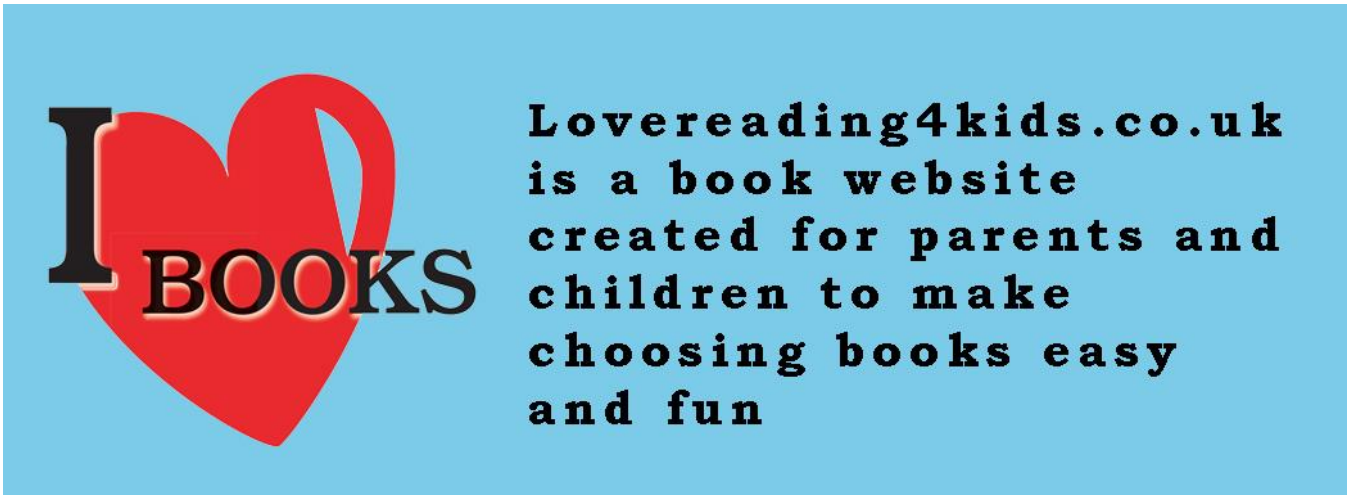

Opening extract from

The Misadventures of Max Crumbly

Written by

Rachel Renee Russell

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IF FOUND, PLEASE RETURN TO

MAX CRUMBLY

IMPORTANT: If I'M missing, please turn this book over to the local authorities!

WARNING:

This journal contains
wacky humor,
thrilling action,
nail-biting suspense,
cool raps,
and a mind-blowing cliffhanger!

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THE MISADVENTURES OF MAX CRUMBLY

(IMPORTANT STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW IN THE EVENT OF MY MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE)

1. My Secret Life as a Super~~hero~~ Zero
2. If There's a Dead Body inside My Locker, It's Probably ME!
3. How Darth Vader Became My Father
4. Somebody Get Me a Diaper! Quick!
5. Why I Stuck My Toes in My Sister's Bowl of Popcorn
6. Yes, Bat Kid Is My Little Brother!
7. Sippin' Prune Juice from a Red Plastic Cup
8. Just Call Me Barf!
9. How I Accidentally Busted My Pants, Bashed My Knee, and Bruised My Ego
10. Grandma Chokes on Her Dentures and Dies! (Again.)
11. Warning!! Beware of the Freaky Locker Vampire!
12. Setup for a Lockdown?
13. HELP!! I Think I'm Gonna Throw Up!
14. The King of Clean Rocks?!
15. Rantings of a Locker Lunatic
16. Who Says a Zombie Can't Rap?!
17. Just Kickin' It!
18. I Enter the Deep, Dark Bowels of . . . Where Am I?!
19. Lord of the Labyrinth

20. Do They Really Serve Mighty Meat Monster Pizza in Prison?

21. If I Make It Home Alive, My Dad Is Going to Kill Me!

22. How "Cinderella" Lost a ~~Glass Slipper~~ Sneaker

23. Attack of the Killer Toilet!

24. Out of Luck, Covered in Muck, and Drenched in Stench

25. Why There Was a Boy in the Girls' Locker Room

26. Worst. Ringtone. Ever!!

27. A Few Fries Short of a Happy Meal?! Really?!

28. How I Discovered the Sticky Note of Doom

29. The Mortifying Misadventure of Max Crumbly!! (Sorry, Dudes! My Bad!)

1. MY SECRET LIFE AS A SUPER~~HERO~~ ZERO

If I had SUPERPOWERS, life in middle school wouldn't be quite so CRUDDY.

Hey, I'd NEVER miss the stupid bus again, because I'd just FLY to school! . . .

AWESOME, right? That would pretty much make ME the COOLEST kid at my school!

But I'll let you in on a secret. Getting bombed by an angry bird is NOT cool. It's just . . . NASTY!!

TV, comic books, and movies make all this superhero stuff look SO easy. But it ISN'T! So don't believe the HYPE.

You CAN'T get superpowers by hanging out in a laboratory, mixing up colorful, glowing liquids that you simply DRINK. . . .

ME, MIXING UP A YUMMY SUPERPOWER SMOOTHIE

HOW do I know it doesn't work? . . .

"OOPS!"

Let me put it this way. . . .

Even if I DID have superpowers, the very first person I'd need to rescue is . . .

MYSELF!

WHY?

Because a guy at school pulled a lousy PRANK on me.

And, unfortunately, I might be DEAD by the time you read this!

Yes, I said "DEAD."

Okay, I'll admit that he didn't MEAN to kill me.

But still . . . !!

So if you're the type who gets FREAKED OUT over this kind of stuff (or comic book cliffhangers), you probably shouldn't read my journal. . . .

Um . . . excuse me, but are you STILL reading?!

Okay, fine! Go right ahead.

Just don't say I didn't warn you!

2. IF THERE'S A DEAD BODY INSIDE MY LOCKER, IT'S PROBABLY ME!

It all started as a normal, boring, CRUMMY day in my abnormally boring, CRUMMY life.

My morning was a disaster because I overslept. Then it went straight downhill from there.

I completely lost track of time at breakfast while reading a really old comic book that my father found in the attic a few days ago.

He said his dad had given it to him as a birthday gift when he was a kid.

He warned me to be super careful with it and not take it out of the house because it was a collectible and probably worth a few hundred dollars.

My dad was pretty serious about it because he'd already scheduled an appointment to get it appraised at the local comic book store.

However, since I was running late for school, I decided to ~~sneak~~ take the comic book with me and finish reading it during lunch.

Like, what could happen to it at school?!

Anyway, as I rushed to the bus stop, the zipper broke on my backpack and all my stuff fell out, including Dad's comic book.

I was like, Oh, CRUD!! My dad is going to STRANGLE ME if I damage his comic book!

I grabbed the comic book and was desperately trying to pick up everything else when the bus pulled up, screeched to a halt, waited all of three seconds, and then zoomed off again.

Without me!

Hey, I ran after that thing like it was a $100 bill blowing in the wind!

"STOP!! STOP!! STOOOOP!" I yelled.

But it didn't.

Which meant I missed the bus, was forced to walk to school, and arrived twenty minutes late.

Next I got chewed out by the office secretary. She gave me a tardy slip and then threatened an after-school detention because I had interrupted her while she was eating a jelly doughnut.

And just when I thought things couldn't possibly get ANY worse, they did.

When I stopped by my locker to get my books, suddenly everything went DARK.

That's when I realized I was TRAPPED in my worst . . .

NIGHTMARE!

I knew attending a new middle school was going to be tough, but this is INSANE.

My life STINKS!

I know you're probably thinking, Dude, just chill! Everybody has a BAD day at school.

Stop whining and GET OVER IT!

For real?

Are you serious?

Like, HOW am I supposed to get over THIS?! . . .