

The Leveller

By Julia Durango



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"Nixy Bauer, Home in an Hour"

Nixy Bauer is used to her classmates being very, very unhappy to see her. After all, she's working with the enemy—she's on their parents' payrolls.

Nixy is a bounty hunter in a virtual-reality gaming world. Kids in the MEEP, as they call it, play entirely with their minds, while their bodies languish in a sleeplike state on the couch. Irritated parents, looking to wrench their kids back to reality, hire Nixy to jump into the game and retrieve them. Luckily for Nixy and her wallet, she's the best leveller out there.

But when the game's billionaire developer—and Nixy's parents' boss—loses track of his own son in the MEEP, Nixy is in for the biggest challenge of her bounty-hunting career. Wyn Salvador isn't some lazy kid looking to escape his homework, and this is no ordinary levelling job: Wyn does not want to be found. And he's left behind a suicide note.

Nixy takes the job but quickly discovers that Wyn's not hiding—he's being held inside the game against his will. But who is holding him captive, and why?

Nixy and Wyn attempt to fight their way out of a mind game unlike any they've encountered. And the battle brings them closer than either could have imagined. But when the whole world is virtual, how can Nixy possibly know what's real?



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The Leveller By Julia Durango Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 7–10—Nixy Bauer is a virtual bounty hunter. Her parents are developers for a highly advanced virtual reality called the MEEP, and Nixy, an unofficial beta tester, uses her inside knowledge to make money from clients who hire her to "drag their wayward sons and daughters back from the MEEP." When she is contacted by the creator of the virtual reality, she is thrilled at the lucrative opportunity. But the job is especially hard, and when she finally reaches her employer's son Wyn, she discovers that he is trapped and that her job is actually a rescue mission. The romance that develops between the two and Nixy's damsel-indistress phase in the middle of the book unfortunately detract from her otherwise strongly defined character. Nixy's personality is aptly summed up by her acquaintance Cooper when he calls her a "stinking, moneygrabbing traitor." The teen defends her line of work by pointing at that "it beats bagging groceries or washing cars." However, Nixy's narrative voice—made likable and distinctive by quirks such as swearing in Norwegian because "it tends to get us in less trouble than the English F-word"—is a strong point that remains constant throughout the book. Despite differences in setting, this work shares some attributes with some popular dystopian titles, such as fast-paced action scenes, a strong female protagonist, and mistrust toward those in power. VERDICT An entertaining adventure that is sure to find fans, especially among gamers.—Magdalena Teske, River Forest Public Library, IL

Review

"First-time YA novelist Durango has a winner here, especially since the technological world building is as engrossing as the novel's game system. Readers will be pulled in and race to the adventurous finish along with Nixy and friends." (Booklist)

"A fast-paced techno-thriller." (Kirkus)

"An entertaining adventure that is sure to find fans, especially among gamers." (School Library Journal)

"A spicy romance set in an intriguing virtual world... even non-gamers will likely find plenty to appreciate." (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books)

From the Back Cover

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Stover:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a guide your ability to survive enhance then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a book, we give you this kind of The Leveller book as beginner and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Dennis Fleenor:

The book untitled The Leveller is the guide that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to anyone. The language that article author use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The article writer was did a lot of exploration when write the book, so the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of The Leveller from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

Crystal Sanchez:

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Roy Stoudt:

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