



Suddenly a man was blocking their way. He was very tall, with a harsh face, and he was carrying a large metal case.

“Why are you two talking about Langham Jets?” he asked angrily.

Jim and Ali stared at him in surprise.

“Who are you?” said Ali.

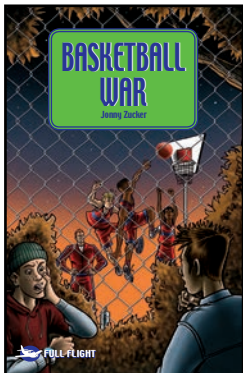
“I’m Mr Hunt,” the man replied, “and I don’t like people spying on my team.”

“We’re not spying,” said Jim.

“Yeah,” added Ali, “and anyway it’s a free country.”

“Not round here, it’s not,” snapped Mr Hunt. “Now get out of here before you regret it!”

Jim was going to answer back, but Ali tugged his arm and they began to walk away. As they neared the park gate, Jim turned round. Mr Hunt was standing in exactly the same place, holding the metal case tightly and staring straight back at him with hate-filled eyes.



1. WHAT IS A STUNT?

There are two main types of stunt:

- stunts in films (pages 5-19)
- stunts performed by magicians, daredevils and escape artists (pages 20-29)



2. SO YOU WANT TO BE IN THE MOVIES?

Have you ever been watching a film, seen someone jumping out of a window or crashing a helicopter, and thought I'd like to do that? The job of a stunt artist is to perform dangerous acts to add excitement to a film. For anyone wanting to become a stunt artist, the training is long and very hard.

For a start you have to be very fit, willing to learn and not be scared of getting hurt.



Bob reached for the watch and shook his head. "Give it back, Dad. And stop doing stupid magic tricks."

"It's not a magic trick," said Hannah. "He just took it without you seeing him." She put her arm round her dad. "You could have been a great pickpocket, Dad."

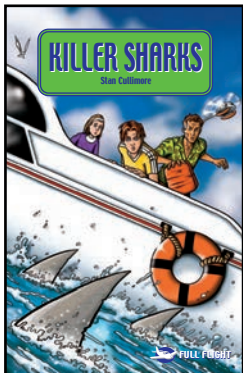
"Thanks," he grinned. "Having quick fingers can be very useful in my line of work."

Bob put his watch back on and looked at it. "Hey, it's my go now!"

Hannah let go of the wheel and Bob took over. He pushed a lever beside the wheel and the motor roared. The boat shot across the water.

"Now this is more like it," shouted Bob over the noise.

"Look!" cried Hannah. "Dolphins!"



Chapter 1 - Scrambled Brains

“Hi Pete.”

“Hi Danny.”



“Look mate, check these out!”

Danny put his feet up on the bed and pointed the mobile at his trainers.

“Cool or what?”

“They look great, Danny,” Pete said.

“Danny!” Mum appeared at the door.

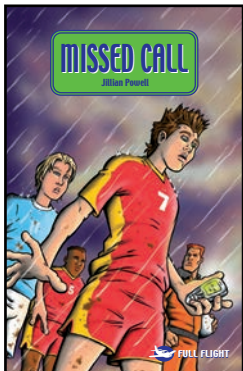
“You’re not on that thing again!” she said. “I sometimes wonder if it’s fixed to your head. You’ll scramble your brains, you know. Who are you talking to?”



“Just Pete.”

“Pete lives next door, for heavens sake,” Mum said. “Have you thought of talking face to face?”

“What’s going on?” Pete asked Danny.



Lance looked round to see who was talking. A mean smile ran across his face. The tall, tubby boy next to him was a mess. The buttons on his shirt were all in the wrong holes and his school tie was halfway round his neck.



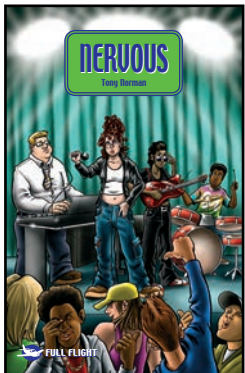
“Hi Jools,” said Lance, his voice as smooth as oil. “Yeah, great prize. Hey, how would you like to join my band for this?”

“Elite?” said Jools, amazed.

“Right. We need a keyboard player. You’re the man, Jools. Let me talk to the rest of the band. Give me your number. I’ll get back to you.”

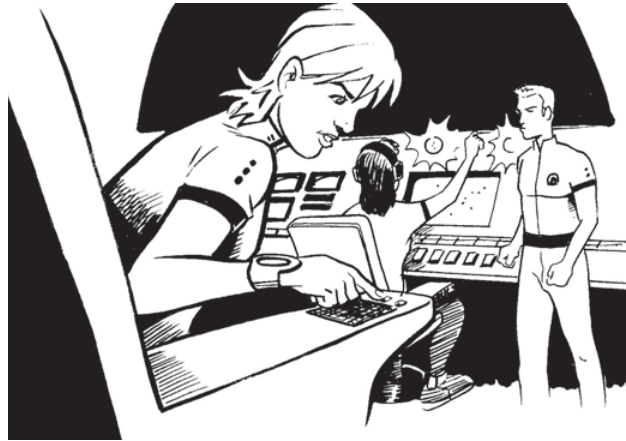
Then, with a false grin, Lance was gone.

Jools stood alone, his mind in a state of shock. He knew most kids saw him as a nerd. Now, he was all set to join the best band in school.



Chapter 1 - A Big Problem

“Engineering! Report, please! Todd, what’s going on?”



It had been quiet on the bridge of the Nightstar. The cargo ship almost flew itself on long journeys between the stars. There wasn't much for the captain and crew to do. Until now.

The ship gave a sudden shudder. Then the red warning lights started to flash. Captain Street quickly checked the control panel, but nothing showed up. The spaceship flew on.

Todd reported back from the engine room.

“I don’t understand it. The warp engine cut out, then started again. It’s never done that before.”

“What do you think we should do?” asked the Captain.

“I’d like to shut down the engine and check it out. It shouldn’t take long.”





Tom smiled sweetly up at her. She frowned down at him.

Naseem ran downstairs. “No problem! See you later, mum.”

His mum sighed. “Looks like I’ll have to put the shopping away myself... again.”

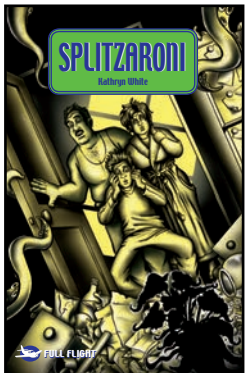
Naseem shrugged. “Sorry mum.”

“At least this way I can keep the chocolate biscuits out of your sight. Last week you ate far too many.”

“Your mum’s mad!” laughed Tom. “What happens to all the food she buys?”

“She’s always cooking something new, but it often goes wrong,” said Naseem.

Tom grinned. “I made up that stuff about needing help with my homework. I just wanted to help you escape the shopping. Let’s head to the Park.”



2. The Sprinters' Kit

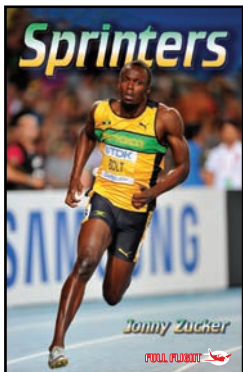
To look the part, you'll need a special thigh-length running suit. These suits hug your body and stop your upper legs getting cold. It's also important for you to choose the right running shoes.



These have a toe that slopes up and supports your feet. They are light and comfortable.

It was all very different a hundred years ago. In those days, sprinters wore long shorts and long-sleeved shirts. These flapped around on a windy day and slowed the runner down.

Running shoes then were also very different. They were made of leather and had spikes on the bottom to cling to the running track. They were heavy and not very comfortable.



Chapter 1 - "We Can Trust Them"

"Whatever you do, remember to stay together."

It was the first time Mark and Pete had gone climbing on their own. They were camping with their parents. They'd spotted a mountain that looked quite easy to climb. They begged to have a go.

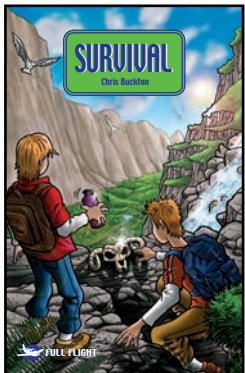
"You know we're good climbers," said Mark. "We know all the safety rules."

"And we'll stay on the track," promised Pete. "It's a fine day."

"The weather forecast said there would be mist later in the afternoon," warned Dad.

"We'll be back by then," promised Pete.

Their parents looked at each other.



Chapter 1 - Web Family

When Carl got back from school, there was a family meeting going on.



“I think it’s really exciting,” Mum was saying. “They chose us from lots of families.”

“Chose us for what?” Carl asked.

“To be the Web Family,” Dad beamed.

“What’s that?” Carl looked blank.

“We’re going to appear on the web,” Mum explained. “It’s really exciting. We’ll be on live web cams and everyone will get to know us.”

“Why us?” Carl didn’t like the sound of this at all.

“They said it was because we’re just an ordinary family,” Mum said.

“You and Jo are about the right ages. They looked around and liked what they saw.”

