

CLAW CASTLES



EVAN JACOBS



MEET THE



KING NOJRA

Age: 35

Family: a mean older sister who rules a neighboring castle

Secret Wish: to live in the world outside his video game

Favorite Hobby: cake decorating

Best Quality: great hair

CHARACTERS



JAKE

Age: 11

Favorite Food: Hot Pockets ham & cheese

Second Favorite Hobby: enjoys taking photographs of funny-looking bugs

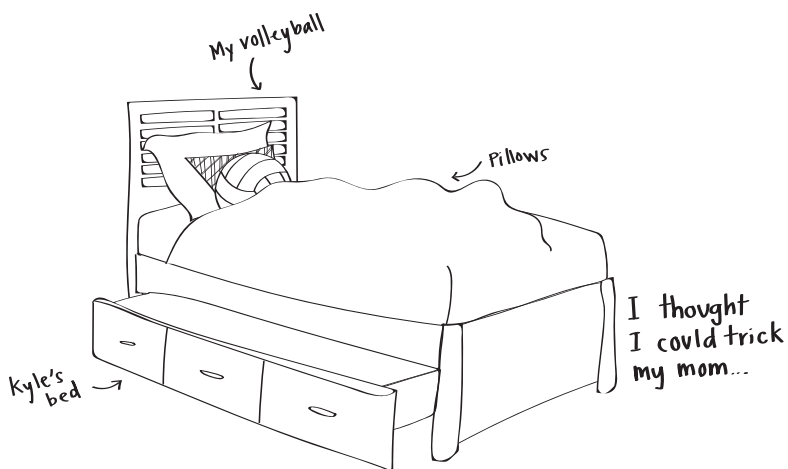
Secret He's Keeping: has a crush on Olivia, the girl who sits behind him in art class

Best Quality: persistence

1 UNLOCKED

“You boys better get in bed. Right now!”

Jake’s mother was mad. She already told them to go to sleep. That was two hours ago. But Jake and his best friend, Kyle, kept playing.



“Three more minutes, Mom. I promise,” Jake said. “We’re almost done. We’re at level ninety-eight!”



“Three more minutes. You boys are lucky it’s Friday.” She shut to the door to the living room.

Jake lived in a one-story house. It was small. The living room was next to his parents’ bedroom. Jake’s brother, Mike, was down the hall. Jake had his own bedroom. And it was full of stuff. You name



it. He had it. Games. Comic books. DVDs. Electronics.

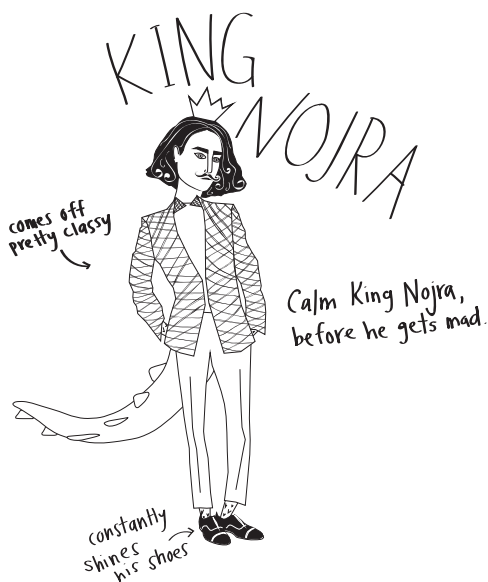


Jake and Kyle had been on the Xbox all night. They always played when Kyle slept over. They were seconds away from clearing Level 99 of their favorite game. It was called *Clan Castles*.

They battled a king at each level. Winning meant they won the king's castle. The final battle was against King Nojra. That king was the fiercest. The bravest. And the scariest.

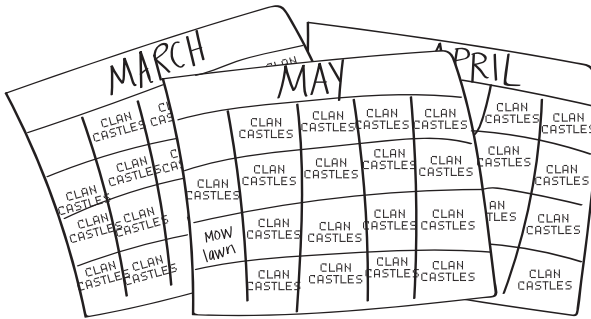


King Nojra was half-man, half-dragon. He ruled the biggest kingdom. If you lost to him, you lost it all. And you were bumped back to Level 1.



Jake's avatar and King Nojra were fighting. Nojra was throwing fireballs. Giant creatures were on the attack. The king's great hall was a war zone. The other

kings were watching. The ones Jake and Kyle had beaten. It had taken the boys months to get to this level.



“If you die, it’s over,” Kyle said.

“Don’t remind me,” Jake moaned.

King Nojra was using all his skills. Jake had to be fast. He had to move and fire at the same time. The king kept at it. Faster. And faster. If Jake blinked, he lost.

Then, the game made a sound.

“What’s going on?” Kyle asked.

At that moment, the Mirror of Reflection appeared. It sat off to the side. A counter

appeared on the screen. It was counting down from five.

“I only have five seconds to get it!” Jake was so tense. He was sweating.

If he did not get the mirror, it would disappear. Forever.

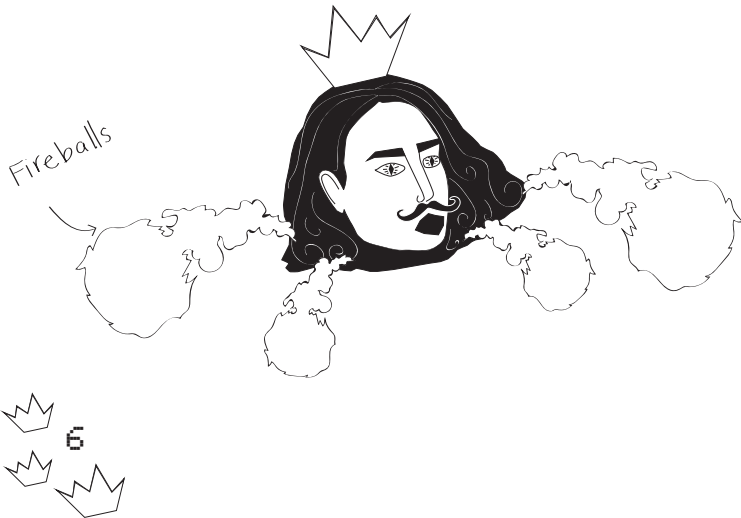
Too much was coming at him. Jake was stuck.

Suddenly, he got a break. For a split second. There was an opening. Jake took it.

Two seconds left.

Jake grabbed the mirror.

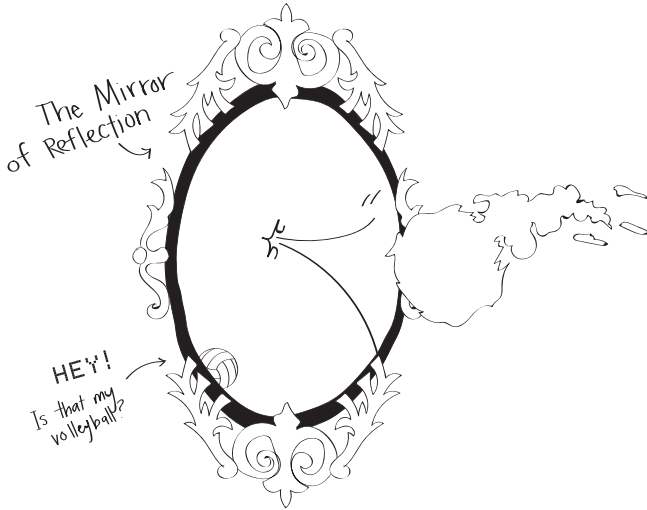
Nojra spit out a fireball.



“Lift it!” Kyle yelled.

Jake did.

The fireball bounced off the mirror. It shot back into Nojra’s body.



Direct hit!

King Nojra vanished. There was a white light.

The screen went black.

“Whoa! You beat ninety-nine.” Kyle put his arm around Jake.



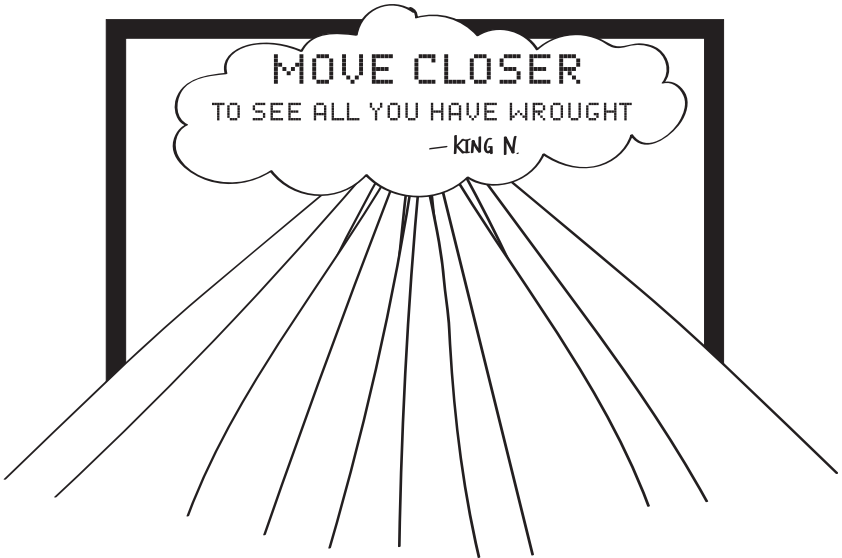
“Now what?” Jake asked.

The screen was still black. The boys waited. It was dead quiet.

Then many colors filled the TV screen. Every king Jake had battled and defeated appeared.

“Cool,” Jake said.

The screen read:



The boys did.

A white light shot out of the TV! The same light as when King Nojra vanished.

Jake and Kyle looked at each other.

“We’re moving!” Jake yelled.

They were.

In seconds, colors surrounded them.

The TV had sucked them in!

