

PAM JONES

JACK AND THE BUBBLE BUSTERS

ILLUSTRATED BY FABIO MONZANI



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JELLY BEAN BOOKS · CARDIFF
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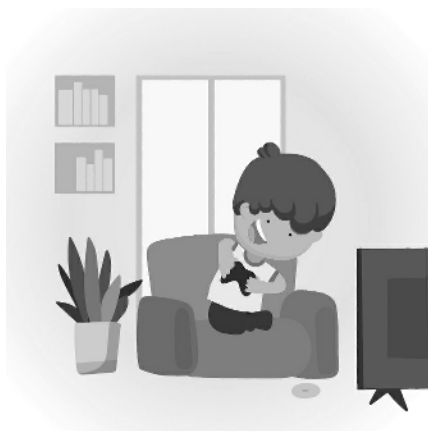
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*To my inspirations in life, my children, and to
inspiring them and others to think through a
problem before just asking me!*

– CHAPTER ONE –

MY LIFE

Hi, my name is Jack, and I'm a Bubble Buster Hunter. Not heard of those before? Well let me start from the beginning...



I'm just a regular kid, twelve years old, and spend a lot of my spare time playing games on my

Xbox. I don't just enjoy playing computer games, I love trying to work out how they are created. My aim, when I grow up, is to become a computer programmer and develop the kind of technology you see in the movies.

I know that being online comes with certain dangers. There are people pretending to be something they are not, people saying horrible things when they cannot be seen, and people hacking so that they can take personal data and use it against you. With any technology comes danger. We learn about this in school, and I do try to keep myself safe when I am doing anything online.

Recently there's been a new group of hackers called the Bubble Busters and they've stormed the Internet. At school, our new topic is how to keep safe and what to do if we do run into a Bubble Buster. Like anything though, anyone could be a Bubble Buster; we could pass them in the street, have them

as a teacher, or they could be a friend. No one knows them and no one knows how to stop them. Their aim is to meet you online, hang out with you and find out as much information to steal personal data.

Today I sit in my computing class. I'm focused on Mrs Jones, my teacher, and eager to learn more as she is talking about the Bubble Busters again. She says that new measures are being put in place to try and find them. This sounds exciting and I want to know more.

I lean forward in my seat, but Mrs Jones moves on to a new topic, leaving me hanging. I'm lost in that moment, thinking about being involved in finding a Bubble Buster. My mind wanders and I'm daydreaming about being a cyber-police officer chasing a Bubble Buster and bringing them down! The idea of this sends a bolt of electricity through my body. I long for adventure and

excitement in my life.

The Bubble Busters need to be found and stopped, I think.

– CHAPTER TWO –

A CALL TO ACTION

It is as if someone hears my longing for adventure.

The next day, I receive a personal message to join a secret group fighting the Bubble Busters. Now, anything referring to Bubble Busters on a device could be a trick, and asking me to click a link to join is a big **NO NO!**

This is called phishing (yes, fishing with a ‘ph’) and it might be a scam to get me to click and give away personal details. Information can be used against me, so I ignore the message.

But this is not the end of it!

A few days later, I hear a knock at the door, and when I open it I am surprised to see Mrs Jones, my computing teacher. I haven't done anything wrong at school, but here she is standing on my doorstep. I can't help but feel a sense of dread to see a teacher on my doorstep. However, Mrs Jones is here about something exciting. She gives me an information pack about a challenge she has put me forward for.

'This pack contains details of a top secret app, Jack, but this stays between us,' she warns.

I look up and down my street in an instant reaction to something top secret. I've seen it in films and feel it is the right thing to do. I watch my neighbour Mr Singh in his garden planting flowers, which is normal. I look around in the other direction and the only other person on the street is Mrs Thompson's son leaving his house. He's in his twenties and always reminds me of a typical blond haired surfer.

I look back at Mrs Jones. 'OK, I'm interested,' I say.

I take the information pack, and thank Mrs Jones as she leaves. I run to my room to read more.

The pack contains the same information I received in the message the other day.

It is real!

Reading on, it says that Bubble Busters are a mysterious hacking group. No one knows who they are, and how they're hacking our personal information to use or sell.

The pack the invites me to become a Bubble Buster Hunter, saying that I will receive an alert on my new Bubble App, and then be transported through the app to a challenge.

It reads:

You must successfully complete your challenge with the help of four helpers along the way: Dec, Algo, Pat and Abs. As you meet them, you will discover

what they are and how they can help you. If you succeed, you will receive further information to be passed on to Bubble Buster Hunters HQ.



This is exciting and a little scary too. Is someone winding me up? It can't be true. No app can transport you, can it?

Besides, who are the Bubble Busters? Why are they trying to steal information and why me? Why have I been selected to complete challenges and learn the truth?

Either way I'm in.

I download the app, click sign up, and wait for my first mission.