

Glitched!

Jenna absolutely loves playing computer games. But when her mum becomes obsessed with a new game called *Glitch*, things get weird. Where have all the adults gone? What does *Glitch* have to do with it, and who could be behind this crazy new game? Jenna will have to play the game to find out—and try to save her mum along the way!

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Chapter Readers



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This book is Grey Band/Level 13

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Jenny Jinks

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'Glitched!'

An original concept by Jenny Jinks

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Chapter 1

“Goal!” Jenna cried.

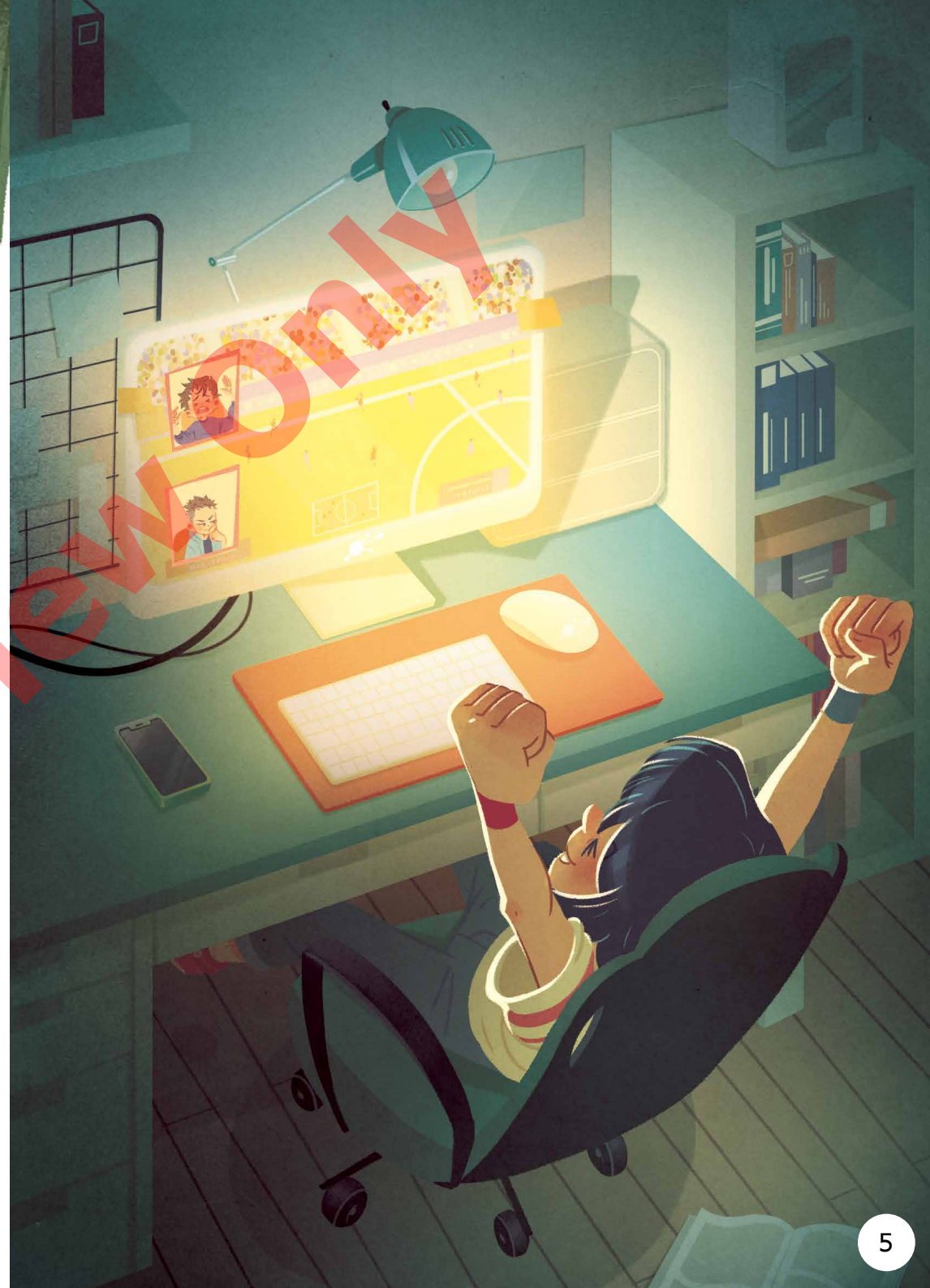
“No fair. Offside!” Mattie and Aussie, Jenna’s friends, cried out in unison. They were twin brothers.

Jenna did a victory lap around the pitch.

“Jenna, time to come off the computer now,” Jenna’s mum called. “Dinner time.”

Jenna ignored her mum and carried on playing. She fiercely hammered the buttons and soon she was on the ball again, running back towards the goal. She was just about to score when...

“JENNA!” Mum shouted.



Jenna sighed. "Sorry, I have to go. I'll see if I can sneak back on later," she told her friends.

"And tell your friends you will *not* be back on later," her mum said through the door.

Drat!

Jenna switched off the computer and went downstairs for tea.

"You need to spend less time glued to that machine," Mum said over dinner.

"I'm just playing football with my friends," Jenna said. "You keep saying you want me to get into sports."

"I meant real sports, not a computer game," Mum huffed.

Jenna sighed. Why did her mum have to be so annoying? Playing computer games was fun. It took lots more skill to master a game on the computer than in real life. There were so many controls to remember! And there was far less risk of getting hurt. As far as Jenna was concerned, it was a win-win. Why didn't grown-ups get it?



Chapter 2

When Jenna got home from school the next day, she was in for a big surprise. For a moment, Jenna wondered if her mum had been abducted by aliens. There was a huge pile of dishes abandoned in the sink, and a mound of untouched ironing, but no sign of Mum. This was very unusual.

Jenna went upstairs to go on the computer, and there was Mum, playing a computer game!

"What are you doing?" Jenna asked in disbelief.

Mum didn't respond, she was too busy hammering on the keyboard. Gosh, that really was annoying. "MUM!"

"Oh sorry, I didn't hear you," Mum said, distracted.

“I’ve been playing this new game. It’s called *Glitch*. Have you tried it? It’s amazing.”

“I’ve never heard of it,” Jenna said, frowning. Mum didn’t even look away from the screen once. What was going on? Mum never ever played computer games. And she wasn’t even any good! Jenna watched her mum try to duck and jump across the land. She was rubbish!

Jenna just hoped she would come off soon.



But Jenna could not have been more wrong. Mum didn’t stop to make dinner. Jenna had to make herself a sandwich. And when it was bedtime, Mum was still there, tapping away at the computer game. She barely even noticed when Jenna came to say goodnight.

When Jenna got up the next morning, she couldn’t believe her mum was still there, staring at the screen.

“Have you even been to bed?” Jenna asked. Mum didn’t look up. It was like she hadn’t even heard her. And she looked terrible. The game had turned her into a zombie. She was obsessed. This was a disaster.

Jenna needed to make a plan, work out what to do. She needed the help of some gaming experts. She needed Mattie and Aussie.