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Opening extract from

House of Robots

Written by

James Patterson

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WELCOME TO MY HOUSE OF ROBOTS



DAD
He's kind of kooky, but he draws cool ninja comics.



SAMMY
That's me!



MOM
For a genius, she sure invents some dopey robots!



DRONE MALONE
For traffic reports or spy jobs, he's your robot.



MADDIE
The coolest sister in the whole world– I mean it!



MR. MOPPENSHINE
He attacks dust until it cries for help!



HAYSEED
His green thumb is actually painted aluminum.



BLITZEN
This former robo-linebacker is now a really aggressive lawn mower.



E
Hmm…I can't think of *anything* he's good for.

These robots do everything in my high-tech home, from making breakfast to handing out toilet paper. Wanna see how I ended up with a whole gang of gizmos?

COME ON IN!

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Middle School: My Brother Is a Big, Fat Liar (*with Lisa Papademetriou*)
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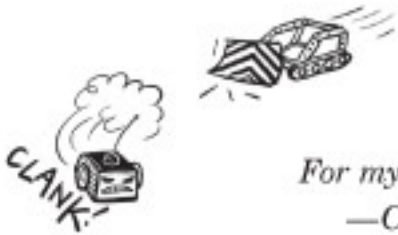
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For my mom.
—C.G.



To India—
for ten amazing years at Palm Beach Day Academy.
And for Andrea Spooner—my hero.
—J.P.




HOT + SOUR
NINJA ROBOTS
FROM
MAD
CREEKSIDE
ELEMENTARY
Hi, I'M SAMMY.



Hi, I'm Sammy Hayes-Rodriguez. Maybe you've heard of me? I'm the kid everybody's making fun of because my mother made me bring a robot to school with me—the dumbest, most embarrassing thing to ever happen to any kid in the whole history of school. (I'm talking about going back to the Pilgrims and Mayflower Elementary.)

I need to tell you a wild and crazy story about this robot that—I kid you not—thinks it's my brother.

And guess where the dumb-bot got that goofy idea?

From my mother!



Oh, guess what? My father is in on this idiotic robot business, too. He even called Mom's lame-o idea "brilliant."



Good thing Maddie is still on my side.

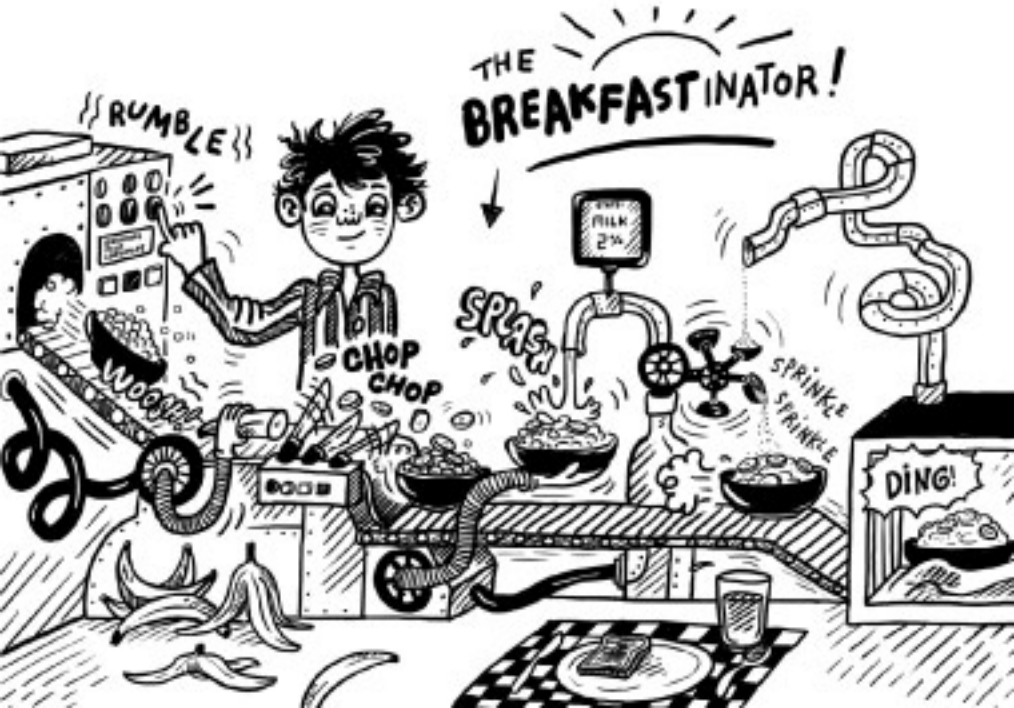
Maddie's absolutely the best little sister anybody could ever have. Aren't her blue eyes incredible? Oh, right. *Duh.* That drawing is in black-and-white. Well, trust me—her eyes are bluer than that Blizzard

Blue crayon in the jumbo sixty-four-color box.

Anyway, Maddie and I talked about Mom's latest screwy scheme over breakfast, which, of course, was served by one of Mom's many wacky inventions: the Breakfastinator.



Punch the button for Cap'n Crunch and cereal tumbles into a bowl, which slides down to the banana slicer, shuffles off to the milk squirter, scoots over to the sugar sprinkler, and zips down to the dispenser window.



Want some OJ with your cereal? Bop the orange button.

But—and this is super important—do NOT push the orange juice and Cap'n Crunch buttons at the same time. Trust me. It's even worse if you push Cap'n Crunch and scrambled eggs.

Maddie and I always have breakfast together before I head off to school. The two of us talk about everything, even though Maddie's two years younger than I am. That means she'd be in the third grade—if she went to school, which she doesn't.

I'll explain later. Promise.

Maddie knows how crazy Mom and Dad can be sometimes. But to be honest, even though she's



younger, Maddie keeps things under control *way* better than I do.

"Everything will be okay, Sammy. Promise."

"But you totally agree that Mom's new idea is ridiculous, right? I could die of embarrassment!"

"I hope not," says Maddie. "I'd miss you. Big-time. And yeah, her plan is a little out there...."

"Maddie, it's so far 'out there' it might as well be on Mars with that robot rover. They could dig up red rocks together!"

Okay, now here's the worst part: My mom told me that this wacko thing she wants me to do is all part of her "most important experiment ever."

Yep. I'm just Mom's poor little guinea pig. She probably put lettuce leaves in my lunch box.

