

THE „ARIANS” CODE

Teresa had been in the depths of the Mediterranean Sea for more than half an hour. She knew that Farid and Alex were waiting for her in the apartment, but she wasn't ready to go yet. She was just swimming there among the underground rocks, fish, corals, and other marine life hoping that the situation won't be so complicated anymore. It was hard for her without Prashant, but the thought of becoming a ghost in a land where everything was different from all what she knew scared her a little bit. Although the Indian man had somewhat opened his heart to her, the girl was not entirely sure of his feelings. She always felt that connection between them, sometimes stronger, sometimes weaker, but she was afraid that the fate had put them in each other's way for a much more important purpose. She was somewhat confused, and she had the feeling that there was one more obstacle that she had to cross before taking a final decision. She wanted to see Prashant, to be in his arms at least for a few moments but it was getting harder and harder to do. And even she didn't know how to resist her own emotions. She needed to hear the Indian's voice, but he wasn't there and that hurt her a lot. She checked the oxygen level and the depth, and everything was within normal parameters for now. The young

woman decided to stay deep but she swam another 100 meters until she reached the middle of a coral reef. It was a wonderful, fairytale image. It was all Teresa wanted right now. She stood still for a while and closed her eyes. She just wanted to sit there still planning her next move.

At one point a bright aura formed around her from nowhere. There was no vortex there, it was just her body radiating a very intense light energy. Her heart began to beat harder and harder, ready to burst out of her chest. Just then Prashant appeared in front of her surrounded by the same aura of bright light. He looked at her distantly with his mysterious beautiful black eyes. The young woman wanted to take a step towards him, but she couldn't move. She turned her gaze to her left and she saw Farid standing motionless and watching everything as if he wasn't even there. Teresa was watching them both and getting more and more scared. She didn't know where she was or what she was doing there. She heard a faint noise to her right and she turned her head. It was Alex staring absently at everything going on around him. "*What the hell is going on here?*" the young woman said to herself slightly indignantly. She turned her gaze to the Indian man. He was slightly frowning but even so he had a beautiful smile that could have conquered any woman. He was probably the most handsome man she had ever met. And now she was madly in love

with him. Teresa realized at that moment because she was there. They were the four elements of nature, and she was the key element connecting them. She could hear everyone's thoughts, feel their emotions, it was a unique sensation that no one could ever understand. She could feel Farid's hatred of the Government and his desire to destroy it piece by piece, she could feel Alex's anger towards those he had once considered parents, and she could feel the sadness from Prashant's soul and his immense love for her. At one point the luminous aura around the Indian disappeared for a fraction of a second after which it reappeared but much more intense. Teresa watched with bated breath hoping that the Indian wouldn't disappear again. She just wanted to look at him for a few more moments. At that moment another bright aura appeared next to Prashant's. The young woman turned her gaze in that direction. A man appeared within it, but his facial features could not be clearly distinguished. Teresa was more and more puzzled. She didn't have the faintest idea who he was or what he was looking for in their group. But she could be sure of one thing, the mysterious man was from Prashant's entourage only he wasn't as handsome as this one. At one point the auras around them disappeared and in a split second a luminous circle of intense brilliance appeared around them all. There was nothing else around them but flashing lines of code written in light green on a black background. Somewhere in the distance was a

shadow. Teresa turned her gaze in its direction and tried to distinguish a human face. But there was nothing, just codes, letters, and numbers without any logic. At that moment, the young woman was no longer afraid because she knew what the next move would be.

There was about a quarter of an oxygen tank left when Teresa opened her eyes. She stopped thinking and climbed at top speed to the surface of the sea. Once there, she swam a kilometer to the boat's location and then she set off as fast as she could for the harbor. She needed to talk to her brothers and of course to Prashant.

In less than two hours, Teresa arrived near the building where she lived. She quickly climbed the stairs and arrived in front of the apartment door. She entered and she headed straight for the terrace where the two men were.

- Guys, we need to talk, said the young woman shortly.
- Teresa, we've been waiting for you for 3 hours. Where the hell have you been? Farid asked with a hint of concern in his voice.
- I've been diving but it's not relevant now.
- Well, you couldn't let us know. We must plan our departure and as far as I know we haven't decided anything yet.

- We're not leaving. I have another plan and if it works everyone will be free including Prashant.
- I don't understand what you mean, said Farid.
- We must destroy the "*Arians*", brother. It is the only solution to be free. Once they are destroyed, the Government will disappear, and the System will be disintegrated.
- And how the hell do you want to do that? Alex asked dryly raising an eyebrow. No one has ever seen the "*Arians*".
- Because they are not human beings, answered Teresa. "*Arians*" are a kind of artificial intelligence of extraterrestrial origin. If we manage to overwrite the code of the "*Arians*" the rest will be easy to solve.
- Do you want to handle this alone? Farid said.
- Not just me. I don't have that much power on my own. To disintegrate the "*Arians*" code, five people are needed, that is, five elements of nature. The three of us are already Air, Fire and Water, Prashant is Earth, and we still need the fifth element, Metal.
- Dammit! Alex said. But it seems complicated to me. To delete the code, we must write a programming routine in advance, and we have no basis.
- And I don't even know programming sister, said Farid.

- It's not necessary brother, added the girl. Only one of us will overwrite the code and that's Alex. I am the key element that can connect with Prashant, Farid and apparently the mysterious man who represents the Metal. The four of us will be mentally connected in a matrix and only together will we be able to access the "*Arians*" code. You, Alex, will be connected to me via an interface so you can retrieve the information and at the same time to override that damn code.

Hearing this the two men were speechless. It was a good plan but a damn risky one. Farid knew that his sister also had great emotions, but he had to accept that destroying the "*Arians*" code was the only solution to free the humanity. Finally, he added:

- Teresa, do you know that before implementing the plan you must talk to Prashant? Not by email or text.
- Yes, I know, brother. I will deal with this in due course. It's still hard for me to talk to him but I'll try.
- I don't understand why the hell it's so complicated to call Prashant, Alex said.
- Because I love him, Alex and sometimes love can be complicated. If he were more open with me it would be much easier for me, but unfortunately the Indian doesn't like to speak so much.

- He is quite sociable with me, Alex replied.
- Logical, said the young woman laughing out loud. You are a man, so everything is simpler.

Alex looked at Teresa innocently. He knew that he had to help her somehow. If it was difficult for her to call Prashant, then he had to make him call her. He will find any excuse necessary just to get them talking to each other.

- What are you thinking Alex? the French heard the young woman's voice.
- It doesn't matter, he said absently. He scratched his beard with two fingers and then added:
- Teresa, I'm going to my room. I still have some work to do on the code.
- Okay, Alex she said. I must work now too. I must deliver a piece of code today and I haven't had time to write it.
- May I help you? Farid asked with a smile at the corner of his mouth.
- When writing the code? I don't really think so, but it would be great if you made some coffee or even a Masala tea.
- Anytime beautiful, answered the Egyptian.

The young woman smiled at her brother then she headed to her room. She turned on her laptop and she waited for the company's chat application to initialize. Prashant was there, online which made

Teresa feel safe. She loved the Indian far too much and she had to do everything possible to destroy the "*Arians*" code once and for all. It was quite difficult but she knew that it was the only solution for her and Prashant to be together.

Prashant was there in front of the computer staring absently at the lines of code unfolding on the screen. He had major code changes to make, and he was in no mood to start working yet. At least not until he saw Teresa online. He knew that the young woman had a chaotic schedule, but he wanted her to be there to help her. He was aware that she would never ask him for help, and he was hurt by her attitude, but he couldn't give her up. He loved her in his own way, but he didn't know how to show it. There were too many differences between them, and the man knew it, but he didn't seem to care too much. He had agreed to reveal his feelings for her because he didn't want to lose her, but the fact that she was too far, hurt him and that pain was visible. He wanted to get out of there with any cost and he was willing to take all the risks just to be with her. He was still in front of the computer and closed his eyes for a moment. He was too tired and he just wanted to stop thinking about absolutely nothing for a while. At this moment he felt pressured from all sides, by Oliver

who was waiting for the detailed reports, by the colleagues who he still had to mentor them, and he just wanted to escape. It was too much for him and there were moments when he wanted to run away as far as possible. Prashant was still thinking about Teresa when he heard the shrill ring of the phone that was somewhere on the corner of the solid walnut desk. He was in no mood to talk to anyone, but he still glanced out of the corner of his eye to check who the caller was, and he flashed a subtle smile. It was Alex Dubois. The Indian had decided to answer because he knew he could learn some information related to Teresa.

- Hello Alex!
- Hi Prashant! I'm glad you answered, said the Frenchman.
- Is Teresa, okay? asked the Indian.
- Yes, keep calm. Now that I live there on the island, I keep an eye on her.
- I'm trying, Alex, but it's hard. I'm too far away and I want to see her.
- Prashant, she also wants the same thing as you but don't worry we have a plan, the Frenchman tried to calm him down.
- Bro, I want to leave here and to get to zone II where Teresa is. My brother Manish is pulling some strings but there are risks.
- No, you don't have to take unnecessary risks now. Call Teresa and she will explain

everything to you in deep detail. Our plan is a good one, but we also need you to carry it out.

- Yes, Alex, if it means being by Teresa's side, I'm willing to do anything, said the Indian touching his lips with the finger.
- Ok, as far as I know, the fifth person will be needed from her, but we don't know how to find it. It must be one of your colleagues.
- Who exactly?
- I don't know Prashant. Even Teresa doesn't know yet. Please talk to her. Try it, she needs you.
- Okay, Alex ... I'll call her later, said the Indian, after which he stopped the conversation.

He had already found out everything he wanted. He felt better knowing that Teresa was also trying to plan to be with him. He knew he shouldn't doubt her feelings. The man wanted to call her, but he was feeling some emotions in his stomach. He had never spoken to her directly other than work related matters but having a personal conversation with her, and hearing her melodious voice already made his heart to beat faster than usual. He didn't think twice and he called her. It was better to do it now than later.

- Prashant, he heard the young woman's voice on the other end of the line. Is everything okay there?
- Yes Teresa, don't worry. I wanted to hear you, he said.

For a few fractions of a second there was a complete silence, after which the Indian added:

- I want to see you, Teresa.
- Me too I want that more than anything, the young woman confirmed what he already knew. Soon we will be together.
- Do you think there is any chance for us? The government will never let me out of zone III.
- To hell with the Government, answered the Teresa with slight emotions in her voice. We will destroy them, Prashant. After we fulfill our plan, there will be no more Government or System. We all will be free.

Hearing the young woman's words, the man was amazed. It was unbelievable how much determination she could have. At that moment he wanted to know all the details. There was no turning back.

- What are you going to do, Teresa?
- Ok, Prashant. You must know that the "*Arians*" are a form of artificial intelligence of extraterrestrial origin. They're just codes that we're going to crack and overwrite it.
- This is impossible. To be able to overwrite a code you must have a routine written based on that code. Just like you did when you extracted the chip code from your brother's DNA.

- Did you know about it? Teresa asked him surprised.
- Yes, and don't be mad at Alex for it. Someone must take care of you while I'm away, said the Indian. So how do you want to overwrite the code?
- Alex will take care of it. Me, you, Farid and one more person must connect in a matrix and only then we will be able to intercept the "*Arians*" code. Alex will take the information from us, he will write the routine and overwrite the code, the young woman replied.
- When can we do it? I can't wait Teresa. I want to be with you always.
- Prashant, we will do it as soon as possible, she confirmed. Our mission now is to find the fifth element. And I have no idea who he is.
- Element? I don't understand what you mean, the Indian said little confused.
- We were chosen for a purpose. Each of us represents one of the elements of nature. I am Air, you are Earth, Farid is Fire and Alex is Water. Only the Metal is missing, Teresa explained.
- What you say is logical, but metal is not an element of nature.
- No, I know it's not, but we need him so we can destroy the "*Arians*" code. Please Prashant, help me to find him.
- Sure Teresa, said the man and then added:

- But we don't even know who he is.
- It's someone from your team. That's all I know.
- How do you know? asked the Indian more and more puzzled.
- I was diving in the Mediterranean Sea, and then somehow, I connected with everyone. That's how I found out about the "*Arians*" code. And the young woman began to detail the whole story in deep detail.

Hearing this Prashant was confused but at the same time he was trying to figure out who the mysterious man could be and especially what he had to do with Teresa. On the one hand he was happy that even though it was complicated there was still a real chance to have her by his side for the rest of his life but on the other hand he was enraged by the existence of that man. He could never bear to know that a colleague on his team was thinking about the woman he loved. Finally, he answered to the young woman:

- I'll try to figure out who it could be. But if you have any other clue, please let me know.
- Sure Prashant. That's all I know for now. Once we find that guy and get him to help us, we'll put the plan into action.
- I do my best to resolve as quickly as possible. I love you, Teresa. Please take care of you.

- I love you too Prashant. More than you can imagine, said the young woman with a small smile on the corner of her lips.

These were the last words of Teresa after which the Indian ended the conversation. He was so happy at this moment. The fact that he heard the voice of the woman he loved gave him the strength to continue. He restarted his computer, and he began typing the missing lines of code.

Vijay Anand finally arrived in front of the house where he had lived for more than 30 years. He had a hellish day at the office and once in his room, he lit a cigarette. He went outside on the terrace, and he tried to not think about anything related to work matters. He left his chat app open, though, because maybe Teresa still needed his services. Although he didn't work on the development and programming side directly, he was the only one who the young woman turned to when she needed help. And he was taking great pleasure in helping her even though he was aware that there was something between her and Prashant.

Vijay was a thin man; he was not of extraordinary beauty, but he had a special charm. He was extremely sociable, he had absolutely no

problem with cultural or religious differences, and he had helped Teresa almost from the first moment when they interacted. He remembered that moment and he smiled slightly. Teresa had been so stressed in that moment with writing and testing a code, Alex was busy in that time, and she had not enough courage to ask Prashant's help, so Vijay was the right man at the right time. A beautiful friendship was created between them but there was nothing more. The man liked the Spanish young woman, but he was not going to fight against Prashant. They weren't the best friends, but he didn't want to get between them. And he was the only one who had known from the beginning about the young woman's feelings towards his colleague, but it was not his job to tell him. Vijay had watched everything from a distance, and he let the history take its course. He wanted to write to the young woman, but he gave up. As close as their friendship was, she had to ask Prashant's consent first. Although he was a bit of a rebel by nature, Vijay always followed some principles. And he respected Prashant for the ambition he had the way he had fought for Teresa's love.

A few moments later he returned to the room, he quickly put on his black leather jacket, and he left. He walked towards the red BMW parked across the street and he drove the car to Prashant's place. With the risk of getting punched in the mouth by him, Vijay

wanted to make sure that Prashant really loved Teresa and he treated her with respect.

Once he reached outside Prashant's house, he called the intercom. In a few seconds the gate opened, and he entered. Prashant was waiting for him inside the door. He was somewhat surprised by his colleague's visit, but he still allowed him to enter. Since Teresa had asked him to identify the mysterious man, any contact was helpful.

- Hello Vijay, he said trying to not be so surprised.
- Hello bro, the other man said smiling.
- Are you drinking something? Prashant asked politely. Even if they weren't friends he couldn't act like a jerk.
- Thanks! A coffee is enough for me.

Prashant quickly made a coffee and a tea and he heading to his room. Vijay followed him silently.

- Look, Vijay, I know we're not really friends, so I'm surprised by your visit, Prashant said as he placed the cups somewhere on the terrace on a white plastic table.

Vijay pulled up a chair and as he lit a cigarette he replied:

- Prashant, I know about your relationship with Teresa. I mean, more precisely, I know that

you love her. And I also know that she loves you.

Prashant was getting more and more surprised. He had been very careful around his colleagues and yet Vijay knew. He wasn't sure how to react.

- How do you know this? he finally asked Vijay. Are you saying that everyone knows?
- I don't think so, brother. Relax. And if they know it's not their problem. I know that Teresa loves you before you know it.
- Vijay, please stay away from her, Prashant said angrily.
- Calm down, man, I don't want to steal your woman. I don't care about these things. And besides, Teresa only loves you. Put that in your mind.

Prashant took a few deep breaths and he calmed down. He was one step away from smashing Vijay's face and it wasn't the right approach now. His colleague could be the fifth element, and this was not the time to act like a macho man.

- Vijay, do you have a special relationship with Teresa? Prashant asked more calmly.
- I wouldn't say special. We are friends and I care about her but not in the way you think. Why?

Prashant didn't know whether to tell her about Teresa's plan or not, but he was sure that Vijay was the mystery man. At last, he said:

- If you could do anything for me and Teresa to be together for real, would you do it?
- Yes, man, you know very well that yes. Only me, I know how much she suffered because of your distant attitude. What to do?
- You will find out at the right time. We're going to chat with Teresa, and she'll explain.
- OK man. I just want her to be happy. And you are the only one who can give her that.
- Thank you, Vijay, said Prashant. And excuse me for reacting like an idiot.
- There is no problem. You love her and it's perfectly normal to be jealous of any man who tries to get close to her.

Vijay got up, thanked for the coffee, and he retired. He had achieved his goal. Now he was sure that Prashant would not disappoint the young woman.

It was not yet 8 AM when Teresa opened her eyes. She was still sleepy, she wanted to sleep at least two more hours, but she couldn't. There was a morning meeting planned with Oliver and the team

and the German wouldn't accept anyone missing. She quickly changed his clothes and turned on the computer. At that moment a new message caught her attention. *"I found the mysterious man. It's Vijay. We are so close Teresa. Just give me a sign so I know how we're doing. I love you."* The girl smiled. Even though he knew that he would hear Prashant's voice in the session, he replied: *"Wonderful. We'll talk after the meeting. I love you too."* It was all just a matter of time now. There were all five of them, they just had to find the right moment to destroy the "Arians" code.