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This is my story

1.

It was a new beginning for Arav who has just passed his o-level exams. Arav was an eighteen boy who lived in the city of Rose Hill. He was about to enter the advanced level class at saint Andrew`s school which was only fifteen minutes away from his place. As school was resuming after the weekend, Arav and his mother, Sanbhita Nasse went for shopping for school supplies. The streets were always busy with people, honking of cars and the shops were always crowded. Arav walked into a bookstore and was having a glance at the novels when he could felt a hand on his shoulders pulling him and heard the person said in an excited tone “Araavvvvv”. It was his friend Jay whom he did not see till the exams. “How are you? It`s been a long time since we met” Said Arav in a surprising tone. “I am doing great; I just need some books for English literature for Monday” replied jay. Jay continued his shopping, while Arav was discussing with his mother about a music book that he found interesting. After their day of shopping, Arav returned home with bags full with school supplies, uniform and his new backpack. He could not wait to show his sister, Veni his new belongings. But Arav had rules when it comes to his things as he is a bit of a materialist and organised person. After a long shower and dinner, Arav could not stop thinking about Monday whether was he gonna be in the same class as his friend- if not, will he be able to make new friends, will the new teachers be rude or strict, what if he ridicules himself infront of the new class or how is he going to face the bullies again. Till Arav went to bed, he kept on thinking about these scenarios that could happen in school. The next day, as it was the last day of the holidays, Arav wanted a simple Sunday meaning no household chores or any kind of work for him. He took his mobile to the living room and started to sing all notes of the Indian music for one hour straight. His father, Krish Nasse came and looked at him and said “Stop, it was a good practise but I need to listen to the news on the radio, would you mind-please?” Arav understood and put on his earphone and started to listen to the recording that his music teacher sends for practise. But staying at home with his grandmother, whom he addresses as Apaye –is difficult to stay around at home. So closing himself in his room was the only solution to have some alone moments but as Veni and him share a room- they do not have that possibility. Arav lied himself down on Veni`s bed and they started talking about intelligent people as she was watching a video about intelligence and asked Arav`s opinion on that subject. “I believe that anyone who is creative in any sort of way, they are the most intelligent people as they always have a vision about something” explained Arav in a confident tone. “So you are trying to say that the A-star students are not intelligent as they are not creative” said Veni. “No, you are getting me wrong. What I am trying to say is that people who have a creativeness, they see things differently, that`s why in my opinion they are the most intelligent people” replied Arav. Let`s not talk about such thing, otherwise it will become on debate session” said Arav.

It was finally Monday, it was five o`clock in the morning and Arav was already awake and thinking about things that could go wrong the whole day. Mrs Nasse woke up at six and noticed that Arav was already awake. “You excited for school today” said Mrs Nasse and Arav replied in a depressed tone “yes”. After freshening up and preparing breakfast, everyone was already awake and Arav could not stop thinking about his classes, his classmates, his friends and his new teachers. His morning routine was hectic as he usually takes time to get ready for school. He would apply cream to his delicate brown skin, brushed his hair for several time and checked himself in the mirror -meanwhile his father is in total furious as he has been waiting for an eternity for dropping him off at school. Once at school, Arav rushed to the block where his classes would be scheduled and verified in each class whether he found his name in any list. He was in class number 52 and along with him; there was Jay, Charla, Sheril, Rayan, Steve and Hans. It was his group of friend and was overwhelmed with excitement. “Sherillllllllllll, we are in the same class again, we will have so much fun once again” screamed Arav. Sheril replied “Yesssss, we will have a great time together, as usual”. In the mind of Arav while checking the list, he could not stop thinking about Vincent. A boy who was in the same class as his for two years. But Arav was glad that he could not found him in the other classes too as the rumours said that he had failed the exams and had to leave school. Arav tried not to think about him and tried to have a normal first day. He got his weekly schedules and met his new teachers. The only teacher that Arav did not like was Mr Harry Cooper, the chemistry teacher. Except on Wednesdays there would be no class with him. During the first and second period, they were free and discussion group was already formed. Arav group were always busy talking about stuff like boyfriends, girlfriends, class drama and mostly teachers. But they were all narrating their holiday which really seems interesting and adventurous. Arav stayed at home mostly and nothing adventurous or interesting to tell about. He sat silently listening to everyone`s story and Charla turned to Arav “What about you Arav?”. “It was good actually, I had some free time for myself and it was peaceful” replied Arav anxiously. Arav did want to tell them that his holidays was constantly repeating the same lines to his grandmother and could not go out either cause Mrs Nasse will keep on calling each minutes to know his whereabouts. School ended at noon on that day as it was the first day; they all decided to go for lunch and went to a burger restaurant where they all ordered the spicy Chicken deluxe. Eating that burger felt like eating heaven.

In the evening, Arav could not stop thinking about Vincent- whether he was dining, taking his shower or doing some work for school. It was in 2016, when Arav and Vincent was in the same class, they were not close friends or even friends. It was a Thursday morning as usual where their English teacher would arrive in any minute. Mrs Disha Cheddy was the most stylish teacher with her nail polish being matched with her and shoes, her fashion or designer dresses were always elegant and classic on her. She entered the class and said “We will do a comprehension today and the next period I will correct it”. When the classwork was assigned, everyone did their work without any disturbance and the teacher were busy correcting some papers. After 30 mins of silence and work, “Okay guys, let`s correct the work” said Mrs Cheddy in an exciting tone. The comprehension was about a girl who was insecure about her body. Mrs Cheddy explained the comprehension, paragraph per paragraph to enable the students to understand clearly what`s happening and was adding some details from her experience to make the students see the passage more clearly. While She was telling the class about some of her experience, a comment saying “hey Arav, are secured of your body, you faggot bastard” screamed Vincent from the middle of the class. Everyone started laughing. Arav quietly sobbed and bow his head down with shame. Arav was neither what they were describing him as. A huge sound came from the teacher`s table, it was Mrs Disha slamming her textbook on the table and stand up, “Don`t you dare to ever talk to someone like that or else you are out of my class and I failed you. ” said Mrs Disha in a rage. “You should never talk to someone like that, what Arav did to you so that it gave you the audacity to response like that. Arav if things like that happened again let me know because I know how to deal with those kinds of people.” said Mrs Cheddy before resuming her class. But Arav, even when Mrs Disha stood up for him - he was trying to control his emotions and not allowed himself to cry. During those times, Arav did not have much friends and no one came to talk with him. The laughter was the most horrible thing than the comment. Arav was not secure about his body and he knew that he made a lot gestures with his hands and sometimes talked in a high pitched tone. But little did he know that those things that are part of his character would make him feel bad about himself. Vincent and the other classmates showed no remorse and they continued their daily work. Thinking about all of that, Arav swiped his tears and cover himself to sleep.

Vincent was still in the mind of Arav. There were a lot of memories that came back and he was getting bothered a lot due to that. He tried to put a smile on his face and went to school. During recess, everyone could notice that Arav was really quiet. Rayan said “What`s going on Arav, why are you so quiet and downcast today. Did something happen? ” . Arav replied with a low voice “I am just having a severe stomach pain and it`s making me uncomfortable to sit”. “Ohh, u want to take any medication to ease the pain” proposed Rayan, “No, I already took one. I just have to wait for the effects to kick in.” replied Arav. Arav lied to Rayan as he did not want to reveal that he was having thoughts about his past. All the pain that he had suffered was back. Arav thought that he could share that part of his life to his friends. But first, he wanted to be sure that they would not judge him or called him insecure in any kind of ways. As the day came to the end, Arav was feeling better. In the evening, while he was checking his phone, he noticed a girl named Gheswaree Mudaly texted him. Glad Arav was when he saw the text and replied to her back. She was asking her question like what`s your age, that she saw Arav one time and which school he attended. Arav spend most of the night talking to her. Arav was relieved in a way that the thoughts of Vincent and other went away. As they were talking, Gheswaree wanted a private tutor for English and Arav recommended his teacher Mrs Sanee Hose, a private tutor that Arav took tuition in Tuesdays. Tuition would resume the next week as Mrs Sanee wanted the first week of school to be off from private tuition. Arav was delighted that he would meet his new friend. The following week, it was Tuesday and Arav had tuition with Mrs Sanee. As usual, Arav was the first to arrive at Mrs Sanee place. Fifteen minutes later, Mrs Sanee was back from her school. “How are you Arav? It`s so nice to see you again” Said Mrs Sanee. “I am doing great and it`s nice to be back too” replied Arav. As Mrs Sanee went inside, two girls in black uniform entered. As Mrs Sanee tutors us in the dining room, they sat infront of Arav on the dining table. One of them presented themselves “Hi, it`s me Gheswaree and that`s my friend Nella”. Nella was shy and did not look at Arav way. Gheswaree was more talkative with her curly hair than her friend. Later Adrien came which was Arav friends since they were having tuition together. He sat next to Arav and they started talking about school and homework. It was the typical conversation that Adrien and Arav have, which later Gheswaree added her own experience, making everyone laugh so badly. As the laughter continues, a boy entered with a green backpack, a bracelet with the letter T on it and with a beard that made his face glow. It was Thiren. Thiren and Arav were shocked to see each other. They were in the same primary school. There were not close friends but they knew each other. Tuition started and no one was able to talk.

As Arav had maths class after his computer classes, he and Dabsha, who were really close friends in both classes, went to sit on the stairs. Their main discussion topic was about dreams that they had ever experienced. Arav narrated to Dabsha about one time that he had dreamed about his death, his funeral and the emotions that he felt when he woke up in the morning. This was the type of conversation that this duo of friends would have. Dabsha told Arav that she had scary dreams too but hers was not so worse than his. As they sit on the stairs, they noticed that the maths teacher was coming which made them run to the class. In class, as the teacher assigned classwork both Arav and Dabsha was busy talking as usual. They had so many topics to talk about and Arav was comfortable with her and knows part of Arav life that many people do not know.