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Opening extract from

How Harry Riddles Made a Mega-amazing Zombie Movie

Written by

Simon Mayle

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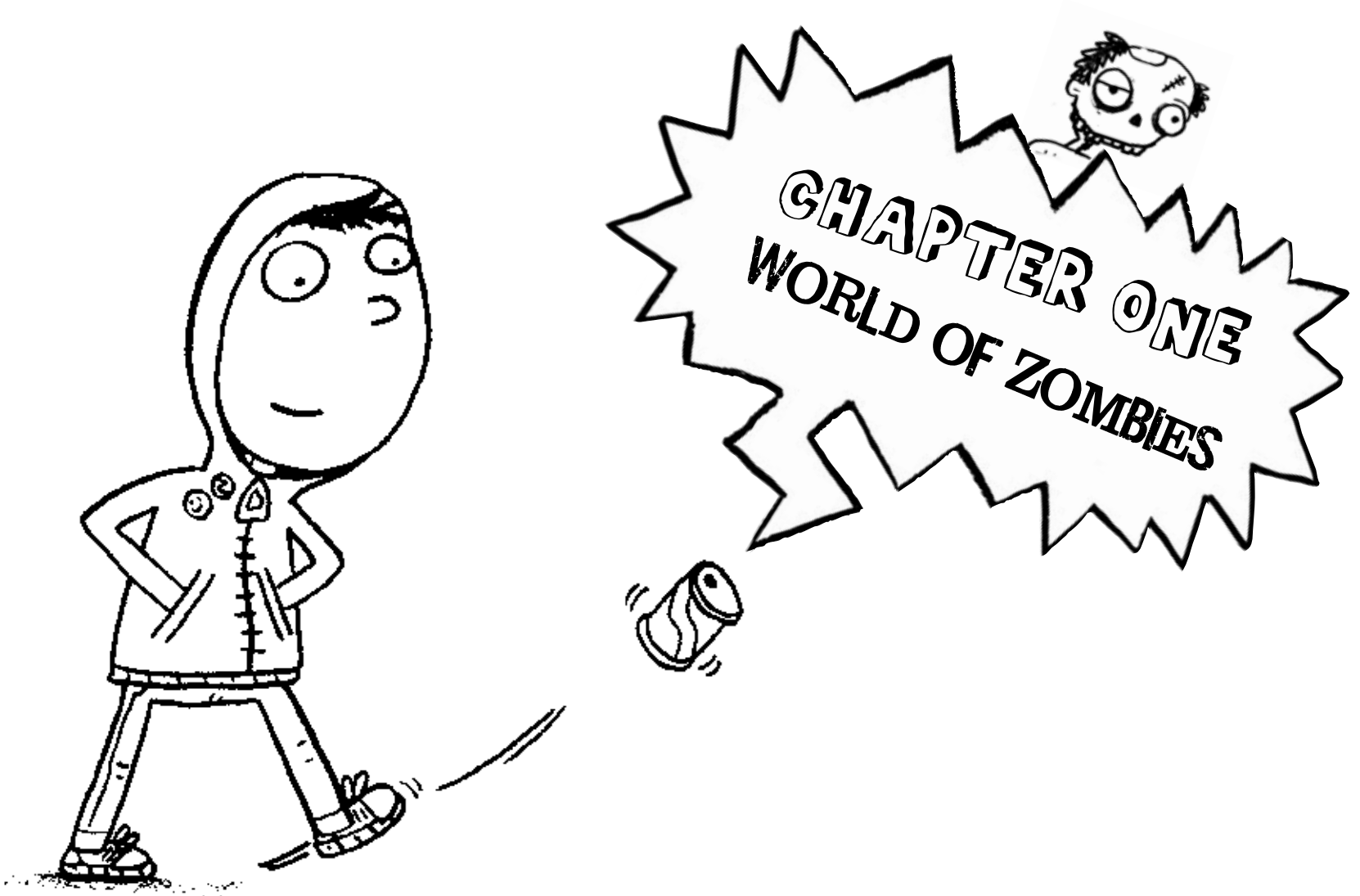
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For my boys, Ayrton & Pelé. U kids rock.




CHAPTER ONE
WORLD OF ZOMBIES

From Harry Riddles **to** Charley Riddles
Subject: World of Zombies and other stuff
5 January 20:04 GMT

Hi Cuz –
Sorry I can't write to you on Facebook, because guess what? My mum found out I opened my own account over Christmas and she said I'd better close it or I could get in a LOT of trouble. My sister said kids like me can go to prison for opening new Facebook accounts. Well, I'm only ten, I don't need that.

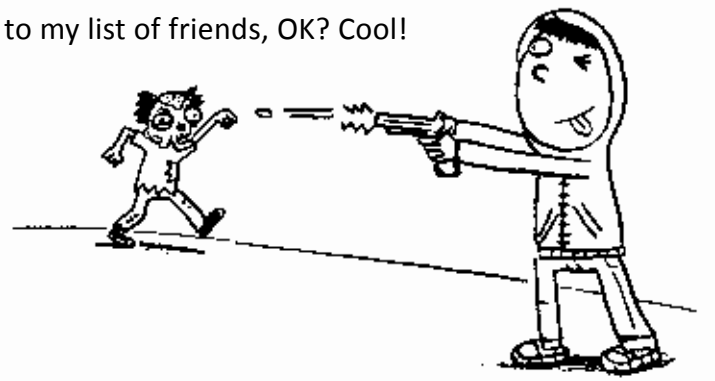


Good news is my dad said now he's got a wood burner out in his office, I could use his laptop, which means you and me can email each other, which is gonna be really GRRRREAT, right?

My dad also said if we do start writing, then maybe I won't spend so much time in my room gaming, cos he thinks gaming is a waste of my life and stops me making new friends and doing all the stuff he thinks kids like me should be doing, like skateboarding, or learning to surf, or playing sports, or whatever – but basically that's never gonna happen, cos I REALLY, REALLLLLLLLY LOVE GAMING!!!!

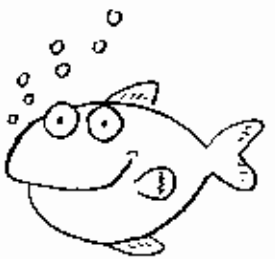
BTW – have you played WORLD OF ZOMBIES? I got given this game for Christmas and if you haven't played it, you should definitely GET it. I know you guys are like eight hours behind us time wise in

California, but if you could get out of your bed before, lets say lunch on a Saturday morning (which I know is a big ask), then you and me could easily game for an hour or more before my mum tells me to brush my teeth and go to bed and stop shooting zombies. So if you wanna play, let me know your gamer tag, then I can add you to my list of friends, OK? Cool!



How was Christmas out in California? Sunny? It rained here. My dad said it hasn't stopped raining in Cornwall for like five years now and the last time we had more than a week of straight

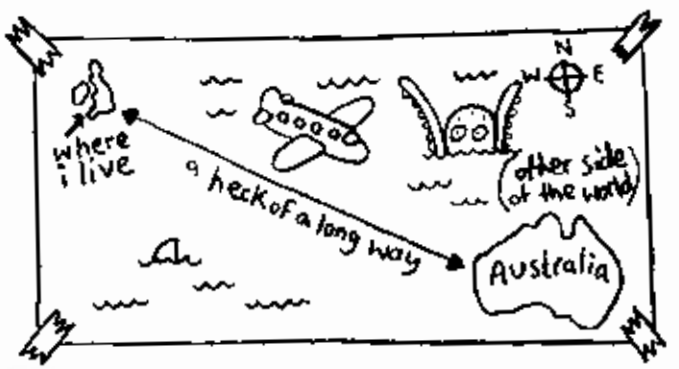
sunshine was maybe in the last century. He also said if things carry on the way they're going we'll all be swept back down to the sea in a GIANT FLOOD, which he thinks is maybe a good thing, cos life would be a LOT easier if we were fish, cos fish don't owe the bank lots of money and we do.



Other than that not much has changed since you guys were here. My mum still makes big art animals in the barn for rich Germans, but she's thinking she may have to get a job at my school teaching if they stop buying. I don't want that to happen cos that'll make my life even MORE embarrassing with Ed Bigstock. You know the kid

I talked to you about? His dad is a polar explorer but he's a pain in the butt? Him.

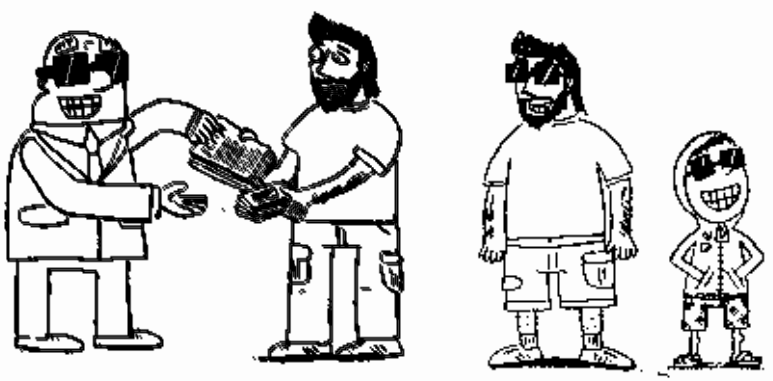
Plus, I still really hate Charlotte. She's now almost sixteen and I try and stay out of her way as much as possible, but the good news is she has just got her first real boyfriend, who has HIS OWN CAR, which means they go out a lot (if my mum gives them petrol money). His name is Spencer and he's an eighteen-year-old gap-year kid who teaches music at my school. With any luck they'll get married soon and emigrate to Australia and then my life will be a whole lot easier because my sister still hates me too.



The other good news is our dog has not got stuck down a rabbit hole for like three weeks now, and my dad has just finished his new movie script, which means when he sells it, we're going to come out to California and stay with you guys, which will be really, REALLY great and I can't wait!

OK. That's it. Your turn.

Harry

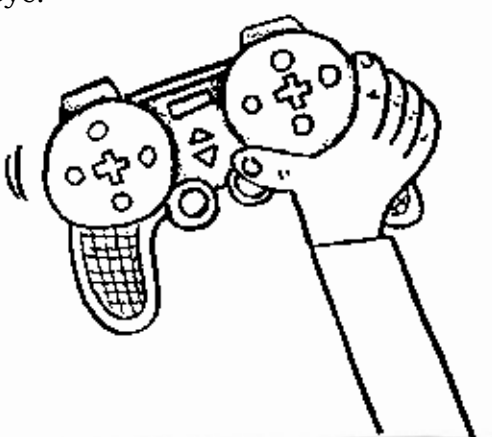


From Charley **to** Harry
11 January 09:14 PST

Smurf

What are you doing making your dad call my dad to find out why I haven't written? I don't have the time. I'm an athlete. I have to practise. But my dad says if I don't write to you, he'll take away my Xbox, my iPad and my phone. So here you go. Here's my letter. OK? There! Bye!

Charley



From Harry **to** Charley
11 January 17.27 GMT

That's all you have to say? You could at least tell me how the weather is.

Harry

From Charley **to** Harry
11 January 11:42 PST

You know how the weather is. It's sunny because it's ALWAYS sunny in California. That's why it's called the Sunshine State. And BTW – I REALLY don't have the time to keep writing to you, OK. So please leave me alone.

Charley



From Harry **to** Charley
12 January 09:19 GMT

That's funny cos my dad says your dad says you're either in bed SLEEPING all day when you're not at school, or you're online all night shooting terrorists with your friends. But if you're too busy to write, I get it. Thanks anyway for putting all that effort in. It's really great to hear from you – even if it was only like two lines. Anyway, I know all your news. My dad said you'd won this big Lacrosse tournament in California, which meant that your school was the best Lacrosse school in the whole of America, which is pretty incredible cos in England only GIRLS play Lacrosse. Boys play RUGBY. So congratulations on being the best at that. I mean it.

Harry

From Charley **to** Harry
12 January 10:11 PST

I don't know where you get your news from but Lacrosse is a MAN'S sport in America, not a GIRL'S sport, OK? And cos we won the tournament and cos I got voted MVP (that means Most Valuable Player, which is something you'll probably never achieve in your loser life) I'm going to get a college scholarship to play my MAN'S sport at a top Ivy League school, which is A PRETTY DARN GOOD THING. So stick that in your pipe and SMOOOOOKKKKE IT, you little dweeb!
Your slick, game-winning, MVP cousin,

Charley



From Harry **to** Charley
12 January 20:02 GMT

Dear slick, gaming-winning whatever

MVP? OK. You're right. I'll never get MVP for Lacrosse. Or Soccer. Or Rugby. Or Cricket. Or any game that doesn't have a screen, but how many elite gaming prestiges using QUICK SCOPE have you got on World of Zombies? One? Two? HA! I got three! And that's after only THREE weeks of playing, which I'm guessing is THREE more than you'll ever get in your life. And BTW – number one? Congratulations. That's pretty cool. I mean it. Nobody I know is number one at sports – except maybe my best friend Walnut, who HAS to be good at sports because his dad is like Mr Sports Dad and makes him train for rugby EVEN when he's throwing up.

Does your dad make you do that? Maybe that's just a rugby thing. I don't know – what do you think?



Harry

From Charley **to** Harry
12 January 11:20 PS

I've told you what I think. Stop writing!

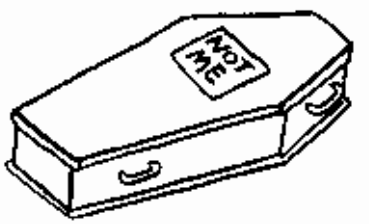
From Harry **to** Charley
12 January 19:22 GMT

Sure. No more emails. No problem. Bye.

From Harry **to** Charley
13 January 18:37 GMT

One last thing. Do they give gamer scholarships to go to college? If they did, I'm definitely going. And if they don't, they should. Oh – and you know that thing you asked me to do with the pipe? That's not going to happen cos I'm never gonna smoke cos smokers are idiots and they die young and I've got plenty to do, OK? Sorry.

Harry



PS Don't forget – my gamer tag is kid zombie and my friend Walnut is goofykinggrommet, so if you want to get some pwnage by the KINGS of World of Zombies, then let's see what you got. You can