

By Susie Cantalupo

# The Computer

## There was once a girl named Heather.

Heather and her mom moved into a big beautiful house on a tall hill. On one particular day, Heather is cleaning the attic, and finds a computer...

It's the newest model. Very odd, she doesn't remember having gotten it. "Weird," she says to herself. She takes it and runs to her room.

She opens the computer to see her face on the screen. Turns out, the screen is on some sort of filter app, where you take photos of yourself, and others can put effects on them. She takes a picture of herself.

Through the filters, she adds bright red lipstick and hot pink hair with some black smoky eyeshadow. When she is done she turns off the computer and goes to the bathroom.

She does her business, washes her hands, and looks in the mirror... her reflection shows she actually HAS pink hair, bright red lipstick, and black smoky eyeshadow! "Is this really really happening?" she thinks.

She runs back into her room to the computer. She opens it and takes a second selfie, this time giving herself bright rainbow hair through the filter. She runs back into the bathroom and to the mirror to see bright rainbow hair! "This is AWESOME!" she shouts.

Months go by, and she changed her look very often, changing her makeup, hair, nails, and anything she could think of. She never told her friends her secret.

One night she opens the computer yet again. She adds filters to change her look, but suddenly her eyes start to close shut and she can't open them! "What's happening?!?" she shouts. Then she feels her toes and fingers stick together until they become one piece...

Her mouth closes... "MMMMMMMMM!" is all that comes out as she tries to scream. She slams the computer shut!

Everything returns to normal.

Heather goes to school the next day and tells her best friend, Abby, about her computer. Abby says, "Okay, um, weird... but pretty amazing how you can change your look!" She suggests an entirely new aesthetic for Heather to try. Heather at first hesitates, then happily agrees, forgetting what happened the night before. How can she NOT try it? I mean, everyone will be looking at her new style... Anyway, what could really go wrong?

Heather's mom had to make a trip to the food store, leaving Heather home alone for a bit. Her mom had put the computer in her bedroom because Heather had been so upset about something the night before, though she didn't quite understand why. Heather *had* told her mom everything and knew she shouldn't mess with the computer again. But Heather being Heather...

Well, she couldn't help it...

She just HAD to fulfill Abby's request!

She runs to her mother's room and opens the COMPUTER!

AND THEN...

Heather's mom comes home from the store and calls for Heather. There is no answer. She runs to Heather's room. Heather isn't there. She runs to Heather's room and opens the door. All that remains is a large clumpy blob of skin on the ground, covered in spots of blood covering what remains of a body...

*Heather's* unmoving body.

THE END

*p.s.*

*The next night, Abby goes to hop on her bed. She pulls the covers down and finds the open computer with her filtered reflection staring at her...*

*To be continued...*