

 BLUE DELTA BOOKS



# COMPROMISED

NICO WATERS

## CHAPTER 1

# THE HOME

The loudspeaker over June's bed beeped. A voice jolted her awake. "Hello, residents. It's another great day at the Home. Remember our motto at the Home for Compromised Children. Health and safety are number one."

June groaned. "No. *Boredom* is number one."

The twin bed squeaked as she got up. Her gray Home uniform hung in the closet. June put it on. Next, she printed her sleep report.

Other residents were in the hall. About 60 teens walked in neat rows. June joined them.

“What’s for breakfast today?” a girl asked. She spoke to no one in particular.

June sniffed the air. Her stomach growled. A smile tilted her lips. “Bacon.”

“How can you tell?” the girl asked. “The dining hall is across the building.”

June shrugged. “I can smell it.”

At least her nose worked well. The rest of her body did not. That went for everybody at the Home. They all had a rare condition. It was called Gliff disease. Their health was as fragile as a rose petal. The Home helped keep them alive.

June walked into the medical hall. Everyone had a med check before breakfast.

A resident advisor waved her to his table. His name was Ian. He was lucky. Ian didn’t have Gliff. Like everyone who worked at the Home, Ian was healthy.

June sat at his table. She gave him her sleep report.

Ian stared at her. It seemed like he was studying her. “How are you feeling?”

“I’m fine. Please don’t stare at me like that. Just treat me like everyone else.”

Ian’s eyebrows rose. “But you’re *not* everyone else. You’re Dr. Ash’s daughter.”

He didn’t need to remind her. She knew exactly who her father was. He ran the Home.

Ian opened her sleep report. “Our dads are best friends. You and I have known each other forever.”

“I know. But I’m 17. I don’t need you to act like my babysitter.”

Ian checked her report. “You slept well. This looks uneventful.”

“Uneventful,” June repeated. “The story of my life.”

She stretched out her arm. June had her blood tested every morning. All the residents did. Ian slid her wrist into a cuff. Tiny needles pricked her veins. She winced.

The loudspeaker in the room beeped. A voice spoke. “Please listen to this weather and health news. It will be 91 degrees today. The sun radiation level is high. Exposure may burn your skin. Please stay inside.”

June shuddered at the warning.

The announcer had more news. “There’s a new virus in the world. It’s highly contagious. Do *not* interact with people outside the Home. It could be a health danger.”

A hush swept through the room. Worry washed over the teens’ faces.

The cuff released June.

Ian bandaged her wrist. “This virus is bad,” he said. “There will be a worldwide lockdown. It

starts at midnight. No one will be able to leave their homes.” He frowned. “The world is going to change.”

June rubbed her sore wrist. “Every day is lockdown in here.”

Ian shot her a look. “Don’t say that. Your father made the Home to protect all of you. Dr. Ash is a pioneer.”

June rolled her eyes. “Yeah. I know.”

“Then what’s wrong?”

June sighed. “I’ve been at the Home for three years. I’m starting to forget what normal life is like.” She never wanted to forget.

Ian met her gaze. “Didn’t you hear the announcement? Soon, normal won’t exist anymore.”

## CHAPTER 2

# VIRTUAL

It was 3:00 p.m. now. School was done for the day. Boredom hung over June like a dark cloud.

Perhaps she should go into virtual reality. That might be fun.

June went to the VR room. On the way, she passed the main lab. The words Top Personnel Only were on the door. June had never seen anyone go inside. Often, she wondered who had access. She would love to know what was in there.

All the pods in the VR room were taken. One

finally opened. The smell of berries hit June. That was Kit's scent.

Sure enough, Kit stepped out of the pod. She had cut holes in her pants, which stood out almost as much as her purple hair. Kit was always breaking the dress code. But she didn't seem to care about rules.

June *always* thought about the rules. *Would I be different if my dad didn't run the Home?*

Kit glanced at her. "What's up, June Ash?"

"Hi," June said as Kit walked away.

The scent of berries lingered in the pod. June took a seat. Doors slid shut behind her. Then the virtual reality session turned on. Two options floated in front of her.

**Sign out?**

**Replay recent sessions?**

Kit had forgotten to sign out of her account. June started to do it for her. Then she stopped.

*What does Kit do in virtual reality?*

June was curious. She tapped the Replay button. This was breaking the rules. But she felt daring.

Kit's VR session filled the pod. Five kids appeared. They sat in a circle. All of them had wild hair. Their clothes looked trendy.

*No way do they live at the Home,* June thought.

One of the girls spoke. "Did you all hear about the virus?"

A boy nodded. "Yep. Lockdown starts at midnight."

The group groaned.

Kit looked at her friends. "Hey! Let's all meet up tonight. It may be my last chance to get a break from this place."

June gasped at Kit's boldness. But she was also jealous.

The others nodded at Kit's idea. They agreed to meet at the Underground.

June sat back. Her thoughts raced.

Kit was planning to sneak out. But how?

June's throat went dry. Part of her wanted to stop Kit. But another part wanted to follow her.

# BLUE DELTA BOOKS

---

## FICTION



9781638892694



9781638892700



9781638892717



9781638896135



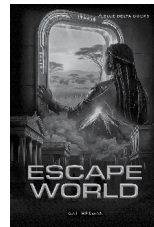
9781638892731



9781638892724



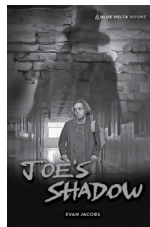
9781638896302



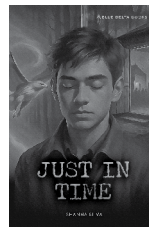
9781638896333



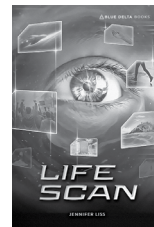
9781638892649



9781638892786



9781638896166



9781638892793



9781638896197



9781638892632



9781638892748



9781638896272



9781638898009



9781638896227



9781638892779



9781638892762

[WWW.SDLBACK.COM/BLUE-DELTA-FICTION](http://WWW.SDLBACK.COM/BLUE-DELTA-FICTION)



SCIENCE FICTION

# COMPROMISED

Suffering from a rare disease, June is confined to the Home for Compromised Children. Constant supervision ensures her safety, but June finds it stifling. When an unexpected opportunity arises for June to have a night beyond the Home's walls, she faces a difficult choice. Will she seize this fleeting taste of freedom? And if she does, is she prepared for the consequences?



BLUE DELTA BOOKS™

LEXILE HL230L

ISBN: 978-1-63889-613-5



 **SADDLEBACK**  
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING  
[www.sdlback.com](http://www.sdlback.com)