

X-9.9

Written by

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PROLOGUE

He fumbled in the darkness looking for the light switch, but when he finally found it there was someone already there.

Jaden, a twelve-year-old schoolboy, screamed for his mother while racing down the stairs, “Muum, Muuuuum!”

“What is it now Jade?”

Gasping for breath, the boy replied, “There... there... there...”

“Just show me.”

CHAPTER 1

When Jaden and Mum reached his bedroom and creaked open the door, the first glance of the figure's face left Mum darting out of the front door. "Hello, Jaden," the bearded figure said in a slow, deep voice.

Jaden's heart was in his mouth, "H... h... hi," he stuttered, "who... who are you?"

"I am Yo... your long lost father's friend."

Jaden gasped in shock, "You know my dad!!!"

But at that moment, he disappeared in a puff of smoke. Many questions were circling around Jaden's head: who was that, what happened to him, why did Mum run away, would she ever return? One question was answered as Mum reappeared in the man's place.

“How did I get here?” she asked.

“I have no clue,” Jaden replied.

Then he heard the man’s voice in his head, “X-9.9,” he heard. What could this possibly mean? X-9.9, he felt an adventure coming on...

CHAPTER 2

Jaden began what felt like years of research to find what X-9.9 could mean. He couldn't, wouldn't and felt like he shouldn't concentrate in school as he needed to find his father.

During his weeks of study, he found codes used to win wars and confuse enemies throughout history. Jaden eventually discovered a few possible codes it could be in: the Caesar shift, hieroglyphs and the Enigma code.

In the Caesar shift, there were twenty-six different combinations but that was no help since it was just one letter. In hieroglyphs, it showed a bowl, a bent line and eighteen straight lines. And in the Enigma code, it was just one letter: 'Y'. These were all helpless.

**Then he went ask Mum if she knows what it means,
but she claimed that she didn't.**

CHAPTER 3

The next day, he gave up and tried to forget about it, but he couldn't. Jaden leaped onto the school bus when he was told, "Hey, Jade." It was his friend, Noah.

"Hey," Jaden replied in a grunted way.

"What's up?"

"You know my dad."

"Yeah."

"Well, someone broke into my house last night and told me that he was a friend of his..."

"Then what happened?" Noah asked eagerly.

"Then he just... I guess... disappeared in a puff of smoke."

"What! How?"

"How should I know?"

Twenty minutes later, just before the school bell rang for the first class, Jaden realised something:

SCIENCE DAY!

Suddenly Jaden forgot about his disappointment.

“Noah, it’s Science day today, remember!”

“Oh, yeah!”

Later, after lunchtime, Jaden’s class found out that they were learning about space for Science day. But Jaden *thought* that he knew everything about space and our great universe around us...

CHAPTER 4

He didn't...

“ ‘Our universe was caused by the big bang,’ quoted Albert Einstein,” said Mrs Shrimper, Jaden’s class teacher, “the big bang was an event that happened four and a half billion years ago. Now who knows what happened during this event?”

“Me, Miss, I know, pick me!” exclaimed Jaden, eagerly jumping out of his seat and raising his arm.

“Jaden, please tell the class.”

“Well, it began in darkness, then...

...**KA-POW**...

... the universe started at a size smaller than a grain of sand and then it began expanding and expanding and expanding!

Then it stopped. And here we are today.”

“Thank you Jaden,” said Mrs Shrimper, “you may sit down now.”

After ten minutes of explanation, Jaden’s class performed an experiment. “Today class, we will be attempting to make craters. I ordered this planet-like substance and two packs of delicate marbles to do this, so please be careful with them,” proclaimed Mrs Shrimper.

Next, the class was split into four teams; Jaden and Noah were with two other girls, Harriet and Fiona. All they had to do was drop the marbles into the substance.

Subsequently, the class was told about another theory, “Now class, to conclude our day, I will explain the theory of multiple universes...”

“Who made that theory, Miss,” someone blurted

out.

“Nobody knows,” she replied.

Mrs Shrimper continued, “Our universe is universe D-1.5 and our neighbouring universe is called X-9.9.” Jaden was shocked. “In fact, there are approximately two-thousand, two-hundred and fifty universes.”

Now Jaden wasn't giving up on finding his father...

CHAPTER 5

Later, when he arrived home from an exciting day at school, Mum gave Jaden the computer to carry on his 'research'. "No need, Mum, I know what it is now," he mentioned, darting up the stairs to his bedroom.

"Okay," Mum mumbled under her breath to herself.

Then she heard him talking, "Come on, come on, c'mon, c'mon, c'mon." She went to have a look. CRREEEEAAKK! Mum slowly opened the door to see the same man from weeks ago standing in front of Jaden and she ran out of the front door again. She ran and ran and couldn't stop.

"Eeerrr, hello," Jaden said.

"Greetings, I see you have calculated the meaning of 'X-9.9'," the man said, "I lied last time I met you..."

Jaden was in shock, “You don’t know Dad!”

“DO NOT INTERRUPT THY IMMORTALS! I apologise. You see, I do know your father; however, I am Yoklin, guardian of the Elite Legacy.”

“The wwhhaaaatt?” Jaden asked.

“The Elite Legacy, a team of immortal gods on planet Tadrao, in universe X-9.9. We need your help!” Yoklin explained.

But before Jaden could say any more, Yoklin put his hand on his shoulder and disappeared without a trace. And once again, Mum appeared back in Jaden’s bedroom.

CHAPTER 6

Jaden opened his eyes. It felt like he was in a different world. Ahead of him, he saw a giant, deep sky blue fortress-like castle with two proud horse statues on either side. And further behind that, he could make out (what seemed like) another fortress, but this one was crimson red with two cougar statues instead.

“This way, please,” Yoklin told Jaden, as he walked him towards the blue castle. Jaden was taking in his surroundings: fancy structures, blue everywhere around him and he was standing on white fluff, like clouds. Then he realised it; he was in the sky!

The doors were at least four metres high; however, they still swung open with incredible ease.

Upon the first step, Jaden saw four people with six different coloured chairs, shaped in a semi-circle. It was in the following order: pink, blue, green, red, black and purple. Black and red were empty.

“Welcome, Nordevesc,” the grey-bearded man in the green chair said.

“Nordevesc?” Jaden asked.

“YOU DON’T KNOW YOUR OWN NAME!” the young woman in the pink chair yelled.

“You might have the wrong person... or name. You see, I’m Jaden.”

“Damn you, Mary,” the green man mumbled under his breath, “anyway, Jaden,” he began pointing to everyone in order from pink to purple, “this is Kyla – goddess of knowledge, Austeus – god of the five oceans, I am Quoxion – god of the land and Gheharae – goddess of magic.

I see you have already met Yoklin – guardian of the Elite Legacy and warrior of the Patriots.”

“So I’m an immortal god,” Jaden asked.

“Not exactly. Oh, and I almost forgot, I... am... your... long lost father.” Jaden dashed toward Quoxion and gave him a big hug.

“Aaaawww,” everyone else in the room exclaimed.

“Shut up!” Quoxion roared. Jaden eventually let go.

“Who sits in those two chairs?” he asked, pointing to the red and black chairs.

“Yoklin sits in the black chair, and we don’t have anyone worthy enough to be a Patriot and an official member of the Elite Legacy.”

“Right, what about ‘Nordevesc’?”

“Oh, I thought you were going to be a fellow immortal, and named you ‘Nordevesc’, but you weren’t. Your mother promised to keep that name, anyhow; she didn’t, and decided to call you ‘Jaden’.”

CHAPTER 7

“Anyways, Jaden, we have brought you here to assist us in the battle of Tadrao against Merdon, the last of the dreaded Phantoms. Merdon is also the god of destruction and fire,” Quoxion said.

“Sorry, Dad, but I’m just not ready for battle,” Jaden replied.

“Then we need to train you,” Yoklin mentioned.

After a few days of training from ‘the warrior’, Jaden decided to take a stroll around the castle and - at the back - he saw a GREAT **golden bridge**, connecting the two islands. He slowly glanced around the island, to see if anyone is near, then, he stepped foot onto the bridge. Nothing happened.

He walked across and was greeted by a foot tall creature with three eyes. “Og waya!” it said.

The monster was cute; it had a round, purple body with purple arms and ears. Its hands and feet were lime green and the teeth were needle-sharp. Suddenly, it became a purple eagle with three daunting eyes and razor talons and flew away to the red fortress.

At that moment, Kyra came racing over the bridge towards Jaden, “Are you okay?”

“Yeah, I’m fine, why?”

“Because,” she whispered, “... I’ll tell you later, in the north wing.”

CHAPTER 8

Before bed, Jaden asked Quoxion, “Can I go to the north wing?”

“Sure, why?” he questioned.

“Oh, eeeeerrrr... I’m just saying good night to Kyra.”

“Why Kyra? I mean you never wish good night to her.”

“Well she is very knowledgeable.”

“You do have a good point. Run along then.”

Jaden ran to the north wing, as Kyra said. He was eager to find out what was wrong about the other island. He eventually arrived and saw Kyra ready to talk. “Take a seat,” she said, “Now, do you know anything about the two rival islands?”

“Rival!”

“So you don’t know. Well, the island on which this palace is stood is the Elite Island and our rival is the Infernal Island.”

“Dad said something about the Phamtons earlier.”

“Aaaahh, the Phantoms. Long ago, our grandparents let mortals into our land and gave them power along with the other island. It turned out that that wasn’t a good idea and they were overrun with power. The Phantoms, as your great grandfather called them, began a war and it has been battled throughout the generations and, if we don’t do anything, it would go on for ever more.”

“Wow,” Jaden said, “so why shouldn’t I go across the golden bridge?”

“Because Merdon is the last remaining Phantom and he could’ve killed you!”

“What about the cute creature I saw?”

“That creature was part of a great race called ‘ciiens’. They were created by the Phantoms when they first gained and understood their power. The ciiens were given two skills – shape-shifting and a laser eye in the centre of their forehead. All I have to say now is that when the Phantoms were given power, they were given a weakness that would take away that power when exposed to them: amethysts. Sadly, we Patriots also have a weakness: Earth’s igneous rocks.”

“So that’s why the monster transformed into an eagle,” he said. Jaden was surprised and he could not get his head around all of this.

CHAPTER 9

The next day, Jaden woke up and saw a thick book on his bed-side table. He slipped on his clothes and read a note left on top of the book:

Dear Nordevesc,

I forgot to tell you that the ciiens have their own language and only we immortals can understand them. Here is a dictionary for you in case you run into the creature again.

Yours faithfully,

Kyra

P.S. He is the last remaining ciiien and his name is Zibert (Ziggy or Zig for short).

He took the dictionary and went back round to the golden bridge. He waited around twenty minutes and Ziggy eventually appeared at the other end. But this time, he was a purple tiger carrying a muscular man with long, black hair.

“Greetings, Nordevesc,” the man said before pulling out a flaming axe from behind his back. Jaden screamed and ran for his life. The Elite Legacy came darting to his side.

“We came as soon as possible,” Quoxion said, preparing his powers, along with the other Patriots.

CHAPTER 10

Austus was pumping up his powers as Kyra hid behind them, thinking up a plan. Gheharae suddenly disappeared in a puff of smoke and reappeared behind the man, blasted a purple electrical ball at him which knocked him off Ziggy. Ziggy then unexpectedly transformed back and ran to the safety of the red fortress.

Merdon lifted himself up and got back on his feet. Jaden leapt in to punch him when he threw down what looked like a grenade and they both disappeared. No Patriot knew where they went.

Back on Earth, Mum was beginning to give up with the search for her son when ..



Something in the back garden exploded. Mum ran out of the door to see a man with long, black hair fighting with a boy. Then she realised. Jaden! She shot over to help him.

Merdon spotted her and stretched out his hand towards the woman. POW! A bright light surged through the streets before Mum was knocked over. “Mum!” Jaden shrieked, sprinting her way. Everything was going quickly for Jaden as he flew up the stairs to his mineral collection. Fluorite, pyrite, gypsum, quartz, copper, calcite, mica, magnetite, AMETHYST!

Jaden grabbed it and ran back downstairs where Merdon stood, watching the place burn. Everything around them was on fire while Jaden left the amethyst on the floor in front of him. The boy then ran out of the back door, leaving the burning building behind him and racing toward Mum.

As Merdon burnt to ashes inside the house, Jaden was sitting by Mum's side in the grass. He checked her pulse, but her heart wasn't beating. He called 999 and an ambulance and the fire brigade came in an instant. "Sorry, she's dead. We can't do anything about it," the paramedic said.

When the fire was out, Jaden re-entered the house and stood in front of Merdon's body and picked up the amethyst. WOOSH! Another bright light surged through the streets. When Jaden could see again, his fingertips were on fire. He shook his hands but then it just spread around his fingers.

He noticed now. Jaden was a... no... he can't be a...

GOD

X-9.9

Twelve-year-old Jaden has a long lost father but one day, a stranger appeared in his bedroom. This stranger helps Jaden find out who he really is and they embark on a giant adventure...

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