**THE SHADOW MAN**

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# **THE TWO MEN**

The two men emerged from their van. No one saw the color of the van but the outline of the van could be seen easily. The shape was like a school bus but it was slightly elongated at one end, just like the face of a maglev train. The men went towards a large structure which was the biggest villa in town.

They took a crowbar and slit open the door and surprisingly for them, not a single alarm rang. They thought that it was going to be an easy robbery. They went to the first floor and they found that there was a couple sleeping there. They went into the store room and found that there was nothing to steal in there. They looked into other rooms where they found nothing. The two even took the risk of looking in the couple’s room. They only found a remote there, they didn’t know what the remote was for so they just kept it the room.

One of them whose name was Varun, went sliding along the wall and found that there was a hidden door over there, they tried their best to open the door, they also tried to break the door using their crowbars like they did to the main door. They found out that the door was locked and there was neither keyhole nor the keycard lock. An idea struck Virat (the second man), that the remote could be the key for the door, so he ran for the couple’s bedroom and got the remote, he saw a lot of buttons on the remote and had no idea of what they did. So, he said to Varun who was examining the door “Hey Varun, come here and look at this, there are a lot of buttons on this and I don’t know what to do.” “I think that there should be a lock and unlock button on this” said Varun. They looked for at least fifteen minutes and they found the button used to lock and unlock. They finally opened the door, “I will go and check if there are any traps inside, if there aren’t any, I will tell you when to come in.” saying that Virat went into the room. Virat found himself in a dark, circular room, without anything in it, so he wondered why the room had so much security. While he was wondering, he stepped on a pedestal, the only piece of furniture in that room and the ground and pedestal just disappeared and he fell into a dark, black void.

# **THE MYSTERIOUS ROOM**

Varun waited for a long time, what felt like hours even though it had only been ten minutes, but there was only one thing in his mind, that they were to take only the money from the house and leave as quickly as possible. He looked at his watch and found out that they were off schedule and they had to leave the house by 3 a.m.

Virat was shouting louder than he ever had but his voice was drowned by the flow of air. His body slammed into the ground and he found that he was in some kind of a basement with nothing but a few experiment apparatuses. He tried calling Varun on the walkie talkie. Luck was with them, the call had worked and Varun found out what had happened, so he went into the circular room and stepped on the pedestal and found himself in a lift. He was surprised that he did not fall like Virat and hurt himself. He found himself in a basement but it was not at all like the one Virat described to him. All he saw was one chair but he knew better than to touch it. When he went and stood next to the chair, he saw a room which looked like the one Virat had fallen into, through his binoculars. But it looked like it was a kilometer away, so he ran as fast as he could and reached Virat in ten minutes.

He was horror struck when he saw Virat. There were cuts across his hands and legs, his shirt was tattered and it looked like he had broken a few bones here and there across his body. Varun told Virat the way he had gotten into the room. Then, Varun lifted Virat on his shoulder and ran towards the other side not at all paying attention to what was around him. Once he reached the lift, he hoisted Virat into the lift and he himself got inside it. There was only one button in the lift which said ‘ascend’ and he could have sworn that it wasn’t there at the time he came down. When he pressed the button, the lift started going up and he found himself in the same dark, circular room, except it wasn’t dark anymore.

# **THE ESCAPE**

There was a small boy standing next to a small bed with the lights switched on as the switches were only

a foot away from the ground. He looked like he was just three years old. The two robbers were surprised that the room had a lot of furniture and there was a pedestal with a small statue on it, the same pedestal they had stepped on. There was a very small door through which they would have to crawl through to get out of the room. They thought that the child would have a tantrum and call his parents, but he just stood there staring at them as though they were statues. The two started to move towards the door, the one being blocked by the small boy. The boy made a move and tried to block them from reaching the door by spreading his hands, Varun would have been too fast for him but as Virat was on his back, he was slowed down and he could not crawl through the door. The light created the shadow of the two men and the baby. The baby was fascinated by the big shadows of the men and started jumping on the shadows. The next moment the most miraculous thing happened! Whichever part of the shadow the boy stepped on, that was the exact part which got injured on the body of the real men. The small boy danced like that for twenty minutes, till he got tired and went and slept. These two robbers were unconscious because of the pain afflicted by the three-year-old boy. Next day when the parents(couple) came to check on the boy and they were frightened to find that there were two unconscious, close to dead humans. They woke the child and took him out of that room and they called the police as soon as possible. The police came and examined the van and found that there was a lot robbed loot in that van and in that maglev-shaped front there was a cockpit in which the two sat and drove, other than that nothing more. The two robbers Varun and Virat were arrested by the police.

# **ONE WEEK AGO**