AN UNOFFICIAL ROBLOX BOOK

ROBLOX



By Ari Avatar scholastic inc.

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MONDAY Afternoon



"You're about to get bloxxed!"
I said, PUNCHING away at my controller.

"Not if I get you first, Ari!" Zeke turned his avatar on the screen

to face me. A spray of lasers came firing out of his super blaster in the game.

I ducked.

"Haha, missed!" I yelled.

BIDM on-screen and the head of my zombie avatar went flying off his shoulders. This was quickly followed by Zeke's avatar's legs falling off and his zombie collapsing into a heap of GREEN GDD.

"Hey, what the—?!" I squealed in protest.

"BLOXXED," Jez said with a laugh.

Jez's zombie-hunter avatar stood triumphantly on the screen with the word "WINTER" flashing over her head. She'd blasted Zeke and me (the zombie avatars) to pieces and had won the game.

"Bruh, you always win when you're the **ZOMBIE HUNTER,"**I whined. "How do you do it?"

"Pure skill," Jez said, her eyebrows raised.

"Rematch?" Zeke challenged.

"Nah, I'm done," Jez said, throwing the controller to the floor.

"I'll play you, Zeke—one more round then I've gotta go," I said, resetting the game.

Jez opened her laptop and started flicking through all her systems.

Jez was a **TECH WHIE** and the best hacker I knew.

She had all these trackers on

SECRET PORTALS, army databases, and even the school computers. She never liked to be away from her laptop for too long in case there was something interesting happening online.

Without Jez playing as the zombie hunter, Zeke and I were able to blitz the field of other zombies until only the two of us were left. We now had to race to get to the final checkpoint before sunrise, at which time we'd melt into a puddle of DDZ green liquid and it'd be game over.

Meanwhile, Jez was TAPPING away on her keyboard.

A head poked around the corner of the doorway. "Hey, Jez!" Jez's little brother, Max, was looking at her with wide eyes. But he got no response.

"Jez!" he repeated.

Jez kept tapping, oblivious.

"JESi"

"Huh? What is it, Max?" Jez said, annoyed that he'd interrupted her.

"Mom said you and your friends can have some cookies," he said, proudly holding up a chocolate chip **CDDKIE.** "We made them this afternoon."

"Ah, no thanks," Jez said, waving her hand dismissively.



Max looked down, disappointed.

"I'd love to try one, Max," I said.

Max looked up excitedly then

DARTED back to the

kitchen to grab more of his

cookies for us.

"Me too, Max!" Zeke called after him.

"He's so **HNND'Y'ING,"**Jez mumbled.

"He's cute!" I said. "You're too mean to him," I joked.

Jez rolled her eyes. "You wouldn't be saying that if it were your sister, Ally."

Jez was right. But Ally wasn't cute like Max. She was totally annoying.

Max **BOUNDED** back in with a plate of cookies. He held it out to Zeke and me, and we took one each. Again he offered one to Jez, and again she waved him away with her hand.

Max stood, watching, waiting for us to take a bite.

"Wow, these are great, Max!"
I said as I chewed the slightly overcooked cookie.

"PRO BAKER!" Zeke added.

Max beamed.

"You can go now," Jez said without looking up.

Max's face fell as he walked out of the room.

"Maybe we should let Max play?" I offered.

"No point," Jez said flatly. "He HATES gaming."

"DH."

"And computers and coding and hacking and everything else that's cool," she added. "We have absolutely **TOTHING** in common."

I turned back to the game right as Zeke blasted my zombie head off. It went FLYING across the screen and landed in the river, then bobbed away with the current.

"BLOXXED!" Zeke yelled.

I threw a cushion at him and he threw it back, laughing.

"WHIH," Jez breathed as something chimed on her computer.

"What is it?" Zeke said, leaning in closer.

I crawled around behind Jez and peered over too. She had an app open labeled "PORTAL TRACKER."

"Not this again," I complained.

"No, look," she said. "I think I've found one."

Jez was obsessed with finding a portal to **FNOTHER DIMENSION.** I still wasn't sure portals existed, but Zeke's dad was in the army and he said they tracked them all the time.

But portals rarely just showed up in a town like Blockville.

"Look here," Jez said, pointing to a map that had a RADAR DETECTION SYSTEM on it. There were different colors spread across the screen, and in one

RED DOT above a cloud of swirling purple pixels. "This is definite portal activity," she said.

"Where?" I asked, leaning closer.

She pointed to an area on the map that was on the outskirts of town. I knew the place well—it was an **ABANDONED** industrial compound and we'd been there before. We'd almost been captured by a **MONSTER** there, but after we escaped, the monster disappeared. Sometimes I'd wonder if it even happened

at all, or if it was just a dream.

"I'm not going back to that CREEP'Y PLACE," I said, shaking my head.

"But this could be our chance. Imagine if there really is a

portal!" she said breathlessly.

"Yeah, and now imagine what might come out of that portal," I said, eyebrows raised.

"But how often do we get to track a REAL PORTAL? It's too good to refuse," Jez pleaded.

We both looked at Zeke. "OK, I admit, it's pretty cool. Maybe we could go just to check it out. You know, on the DDWN-LDW," he said.

"Well, it's getting dark and I have to go home," I said, glancing at the clock on the wall.

"We can go tomorrow afternoon!"

Jez said. "According to Portal

Tracker, this portal is still forming.

It won't even be open yet. We

have time."

"I'm in," said Zeke, smiling.

"Fine," I said.

"YEEE55555!" Jez cheered.

"Where are we going?" a voice said from the doorway.

"We are not going anywhere, Max," Jez said, standing up and gently pushing her little brother back through the doorway. "And you need to stop spying on me."

"You never let me have any fun with you!" Max said, tears filling his eyes. Then he ran off to his room.

"Little **SNEAK,"** Jez muttered.

"So, tomorrow? After school?"

"OK," Zeke and I said in unison.

I gathered my stuff and said thanks to Jez's mom for having me over. Then I headed out the door to go home.

As I walked the quiet streets of BLOCK-VILLE, my mind started going wild with thoughts about all the things that could be in the portal. What if there was another monster but we couldn't ESCAPE this time? Or what

if it took us to another Block
World and we became trapped?
And while I like the idea of not
having to do homework or chores
ever again, I'd miss my dog, Coda,
too much.