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Illustrated by Derek Brazell





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## Introduction

Melanie Brown (Mel B.) is one of five singer-dancers who joined together to form the world-famous group, the Spice Girls. She had dreamed of fame since she was very young and worked hard to achieve her goal all through school.

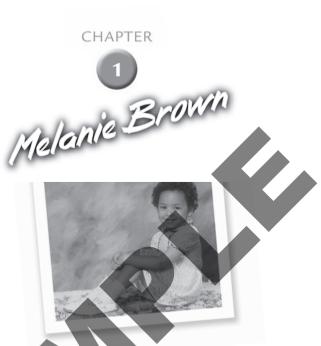
However, it was never easy for her. Throughout her childhood, she struggled with people who were jealous of her talent and cruel about her skin color.





It took a long time for her to understand this and to stand up and be proud of who she was. Finally, she would strongly declare, "This is me. I'm from a **mixed-race** family."

You can read about Mel B. on the Internet. These are some of the facts, woven into a story about her life. It tells of what it was like to grow up being bullied and unhappy, and in spite of all this, to grow up happy, successful, and famous.



A young Mel smiles for the camera.

"Melanie Brown," announced the stage manager, who was standing by the curtain, motioning her toward the stage. Melanie Brown was so accustomed to everyone calling her "Mel," it took a little while for it to sink in that it was now *her* turn to perform her dance routine.