# Gale Kurtzer Meyers: A Force for Inclusion and Friendship





Best Buddies by Gayle Kurtzer Meyers ★★★★ 5 out of 5 Language : English File size : 4935 KB Screen Reader : Supported Print length : 20 pages Lending : Enabled



Gale Kurtzer Meyers is a visionary leader and philanthropist who has dedicated her life to fostering inclusion and friendship for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As the founder and CEO of Best Buddies International, she has built a global movement that transforms the lives of countless people, empowering them to live full and meaningful lives.

#### Early Life and Inspiration

Gale's passion for inclusion was ignited at a young age. Growing up in a family that embraced diversity, she witnessed firsthand the transformative power of friendship and understanding. Her experiences led her to believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to experience the joy and fulfillment that comes from meaningful relationships.

#### Founding Best Buddies International

In 1989, Gale founded Best Buddies International with a simple yet profound mission: to create one-to-one friendships between individuals with and without IDD. The organization's innovative approach to peer mentoring and social inclusion has proven to be a catalyst for change, breaking down barriers and creating a more just and equitable society.

#### **Empowering Individuals with IDD**

Through Best Buddies, Gale has empowered individuals with IDD to reach their full potential. The organization's programs provide opportunities for friendship, leadership development, employment, and advocacy. By fostering a sense of belonging and purpose, Best Buddies helps individuals with IDD discover their strengths, build confidence, and live independently.

#### **Building Bridges of Inclusion**

Gale's unwavering belief in the power of inclusion extends beyond the Best Buddies organization. She has dedicated herself to creating a more inclusive world for all. Through her philanthropic efforts, she supports initiatives that promote access to education, employment, and healthcare for individuals with IDD.

#### **Recognition and Accolades**

Gale's extraordinary contributions to the IDD community have earned her numerous accolades and awards. She has been recognized by the United Nations, the White House, and countless organizations for her unwavering commitment to inclusion and friendship. In 2016, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, a testament to her impactful work.

#### Legacy of Impact

Gale's legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire generations to come. Through Best Buddies International, she has created a lasting impact on the lives of millions of people around the world. Her unwavering dedication to inclusion and friendship has transformed the way society views and interacts with individuals with IDD, paving the way for a more just and compassionate world.

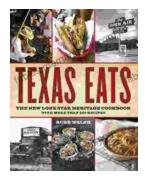
Gale Kurtzer Meyers is a true pioneer in the field of inclusion and friendship. Her unwavering commitment to empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities has transformed countless lives. As the founder and CEO of Best Buddies International, she has created a global movement that is making a tangible difference in the world. Gale's legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire future generations, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to experience the transformative power of friendship and belonging.

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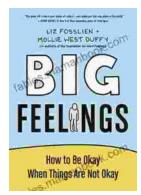
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