

40 UNDER 40

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GEEKCHIC

JESS LEE
30 / CO-FOUNDER AND CEO,
POLYVORE

When the Hong Kong native started her career at Google in 2004, her mentor, Marissa Mayer, taught her to "always take the more challenging path." Lee heeded that advice four years later when she decided to leave to join the fledgling fashion website Polyvore. Lee was uniquely qualified for the job, with her computer science background, love of fashion (she was already a Polyvore addict), and quirky creative side (she loves Japanese manga comic books and hopes to write a graphic novel). Lee moved into the CEO spot this year—and the company added "co-founder" to her title—but her eccentric side still comes through. While being photographed in Marin Headlands, Calif., she spontaneously chose to climb a tree. "Was that creepy?" she asked after she climbed down. "Whatever. I like creepy."
—D.R.



Peter Yang

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