

# Survivor

When it comes to exploring the outdoors, Tilly much prefers to do it through her video game, *Survivor*. So it's a nightmare come true when her mum signs her up for Explorers camp! Things get even worse when Tilly finds herself stranded with her archnemeses in the middle of the wilderness... How will she survive?!

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Survivor

Alison Donald

Maverick

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written by Alison Donald

Illustrated by  
Michelle Simpson



Maverick Chapter Readers

Book Band

Grey

This book is Grey Band/Level 13

## 'Survivor'

An original concept by Alison Donald

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Illustrated by Michelle Simpson

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This book is rated as: Grey Band (Guided Reading)

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# Chapter 1

“Tilly! Are you coming outside? We’re all in the driveway!”

My sister, Josie, was shouting at me from the front step.



“Maybe later,” I called from the living room without looking up. I was in the middle of a very intense computer game. I’d just settled in for a perfect Saturday morning. I was nestled into the sofa like a squirrel about to hibernate. I had my snuggly blue fleece blanket and my laptop.



“C’mon, we’re playing Hide and Seek Zombies and we could really use another person,” she said.

I looked up. Hide and Seek Zombies *did* sound like fun. But then I’d have to leave my cosy blanket and I’d also

have to talk to everyone. When I didn’t say much, my big sister Josie would say, “Oh, don’t mind Tilly, she’s just shy.” And then I would get even *more* shy.

“No thanks,”  
I called out as  
I re-focused  
on the screen.

My avatar was  
climbing down a  
steep mountain in the  
Arctic. I needed to reach the  
bottom before I froze or before  
my food and water ran out.



It was nail-biting stuff. And it was all down to me to figure out how to fight the elements, and how to save myself.

The great thing about playing *Survivor* was that I could be *someone else*. I could be a hero instead of Tilly: a normal girl who got so shy that she sometimes froze like a rabbit and didn’t know what to say.

“Go on, Tilly, go outside. Get off your screen,” Mum called from the kitchen.

What was it with parents always wanting kids to get off of their screens?

I got back in the game. My avatar was wearing shoes with spikes on them to balance on the ice. I saw a small cave and crawled inside it to get some rest before I descended the mountain.

“It’s good for you to play outside. And next week, you’ll be outdoors all week,” Mum insisted.

“Outdoors all week? What do you mean?” I called out.

I sorted through the supplies while I was in the cave to see if I could lighten my load. I pulled out some empty

food containers and left them in the cave. Every bit mattered. If the bag was too heavy, I might not have the strength to make it to the bottom.

“Next week, you’re going camping!”

I put the laptop down and went into the kitchen.

“What!?” I demanded.

“I’ve signed you up for Explorers camp,” Mum said.

“And there’s no devices allowed.”

This was just the *absolute* worst.



## Chapter 2

“Mum, I *really* don’t want to go to this camp on Friday,”

I said for the umpteenth time as I climbed out of the car on Tuesday evening. Mum was dropping me off at the village hall for the weekly Explorers meeting, the local girls’ youth group.

“Sometimes you have to trust me, Tilly. I really think you’ll love it once you’re there.”

I rolled my eyes and slammed the car door. No matter what I said, Mum wasn’t changing her mind. It really did look like I’d be camping on Friday.

The hall floor was shiny, the lights were too bright and the room smelled like sweat from the previous dance class.