

EMMA
IS ON THE AIR
#4: UNDERCOVER!

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CHAPTER ONE



Snow Tag, So Mad!

THIS is Emma and I'm on the air!" I said into my camera phone as I stood in the school yard. "Time for the weather!"

It was so windy, my pudding Slinky curls were flying in the air behind me.

"It is really cold outside. Well, duh, you probably know that if you've been out of the house today. But here's how I know for sure . . ."

I tilted the camera down to show my glove.

"Look . . . My Freezy glove changed color!

The flower turned from yellow to hot pink. And the rainbow isn't gray anymore—it has all the colors. The rainbow only gets its colors when it's super cold out.”

This was my first weather report because I decided I could do all kinds of news on my show. Not every story has to be a mystery investigation. Of course, mysteries are the most fun! Like when my news team found the missing tambora drum or when we found Sophia's stolen Lion costume. Even when we figured out how the worm got in Javier's wormburger, we had to do an investigation. We had to do interviews, find clues, and solve problems. Then we put it all in our news reports. Those were cool, but you know what? People also needed to know about things like the weather!

“Yes, it's definitely a cold one today,” I said into my camera phone. “Freezy gloves don't lie!”

“And look—it’s snowing!” Javier suddenly screamed, dashing behind me. He was right. Snow flurries started to fall all around us. I pointed the camera phone up to the sky to show the snow. Then I felt someone tap me on the shoulder.

“Tag—you’re it!” shouted Adrian. He let out a sneaky laugh and ran off.

“Snow tag!” yelled Javier. Everyone started running around like crazy. I quickly pressed the send button on my phone. Just like that, my weather report went straight to the Internet. Papi taught me how to do that. He even gets a special alert when there’s a new “Emma Is On the Air” story online.

I put my phone in my backpack and plopped it down next to the playground fence. Then I took off after Adrian. I couldn’t let him snow-tag me and get away with it.

I ran as fast as I could to the other side of the school yard to catch up with him. Snow flurries were crashing into my face as I zoomed across. Adrian was too quick. His dirty-blond hair looked like a whizzing bumblebee, always out of reach. I saw Sophia hiding behind the tree to my right, so I decided to run after her instead.

“You’re it, Sophia!!” I yelled as I tagged her elbow.

She laughed and screamed and then started running after Lizzie. Then Lizzie tagged Shakira, and Shakira tagged Molly, and Molly tagged Melissa G. Ugh. I didn’t know Melissa G. was playing. I sped up to get away from Melissa G. I definitely didn’t want her to catch me. Then she would spend the whole day talking about how fast she can run. She’s so annoying.

I was zooming so fast to get away from Melissa, I finally caught up to Adrian. He smiled

at me and then took off even faster. That made me run faster, too. We started to race. I never knew how speedy I could be! We zigzagged across the school yard together as the snowflakes got bigger and bigger. It was so fun I started laughing uncontrollably—I even snorted. Ha! That’s why I didn’t notice when Melissa G. caught up to Adrian.

“Got ya, Adrian! You’re it!” she yelled.

Then Adrian started chasing after Melissa. Suddenly I wasn’t laughing anymore. I stopped running. I was feeling, well, just really mad. *I* was playing with Adrian. Why did Melissa have to tag him? Couldn’t she tag someone else? Just then, Adrian ran over a small icy patch on the ground. He slipped and fell.

“Oww!!!” Adrian shrieked from the cold ground. He wrapped his arms around his knee. Ouch. That looked painful. I ran over to help.

Except instead of helping . . . I just started to yell.

“Look what you did!” I yelled at Melissa. “Now Adrian is hurt all because of you!”

“That wasn’t my fault!” Melissa yelled back. She looked angry and sad at the same time.

“Adrian, are you okay?” I asked. But before he could answer, I turned back to Melissa and said, “You ruined everything. We didn’t even want to play tag with you anyway.”

After I said that, my stomach felt weird. Like there was a big rock sitting in it. Like maybe I had gone too far. Maybe I said something too mean. But I wasn’t sure what to do next. I looked up and noticed everyone was crowded around us. Staring. Melissa G. looked like she was going to cry.

“Um, Emma, that wasn’t very nice,” Sophia finally said.



“Yeah, and it’s not true,” added Molly. “I wanted Melissa G. to play.”

It felt like everyone was against me. Even Adrian wasn’t on my side.

“Yeah, it’s cool, Emma. Look, I’m fine now,” he said as he started to get up from the ground.

But Geraldine the lunch lady didn’t think it was cool. She marched over to us.

“What’s going on over here? Why is everyone standing around? Why was Adrian on the ground?” Geraldine said in her disapproving voice, with her hands on her hips.

“It’s okay, I’m fine,” said Adrian. Geraldine noticed the patch of ice next to him.

“Uh-oh. Icy already. This winter is a doozy. You sure you’re okay, Adrian?”

“Yeah, I’m fine, I swear,” he repeated.

Geraldine blew her whistle. “Everyone line

up! The rest of recess will be indoors. It's too icy and dangerous. Everyone line up to go inside."

Our group headed toward the cafeteria door. I walked over to pick up my backpack by the fence. I was still feeling angry and a little nervous. What just happened? Why did they all take Melissa's side? I mean, it was her fault! She's the one who made Adrian fall. Right?

I reached inside my purple sparkle backpack to make sure all my reporter tools were there. Everything was in place, so I put my backpack on and turned around to head back to the cafeteria with everyone else. But they were all gone. I was all alone in the school yard. I felt like a tiny pinecone in a big, empty forest. A little teardrop started to peek out of my eye. I ran inside before it could travel down my cheek.