



# Butter

By Erin Jade Lange

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A lonely obese boy everyone calls "Butter" is about to make history. He is going to eat himself to death-live on the Internet-and everyone is invited to watch. When he first makes the announcement online to his classmates, Butter expects pity, insults, and possibly sheer indifference. What he gets are morbid cheerleaders rallying around his deadly plan. Yet as their dark encouragement grows, it begins to feel a lot like popularity. And that feels good. But what happens when Butter reaches his suicide deadline? Can he live with the fallout if he doesn't go through with his plans?

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## **Butter By Erin Jade Lange Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up-Butter is a smart, funny high school junior who happens to weigh 423 pounds. His eating issues stem from multiple sources, but one day when the pressure becomes too much, he opens a website called [Butterslastmeal.com](http://butterslastmeal.com). Here he invites his classmates to watch as he consumes his last meal on New Year's Eve, literally eating himself to death. The overwhelming reaction to his posting astonishes him, and he becomes an instant member of the in crowd. But even finding the friendship he craves doesn't help ease his internal pain. His mom still supplies him with high-calorie "comfort" foods; his dad still looks at him in disgust, and Anna, the most beautiful girl at school, won't give him a second glance. Playing his saxophone and spending time as his online alter ego, JP, a tall, athletic hunk who chats for hours online with Anna, provide the only real comforts in his life. Flashbacks show the relentless cruelty of other students that Butter has endured for years, and the story heads toward a frightening climax as he discovers that his newfound friends are just as cruel in their own way as those who abused him in the past. The ending avoids a quick solution, leaving Butter realistically examining his options for the future. Myriad realistic characters feel responsible for his actions—the music teacher who tries repeatedly to reach him; his friend Tucker, who also battles extreme weight, and even Anna, who rejects him in public. The first-person narration allows readers to feel Butter's pain along with the eventual insight into his problems. Using current, hot-button topics—cyberbullying, obesity, and teen suicide—the author weaves a compelling tale sure to draw teens in.—Diana Pierce, Leander High School, TXα(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

The premise alone is enough to break your heart. In a fit of spite, a 423-pound 16-year-old nicknamed Butter declares that he will eat himself to death on New Year's Eve—live on the web. Before he can even figure out whether he was serious, he is welcomed into the lives of the popular kids, who want to show him a good time before the big event (while making side bets on what his final menu will be). Butter knows they're jerks, but social inclusion is a dream, and it even allows him to get close to his crush, whom he has only spoken to online under an alias. So he can't back down—and the day gets closer and closer. The plot is designed for maximum cruelty, but that doesn't mean Lange isn't onto something powerful, placing her protagonist in a convincing no-win situation where a webcast suicide begins to look like a halfway-legitimate option. The first-person narration feels too serene, considering the events, but this is no doubt a strong, gutsy debut. Grades 9-12. --Daniel Kraus

About the Author

ERIN JADE LANGE is a news producer in Phoenix, Arizona. *Butter* was her debut novel. She is also the upcoming author of another YA novel with Bloomsbury, *Dead Ends*.

[www.butterslastmeal.com](http://www.butterslastmeal.com)

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From reader reviews:

**Robert Marques:**

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