



SKY WATCHERS

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1 DEZ

Dez flew to school. He hopped on his sky bike. He used to zoom to school. He zoomed on the sky bike path. The path went to school. The sky path was up high. It was up in the air. The houses were up in the air too. They had to be.



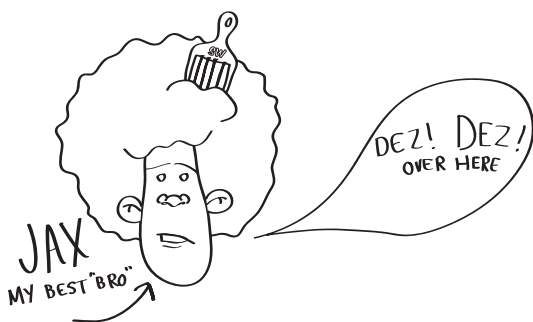
The ground was covered with trash. The ground was covered with muck. It was not safe there. People lived up in the air. And kids flew to school. They flew on the sky path.

But this year Dez did not zoom. This year Dez flew slowly. He watched all the other kids. The sky path was filled with kids. Each kid had a sky bike. The bikes came in all colors. The bikes came in all sizes. Some bikes had gold stars. Dez's bike had gold stars. Dez was a Sky Watcher. Sky Watchers watched kids fly to school.



Only sixth grade kids could be Sky Watchers. Dez really wanted to be a Sky Watcher. This year he was in sixth grade. This year his dream came true. He was picked! He was a Sky Watcher! Dez patted his bike. He touched the gold stars. He grinned.

“Dez!” someone called. It was Jax. He was Dez’s best friend. Jax flew up next to Dez.



“Have you seen any spinners?” Jax asked. Jax was a Sky Watcher too. The two boys liked to watch together.



“No,” said Dez. “Not yet.” He looked at the trees below him. He watched the leaves.

The trees were below the sky path. The trees were tall. They covered the ground. The trees were made of plastic. They covered all the trash and muck. The trees stopped the bad air. The trees kept the kids safe. But the trees had one bad thing. The trees had spinners.

Spinners looked like round plates. They flew up from the trees. Spinners took bike packs from kids. All the kids had bike packs. They put their books in the packs. They put their lunches in the packs. The bike packs clipped on the bikes. But a spinner could break the clips. A spinner could grab the pack. It would take the pack down. It would take the pack into the trees. Gang kids waited in the trees. They waited for the



packs. Then they kept them.



Sky Watchers kept the packs safe. Sky Watchers stopped the spinners. Dez and Jax had to stop the spinners.

All of a sudden Dez saw something. He saw leaves shaking. The leaves were shaking on a tree below him.

“Jax!” he called. “I think I see a spinner!”



2 **SPINNERS**

Dez made his bike fly fast. He zoomed. A spinner came out of the trees. It shot up. It made a loud buzzing noise. It flew toward a girl. The girl was on a red sky bike. She did not see the spinner. But Dez did. Dez had to shoot the spinner. He had to shoot it fast. It might get the girl's pack. The spinner would break the clips. It would make the pack fall. It would take the pack into the trees.



Dez pulled out his spinner stunner. He flipped it on with his thumb. Spinner stunners stopped spinners with a beam of light. A special light. Dez had to shoot the spinner. He had to shoot it right in the middle. Then the spinner would lose power.

Dez watched the spinner. It was getting close to the girl. Dez had just a few seconds. He went faster on his bike. He held his spinner stunner out in front. He kept his arm very still. Then he shot his stunner.

The spinner froze in midair! Then it began to fall. It had no power. It was falling into the trees. Dez knew it would fall down. It would fall to the ground. It would fall into the muck. It would not come back.



“Nice job!” called Jax. “You shot it just in time.” He flew up beside Dez. Jax gave him a high five.

Dez grinned. He made his bike go slow. He had seven spinner shots this week! He was doing well.

“Can I win the contest?” he asked. “Seven shots are a lot.”

The Sky Watchers had a contest. The contest was each week. The kids counted their spinner shots. The kid with the most shots was the winner. The winner got free time at the game center.



Dez had never won. He really wanted to.



“I don’t know,” said Jax. “You might win. But I think Kath has seven shots too.”

“Kath wins a lot,” said Dez. “She is a very good shot. It is hard to beat her.”



“Yeah,” said Jax. “But you will get more shots. There are more spinners this year. Mr. Munn says so. He says the older kids are in a big gang. The gang is working on the spinners. They are making more spinners. They are making the spinners go faster.”

“That’s bad,” said Dez. “There are too many spinners now. And they go very fast.”



Sometimes we can't shoot them all."

"Why do the gang kids make spinners?" asked Jax. "Why do they grab bike packs?"

"My mom told me," said Dez. "She says they need the bike packs. She says they eat the food. Then they sell the other stuff. She says it's sad. But they need the money. This is the way they get it."

"Well, I think ..." Jax stopped talking. A new noise had started.

Beep! Beep! It was a horn. It was a horn on a sky bike. It was beeping. A spinner was after someone!

