



REALM X

6th GRADE
FICTION

The pitter patter of footsteps splashed through puddles as Cole walked. He stopped, only to hear his own breath and the falling of rain. He had just investigated a murder crime scene and it was gruesome. He could not get the image out of his head, "those eyes," he mumbled, "those lifeless eyes."

Cole started to walk faster, his steps growing louder. He jolted up the porch and pulled out his keys, he was ready to unwind after a long day. To his surprise the door was unlocked. In his line of work and making enemies, finding his front door unlocked left him feeling uneasy. He was a rookie detective going into his second year on the job. As he walked inside, he pulled out his semi-automatic pistol, loaded with six rounds. He began to search the house, clearing room by room. As he got to the last door, it was the only one closed.

As he went to grab the door knob, he felt he was not alone. Crack! There was a throbbing pain in the back of his head as he fell limp to the floor. He couldn't see much in his last moments, but all he could see was a pair of leather boots and the tip of a baseball bat.

He regained consciousness to being submerged into water, in his own bathtub. Splash! As Cole was submerged into a tub of water, he could hear a woman's voice, "send him!" Cole gasped for air; he started to feel his body shutting down.

Again, he heard the woman's voice, "he's not ready, and we need more time!" Cole saw nothing but water and the faint image of a man as he was once again dunked. Right then, he started to black out. "Now," he heard voices mumble. The voices were so distant he could barely hear them.

Plunk! Everything went blank. "UGH, what the.....," as he felt around expecting to feel the smooth bathtub he had been submerged into. All he felt was the rugged gravel ripping at his palms. He opened his eyes, only to find a twisted, indescribable world. Houses were ripped apart and floating upside down. Everything seemed to connect to Cole's memories; he felt he knew his surroundings. He got up to his knees and tried to figure out what was happening. Pushing up to a standing position and trying to balance, he started to walk around.

Clonk, clonk, clonk, he heard footsteps. "Hello, who's there," he called out. The body of a human lumbered out of the shadows. Upon closer examination, it wasn't a human at all. Its eyes glowed a deep red and when it jerked its head, a red glow followed. Cole pulled out his gun and fired a bullet at the creature. The bullet just passed through its chest, like a visible ghost. The thing jerked its head towards him and it began to screech like a banshee and run after him.

Cole ran for his life, not knowing where he was or where he was going. He dove into an alley, trash breaking his fall.

"Hello?" a woman's voice called from the radio, still attached to his uniform. Something was weird; he had heard this voice before. It was the same woman's voice he had heard back at his house. "This is a recording, so you cannot respond," the familiar voice continued. "You are part of an experiment of people that can go in and out of this world without any complications. There is a whole other dimension outside of the human realm we are investigating. This realm is called Realm X. We have already sent people there, but we have lost their connection and are experiencing complications. We have sent you here to find them and bring them home. Use your radio once you have found them and we will bring you home."

"Okay then, a mission," Cole sighed. Trying to figure out which way to go, he stumbled over a rock and hit the ground hard, knocking his breath out of him. He got back up from the ground and yelled, "why me!?" He lumbered to the end of the ally, which ended up being a dead end. This meant he would have to venture back out there with that thing. He peeked around the corner. It was feeding on a humungous rat carcass. He could smell the horrible decay in the air.

"RRReecahhhh!" an ear piercing scream left its body. Cole grabbed his gun out of his holster and pointed it at the beast. Once again the bullet passed through its chest, like a visible ghost. The bullets must be blanks. He wondered why he had blanks, he was a detective. Cole once again put his gun's sights on the monster's chest and fired. He fired shot after shot, until the gun did not spit bullets anymore. The monster seemed unaffected, as it limped and ran towards him.

"This world just hates me!" he hollered as he sprinted towards an empty car. Once he arrived at the car, he threw his elbow into the car passenger's window, expecting the window to break. The car alarm sounded in response to his hit, "beep, beep, beep."

"You have got to be kidding me," Cole whined. One after another pairs of red eyes could be seen in the shadows behind the car. One of the pair of eyes began to grow a body and female like stature, as it stepped from the shadows. Two males and three more females appeared. It was a hoard of zombies, something out of the Walking Dead.

The only thing Cole could do was run for his life. In the distance, Cole could see his own house. He couldn't believe what he was looking at it, it looked like his home. He ran to his house as fast as he could. The last time he had entered his home he had been ambushed by a guy with a baseball bat. "Here goes nothing," he said as he hiked the door off its hinges. He ran to the bathroom, closed the door and locked it. His hands trembled as he sat there minute after minute, waiting for something to happen. He heard a knock, followed by a "hello?"

"Dallin," Cole whispered, wondering if he was imagining voices. Dallin was his old partner who had went missing on a murder case. "Dallin," he said this time louder. Dallin and Cole had gone to the police academy together and worked through the ranks. When he went missing on a murder case last year, Cole presumed Dallin was dead. Nobody had heard from Dallin in over a year.

"Cole!" the familiar voice responded. Cole struggled to open the bathroom door, his hands still quivering with fear. He slowly opened the door to see blonde hair, followed by the familiar blue glasses Dallin always wore.

"What are you doing here? It's been awhile!" Dallin said, sharing a hug with his partner.

"I was put here, it's like my soul has left my body. What kind of world is this, the zombie type creatures? I shot one, but it did not phase it. Why are you here? You went missing without a trace." Cole had so many questions for his old partner and friend.

"I'll explain it all later, first we have to get to my safe house," Dallin said.

"Take me, please. Where are the others?" Cole asked. He was met with silence.

They continued to walk, surprising there was no creatures following them. After what seemed like a mile, they arrived at a giant building and Dallin opened up the door and gestured towards Cole jokingly, "you first."

Cole stepped over the landing. Looking around, he inhaled the smell of smoke and coffee. "Did something die in here?" Cole asked seriously.

"Probably," Dallin teased. "Or maybe it was just my dinner." He stepped into the living room. Looking around, the room had been stripped of everything that made it a living room. No TV, no couch, just a tiny beaten up old ratty recliner.

"This is what you call safe? There's like six large holes in the wall," Cole gestured and raising an eyebrow.

"Well, it will keep the tracers out," Dallin replied. "A tracer used to be a normal civilian, but they had complications in this realm. They turned into a horrible creature that wants nothing more than to kill us."

"Tracers, so that's what those are. Those zombie like creatures are tracers?"

"Yes. You must be tired. We have our work cut out for us to be able to go home. You go to bed and get some sleep and we can talk more in the morning," Dallin demanded. Dallin began to pull out sleeping bags and laid them on the floor. Cole walked over to one of the sleeping bags and crawled inside. Snug as a bug, he drifted off to sleep.

"RRRRaaaahh!" the scream jolted Cole awake immediately. "Dallin," Cole choked out, "Dallin!"

"You better go check on him," a faint voice called out. Emerging out of his sleeping bag, Cole called out, "who's there? I hear you!" All of a sudden a baseball bat came flying at his head. He ducked, but grabbed the bat and yanked it over his head, along with a woman that had been holding the bat.

"Who are you? Why are you here and where is Dallin," Cole grimaced pinning the woman against the wall.

"Wow, they don't lie about you being stubborn and strong," the woman said as she flipped the hair out of her face.

"WHO ARE YOU?" Cole yelled.

"My name's Maddie," she replied quickly.

"Wait, Maddie as in the police dispatcher Maddie?"

"Yes, and you are Cole," she pointed at me.

Cole was confused. Everybody he once knew was here.

"What did you do?" yet again a familiar voice, "where is Dallin?"

Cole was as stubborn as an ox. He did not move, ready to swing the bat if necessary.

"I'm right here," Dallin calmly replied. Cole finally turned around towards Dallin's voice.

"Pablo?" Cole questioned.

"He....he....he tried to hurt me," Maddie yelled.

"No, I did not try to hurt her, that's beside the point. You're Pablo that worked in the evidence department for twenty three years."

"The one and only," Pablo laughed.

Every person in Realm X he knew from the police force, Pablo, Maddie, and Dallin.

The front door suddenly snapped open and a tracer burst into the living room. Pablo grabbed what looked like a TV remote and pressed a button. A blue beam struck the tracer. Its red glow faded and it disintegrated into pixels.

"What just happened," Cole asked.

"The monsters in this realm are all digital. One blast with this remote and poof....GONE!"

"Let's go. We have a mission to complete," Maddie demanded. Dallin turned to lead us out of the front door. As we were leaving, he grabbed one of those things that looked like a TV remote and tossed it at Cole, "here, have one of these."

Cole still confused and tired, he did not ask where they were going. He did not want to know. Loud crashes sounded around them. Cole looked around the corner and saw a giant tracer, dragging behind it a lamp post. Dallin called out to them, "get your remotes out now!"

Cole pulled his remote out and clicked on the button he had seen Pablo use. It lit up and glowed. The tracer had sensed them now. Twisting to see them, it fixed its eyes on Cole and began to run towards him.

"You've got to be kidding me," Cole moaned. Suddenly, a blue stream headed towards the tracer. Dallin had struck the tracer. The stream hit the tracer in the jaw and particles flew everywhere. The tracer was lifting the telephone pole over its head and began to swing it at them. Cole dove to the ground to dodge the pole, but his radio had flown off his shirt and got smashed when the pole hit the ground.

"NOOOOO!" Cole screamed. He snatched his remote and shot the blue stream towards the tracer over and over, watching it dissipate into particles. Running to his radio, Cole and his "new" team looked at the broken mess. Whenever he tried to touch it, it sparked. He had forgotten he needed to contact the voice once he had found the others.

"What's wrong?" Maddie questioned.

"That radio was our one way ticket out of here. I don't suppose you have one?"

"Actually we do, we just can't get a signal."

Cole felt like he had just been sentenced to death. He felt he could never get out, no matter how hard he tried. "I'm so sorry; I thought I could get us all home to our families. Now it looks like we will never escape out of here," Cole sighed.

"It's not your fault," Dallin snapped.

Pablo motioned for them to be quiet and for them to follow him. At this point, this seemed like the only thing they could do. Pablo led them down an alley and Cole felt really uneasy following him.

"I haven't shown you guys this, it's for emergencies only," Pablo said. He pulled out a green thing; it looked like a green circle covered in lights. He then turned and told them to follow him back to where Cole's radio lay broken on the ground.

"I found this device one day when I was trying to find a way back home. This is a quantum receptor and it takes broken molecules and puts them back to together."

"English please!" Maddie demanded.

"Uumm, it's a put back together thing."

"So, that thing can put back together my radio," Cole asked.

"It might, but your radio is so busted up, it may not work."

"Just do it, put it back together, it is worth a shot," Dallin insisted.

Pablo clicked a button in the center and the quantum receptor started to flash. A little beam flashed onto the broken radio and it started to shake. A jumble of broken wires slithered back into it. The plastic casing fused back together, popping sounds erupted, and the radio regained its shape. Cole picked it up, pinned it back on his uniform and pressed the transmit button.

"Hello? Does anyone copy?" Nobody answered. "Hello? Does anyone copy?" The sound of silence filled the air around them. Cole kept trying until Maddie said, "face it, we have no signal here."

"You know, I don't think this place has any reception," Cole responded and feeling deflated.

"We have reception here, it's just all the way up there," Dallin pointed up to a radio tower hanging upside down defining gravity.

"How do you suppose I get up there," Cole snapped back.

"Well the radio tower is connected to a chain, so if someone can manage to get up there without falling to their death, it should be heavy enough with their weight to float the tower back down," Maddie suggested. "We have tried, but none of us have been strong enough to succeed."

"I'll do it," Cole blurted out, without really thinking what he was getting himself into. Dallin lead Cole to the chain anchored to the ground.

"This is it. Don't die. Don't break anything. And most importantly, don't die," Pablo listed off warnings.

"You said don't die twice dimwit," Maddie teased.

"I'm just trying to emphasize my point," Pablo snapped at Maddie.

Cole gripped the rusty chain and nervously hoisted himself up onto it. Inch by inch he was making progress. As he climbed, his palms began to get sweaty, his knees were weak, and his arms felt like bricks. He felt like he was about to lose his grip on the chain. Suddenly, one of his arms gave out and he started to panic. "I'm slipping!" he yelled towards the ground.

Nobody heard his panic and plea below him. He regained his grip and continued inching up towards the top. Cole could see the radio tower clearly now. As he neared the top, his weight helped the radio tower begin to sink back to the ground.

"Thank you," Cole mumbled to the heavens. As Cole's feet touched the ground, he released the chain and bent down to kiss the ground.

"You did it!" Dallin cheered.

"Not yet Dallin," a giant deep voice said.

"No...I...you...we..." Dallin stuttered, looking around to find where the voice was coming from.

A giant hand shook the ground as its glowing red veins protruded. "You took my human body from me. It's time I take yours." The top half of its body hoisted itself up from the cliff behind them.

"What is that!?" Cole shrieked.

"That, that's my older brother Christopher," Pablo shook with fear as he drewed his remote from his old pistol holster.

"Lieutenant Christopher? I thought he had retired from the force after his injury," Cole said.

"Rookie Cole, Pablo has told me so much about you," Christopher laughed. "Oh, you little human, Cole oh Cole," he kept taunting and joking.

"I'm going to destroy you and get my friends and myself out of here," Cole stood up to the giant, pulling out his remote. The rest of them pulled out their remotes. The blue glow shined upon Christopher's repulsive face.

"We were sent here to investigate this realm; we were all in this together. We didn't know by sending you out in the middle of nowhere, you would fall into an abyss and turn into this creature. We didn't know there was a cliff," Pablo apologized. "Who knew you would turn into a hideous and hateful giant."

"You sent me because you knew it was a dangerous task and I could encounter complications. You didn't care what happened to me," Christopher bellowed.

"Shut up! Let's get this over with," Maddie ordered.

The remote blast hit Christopher in the forehead. He just laughed as particles flew away. The beast's hands were deformed. One of his hands began to mold into a giant blade. His hand

swung between them, spitting the earth as it slammed into the earth's surface. The two chunks of earth floated away from each other as Cole was dragged away on one.

"Fire!" Dallin demanded. The blasts hit the giant like a firing squad. Particles flew as Christopher was fading. Christopher, now very angry, opened his mouth and a ball of fire left his mouth. Pablo knew they were in trouble, jumped in front of the fire ball, taking the direct force of the fireball. The force knocked him down the void Christopher had created in the earth. Dallin's screams could be heard miles away as he watched his friend disappear.

Cole was looking around, trying to decide what to do when he spotted the chain to the radio tower. He ran to the chain and jumped high, securing his grip. Gripping the chain, he pushed with all he had to get the chain to swing back towards the other piece of land.

Maddie bewildered and confused on what to do screamed at Cole, "what are you doing!"

"I am ending this, once and for all," Cole replied, the rage filling his body. Once he had swung to reach the beast, he let go of the chain to land on Christopher's back. He started to climb as Dallin kept blasting away at the beast. Cole started to glow from the remote's beam, as he got closer to the giant's head. Pixels were flying everywhere. He jerked his first back and got ready to strike. As he launched his fist into the back of Christopher's head, a blue aurora filled the skies as Cole was knocked off of Christopher.

Christopher let out a blood curdling scream as pixels flew everywhere. Cole landed back at the radio tower as Christopher's voice echoed, "I will get you Cole, this won't be the last time you see me." The giant was gone, disappearing into millions of pixels.

Cole was breathing heavy as looked down at his radio. He grabbed the receiver with force and spoke into it, "GET US OUT OF HERE, NOW!" Cole's body started to pixelate and disappear and soon Dallin and Maddie disappeared.

Cole's final moments in Realm X were not savored. He woke up on the bathroom floor of his house, back to where this nightmare had begun. Cole hurried to grab his cell phone and

dialed Dallin's phone number, wanting nothing more for his partner to answer. Somebody answered, but it wasn't Dallin's voice at all.

"Miss me?" Christopher laughed convulsively with evil.