feature.



POWER UP





It seems like my best friend and I don't see eye to eye about a lot of topics these days. I've known Jenny since middle school and I want to keep her in my life, but it's been hard lately whenever we talk about what's going on in the world. She tells me to not get the vaccine because "it will turn you into a zombie". I thought that was strange because my family and I got vaccinated so we could stay healthy. We ended up getting in a huge fight at lunch when I told her I got my booster shot over the weekend with my dad and little brother. It was super awkward when I smiled at her after class; she looked right at me but kept walking.

I called my grandpa to tell him about Jenny's vaccine comment after school that day because it was really bothering me. He sighed loudly but said it's the mature thing just to agree to disagree. I explained that she ignores me now when I pass her in the hallway. Even if I were to tell her I respect her point of view, she wouldn't listen to me, so what was the point in that? He suggested I write a letter to get my feelings through. I was desperate to try anything at this point, so I thanked him and brainstormed in my head what I wanted to get off my chest. After hanging up the phone, I grabbed my history binder and ripped out two pages of blank paper. I knew I needed to word it carefully because I didn't want to ruin the friendship over this issue.

Before first period the next morning, I slid the letter between the thin cracks of Jenny's locker so she could open it at as soon as she saw it. I started off by writing how she is my closest friend and that our disagreement shouldn't be an ultimate dealbreaker. I reminisced on the good times we've shared and how I didn't want to lose out on

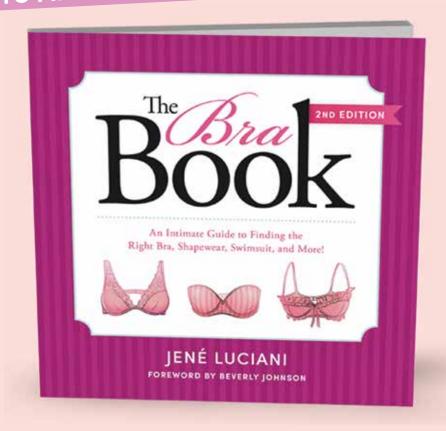
more fun moments in the future. The last sentence of the letter stated that she should meet me in front of the junior parking lot to discuss everything in person. I waited anxiously all day wondering if she cared enough to want to show up at the designated time. Hours later, to my surprise, Jenny was standing at the lot with an apologetic look on her face. I walked over slowly, and we hugged in silence before each tearing up a little. She was the one to talk first. I was grateful for that because I was too emotional to say anything yet.

Jenny said she was embarrassed for her reaction when hearing about my viewpoint. She admitted that her parents openly speak to her about the dangers of what's in the vaccine, so she felt strongly about it when I voiced my opposite perspective. We vented about this back and forth until we started laughing over how silly it was... of course we would stay friends! Having different opinions is no reason to throw away the relationship we have worked hard to build and protect over the years.

I invited Jenny over to my house for dinner next week so we can mend any tension that may still remain under the surface. I warned my mom and dad to not mention political chatter of any kind. Not only are they going to honor that request, but they'll be throwing us a game night to remind us why it's important to support one another and not judge. They were proud of me for being so open-minded, saying it's a trait that will help navigate my adult life because we all run into people who don't agree with us. If we were to shut out anyone who didn't match our thinking 100%, we would miss out on some pretty great connections. Anyway, I'm looking forward to game night between my parents versus Jenny and me. I'm proud to say I know we'll be rooting each other on in the game, and in life.

Let's Talk Br

HOW TO FIND THE BEST ONES FOR YOUR BOOBIES



JENE LUCIANI SENA is a bra expert. No, really. She's a contributor to Retailmenot, founder of the GemBra, and author of the must-read fashion book: The Bra Book-an intimate guide to finding the right bra, shapewear, swimsuit and more!-published by BenBella Books.

Truth bomb: Finding the right bra is complicated. The straps have to fit well, and if you go strapless your boobies have to work extra hard to keep the bra supported. Plus, the wrong bra can make your outfit just look bulky, wrinkled, or even just...wrong. Not to mention, some teens prefer padding, some don't...bra shopping can be chaos. But it doesn't have to be.

This book is like having your own personal shopper and it's great for teens as well as adult. Some of the easy-to-understand topics Jene covers (put

intended!) in The Bra Book include: checking for fit, bra styles, fabrics, advice when bra shopping inside a store, and so much more. She even digs deep into the interesting fashion history of the bra.

If you think about it, the right bra really does pull your whole outfit together. That's why you should find oneor a few-you really love to look and feel va-voom!

ORDER YOUR COPY OF THE BRA BOOK TODAY, AND LEARN ABOUT BRA AND SWIMSUIT BASICS THAT WILL MAKE **SHOPPING FOR UNDERGARMENTS A LITTLE EASIER AND A LOT MORE FUN. AVAILABLE** ON AMAZON.COM FOR \$ 19.95 OR \$7.99 KINDLE. (RETAIL PRICE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)



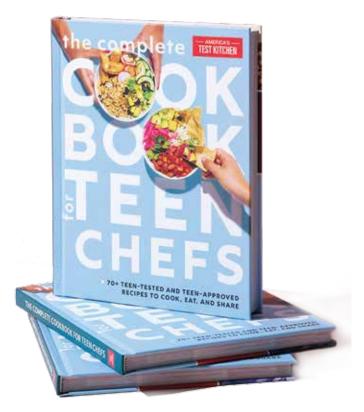
The Complete Cookbook for Teen Chefs

is an exciting new book brought to you by America's Test Kitchen Kids (ATK). For the first time ever, ATK is bringing their skills, hands-on learning, and major kid-approved recipes to a kitchen near you. No matter if you want to make something easy breezy and fast, or a dish that is fancy and Instagram worthy, this cookbook has you covered--with easy-to-follow recipes and awesome photos to keep you on track and inspired. Maxwell Surprenant, 18, is one of the book's featured young chefs.

Fun fact about this chef: "When I was 10 years old, I won a national cooking contest. I made my version of vegetable fried rice and I put apples in it. I know it sounds crazy, and I'm not sure how people liked it with apples, but it was my way of experimenting and having fun, and I think that came through in the cooking video. I think that cooking allows for creativity and innovation, and you can make the recipes yours," he says. His love for food and experimenting only continued as he got older, and now Maxwell is a part of the ATK kitchen.

What to expect

"The cookbook has over 70 fun, yummy recipes, which include diverse recipes such as Pajeon (Korean scallion pancake) and Biang Biang Mian (flat handpulled noodles). Each recipe has been tested by a group of the more than 3,000 ATK teen testers and is only included in the book if 80 percent of those who made it said they would make it again. There is something for all levels-beginner, intermediate, and advanced, and sidebars give cooking instructions and tips," Maxwell says. "The book includes foods for breakfast, snacks, lunch, dinner, sides and sweets. It's a great cookbook to get started, as the beginning gives an outline of basic cooking skills, terms to know and a list of basic tools needed in the kitchen. I found that it's easy and interesting to read, and the photographs make me excited to try cooking everything!"



This teen cookbook is filled with great recipes.

A passion for food

When Maxwell was little, he loved baking cookies, cakes and sweet treats with his mother and grandmother - American and Filipino foods. Later, he loved making breakfast foods like eggs, pancakes and smoothies. If I progressed to making dinner: tacos, sliders, chicken and fish. Cooking allows me to be more independent, and it's become a fun hobby. I like to find recipes that are healthy and tasty, and easy to make, 55 he notes. "I have some food allergies, so cooking for myself is safe since I know my ingredients. I enjoy cooking for family and friends because it brings people together. For every celebration, I like to bring something to share, and my brownie cookies are becoming very popular! Next year I'm off to college, and I'm glad that I know how to cook."

Does the chef have a favorite recipe? He loves the pan-seared strip steak! "I learned to cook steak just recently, and it was not as hard as I expected. It's three ingredients: steak, salt and pepper. The trick is to use a non-stick skillet, meat thermometer, and flip the steak every couple of minutes to get the flavorful brown crust



Max behind-the-scenes at America's Test Kitchen.

without overcooking the inside. I practiced a couple times, and now I feel confident cooking it. My dad likes to grill, but I taught him how to cook the steak on the stove, and it worked out well. Recently, when my friends came over, they thought we were going to pick up food at a restaurant, but I set the table, made the steak and they loved it. I also found that the steak tacos and cheeseburger sliders are crowd pleasers for sure!"

Words of Wisdom

Maxwell encourages you to dive in because it's "fun and yummy." If you can read, you can follow a recipe, he believes. "Set up all your ingredients and tools that you need beforehand—the ATK cookbook is great because it outlines everything for you. Don't be afraid to make mistakes because that's how you learn and get better. I'd also advise cooking new and different things because you might discover new favorites. For example, I love avocado toast and acai smoothie bowls. It's easy to make for breakfast or snacks, as long as I have the ingredients in the refrigerator. So, another piece

of advice is to go to the grocery store so that you can stock up on the ingredients that you need to make your go-to meals. For my birthday and Christmas, I asked for cooking gear, and my parents and grandparents were more than happy to get me what I needed."

As an ATK cook and tester, he remembers learning how to decorate cupcakes and now he makes cupcakes and decorates them with icing in different ways: smooth, sprinkles and swirly. "I also learned more about the science behind cooking like the physics of making popcorn—and that's something that I make a lot when I'm studying or watching movies. It's fun to learn how to plate your food because when you make a delicious recipe, it's nice to know how to present it so it looks appetizing and beautiful. I think that cooking a meal for someone—even yourself—is a kind and special gift."

Check out this great title, make a mess (but clean up when you're done), and pick up some new culinary skills!

TAG COVERS Keep Bags Clean and Gunk-Free

e all have a style of bag we prefer carrying—be it a cool trendy backpack, a crossbody bag with a big buckle, a purse with a sturdy handle, and so forth. My favorite type of purse to carry is tote-style; one that goes over the shoulder with a super-sturdy strap. I carry my purse everywhere with me and have an embarrassingly bad habit I've had since college-I just toss my bag anywhere, and don't think much about germs it may be collecting. I don't drop my bag on a bathroom floor, but I will just plop it down on a bench next to me, the beach, a restaurant floor, or even my own bedroom floor which I hate to say needs to be vacuumed more often than I do it ...

I read about TAG, which is soft protective cover that protects your bag from being exposed to icky germs, and immediately tried it out. There's no way I can keep being so careless with my bag, dropping it on the floor without fretting much about germs. Honestly, I am in love. I just stretch the fabric over the bottom of my bag and now I can confidently say it hasn't been exposed to any icky germs. Each box comes with 10 individually wrapped covers, so after you use one, you can just toss it—it's biodegradable and waterproof.

The last thing you need in your life is more germs...a barrier for your bag

that prevents it from picking up who-knows-what gunk? We're big fans! — RS TAG, TOGETHER AGAINST
GERMS® PROTECTIVE BAG COVERS

(10 INDIVIDUAL WRAPPED COVERS PER BOX) WWW.TAGYOURBAGS.COM



Fashion Forward

OUT OF THE WOODS BAGS ARE

SUSTAINABLE AND EARTH-FRIENDLY

OTHER BAGS AVAILABLE

ICONIC SHOPPER TOTE (\$28):

This reusable tote is spacious and versatile; it can be used for work, school, or both. Comfy cotton straps make it easy to carry. Comes in Sahara (brown) and Ebony (black).

HUG THE PLANET! Today's teens are very interested in sustainability and climate change; aware of their plastic usage, waste, and how to live a "greener" life. Out of the Woods bags are not only trendy and stylish, but they're eco-friendly.

Pictured here is the brand's Washable Paper Backpack, which retails for \$32, and, like all their bags, is made from Supernatural Paper, an innovative and sustainable material made from trees and bonded to make it washable and durable.



FROM OUT OF THE WOODS INCLUDE:



PIERRE BARLIER, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF KEEPCOOL/OUT OF THE WOODS SAYS:

"Caring about our planet doesn't have to break the bank nor your style. Have it all with an Out of the Woods® Bags. Our bags are made from Supernatural PaperTM which is tree cellulose (from responsibly managed forests), transformed to make it washable and durable." And because trees are a renewable resource, these bags are more sustainable with a lower carbon footprint compared to many other types of bags - especially those made with leather, cotton or other petroleum-based materials. "Show the world and your friends you care."

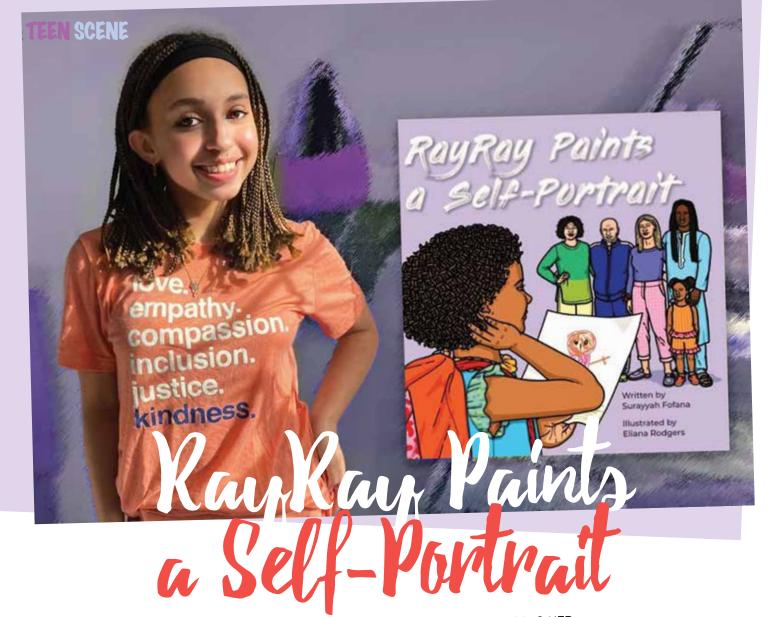
PAPER BAG LUNCH (\$30)

A reusable lunch bag made with washable paper; it has an extra-thick insulated lining that keeps your lunch fresh. It's easy to clean and water-resistant. Looks like leather, but isn't! Plus it's 100% vegan.

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This vegan shopping grocery bag, has extrathick lining and a square, flat base, providing the perfect foundation for stacking your grocery items or keeping your picnic essentials cool. Stpre persona; belongings in the front pouch. Made from 100% vegan Supernatural Paper.





NEW JERSEY TEEN SURAYYYAH "RAYRAY" FOFANA DISCUSSES HER AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL CHILDREN'S BOOK ABOUT DIVERSITY AND SELF-LOVE.

By Rachel Sokol

ot many teenagers can say they've written and published their own book! Luckily, Surayyah "RayRay" Fofana can—and did! RayRay is a 16-year-old high school student from Hillsborough, NJ. She's also an activist and dancer with a head full head of curly hair. Her amazing curls helped inspire RayRay Paints a Self-Portrait, a story about a girl with curls and is based on RayRay's own life experiences coming from a very diverse family. (Her father is from Senegal, her mother is American.) Additionally, the book teaches kids about racial, ethnic, and/or religious backgrounds.

RayRay shares her story (both her personal journey AND her book) with American Teen.

WHAT WAS YOUR CHILDHOOD LIKE?

My childhood was unique because I grew up with a blend of various cultures. My mom is white and Jewish, and my dad is a Senegalese Muslim. I often alternated between African dishes and Matzoh Ball soup! In my household, my parents did a really good job of teaching me to embrace my diverse background. Ultimately, throughout my childhood I felt very loved and supported at home.

WHERE DID THE IDEA FOR THIS BOOK COME FROM?

In reflecting back on my childhood, I realized that outside of my household my upbringing was deemed as unconventional and even abnormal. I started to think about what my younger self would've most wanted, and I realized it was to see unconventional families like mine represented in a way that was normal--not abnormal. I knew that there were other young kids who felt like "different" because of their identity, so I wrote this book to make space for those who don't typically fit in society's box.



Every single kid I've read to has been beyond supportive. Many elementary school age students have told me that the book taught them to love themselves. This part of storytelling is the most meaningful to me because so many kids opened up to me about their experiences as well. Overall, children have been bevond receptive and have been the most instrumental part of this process.

IS IT EXCITING TO BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR?

I feel extremely grateful to be a published author. It is so surreal to see my book in classrooms and even in my own hands. But I think that being published is not when you are "real author." It's important to remember that your voice is always valued in any capacity whether it be in fine print or in your personal journal.

WHAT KIND OF DANCE-AND HOW HAS **CTED YOUR LIFE?**

Movement's given me the space to express myself. From hip-hop to ballet, I've always felt a sense of freedom when in dance class. Much like writing, dance has helped me come to terms with who I am.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS? COLLEGE?

In the future, I hope to continue writing as a passion. Also I hope to pursue a career in law, journalism, or politics.



WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR KIDS WHO FEEL LIKE RAYRAY DOES IN THE BOOK?

I would tell other "outsiders" that they don't have to fit society's box, but instead you can make your own. I'd also remind them that it is more than OK to feel different, and being different is what makes you special.

WHAT'S THE BEST "LIFE" ADVICE YOUR PARENTS HAVE GIVEN YOU?

Stay true to who I am. In the face of adversity, it is very easy to suppress who you are. But my parents have always reminded me that knowing who I am is the key to overcoming insurmountable odds. Both of my parents emulate this, and I continue to aspire to this as well.





By Señor K

OU CAN TURN A LOVE OF ROCKS AND DIGGING HOLES INTO A REWARDING AND WELL-PAYING CAREER...

Remember when you were a little kid and someone told you if you dig a hole deep enough you can get to China? Were you the kind of kid that tried? They say digging a hole is one of man's most basic functions. In armies throughout history soldiers begin basic training by digging holes. Today, in the modern world, if you are good at digging holes, often with really cool big tools, then there are many awesome high-paying career paths available.

WHAT IS MINING

In the adult world, digging a hole is known as mining and the process involves a few steps. First, there has to be a specific mineral that everyone needs; like copper, for example, which is used in electric wiring. Second, some mining company tries to find that mineral, again like copper, dig it out, and finally sell it for a handsome profit. Some of these companies, like Exxon Mobil or BP, are among the most valuable companies on the planet with billions of investments all over the world extracting various minerals from the earth.

If a career in this field sounds interesting to you, check out our breakdown of some of the coolest jobs in this exploding field. As in most industries, salary goes up with experience and training, so we grouped the offerings into two categories based on salaries and required educations.

ON THE TOP — \$100,000 a year and up

Almost all the mining jobs in the top echelon of salaries require at least a bachelor's degree in a scientific field. Students who pursue careers in mining also take coursework from a variety of fields such as mathematics, science and engineering. As you move up the corporate ladder, higher level degrees, such as Master's degrees and PhDs are quite common among the top folks at many mining firms.

Geologist and engineer are two common jobs in this category. These are the scientific employees who are the brains behind the whole operation. The geologist and their team assess samples from various sites and determine where to dig. Then the engineer and his team proceed to build a safe, functioning mine where miners can extract whatever mineral is being pursued. Both of these jobs are great for people who like science and math.

Two more great jobs are the Site Manager and Drilling Manager. The site manager runs the daily operations and schedules the staff; while the drilling manager designs and implements the drill plan. Both of these jobs pay well and are great for people who are big picture thinkers and who can manage large complex operations.

To learn more about pursuing any of these careers contact your local community college or technical school and find out what classes you need to get started. There are literally hundreds of niche jobs hiding in this industry so don't just think of digging and hardware. Chemists and salesmen and accountants and lawyers and all sorts of other jobs are in demand by mining firms and they have nothing to do with digging holes.

EASIER ENTRY - \$50,000 a year and up

A lot of the jobs in this category revolve around the maintenance of machinery and the every day running of the mine. Excavating rigs need to be fixed and cleaned, new holes need to be dug, and mined materials need to be safely conveyed and processed. All of these duties require manpower and that's where a lot of these jobs

come in. The Green Bush mine in Australia, for example, employs hundreds of people as it produces almost 2,000,000 tons of lithium per year; that's a lot of rocks to crush up and turn into cell phone batteries.

If you are looking for less schooling but want to work in mining these job options may be a better fit. Many of these jobs, such as wellhead pumper and drill operator require only a high school diploma and some don't even require that. Other jobs in this category, such as mining electrician or commercial truck driver, do demand a little more preparation by requiring both completion of a training course and passing certification exams. But the good news is that each passing score on a certification exam usually raises one's salary.

Many companies also offer paid trading programs to their employees so even a janitor has the opportunity to move up the career ladder. Mining giant Rio Tinto, for example, offers hundreds of apprenticeships, internships and vocational training programs that, according to their website, support "the development of critical skills needed by the mining industry into the future." All predictions are that demand for precious minerals will do nothing but rise in the coming years, so the skills needed to extract them will continue to become more valuable.

Overall, mining is a growing industry with lots of career opportunities. Whether you want to drive big drilling machines or work in a lab assaying rock samples, there is something in this field for everyone. Working in this field can also be rewarding as it offers both decent salaries and, unlike in many tech jobs, there is an actual physical end product resulting from your effort: whether it's a cell phone battery, a diamond, or a copper penny. You can look at it and say, "I dug that out of a hole in the ground...and I didn't even reach China."

THE EXPERIMENT: AM I GOOD ENOUGH TO MAKE SCIENCE MY CAREER?



Did you love participating in cool science experiments as a kid in grade school? Did your love for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) classes fall to the wayside a bit as you got a little older, like perhaps around middle school? These are questions society is asking: why don't more women become leaders in this field? Girls are every bit as smart, capable, talented (I can go on and on!) as the boys. So, what's the deal?

Well...Here's the deal

For one, research has shown that as grade levels rise, the boys tend to take over the actual doing of the experiments and problems/ procedures. The girls tend to do a lot of the writing up. Instead, more girls need to be encouraged to take charge and lead the way.

Another reason is peer pressure. Girls tend to be teased or made fun of for enjoying subjects that were classically thought of as more male-dominated subjects. Girls need leaders, mentors—women who encourage them to believe that yes, they can achieve, lead and succeed.

Stats and facts

According to STEM Women, since 2015, the number of women in







STEM has grown from 22,020 to 24,705 in 2019. On the surface, this would appear to show a linear increase, however, due to the more rapid growth in the number of men graduating in these subject areas, the percentage of women in STEM has fluctuated from 25 percent, down to 24 percent, and finally up to 26 percent, where it has stalled in 2019.

BASIS Independent Schools,

a national network of PreK–12 private, secular schools that educate students to the highest international levels, is looking to change all that. Their eight campuses, located in some of the most dynamic metropolitan areas in the country, are part of the BASIS Curriculum Schools global network.

Since the first campus opened in 1998, BASIS Curriculum Schools

have been recognized as some of the most accelerated and topperforming schools in the world.

THEIR MISSION IS TO EDUCATE STUDENTS TO THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL LEVELS WITH A SPIRALING LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES CURRICULUM BENCHMARKED TO THE BEST EDUCATION

CAREER PROFILE



SYSTEMS IN THE
WORLD. THE ADVANCED
CURRICULUM PREPARES
STUDENTS WITH THE
CONTENT KNOWLEDGE,
CRITICAL THINKING,
AND SELF-ADVOCACY
SKILLS NEEDED TO BE
SUCCESSFUL THROUGHOUT
THEIR EDUCATION AND
WELL BEYOND.

Spreading success

Toby Walker is the vice president of BASIS Independent Schools, where he leads a network of schools where students thrive in a culture of excellence and achieve extraordinary outcomes. "BASIS Independent Schools first opened their doors in 2014, and we began as a coast-tocoast organization. The vision behind the curriculum and whole network of schools is to blend the most rigorous content standards from around the world with the spirit and creativity of American education. We first opened a school in Brooklyn, New York and a school in San Jose, California in the same year. We now have six campuses in some of the most competitive education markets in the country,

and we are looking to grow more," Walker says.

Why The Lack of Girls?

"First of all, I think there are some very real and perceived barriers to entry around the STEM world. We have an obligation to remove those and to do all we can to empower students with the belief and understanding that they can all be successful in those areas," he notes. "What we do at BASIS Independent Schools is, from a young age, expose students to a broad curriculum that includes a very strong emphasis on

physics, on mathematics, and on all aspects of STEM so that our students feel confident that they can be successful in those areas."

A school day for students is a day where they are inspired and involved in dynamic classrooms that allow them to move forward with their education alongside their peers.



STUDENTS GET TO INTERACT WITH THEIR TEACHERS IN **DIFFERENT WAYS. IN THE CLASSROOM, WHERE THEY ARE LEARNING DIRECTLY** FROM THEIR TEACHERS...IN **CLUBS AND AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES, WHERE THEY** SEE THEIR TEACHERS IN A **MORE SOCIAL SETTING OR**

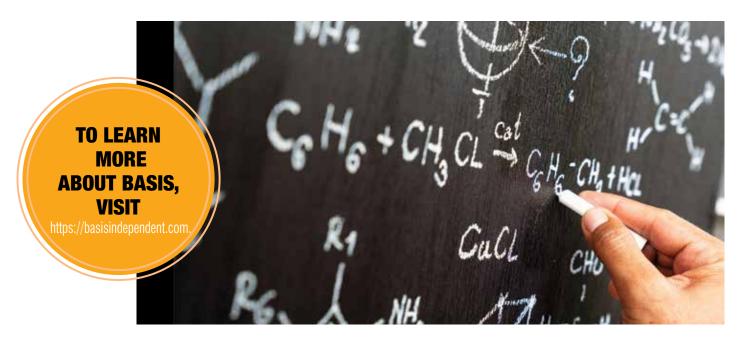
A MORE COLLABORATIVE **TEAM SPORTS SETTING."**

"ALSO, IN OFFICE HOURS, WHICH IS SOMETHING **WE OFFER TO OUR STUDENTS RIGHT FROM** THE YOUNG GRADES. WHERE THEY MEET WITH THEIR TEACHERS OUTSIDE OF CLASS TO GO OVER AN ASSESSMENT OR TO **FIND OUT MORE ABOUT** A PARTICULAR TOPIC. THIS IS A SLIGHTLY LESS **FORMAL RELATIONSHIP** WITH THEIR EDUCATOR WHERE THEY FEEL **COMFORTABLE LEARNING. MANY STUDENTS OUTSIDE OF OUR SCHOOLS WOULD ONLY BE EXPOSED TO THIS** TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP AT THE COLLEGIATE LEVEL, Walker explains.

All Are Welcome

BASIS hopes to remove barriers to entry for everybody. If any student wants to pursue an academic path in the STEM world, that student can do it here, and will be encouraged to blossom and grow. "Our teachers look for opportunities for our students across all disciplines. I think we have a remarkable curriculum that brings wonderful teachers into our schools, and that all BASIS Independent Schools are joyful learning environments."

Before you let someone else decide that STEM isn't right for you, reach out to other female friends pursuing the field, speak to a counselor or teacher at school, and spend some time rediscovering the pleasures of science and math, because YES you can.





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