



Glitch and the Hidden Pattern



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A Cheat Code Story

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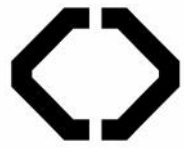
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CHEATCODE



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The skate park on Meridian Street was **Glitch's** favorite place to think.

It was loud and fast and nobody bothered you if you just sat on the bench and watched. That was exactly what **Glitch** was doing on Saturday morning — until his little brother showed up with a skateboard almost as big as he was.



Digit was six years old and had made up his mind. He was going to skateboard today. He had been thinking about it all week. He had a helmet. He had knee pads. He had watched four videos about it.

He put one foot on the board.

The board shot out from under him and he sat down hard on the concrete.



"I'm Fine," **Digit** said, before **Glitch** could say anything.

He got up, retrieved the board, and tried again.

This time he made it two whole seconds before the board rolled left and he stepped off the right side.

"The board's broken," **Digit** said.



He tried again. *"The ground is bumpy,"* he said.

He tried again. *"The skateboard is too slippery,"* he said.

He tried again and this time didn't say anything, just looked at the board like it had personally offended him.



Glitch had been watching the whole time. Every fall had a shape to it — the same lean, the same shift, the same moment where everything went wrong. But **Digit** was so busy explaining the falls that he hadn't seen the pattern inside them.

Glitch stood up from the bench.



"Hey," Glitch said. "Can I look at something?"

Digit shrugged. *"It's the board. Or the ground. I think it's probably the ground."*

"Maybe," Glitch said. He reached into his pocket and took out his Kodex. He snapped it onto his wrist. The screen blinked on.



Glitch entered a sequence on the keys, pressing each symbol deliberately. Then he reached up and touched the frame of his pixel shades.

The Kodex pulsed — a soft white light that spread blue at the edges and faded. A few pixel sparks drifted upward and disappeared.

The lenses of his shades shifted from their usual dark tint to a glowing blue and orange.



"Go again," **Glitch** said.

Digit went again. And through the glowing lenses, **Glitch** could see it — a soft trail of light that traced **Digit's** movement, showing exactly where his weight was sitting and exactly where it was going.

Every time, **Digit** leaned back a half second too late. The board went forward. **Digit** went down.



*"I see it," **Glitch** said. "When you step on, you're putting your weight on your back foot. The board runs away from you because there's nothing holding the front down."*

***Digit** looked at his feet. "So what do I do?"*

"Try leaning forward a little when you step on. Just a little."



Digit tried it.

He lasted four seconds. Then his arms went out and he stepped off the side.

"More?" **Glitch** said.

Digit nodded.



"Your arms," Glitch said. "You throw them out when you feel wobbly. That's what's pulling you sideways. Keep them lower — out in front of you, like you're holding a tray."

Digit held his arms like he was holding a tray.

"Exactly like that," Glitch said.



Digit stepped onto the board.

He leaned forward just a little. He held his arms low and steady in front of him. The board rolled. And this time — this time — instead of fighting it, **Digit** rolled with it.

Five seconds. Six. Seven.

He was skating.



It wasn't far. Maybe the length of the bench. But **Digit's** face when he stepped off was something **Glitch** would remember for a long time.

"I did it," **Digit** said. He looked genuinely surprised, like he'd expected to fall again.

"You did it," **Glitch** said.



"Was it the ground?" Digit asked. "Was the ground bumpy?"

Glitch laughed. "The ground was fine. The board was fine. Your shoes were fine."

"So what was the problem?"



*"You were trying so hard to stay on," **Glitch** said, "that you kept getting in your own way. Once you stopped fighting it and just rode it — that's when it worked."*

Digit thought about that for a moment.

"Can I go again?"

*"Absolutely," **Glitch** said.*



Digit fell six more times that afternoon.

But he also rode twelve more times. And every time he rode a little further than the time before.

On the way home, he asked if he could borrow the skateboard again next Saturday.

Glitch said yes.

There's always another moment to share with the
Cheat Code crew. Join us for all their stories!



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