

Code: GHOST

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This is a sequel to my other story. Alex gets a scholarship to Caddoc Academy in France, (you'll know him from my other story) and when Alex sees that Jerome's up to something and tries to find out, weird things start happening with the super-computer and

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1 - Caddoc Academy

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~Chapter 1: Caddoc Academy~

“Right this way, Mr. Verdanaley.” The principal said, as he led Alex through the dorm building. “We are pleased to have you join Caddoc Academy. Ah! Here is your dorm room.” He said as he opened the door. There was a boy about Alex’s age sitting at the desk, rapidly typing on a computer, with lines of code rushing by. He had short blonde hair, he wore a long-sleeved blue turtle-neck shirt, with beige pants, and he had black-rimmed, oval-shaped glasses. “Jerome, this is you new roommate; Alex Verdanaley.” The principal said, and Jerome quickly exited out of whatever was on the computer, and spun around in his chair to face Alex and the principal. “Hi, nice to meet you.” he said quickly, then spun back around in his chair, and opened up something else on his computer.

“Well, I need to go. If you have any questions Alex, I’m sure either I, or one of the teachers could answer you. I think you’ll get along with Jerome just fine.” The principal said. Alex nodded, then asked, “I do have one question,” “Sure, what is it?” “Do you happen to have a spare computer monitor, and a small desk that I could use? Because my computer doesn’t have a monitor.” Jerome spun around again to listen to what Alex was saying now, “Oh yes! I forgot about your computer! Yes, I do think we have a desk and a monitor. I’ll have someone bring them to the room as soon as I can.” The principal answered, and walked out of the room.

Alex un-packed his stuff, and sat on his bed. Jerome logged off of his computer, “So, you just get enrolled in Caddoc Academy?” Jerome asked Alex, “Mm-hm.” Alex replied, laying back on his bed now. “Where d’you come from?” Jerome asked Alex again, “Long Island, New York—Actually, I was born in Massachusetts, and lived most of my life there, but I started high-school in Long Island.” Alex replied. Jerome looked confused, “Oh, I forgot I’m halfway across the globe, I come from the United States of America.” Alex said, and Jerome looked at him in astonishment. “You came from the USA? Must’ve been one hell of a trip! What, did your family move to France or something?” Jerome asked, “Um, my family died in a fire.” Alex said sadly, and rolled onto his side. “Oh, sorry...” Jerome said “But still, how’d you get into Caddoc?” “I got a full-scholarship.” Jerome stared wide-eyed at him with his mouth hanging open. “They give out scholarships here? Damn! When did they start doing that?!?” Jerome asked, bewildered, “I don’t know. In 9th grade, toward the end of the year, the principal of my high-school said that my grades were high enough that I got enrolled in a scholarship program, but I didn’t think much of it. Then, at the end of 10th grade, they said I got accepted at Caddoc Academy, in France!” Jerome was amazed! “If I knew they gave out scholarships, I would’ve been accepted at Caddoc a long time ago!” They just sat in silence for a moment, then Jerome’s computer started beeping.

He spun around, and began typing rapidly. “Ugh, what now?” He whispered to himself, “Well, at least it’s a weekend...” he whispered again. He called someone on his cell-phone, then dashed out of the room. Alex just sat on his bed, confused. *What’s he up to...* Alex thought, but he didn’t want to be nosy, and it probably wasn’t anything, so he just took out his iPod, and rested on his bed.

2 - Flashback

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~Chapter 2: flashback~

“Right this way, Mr. Verdanaley.” The principal said, as he led Alex through the dorm building. “We are pleased to have you join Caddoc Academy. Ah! Here is your dorm room.” *Whoa, Déjà Vu!* The principal opened the door to the dorm. There was a boy about Alex’s age sitting at the desk, rapidly typing on a computer, with lines of code rushing by. He had short blonde hair, he wore a long-sleeved blue turtle-neck shirt, with beige pants, and he had black-rimmed, oval-shaped glasses. *Wait, didn’t I already move in?* “Jerome, this is you new roommate; Alex Verdanaley.” The principal said. Jerome just kept working on what he was doing, “Hi, nice to meet you.” he said quickly, then opened up some new code on his computer.

“Well, I need to go. If you have any questions Alex, I’m sure either I, or one of the teachers

could answer you. I think you'll get along with Jerome just fine." The principal said. *I feel like I've already done this before...* "I do have one question," "Sure, what is it?" "Do you happen to have a spare computer monitor, and a small desk that I could use? Because my computer doesn't have a monitor." For some reason Alex expected Jerome to spin around, and listen to what he was saying, but he acted as if they were talking about any normal thing, and he wondered why he thought that, "Oh yes! I forgot about your computer! Yes, I do think we have a desk and a monitor. I'll have someone bring them to the room as soon as I can." The principal answered, and walked out of the room.

Alex un-packed his stuff, and sat on his bed. "So, Jerome." Alex said suddenly. Jerome was a little startled when he spoke, "What's it like here?" Alex asked, "Uhhh, well, it's not very exciting. Just your regular 10th grade subjects." He replied. "Wachya working on?" Alex asked, as casually as he could get when he felt that he had already met Jerome, "Um, it's private." He said a little irritated. "Ok, just wondering." Alex said, then lay back on his bed.

There was silence for a few minutes. All you could hear was Jerome typing away on his computer. "Have we met before? Because I feel like I've been here before..." Alex said, "No I've never met you before! Now, if you don't mind, I'm in the middle of something very important here!" Jerome said, now very irritated. "Humph. Are all Americans like this?" He whispered to himself, but Alex heard him, "What?" Alex said surprised, "Um, nothing!" Jerome replied, casually, "No, you just said—How did you know that I was from the USA?" "Uhhhhhhhh..." Jerome said, trying to think of an excuse. "Um, I just remembered, I uhhh, have to go meet my friends somewhere!" He said frantically. Alex raised an eyebrow, and Jerome dashed out of the room, as he took out his cell-phone, and raised it to his ear.

What's he up too? Alex thought. Wait, shouldn't his computer be beeping right about now? He looked at the screen, and it was just green lines of code going up and down. How does he read this stuff? He thought to himself. Hmmm, I wonder. 'Connecting to LYOKO'?. What's LYOKO? Wait, he's trying to connect to something on the Internet, but this doesn't look like the Internet. Alex knew Jerome was definitely up to something now. But how was he going to find out? Wait, DUH! Ghost powers! A white ring appeared around Alex's waist, and where Alex

was, now stood the Ice Spirit. He went intangible, and flew into Jerome's computer.

3 - Discovery

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~Chapter 3: DISCOVERY~

Alex appeared on the screen of Jeremy's computer. *Where's the desktop?* Alex thought. He could see the backs of the open windows on the screen, but instead of a desktop, there was just an endless void of 1s and 0s. *Who IS this guy?* Alex thought to himself as he flew up to the front of the screen to get a better look at the open "windows". There was a window with a black background, and green lines of some complex code and the window that said "Connecting to: LYOKO" With a status bar that was almost full.

Alex flew up to this window. *There's got to be some gateway this is connected to...* He said to himself as he felt around the edges and the backside for some connection. *This has got to be one secure connection.* He thought as he flew up to the front again. Suddenly, he heard the door

to the room open up. He zoomed behind the Connection window and peaked out. There was a girl with pink hair, wearing a dark red over-all skirt over a pink sweater, and pink boots. "Jeremy! Jeremy are you in here?" She said looking into the room, "Hmm must've gone to the factory. Wait, what's this?" The girl said, walking over to the computer.

Alex pulled his head back behind the window. "Connecting to: LYOKO? Why would he go to the factory? He hasn't even checked for activated towers yet. Maybe he's in the bathroom." The girl turned and was about to leave the room. Alex let out a breath, "Whew..." "Huh?" The girl spun around again, and looked around the room, "Who's there?" She looked around the room, behind the computer, under the beds, but didn't find anything. She stood in front of the computer. "Is that widow...glowing?" She said then looked closely at the computer screen. Alex held his breath.

Suddenly there was a *ding*, and Alex saw a data stream come rushing at him. He flew out of the way, and the data connected with the Connection window, and the window changed to a command terminal window with lines of green code flying by. Alex relaxed, but he looked toward the computer screen, and remembered that that girl was standing there. She was staring wide-eyed at Alex. "Oops..." Alex said, and then dove into the data stream that connected to the command window just as the girl whipped out her cell-phone.

* * *

He ended up inside a void of endless number and data streams. He looked behind him, and he could see a small tunnel with data going in and out. He went up to it, and looked around it. It seemed like whatever he was in was some sort of cylinder. The hole had a label over it, which read: EXTERNAL GATEWAY ADMINISTRAOR [556H]. He flew around the "wall", and whatever this place was, had to be HUGE. (In capacity and physical size) He could see what

looked like a roof, but no floor. He flew down, and in about a minute he reached a boundary.

What is this place? He thought to himself standing on the "floor". He could see a few more "portals". He read the labels, and two in particular interested him. They were right next to each other. One read: ADMINISTRATOR [1A], and the other read: LYOKO MAINFRAME [1B]. *LYOKO...* That one interested him more. He flew into the portal, and in an instant, he found himself looking at a 3-D virtual map, of some weird sphere with 3 rods coming out of it, and behind him, he saw infinite little computer screens with lines of code zooming across them. Below the map, he could see the exit portal.

This is the strangest thing that I've ever seen. Alex thought, flying around the virtual map. I wonder... He touched the sphere, and his hand went through it, but it felt tingly, so it was a little more than a hologram. *Looks like there's not much else on here.* He thought, so he flew into the exit portal.

He came back to the weird cylindrical place with all the data going back and forth. He guessed that was the CPU, or something like it. It was far too big to be a chip the size of a watch. He turned around, and looked at the other portal marked ADMINISTRATOR [1A]. He shrugged, and then dove into that one. It took a little longer to get to this destination, (only about ½ of a second) but when he got there, he found himself staring at the back of a window that you'd find on a desktop. He looked behind him, and it looked like the desktop back on Jeremy's computer. Maybe this is where he went... He peeked out from behind the window, and he saw Jeremy rapidly typing away on a 3-paneled keyboard in front of the screen. Jeremy stopped typing, and Alex shot back behind the screen...

4 - LYOKO

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~Chapter 4: LYOKO~

"No, that's still not it." Alex heard Jeremy say. *Whew...* Jeremy hadn't seen him. "How is it possible?" Jeremy said, and then began rapidly typing again, "A virus? What kind of virus glows? Aelita, have you found anything?" Jeremy said. *Who's he talking to?* Alex wondered. Then, he heard a girl's voice coming from the computer, "No, nothing. Strange, it looked kind of like a person. It 'flew' out from behind a window, then jumped into it. It has to be something new, because I've never heard of a virus doing that." Alex recognized the voice as the girl who spotted him on the computer. Jeremy leaned back in his chair and sighed.

"Hmmm, maybe...could it possibly be something other than a virus? There aren't any towers activated, it can't be X.A.N.A. I don't know, but..." Jeremy stopped, then sat up, looking intently at the computer screen. "What's this? 'Unknown Object'?" Jeremy said aloud, typed something quickly, and Alex saw another window pop up. "Let's see. Whoa..." Jeremy was looking wide-eyed at the screen. "What? What is it?" The girl asked, "It looks to me, like someone's hacked into the super computer." Jeremy said, amazed. He started typing again, "Let's see if I can find where they came from..." He said again, then he stopped typing with a puzzled look on his face. "This is beyond me. There is no trace of anything. It just says 'Unknown Object Located at Admin.' Which makes no sense."

Alex was getting nervous. He looked around for a way out, but before he could find one, Jeremy closed the window that he was hiding behind! Jeremy's jaw dropped as he saw Alex. Alex froze. He looked around for a way out, and saw a data stream coming off of a window on the other side of the monitor. He dove for it, hoping it led to the CPU. He fell in just as he heard Jeremy typing away again.

Alex shot through a green tunnel, flew out of an opening and landed on something hard. *Strange, I thought I'd land in the air.* He got up, and saw that he wasn't in the CPU, but on a narrow road in some desolate frozen landscape. *Man, this just keeps getting weirder, and weirder!* He thought to himself as he looked around. It looked like he was in some sort of hi-res videogame. All around him it looked like water, but it was perfectly flat. A little ways away, he could see Islands of Ice, some with huge structures on them, and one he could see had some sort of tower on it with a blue-ish glow around it. "Aelita! I saw it! It was hiding behind one of the windows on the monitor! I don't know what we have here, but it's beyond me." Alex heard Jeremy's voice saw out of nowhere. "You were right. It looked like a person, who glowed blue, and it jumped into the window that I have monitoring LYOKO." *LYOKO...That was the map I saw earlier. I must be in there, except, this doesn't look like a sphere with 3 rods coming out of it.* He thought and started

to fly down the narrow road.

"What could this possibly be? Hmmm, I'm going to lose some sleep over this tonight. Wait, what's this?" Alex stopped and landed cautiously, "Aelita, could you look in the Polar sector? Something new just popped up. I'm going to call Odd, Ulrich, and Yumi." Jeremy said again. *Polar sector? Oh no...* Alex was getting nervous. He flew as fast as he could to one of the icebergs, and tried to go invisible, but for some reason he couldn't. *Oh great, no invisibility.* Suddenly he heard a weird noise that sounded like a gliss on a synthesized bass. (sorry, complicated musical terms, but I can't think of a better description) It came from behind the iceberg. He looked, and saw that there was a tower there, and in front of it, he could see a girl about his age, running down a path to another iceberg.

"Jeremy, I'm in the polar region. What did you want me to look for?" The girl said. He recognized her as the girl who was looking for Jeremy. "Uh, I'm not sure. I think the virus, or whatever, has somehow been virtualized into LYOKO. Yumi, Odd, and Ulrich should be coming soon, there almost to the scanner room right now." The girl stopped and looked a little confused for a moment, then turned, and ran in another direction. Alex was getting a little confused too. *What'd he mean by "They'll be coming soon"?* He thought, then moved out from behind the iceberg, and started to follow the girl—he supposed her name was Aelita—at a safe distance.

"Transfer Yumi, transfer Odd, transfer Ulrich..." Alex heard Jeremy say. Aelita stopped running, and Alex hid behind the closest iceberg. *I think I should go now, but where's the way out?* Alex thought, realizing that there wasn't any portal out. Alex peeked out from behind the iceberg, "Virtualization!" Jeremy said, and suddenly Alex saw 3 figures appear in mid-air, and drop to the ground. "Ok, Ulrich, Odd, and Yumi, the virus is somewhere in this sector. I've almost got it located on the map. Ah! It's, right over by that Iceberg!" Alex panicked. He flew as fast as he could away from them. "Quick! It's getting away! Here are your vehicles." The vehicles appeared, and they all hopped on. Aelita rode with Yumi.

They shot after the virus, but Alex was too fast. When he couldn't see them anymore, he looked for somewhere to hide. He saw a small tunnel, and dove for it. Luckily, it was very elaborate: there were a bunch of forks, and each one of them led to some other part of the sector. *Wait, maybe I still have ice powers,* Alex thought, then shot a beam of ice at one of the tunnels, and the opening froze over! "Yes!" He said to himself. He went Fire, and melted a cave in the side of the intersection; he flew into it, went Ice, and froze over the opening.

"I lost him! He flew off the map!"

5 - More To Come

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~Chapter 5: more to come~

Yumi, Ulrich, Odd, and Aelita zoomed through the Polar region, following Jeremy's directions to the last place the virus was located on the map. "OK, it was somewhere in that cave, then it just vanished." They flew into the tunnel, "You should end up in a cylindrical passageway. The virus should be somewhere in there." They came to the passageway, and searched around, "It doesn't look like there's anything here Jeremy." Ulrich said, searching around the walls. "Nothing down here!" Yumi said from the bottom of the cavern, "Or up here," Odd said from the roof. "It's like it wasn't even here." Aelita added. She materialized a piece of ice jutting out from the cavern wall, and jumped on to it from Yumi's vehicle.

She sat cross-legged, and closed her eyes. She tried to feel for any of XANA's pulsations, none. She was going to stand up, but she thought she heard the slightest little scraping sound from behind her. She looked, but it was just solid ice. "No pulsations from XANA." Aelita said. Yumi came so she could get off the ledge. Aelita looked one last time at the wall. "Wait, it looks like..." She squinted, and looked even closer at the spot in the wall. "Yumi, hit the wall with you fan." Aelita said. Yumi shrugged, and threw her fan at the spot Aelita directed, and—a small hole broke open. "Jeremy! I found it! Odd, Ulrich, come quickly! Yumi, keep firing!" Then, all of the sudden, the wall exploded, (or something like that) and something fire-red darted out.

Alex zoomed out into the open cavern. "It's back on the map! Quick! Don't let it get away!" Jeremy said as Alex darted for the nearest exit, "Oh no you don't!" Ulrich said and zoomed over to the hole before Alex could get out. Alex spun around and flew like lightning to the exit on the opposite side, but Odd got there first. Alex grit his teeth, and bolted to the last exit available, but it sealed itself up. He whipped around and saw Aelita grinning at him as the other exits closed up. "Jeremy! We got it cornered!" Yumi said, getting ready with her fans, "OK, don't shoot it. Lets see what this thing is. I'll start up an analyzing program."

This was starting to sound dangerous. Without thinking, Alex turned around, and shot a beam of fire in front of him, and tunneled through the ice block. "Jeremy! He's getting away! He's—tunneling through the ice." Aelita shouted, "Follow him!" The group flew into the tunnel, but they stopped. There was another virus blocking their way, except this one was blue. "What's that?" Jeremy asked, "I don't know, it looks like the thing we were chasing, except this one's blue." Alex shot a beam of ice at the floor, and a layer of ice started to form. He was blocking off the cave! The group tried to beat it, but all they did was smack into a wall of ice. They could see through the ice, and the virus just—disappeared. It just vanished. "Uh, Jeremy? The thing that blocked off the tunnel just—vanished." Yumi said, not believing her eyes. "Um, OK, but the actual

one is still roaming around in the Sector, so find a way out and follow him! I still can't find anything, and since it's moving I can't isolate it to start the analyzing program!" Jeremy said again. Aelita opened up the tunnel the virus sealed off, and they continued through.

Alex was frantic. He had no idea what was going on, but he knew it wasn't good. *How the heck do you get out of this place?* He kept thinking as he flew further and further away from the ice cave. He looked down, and all he could see was barren, desolate ice. He kept flying, and he noticed that every now and then, he kept seeing these tower-like things, and they were all glowing blue. All except for one. It was glowing red, and there were these strange cube-shaped creatures, and crab things guarding it. He decided to check it out. He flew down and landed a fair distance away from the creature things. The creatures were walking in circles around the red tower. He walked closer, and when he was about 5 yards away from the tower, the creatures stopped and faced him. Alex froze, he didn't know what to expect. The block things started walking toward him, and one of their "eye" things glowed red, then fired a laser at Alex.

He dodged it with ease, and flew up into the air. *Hmmm, maybe the tower has something to do with Jeremy if it's being guarded.* "Guys, XANA has just activated a tower. It's a pretty far distance from where you are, and it looks like the virus is there too." Jeremy said again. *Who's this XANA?* Alex kept thinking. He flew in towards the tower, and tried to go intangible, to phase through the monsters, but he couldn't. *Oh crap! No intangibility either!* He flew straight into the eye of one of the blocks, and the other one shot at him. The laser hit him in the arm, and it actually hurt! He stood back up, but one of the crabs shot him. "Guys! Hurry up! Apparently XANA is shooting at the virus, and it's losing life points!" Jeremy's voice said out of nowhere again.

Alex was on his knees, but the monsters weren't shooting at him—they were just standing there. Suddenly Alex knew why: they were guarding him for another monster to come. The monsters parted, and this octopus-type thing floated toward Alex, and picked him up in its tentacles. Alex struggled, but he felt like he was going into a trance almost—like he couldn't do anything. Then this octopus thing started doing something strange, Alex couldn't really describe what. Like he was losing something, or someone was trying to find something in him.

"Guys, the Scithazowa's back, and it's attacking the virus!" Jeremy said as Odd, Ulrich, Yumi and Aelita raced toward the activated tower. Alex was feeling tired, like all the strength was being drained out of him. Then, suddenly it felt like this thing—he supposed it was called a "Scithazowa"—was putting something back into him, but it wasn't a good feeling...

TO BE CONTINUED

Sorry!

If I write anymore of this story, even so much as one more sentence, I will give away the ending to its prequel: "The New Ghost"