

JAMES PATTERSON

MAX RIDE

FIRST FLIGHT



MAXIMUM RIDE doesn't remember much about her past.

She remembers **THE SCHOOL**, a secret lab where **SCIENTISTS** experimented on her and her friends--Fang, Nudge, Iggy, Gasman, and Angel. She remembers the **ERASERS**, the half-human, half-wolf monsters who kept her prisoner. Most of all she remembers **JEB**, the man who gave his life to help **THE FLOCK** escape and find a life of peace...

Recently, while on their way to rescue Angel, the Flock was ambushed by Ari, leader of the Erasers. Max, Iggy and Gazzy were captured, returned to the school and reunited with Angel, only to discover that **JEB WAS ALIVE AND WORKING FOR THE SCHOOL!**

Fang and Nudge were able to rescue their friends, but not before Max uncovered a key to their past—the kids had parents and the **GENE-SPLICING THEY UNDERWENT TOOK PLACE IN THE WOMB!**

The Flock headed to New York City looking for answers, but shortly after arriving Max had received strange psychic message--**SAVE THE WORLD!**

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A HOMELESS COLONY BENEATH NEW YORK CITY.

SERIOUSLY! WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY COMPUTERS?!

THIS ISN'T-- THIS WAS IN MY DREAM, IT CAN'T-- I DIDN'T DO THIS!!



MAXIMILIAN, IT'S OKAY, IT--



AH!

AH!



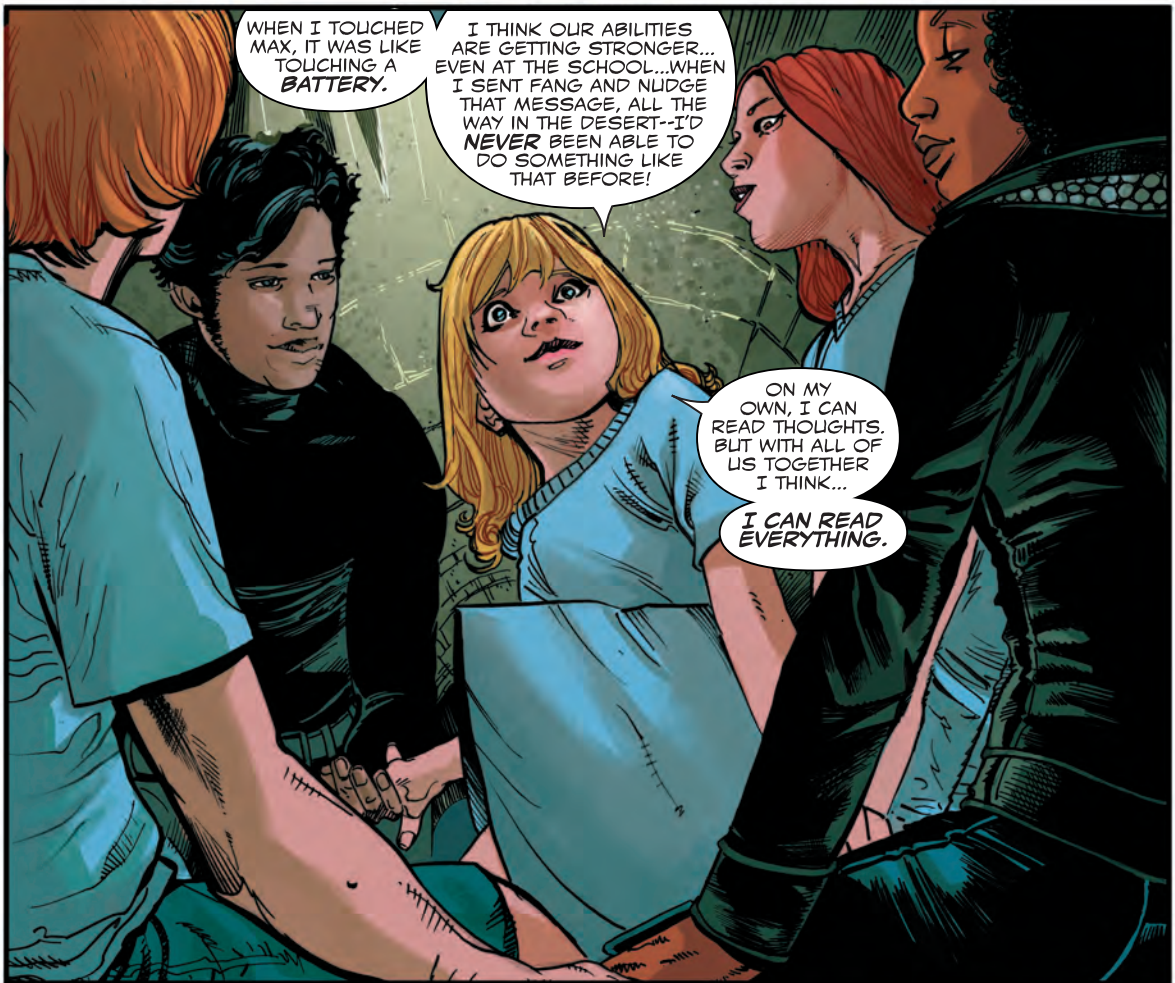
NO! ANGEL, I'M SO SORRY...!

SHH! IT'S OKAY, MAX.

I HEARD IT TOO. WHEN I TOUCHED YOU, I HEARD IT TOO.



AND I THINK... I KNOW WHAT TO DO.



WHEN I TOUCHED MAX, IT WAS LIKE TOUCHING A BATTERY.

I THINK OUR ABILITIES ARE GETTING STRONGER... EVEN AT THE SCHOOL...WHEN I SENT FANG AND NUDGE THAT MESSAGE, ALL THE WAY IN THE DESERT--I'D NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT BEFORE!

ON MY OWN, I CAN READ THOUGHTS. BUT WITH ALL OF US TOGETHER I THINK...

I CAN READ EVERYTHING.



"THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE...IT'S SUCH A BLUR--WAIT, I THINK I CAN HEAR--"

"SHE'S THINKING ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF..."

"NO, A CULINARY INSTITUTE..."



"HE'S GOT THE WORDS 'HIGHER LEARNING' ON HIS MIND...NO, HE'S JUST THINKING ABOUT HIS DAUGHTER GROWING UP."



"THERE'S A WOMAN--A WOMAN, WITH A BUSINESS CARD--IT'S GOT AN ADDRESS! IT'S CLOSE--!"



"I CAN READ IT..."

THE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING
39th floor, room 1.

"A DIRECTORY... A FLOOR..."

"A ROOM."



WE FOUND THEM, MAX!

SO WE'RE GONNA JUST DIVE IN, ALL RUNAWAY CHIC AS WE ARE?

IGGY, THAT LOOK WORKS ON YOU, BUT I THINK I'VE GOT SOMETHING BETTER.

CHECK THESE OUT. SNATCHED THOSE COMBAT SUITS FROM THE SCHOOL.

BULLET-PROOF. IMPERVIOUS TO HEAT AND COLD. NOW IN A FETCHING ARRAY OF BLACK AND GREY.

WE'RE GONNA BE THE BELLES OF THE BURGLARY.

