***CHAPTER ONE***

**T**he Scotland summer days were extremely sweaty and indeed long. Students from the Pieterson High School were almost two days away from their summer vacation which they were eagerly waiting for. Samuel, Sarah, Jason and Elizabeth were best of friends since kindergarten. All four friends were surprisingly different from each other. They were all unique and special in their own way and their story was something that everyone admired but did they know about the paths they were about to unravel from lost souls to creepy witches and devils. Read on to discover what happens in the long journey of these four lost friends!

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**T**he Grade: 12F learners were in their English class. Mrs. Naidoo was going over revision and was preparing their holiday work. Obviously none of the learners were interested as they all were already in their holiday vibes. Samuel, Sarah, Jason and Elizabeth were in the same class this year. Sarah was researching memorable holiday destinations in South America. Samuel was working on his new invention called ‘THE FIZZER’ (a so called electrical shocking machine). He was a guy usually interested in science and different crazy inventions. Elizabeth was applying her pink nail polish and lastly Jason was in the bathroom, in front of a mirror practicing his flirting techniques which were pretty attractive to most girls in the school. They were all lost in their own activity until Samuel accidently blew up the motor in his invention which did create a disruption in the class.

“Mr. Samuel James, to the principal’s office immediately!” exclaimed Mrs. Naidoo. Samuel was not amused but regretful as it was the fifth time in this semester that he had to go to the principal’s office. He rolled his eyes as the class giggled silently. They wouldn’t want to test their English teacher’s patience or they would be digging their own grave especially in the last few days of the second semester. Samuel got off his chair and threw his bag over his shoulder as he walked out of the classroom. He was wondering what punishment his mother would give him this time. The last time she took away all of his fancy gadgets. Even his bedroom television was unplugged and removed from his room. He eventually argued with his father which led him to be grounded for a good long week. This time he was going to be sent to hell for sure but his friends wouldn’t let that happen. Sarah and Elizabeth glanced at each other with a smirk on their face as they knew the solution to Samuel’s problem. “Mrs. Naidoo, may I use the washroom, please?” questioned Sarah. “You may leave.” answered the arrogant teacher. Sarah left the classroom preparing a voice to sound like Samuel’s mother. She was excited to what she was about to do but she had to do it carefully as it could land her into huge trouble!

***CHAPTER TWO***

**“G**ood day Principal Matsui. I just called to check if I can fetch Samuel from school. Actually there is a family funeral that we have to attend and I don’t want to be late as it begins in approximately half an hour and by the time Samuel gets ready, we will lose track of time. Sorry if there is any inconvenience sir.” said Samuel’s duplicate mother (Sarah) on a call. “Hmm…Mam, I have to applaud you as you called at the right time. Your son Samuel causes many disruptions in the classroom. It’s the fifth time in this semester that he caused an eruption. Look, we do have a science class for inventions like Samuel’s but he refuses to listen to us. Mam, I would really appreciate if you could show up at school as soon as possible”, replied the fairly frustrated principal.

Sarah wasn’t aware that her job in saving Samuel was this difficult. Samuel was standing in front of the principal stressing out to what his mother was saying on the call. He wasn’t aware that it was Sarah which was the unfortunate part of the story. “Sir, I do understand that Samuel is a nuisance especially when it comes to his disastrous inventions but I promise that he won’t do it again and I do apologize on his behalf. I also would have come to school but as for now I can’t due to some important things coming up at work soon. As soon as I get a chance, I will show up at school. Please just let him know that I would be fetching him in a while. See you principal Matsui. Goodbye…” said Sarah and immediately she disconnected the call to avoid the waste of time. Principal Matsui was indeed not happy with the so called ‘don’t care attitude’ from Samuels duplicate mother, Sarah.

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Samuel couldn’t believe it that his crazy demonic Principal let him out so easy. He ran through the school halls and out the exit door just to see Jason and Elizabeth standing out there with their bags on their shoulders. His day was totally upside down and he was drowning in confusion from the start to the end. Just then Sarah drove around the corner screaming “Get in! Get in!” and immediately Samuel, Jason and Elizabeth opened the car door and jumped in. “Guys, what the hell is going on!” questioned a bewildered Samuel. Sarah laughed out loud and narrated the whole story to Samuel leaving him astonished. He felt so lucky to have the friends he had. “Thanks a lot guys.” mentioned Samuel. They all could see how grateful he was. As the day passed, Sarah was alone in the car with Elizabeth. She dropped off Samuel and Jason just after they left the Beaver sports field. Elizabeth opened a four finger kitkat and broke off two pieces. She waved the pieces in front of Sarah, “Want some?” she enquired. “I think I’m fine Elizabeth. Thanks for the offer though.” responded Sarah. Elizabeth took a deep breath and said “So? When are you gonna tell him, Sarah? I think his waiting. “Sarah took a quick glance at Elizabeth and saw her happily eating the kitkat without any regret. Sarah was tired. It was a long day. The teachers didn’t think twice before dumping a hell lot of work on the learners. “I don’t think it’s a great idea, Elizabeth. I don’t want to look like a jerk. I’ll wait for him to tell me he likes Me.” said Sarah. Just then she drove into Elizabeth’s rough gravel driveway. A freshly shined black Ferrari was parked in the driveway. “Sarah, I know you for fourteen years. You a person who would wait all your life but Samuel aren’t that kind of a guy you know. Waiting would just make you regret! Bye!” Snapped Elizabeth before she got off the car, shut the door and walked towards the front porch. Sarah closed her eyes and took a deep breath. After she cleared her mind before she started the car and drove off heading back to her house.

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**I**t was a Wednesday morning. Kids were hurrying through the school halls at 10AM. Some learners were scared while some were excited as report cards were going to be issued. It was the last day for the second semester. Sarah and Elizabeth were cleaning out their lockers while Samuel and Jason were playing basketball. Things happened to be lively and chaotic at the Pieterson High School. The learners were very thunderous and rowdy but the school staff didn’t really mind as they knew the learners were really electrified since the holiday began in only a few more hours. The learner’s behaviors were always the same when it came to the last day of every semester. If no complaints came to the school principal then he would award them with loud music just before the school day ended. Sometimes he even let the learners go home early which was really thoughtful but today that was not the case. Today the teachers decided to ruin the learner’s summer vacation just a little. “Obviously these demons wouldn’t give us a break for once in our life.” muttered Sarah to Elizabeth after they overheard their English teacher speaking to the deputy principal about homework. “Give me a break!” Exclaimed Elizabeth who was already very irritated as a group of Grade: 8 kids knocked over her coffee when she just walked into the school this morning. The buzzer rang early and the school halls got even louder as learners slammed their lockers closed and stamped their feet hard against the tiled floor making their way to class. Samuel was not really affected with the noise as he had his headphones on with banging music. Just then he saw the Principal approaching him. Jason left his side and disappeared down the ear piercing maniac corridors. Samuel quickly pushed his headphones off and froze in his position in front of the principal. “Headphone’s out! Jason, you’ve got away yesterday but next time that won’t be the case. I will expel you. As today is the last day for this semester, I will not confiscate your headphones but if I see you using it again then get ready to say your farewell goodbyes to it! You fool!” Exclaimed Principal Matsui as he pushed his way through the learners. Samuel took a sticky note pad out of his pocket and quickly scribbled on it while he followed the principal. The bright pink sticky note said ‘I am so damn stupid so please slap me’. When he was happy with the first step to his mischief, he carefully stuck the note on the Principals creased yellow shirt. Then he suspiciously ran off in order not to get caught. Samuel heard learners laughing out loud as he made his way through the corridors in the direction to his class. “Mission accomplished!” Shouted Samuel as he jumped high and threw his fist in the air.

When he walked into the classroom, everyone was doing their own thing like yesterday. The only difference was that the Math teacher, Mr. Smith was not teaching. He was sitting at his desk and it looked as if he was watching a movie. Samuel walked behind his chair to see what kind of a movie he was watching. It was ‘Pompeii’. “Not a bad choice in movies.” He said. The teacher smiled. Sarah, Elizabeth and Jason were sitting together at one desk. They lifted their heads when they saw Samuel stopping by. “What’s up?” asked Elizabeth. “Oh. Didn’t you see Principal Matsui’s shirt? The sticky note?” questioned Samuel. They all burst into laughter. “So you did that, genius.” said Sarah. Samuel blushed and nodded his head then he grabbed a chair and joined them. “So Sarah, What’s for the holidays?” asked Jason. Sarah was on her phone as usual. Jason tapped his finger tips on the wooden desk while Elizabeth was vandalizing the desk with her blue marker. She loved writing her instagram username all over the school property. Anything to make her famous, she would say when her friends tried to stop her. “Okay guys. So for our summer vacation, I thought we should do a holiday together. There are some nice places in South America. Dad said he’ll pay for all expenses. Interested anybody?” proclaimed Sarah finally. They were all quiet for a moment until Elizabeth spoke up saying; “It’s a great idea but I do have life science classes to attend during the holiday.” They all thought for a while. “Eli, skip the classes or do an online class. If you don’t accompany us then neither would I have second thoughts about not going.” exclaimed Sarah. “She’s right.” admitted Samuel and Jason. “Okay fine. I guess it won’t hurt if I sacrifice just a little besides what can be more important than you guys.” replied a very determined Elizabeth. “Okay. Cool. You and I could maybe do more research about the place we will stay at. I’ll be sure to message you’ll in the afternoon.” said Sarah. They all agreed. Things were going great until they all started their preparation for the summer vacation.

***CHAPTER THREE***

**J**ason was packing his suitcase including Sarah, Elizabeth and Samuel. When they were done, Elizabeth’s and Sarah’s bags were rather heavier obviously because girls couldn’t stay without stuff like their cosmetics and mirrors. Samuel was in charge of the snacks and Jason took control of sporting activities when they reach their destination. As for the girls, nothing was organized completely at all! Sarah and Elizabeth suggested they shouldn’t take any food as they will purchase it and as for the entertainment, they were already planning how many visits they would take to the health and beauty spa. Both the boys and girls said they would visit the gym together. Sarah and Elizabeth were only looking forward to the sauna and a good massage which they hadn’t had in a really long time. But would they really have a nice time or was there going to be spoilers of unexpected creatures or should I say visitors from hell!

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“Guys, our flight is at three in the morning and I will not entertain delays especially from Sarah and Elizabeth. Do you all get that straight?” said Samuel strictly on a group call between his three other so called ‘besties’. Jason laughed on the call. The boys always mocked Sarah and Elizabeth when they spoke about using time wisely. “Samuel, if you really think we should use our time wisely then can we cut this call? From my personal opinion I think that we will wake up late in the morning because you not allowing us to go to bed!” said Jason. Sarah and Elizabeth second Jason. “Fine!” exclaimed Samuel and he exited the call including Jason, Sarah and Elizabeth. A couple of moments later they all headed off to bed but as soon as Jason switched off the light, he later regretted it.

Samuel and the girls were already fast asleep but Jason wasn’t. He was terribly apprehensive, uneasy and alarmed for some mystifying reason. As he was slowly drifting off to sleep, Blake came and jumped on his bed which awoke him with a shock. Blake was Jason’s dog who was an indefatigable dog. “Blake! I’m trying to sleep. Get off!” moaned Jason who was very agitated. Sadly his fat dog wouldn’t budge. Jason compelled himself to get up. He carried his heavy dog and started walking in the direction to his bedroom door which was half way open. Unfortunately before Jason could even reach the door, he lost his step after being tripped by one of Blake’s rubber toy. He dropped Blake and was so close to falling on top of him but his dog was smart enough to move out of the way. Jason happened to hurt his foot and his head started spinning after hitting it hard on the polished wooden floor. Blake made his anger worse as he went and licked Samuel’s face playfully. Samuel slowly got off the floor and grabbed his stubborn dog by his collar. Then he pushed him out of the room and threw his rubber toy out. Finally he slammed his door shut and went of to bed while he massaged his neck. He lied on the bed and unfortunately he lost his sleep. It almost felt like bad luck hit his side. He looked at the time. It was already eleven on the clock and he only had about three more hours to rest. He had to get up early to get ready. Jason was turning and rolling from one side of the bed to the other. He lost his comfort and was feeling sick already. He got off the bed and went to his wardroom. Then he shuffled threw his clothes and took out his passport. He was so relieved because he was under the impression that he lost it. He opened the passport and smiled at his picture. “Ooh-la-la, I’m so handsome.” He said before he could close it but then he immediately opened it again to look at the date when the passport expires. “Oh shoot!” he muttered. The passport was expired. What was he going to do in the last minute? Without the passport he couldn’t aboard the plane. He was panic-stricken. He quickly ran to his mother’s room and awoke her. ”Mom, wake up! Mom! It’s an emergency. My passport happened to be expired!” Jason shouted. “Jason, I’m tired. I’m sleeping. I’ll take you tomorrow so we can renew it. Now go to bed. You can leave for Brazil on Friday or Saturday. Your friends won’t mind, I promise. Now go to bed, please.” muttered Jason’s mother. Jason was about to say something but she just shut him up and made him leave the room. He was worried and was unsure what to do. He had to tell Sarah, Samuel and Elizabeth about what’s going on. Immediately he grabbed his phone to call them but unfortunately his phone switched off as it was low in battery. He had to call his friends whatsoever. He turned his whole room upside down looking for his charger and eventually he found it so he plugged the charger in the socket and attached it to his phone. He had to have patience. Jason walked up and down the room stressing and thinking a way out of his mess. Finally the phone switched on. It made two beeps. Jason ran to it and made a call to Samuel. Two rings and Jason cut the call. He didn’t have patience at all! He called Sarah and thanks God! Sarah answered the call immediately. “Sarah! My passport is expired. What am I gonna do? Sorry but I think I can’t make it tomorrow. Mom said she’ll take me to renew it tomorrow. Sorry. Please let the others know.” said Jason. Sarah was quiet for a moment. At the very moment she was in her bedroom biting her nails and thinking a way out to help Jason. “Jason, umm… I’ll let the others know. I’ll also cancel our flight immediately. We can go on Saturday or whenever you ready. Okay?” said Sarah. She seemed very calm which made Jason feel better. “Thanks Sarah but I think you guys should go. I’ll sort myself out and I’ll leave for Brazil as soon as I can. Just message me the place we staying at before you’ll leave in the morning. Bye.’’ said Jason just before he cut the call. Jason put his phone down and took a deep breath. He was so angry that he didn’t check the date on the passport before planning the holiday. He walked to his bed and threw himself on it. Now he could feel the sleep coming. It was also getting cold so he pulled his blanket up and before he knew it, he was asleep. Fast asleep.

***CHAPTER FOUR***

**I**t was around two in the morning when Sarah’s, Samuel’s and Elizabeth’s alarm clock rang. Unfortunately Jason was still asleep as there was no point of him waking up. Samuel was in the kitchen making his protein shake. Sarah happened to just finish in the shower and was trying her pity best not to make any noise as her single-parent mother and four year old sister was asleep. Elizabeth was sitting on her balcony drinking her morning coffee which was usually very bitter. Sarah and Elizabeth were still a bit cranky and lazy as they are not used to waking up so damn early in the morning. A while later Samuel was ready. Both the girls were still going over their cosmetic case to make sure everything was there. Sarah had everything but Elizabeth’s mascara was not there which left her panic-stricken. Immediately she crawled over to her queen size bed and searched underneath the mattress. As she was searching, her phone rang from across the room. Quickly she ran over. It was Samuel doing a group call with her and Sarah. She was confused as to why Jason was not a part of the call. Unfortunately she was not aware yet that Jason is not accompanying them. Elizabeth swiped her finger on her Samsung Galaxy A24 cell phone to answer the call. Her grandmother gifted her current phone for her eighteenth birthday which was just a week ago. Anyway, she put the phone to her ear and listened to what they had to say. “Umm, please don’t be late to the airport. I suggest that you two leave home now. Drive safely. Bye.” said an adamant Samuel. Elizabeth was going to ask as to why Jason was not a part of the call but she just left it for when they reach the airport. At the moment they didn’t have much time on their side to waste. Samuel was a bit moody as he missed his morning workout. Eventually they cut the call. Elizabeth’s phone was completely charged. She pulled the charger out, rolled it and stuffed it in her cosmetic bag. Looking for her mascara slipped her mind. She pushed her phone into her pocket but it didn’t go in completely which made it fall out. Unfortunately Elizabeth didn’t notice it fall which made her leave it behind.

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It wasn’t long before Samuel and Elizabeth reached the airport. Their flight was in fifteen minutes and Sarah was not at the airport yet. Samuel and Elizabeth began to stress out. They were worried. What if something happened to her on the way to the airport? Her mother wouldn’t spare the two of them. Samuel pulled his phone out of his pocket and dialed Sarah William’s number. The phone rang. No answer. He tried again. Still there was no answer. Samuel didn’t give up. He called again and he was so relieved when she answered the call. Sarah was driving on the M8 motorway on the way to the Glasgow Airport. ‘’Sorry I’m late. I’ll reach there in a few minutes. Relax. I’m hanging up now. Bye…’’ said Sarah as she cut the call. The roads were not busy at all as it was still early. It was dark and it made Sarah feel uncomfortable and scared. It was indeed very quiet. Sarah put the car radio on. The station she was listening to was Kingdom FM. They were playing her extreme favourite song, ‘Sculptures of anything goes’ by a famous band called ‘Arctic Monkeys’. Sarah happened to be crazy for their songs. Listening to their music made her feel much more relaxed. Her mind was at peace until a red Ford Puma vehicle knocked her clean and perfectly shined car off the road. Her left hand was bruised. Luckily she was not injured badly. It almost seemed like the person sitting in the Ford Puma hit her on purpose. She was confused as she never had enmity with anyone. Not at school, home or any other public places. She sat in the damaged Audi and watched as the Ford Puma drove away with speed. If the driver did not hit her on purpose then he/she would have got off to help her. She tried to start the car again but unfortunately she failed. The door was stuck so she couldn’t get off. Luckily a person who witnessed the accident was nice enough to help her. He drove and parked next to her car. It took him a while to get off the car and when he did, he walked towards her. The bachelor looked through the window and Sarah stared back. Definitely she knew she was going to be late for her 3am flight. The guy walked back to his car. He went straight for the trunk. He pushed a key in and opened it. Then he pulled out something that looked like a tool box. Sarah was watching carefully. Could she really trust this stranger? He did look cute. She watched as he walked back towards her car. He went around the vehicle to the passenger side and immediately pulled a hammer out of the tool box which he used to break the window and open the door. Sarah was a bit nervous. She continued to watch him and was alert just in case he decided to harm her or do something wrong. She couldn’t just trust an innocent face like that. He pushed his head through the open door. ‘’I’m Gabriel Alfredo. You must be Sarah. Are you okay.” said the bachelor who seemed to be really friendly. Sarah took a deep breath. Who really was this guy and how did he know her? Now she started to get scared. ‘’Yes, I’m Sarah. Sarah William. How do you know me? Wait, are you stalking me!?’’ shouted an alarmed Sarah. The guy named Gabriel put his head down and giggled. He looked up at her and said, ‘’Look Ms. William. Let me help you out then I’ll read your number plate out to you. Relax. I’m not stalking you. I just happened to look at your number plate when I was walking towards your car.’’ Sarah’s face went pale with embarrassment. She accepted his help and eventually she was outside the car. Gabriel Alfredo was nice enough to offer a ride to the airport as he was also heading there. His flight was at five and he was going back home to West Virginia in the United States of America. Sarah assumed that Elizabeth and Samuel left without her and she didn’t really mind it. She was going to take another flight to Brazil. On the way to the airport, she booked a flight with help from Gabriel. His car was absolutely neat inside. The seats had a covering of pure white leather and there was not a single scratch of dirt on it. Sarah was amused. During the seven minute drive, they took the opportunity to get to know each other more. Gabriel was twenty eight years old and he visited often Scotland for business trips. He was not a guy interested in traditions or marriages and things like that. Love is something he truly did not believe in. In the car, Sarah and Gabriel laughed a lot. When they reached the airport, they exchanged numbers. Gabriel walked her to the food court. They decided to sit there as they wait for their flight to be announced. As they walked to grab a seat, Sarah lifted her head and what met her eyes left her dumbfounded.

***CHAPTER FIVE***

**E**lizabeth and Samuel were occupying one of the tables. Both their faces were full of frustration. Sarah stopped in her tracks and looked at them. They stared back irritated. Gabriel followed her gaze. Slowly Sarah started towards Elizabeth and Samuel. They both got up and also walked towards her. Gabriel silently followed her. ‘’Umm, I can explain. I’m sorry. Actually, I met in an accident. This is Gabriel. He brought me here. Sorry.’’ said Sarah nervously. They looked at her and Samuel took a deep breath. ‘’Sarah, we are a bit angry but not because we missed our flight. We angry because you left us to wait for more than an hour which made us terribly worried.’’ said Samuel calmly to avoid any problems. Immediately Sarah went close to Samuel and hugged him tightly which left him breath-taken. Gabriel got a bit jealous though he just met her a while ago. Elizabeth was left shocked but also happy because she knew Sarah was now getting closer and closer to what she wanted for years. ‘’I’m sorry. I’m sorry. Please forgive me. Please. Please. I’m sorry Samuel. I seriously didn’t mean to get you worried.’’ said Sarah. Samuel put his arm around her and said, ‘’Please relax. I’m happy you okay.’’ Sarah let go of him and looked at Elizabeth who winked at her and whispered, ‘’Yes!’’ Sarah looked at Samuel and blushed. Gabriel knew what he had to do to ruin the friendship both Samuel and Sarah had and Elizabeth could just see the anger Gabriel had on his face after her friends hugged. ‘’Hey, Gabriel! Wanna come and help me fetch some coffee for all of us. It is really cold.’’ said Elizabeth. Gabriel showed his fake smile and exclaimed, ‘’Sure, why not?’’ Elizabeth smiled. The two of them walked to the coffee station while Sarah and Samuel went to grab a table.

‘’What is your intention?’’ Elizabeth interrogated the new guy, Gabriel Alfredo. Gabriel watched their assistant pour the milk and put it in the microwave to heat for two minutes. ‘’I know I’ve just met your friend Sarah but I’ve got to admit. She’s stunning and I wouldn’t let another guy steal what I already own.’’ said Gabriel stingily. Elizabeth could already see problems arising for Sarah and Samuel. She had to get rid of this Gabriel guy. Their assistant brought out four coffee cups with four matching plastic lids. Then he opened a glass jar and pulled out a handful of sugar in a red sachet. Gabriel continued, ‘’I will cancel my flight and rebook it for Brazil. I’m sure Sarah won’t mind if I accompany her. No worries. I’ll be sure to pay for my own stay including food and whatever.’’ This guy was testing Elizabeth’s patience. She began to get irritated. Elizabeth was also a bit scared as she didn’t know this Gabriel guy well. He could be foolish but also smart while playing his games. Elizabeth stared at him intensely. Their assistant put the four cups of piping hot coffee on the counter before them. Underneath the coffee was a tray that would help them carry the coffee to their table. Elizabeth picked up one cup of coffee and pushed it to Gabriel. Then she pulled out some money and paid for only three cups of coffee. ‘’You are smart but not as smart as I am, Gabriel Alfredo.’’ said Elizabeth as she picked up the tray of coffee and walked towards the table Sarah and Samuel were sitting at. There were two empty chairs and it was left available for Elizabeth and Gabriel. Gabriel still stood there at the coffee station. He grinned as Elizabeth walked away. Then before he could leave the station, he opened his wallet and pulled out £2.70. He slammed the money on the counter and the assistant took it away and typed him out a receipt. Gabriel waited until the assistant handed him the receipt. He looked at it as he walked towards the table where his new friends were sitting at. Elizabeth watched him closely. She was waiting for a good opportunity to tell Samuel about him. Gabriel pulled out a chair and sat down, his eye on Elizabeth. In this part of the story it was Elizabeth Taylor versus Gabriel Alfredo.

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Samuel and Sarah were shocked to know that Gabriel cancelled his flight to the USA to come with them on their summer vacation. Around that time, Jason just woke up and called Elizabeth just to see how things are going. He felt frightened after Elizabeth told him about the new guy, Gabriel. Matter of fact, Elizabeth was flabbergasted to know that Gabriel was Jason cousin. Elizabeth knew she could use that as a bonus move to get rid of the American bachelor. Just after they had finished their coffee, their flight was announced. It was time for their departure and Elizabeth just hoped everything would be A-okay. She had to put up with Gabriel for about ten hours plus which was indeed concerning. They were all taking the American airlines to North America. It was Jason’s idea to take that airline as he heard it was very reliable and accommodating.

It was time to board the plane. Sarah, Samuel and Elizabeth took care of their own luggage while Gabriel hired an agent to carry his luggage and escort him to the plane. Gabriel and the girls slept a lot on their ride but Samuel couldn’t. He just read a book called ‘Never Never’ by an author named Colleen Hoover. She was his favourite American author and he owned every single book she wrote. His friends found it crazy. They were more of comic weirdoes but Samuel was totally something else. When their flight landed, Samuel booked them all a taxi but Gabriel already had a security guard waiting for his arrival. He left in a black Mercedes Benz while Samuel and the girls left with a yellow Toyota taxi which had dents round the car. They didn’t care at all just as long as they reach the village safe and sound. They Jason would be with them soon as he was the guy who triggers fun time moments so basically they all enjoyed his presence accept Gabriel as Jason always ruined his plans though he was so younger than him. In his family he was a noble soul but at school or whenever he was with his friends he was a real badass.

They were all staying at the Thornbrook Village. It was a stunning village that had everything you needed except a health and beauty spar and when Sarah and Elizabeth found out, they went nuts and lost their head. Samuel found it really funny. At that moment, Gabriel was on a business call with people from Ghana. ‘’How could there not be a spa. No way! I will not survive.’’ shouted Sarah. Back in Scotland, Jason just walked out the Home office with a renewed passport. When he got home, he booked a flight to Brazil and called his friends. ‘’Hello buddies. Did you’ll reach safely and is Gabriel troubling you’ll? Is Sarah okay after the accident?” questioned Jason. ‘’Yes, we reached safely but neither am I okay nor is Elizabeth. Were there no other villages around here?” said Sarah. Samuel laughed so hard that he started crying then he said, ‘’Relax Jason. Everything is okay but Sarah and Elizabeth went nuts after learning that there is no spa in this village. Tell them we will offer the best massages at the cheapest price.’’ Jason toppled over on his bed. He was full of laughter. Sarah and Elizabeth got annoyed and walked away. They decided to take off their flat shoes and put on some sneakers as they were going for a tour around the village when Samuel was done. ‘’Samuel, I’m going to hang up. Got some stuff to do before I leave tomorrow morning. See you bro.’’ said Jason. ‘’Okay, see you.’’ replied Samuel and the call was immediately disconnected. Samuel’s stomach began to grumble. He was hungry. The last he ate was on the flight which was only a large packet of chips including the girls. Samuel went to his suitcase and pulled out a plastic packet which carried a variety of snacks. He was lucky to have carried that. From the plastic bag, he took out three packets of chips. He wasn’t that selfish so he gave Sarah and Elizabeth two packets and obviously one packet was for him. Gabriel only thought about himself. He already had something to eat as he sent his security team to fetch him something from the village restaurant which was a walking distance from where they were staying. Sarah and Elizabeth promised to stop there every day from breakfast to lunch and dinner.

***CHAPTER SIX***

**A**fter they found their way around the village, they felt more comfortable. They didn’t have much plans yet as they were still waiting for Jason to come which was going to be the next day for sure so Sarah, Samuel and Elizabeth spent the day relaxing and they toured the village a little with the help from the villagers who seemed really welcoming and heart-warming.

The day swept away really quickly. Gabriel had his own room and so did everyone else except Sarah and Elizabeth. They decided to share a room because if they didn’t then Gabriel would be sleeping out in the cold. Samuel just wanted to show him that he is a one better person indeed. That night everyone disappeared into their rooms early. Gabriel was on a call with business tycoons. Samuel was on a call with Jason. They were seriously missing each other and it was the first time Samuel was doing something without Jason but not for long. Sarah and Elizabeth were checking their instagram and they decided to do their blogging together for this summer vacation. They realized it’s more fun to do it together than alone. ‘’Sarah, I’ve got news. Oh my god. This is so crazy. Guess who texted me on instagram right now!” said a very hyper Elizabeth. Sarah looked at Elizabeth and raised her one eyebrow. ‘’Who texted you? Was it Nicky Minaj or Robert Pattinson?’’ said Sarah with a giggle. Elizabeth threw her head back and laughed. ‘’Na… I wouldn’t really value a message from them but a message from Jack Brown is the best. Guess what he said. Okay wait. I’ll tell you. He asked if we could out sometime and you know what that means! Oh my god!” said Elizabeth over reacting. Sarah was speechless. She hadn’t seen Elizabeth in love before. She smirked and whispered ‘impressive’ to herself. Elizabeth ran over to Sarah and held her on her shoulders and eventually she just started shaking Sarah. ‘’Eli! Stop! I know you excited but the guy is a jerk. You don’t know him trust me. I’m telling you from experience. You are gonna regret Eli!’’ shouted Sarah who seemed really serious for a change. Elizabeth loosened her grip and quietly sat down on the bed. She seemed really taking back with what Sarah had said. As long as she knows, Sarah as always been truthful and whatever she said was always right. Sarah felt bad. Maybe what she said was wrong this time. She got up from the sofa she was sitting on and she went and sat next to Elizabeth. Slowly she put an arm around her and took a deep breath. ‘’I’m really sorry for bringing your hopes down Eli. I didn’t mean to hurt you. I’m only telling you what is right for you. I’m being honest. That guy, Jack Brown only likes to woo girls. He properly is properly feeling lonely that his girlfriend dumped him. It was the latest instagram highlights you know. Don’t tell me you missed the post by Taylor Jones, that girl leading the schools computer and graphic group.’’ said Sarah with a lot of sympathy. Elizabeth looked at her and got up. She went and sat on the sofa where Sarah sat. Sarah continued, ‘’Look Eli. Jack Brown sucks. Besides you don’t deserve a guy like that. I mean he doesn’t deserve to have you because people like you are scarce and you unique and one of a kind. Think about it Eli. I’m only saying what’s best for you. I’m not supporting you like a mother but a sister.’’ Sarah completed her sentence and watched as Elizabeth was about to leave the room but before she could leave she spoke up, ‘’I’m sorry.’’ She said. Sarah looked at her. Her face was full of regret. Sarah smiled and Elizabeth was gone out the door. She was feeling regretful for hurting her best friend’s feelings. Elizabeth walked into the kitchen and opened the refrigerator. She took out her baby blue bottle and poured water in her mouth. The water was ice cold but she was used to it. When she was done she topped the bottle up with more water and she put it back in the refrigerator. What she saw inside gave her a shock of her life!

***CHAPTER SEVEN***

**T**he first time she opened the refrigerator, it wasn’t there but the second time it lied there next to the spot her bottle sat at. Elizabeth was shaken. Why was this happening and who put it there? Questions upon questions aroused in her head. Her hands began to shake. She tried to scream help but he words didn’t want to leave her mouth. Her eyes whelmed up with tears. She put her palm around her neck. It was knife that lied there. It was completely messed with blood. Fresh blood! Then she heard someone run across the lounge behind her. The person dropped the vase that had the pink lilies inside. Elizabeth turned around and saw no one or nothing suspicious except the broken vase that lied there with the lilies scattered around. Elizabeth took a step back and hit the refrigerator. It was closed but how? Elizabeth didn’t remember closing the refrigerator door. Immediately she turned around and pulled open the fridge door. The knife was gone. She looked all over in the fridge. It was gone but how. She looked closely inside the refrigerator and spotted two droplets of blood. She took a step back again and she hit somebody. Elizabeth couldn’t take it. She squeezed her eyes closed and screamed. The person behind her gripped her shoulders firmly shouting out her name in a calm voice. Just then the lights came on. Elizabeth opened her eyes. Her tears ran down her face and immediately she turned around and saw Samuel standing there. Gabriel and Sarah also came running. ‘’Eli, what happened. Why are you so shaken?’’ questioned Sarah. Samuel glanced at Sarah then at Elizabeth. Elizabeth turned around and looked in the fridge. The blood was still there. ’’Look! Look! There is blood!’’ shouted Elizabeth pointing towards the two droplets of blood. Then she pointed to the broken vase and scattered lilies. ‘’Look!’’ she shouted. Sarah, Gabriel and Samuel followed her gaze. Samuel looked at the blood closely. ‘’Relax Eli. It must be just tomato sauce. See even the bottle is open and its messed really badly and as for the vase, it’s properly just the wind. Look, Sarah, you never close the curtains and windows. Come on. Relax Eli.’’ said Samuel. Gabriel was irritated just because Elizabeth broke his sleep for such a minor situation. ‘’Oh come, Elizabeth. Don’t be a fool. Did you see what you did now? Nonsense! I was in the middle of an important meeting until you interrupted. Gosh. You women are so damn dramatic. Hash tag, Babies!’’ said Gabriel with indeed a lot of expression. The three friends looked at Gabriel. He was just so inconsiderate. Samuel was going to give him a mouthful but Sarah held his hand to avoid trouble. Samuel looked at her irritated. ‘’Eli, come on. Let’s go to bed. It’s a bit late and we need rest as Jason will be here tomorrow. We are going to have a lot of fun together. Now come on.’’ said Sarah. Elizabeth looked back in the refrigerator and nodded, ’’Okay.’’ She said as she walked towards Sarah and they both headed back to their room including Gabriel. When everyone was gone, Samuel decided to investigate this matter. He wanted to see what Elizabeth saw. She was really traumatized after everything. Samuel put his head in the refrigerator. He put some tomato sauce in one finger and compared it to whatever the red thing was that Elizabeth saw as blood. He looked closely. The tomato sauce seemed thicker than the other red substance which was a darker red color and really weak. Elizabeth was right. That red substance was blood. He used his sleeve to wipe it and then he cleaned the tomato sauce bottle. After that was done, Samuel walked towards the area where the shattered vase was. He looked closely. He began to love this job. Maybe he should become a detective one day. He stared at it for a while. He looked around the lounge area until something spotted his eye. It was something. Something that could lead to what Elizabeth saw. He walked towards the red leather couch. Next to the couch, on the white tiled floor lied a black handle knife that was messed with blood. Elizabeth was not hallucinating. Whatever she saw was true. Samuel looked around the room to make sure no one was there. If one of his friends saw then they would panic. He ran into the kitchen and grabbed some paper towel which he used to pick up the knife. Immediately he put it in a plastic bag. Now he needed to hide the knife. He looked around the lounge for maybe the third time. Then he turned around to face the knife. Unfortunately, before he could bend down to pick up the knife Sarah came into the lounge. ‘’Samuel? You still awake. Why? What are you doing?’’ questions aroused in Sarah’s mind. One by one, she began even more curious. She threw questions at Samuel who stood there looking guilty. ‘’Umm, actually, I can explain. Sarah, I am…’’ Samuel tried to explain himself to Sarah but Sarah shut him up. ‘’You are the reason to Elizabeth being traumatized! How could you Samuel? I trusted you!’’ shouted Sarah with full of tears. ‘’Sarah, It’s not what you think. I found the knife. I didn’t want to get you scared so I decided to hide It.’’ said Samuel trying to keep calm. Sarah continued, ‘’Samuel, you are guilty. I can see that. Just please leave me alone.’’ She said as she wandered off back to her room crying.

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Next morning arrived quickly. Everyone was awake in the kitchen having breakfast. Sarah had made them bacon and eggs which was really delicious. Everyone was quiet especially Sarah and Samuel. ‘’Look, I’m sorry for last night. I was just scared for what I saw.’’ said Elizabeth breaking the silence. ‘’No, there’s nothing to be sorry about Eli. It’s not your fault. It was all a plan. I know it for sure.’’ replied Sarah with her eyes on Samuel. Samuel stared back with disappointment. He wanted to say something but he thought its best if he just keeps quiet to save problems. He took a deep breath and looked at Sarah. He had to make her understand somehow that he was not responsible for what ever happened last night. He hated the fact that she refused to talk with him.

Later that day, Elizabeth and Samuel were sitting on the balcony. Jason had called them and said he arrived. He also told them he was going to be late as he was stopping at a restaurant to order some food. Elizabeth looked at Samuel. He was stressed and she was deep in thoughts wandering why. ‘’What happened? It’s Sarah, right?’’ questioned Elizabeth who was dumbstruck due to the last few hours. Samuel looked at her and then placed his view back on where it was before: the sunset. He took a deep breath and gulped a sip of his hot chocolate. It was delicious. Sarah had made it for them and she only added extra marsh mellows to his drink. ‘’I wouldn’t want to bring up that incident but you the only person who can help me. I’m sorry but I happened to find the knife and blood. I didn’t want to tell you or anybody else because I didn’t want to scare you’ll but Sarah happened to see me with the weapons and she thinks I am the reason behind you being traumatized. Now she refuses to talk to Me.’’ said a distressed Samuel. Elizabeth never said a word. She just kept on sipping on her hot chocolate. What could she say? She was in a good mood and she really didn’t want to ruin by talking about last night but she’d do anything to help her friend. ‘’I’ll talk to her tonight. Don’t worry.’’ said Elizabeth keeping herself calm. Her hot chocolate was finished. She got off the wooden chair and walked back inside with her royal blue mug. She and Sarah happened to carry their own mugs. When Jason asked why, they said its all germs to use things strangers put their saliva on.

It wasn’t long before Jason arrived. Gabriel stayed in his room. After all what did he care? Sarah, Elizabeth and Samuel were absolutely excited. He walked through the door with a suit case and a small blue backpack. He was wearing a red check shirt and black ripped jeans. His hair was neatly combed. He looked different. Jason went over to give him a hug. ‘’Bro, it’s only been a few days. How are you so different?’’ questioned Samuel. Jason smiled showing his perfect white teeth. ‘’I moved on. The problem is that she is not here with me. When I told her to come along, she refused.’’ He said. They all giggled out loud. They allowed him to settle down a bit before they actually have some real fun. Sarah and Elizabeth went back to their own room while Samuel and Jason sat up in the balcony. They drank wine and spoke about what’s been happening for the past few days without each other. Samuel told Jason everything while back in the girls room, Elizabeth was trying to explain to Sarah that Samuel wasn’t behind the knife and blood. Sarah did not want to listen to her but eventually Elizabeth made her listen and for sure she listened well.

***CHAPTER EIGHT***

**‘’S**arah, do you realize how worried he is. Please just listen.’’ said Elizabeth with a serious tone. Sarah kept quiet and just stared at the floor. Elizabeth could see her eyes beginning to water. Elizabeth went and sat next to her on the bed. She put her hand around her and said, ‘’Relax but only after you forgive him. An apology will also do.’’ Sarah laughed and wiped her tears. ‘’Okay!’’ she exclaimed. So that night was going to end awesome.

Sarah went to Samuel’s room. Jason was not there. He was in the lounge on a call with his new girlfriend, Julie. Samuel was watching Netflix on his phone. She knocked on his door. Samuel lifted his head and put it back down when he saw Sarah. ‘’Come in.’’ he said. Sarah could already see him regretting. She walked inside the room with her head down. She stopped a few inches away from the bed which had clothes scattered all over and the blanket was thrown on the floor. ‘’I’m sorry. I’m sorry, okay. I misunderstood everything. Sorry.’’ She said. Samuel looked at her and threw his phone one side on the bed. Then he got off the bed and walked towards her. He lifted her head and looked her in the eye. She stared back in his blue eyes. Slowly he went close to her and hugged her. ‘’I love you so I can’t be angry.’’ He said and just outside his bedroom stood Gabriel Alfredo who secretively watched the lovebirds carefully. He frowned as he heard everything they said to each other. Just then, Gabriel felt a tap on his shoulder. Immediately he turned around to see Elizabeth standing there with a smirk on her face. ‘’Can I help?’’ she questioned. Gabriel rolled his eyes and began walking away. Before Elizabeth could leave sight of him, she shouted, ‘’be careful next time. Your eyes might not come back down.’’ She giggled. Something she’s really good at doing. After a while, Sarah walked out of the room feeling better than the way she entered. She went to the kitchen and found Elizabeth there. She was making a sandwich or maybe two. Elizabeth offered her one. Sarah was hungry so she accepted the offer. The sandwich was delicious. Elizabeth looked at her, waiting for good news. Sarah smiled. ‘’We officially a happy couple.’’ She said. Elizabeth could not hold her excitement. ‘’Oh my god!’’ shouted Elizabeth. Sarah shut her up and they spoke silently. Jason went in the room just before Sarah could come into the kitchen. After they stuffed their stomachs, they went back to their room. They were all tired as it was really late. Jason promised them that the next morning they will surely do something nice. The girls wanted to go to the beach which was only about two miles away if they drove around the forest. Did they know that the real drama and loss will begin as soon as they start exploring? Well they were going to find out any which way!

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They all work up early including Gabriel. Jason made them all breakfast and the special was French toast with ribs that were dashed in honey. It was indeed very delicious. Samuel had hired a car for them to explore in. In was not a very pleasing deal though as the car came without diesel and it costed Samuel a lot to pay for mechanics to come over. Yes, they needed mechanics as the car did not want to start. It did not take long to sort out those issues. They left as soon as it was done. Samuel drove the car. Sarah sat in the passenger seat next to Samuel. Elizabeth, Jason and Gabriel sat in the back seats which were really spacious. Sarah was on instagram. Gabriel had his headphones on listening to music. Jason was talking to his girlfriend on whatsapp. Everything was peaceful in the car. Unfortunately the peace did not last for long. As the drive was going on, Samuel drove on something which caused the tires to burst. Samuel made it to drive the car to the safe side of the road. They all sat in the car while Samuel got off to check the problem. Yep, the tires were burst. Now they were in a situation. Sarah and Jason got off the car. They looked at the tires. Samuel was pissed of and they could see that. Sarah put her hand on his back and said, ‘’Relax. We can walk to the beach. It’s not far from here if we cut through the forest.’’ He kept calm. He didn’t want to scream and disappoint Sarah. Samuel opened the trunk and pulled out their back packs. Gabriel and Elizabeth got off the car. They each took their bags from Samuel and when they were done getting their belongings, they started walking towards the forest and when they entered they missed the warning sign on the broken fence. ‘Please do not enter’ it said. Gabriel saw a glimpse of the bored but he decided to ignore it which was the worst decision he could ever make. They walked until they reached the core of the forest. Now they were lost. ‘’There must be some way we can get out of here.’’ said a panic-stricken Elizabeth. Samuel and the other boys looked around. ‘’Lets walk further.’’ said Gabriel. For the first time in this he is giving advice but was it worth obeying or listening to. Well they had to find out just in case there were any dangerous creatures in the forest. They let Gabriel take the lead. Elizabeth couldn’t believe that she trusted this foolish guy. As they walked, they came to a point where Gabriel stopped them and made them be quiet. ‘’Water. There is water running somewhere around here.” He said. Now he sounded like a guy who stayed in the forest for years. Now he sounded like a real man who made Elizabeth impressed including Sarah and the boys. Gabriel started walking again and they all followed. He walked in a different direction which pulled them closer to the sound of the running water. Finally they found the place where the running water noise came from. Their tired faces were immediately exchanged with smiles of satisfaction. They didn’t have to go to the beach when they had a damn beautiful waterfall just before their eyes. They threw their bags aside and jumped into the water one by one except for Gabriel. ‘’What are you waiting for. Come and join us!’’ shouted Samuel from the water. Gabriel put his camel mountain bag down and walked slowly down to the water. First he dipped his feet inside to feel the temperature. It was cold. Gabriel walked back up and sat on a huge dry rock with his back by his side. He pulled a book out of the bag. It had a stunning blue cover on it. He had already started reading it two days ago. He was on page hundred and fifteen. He read the book while Sarah, Elizabeth and the boys giggled at him silently in the water. Gabriel did not give a shit about those imbeciles. He read his book silently not worrying about anyone’s second opinion. While he read the book, the four teenagers were in the water having the time of their life. Sarah splashed water onto Samuels face while Elizabeth decided to pull off a prank on her friends. They were having a lot of fun until…

Elizabeth couldn’t breathe and it almost felt like she forgot how to swim. She splashed in the water harder and made gasping sounds. Suddenly she was pulled underneath the cold water and when the boys dived in to check, she was not there. They all grew worried and scared. ‘’Eli! Eli!’’ Jason screamed including Sarah and Samuel. Just then, Elizabeth pushed her head out of the water gasping for air. Her friends immediately swam close to her while Gabriel just sat and watched the drama going on. He simply thought it was way more interesting than his book. ‘’Eli, are you okay?’’ asked Sarah. Elizabeth wiped her face and took a deep breath and there, all of a sudden she burst into laughter, crying out her heart. Her friends swam a distance away from her. They were now aware that Elizabeth played a good prank on them. Samuel pushed his hair back. He was frustrated. ‘’Elizabeth. Do you realize how worried we were? That’s not funny you know.’’ Sarah began to laugh with Elizabeth. Then she swam by her and gave her a high five. They laughed so hard that actual tears rolled down their eyes. ‘’Elizabeth, we know each other for ages. Did you forget you also played that prank on me about eight years ago.’’ said Sarah trying not to laugh. Gabriel went back to reading his book. Drama over or was it? Samuel and Jason were angry as hell. They found nothing funny in Elizabeth’s prank. They got out of the water and picked up their backpacks. They both through the backpack over their shoulders and began walking away dripping with water. Sarah and Elizabeth were both left alone in the water. ‘’How are they going to get out of the forest soaking wet like that?’’ questioned Sarah. Elizabeth giggled again. She answered Sarah’s question, ‘’Relax. Their anger will dry up their clothes. They are men after all.’’ That answer just triggered Sarah to laugh again. Gabriel closed his book and grabbed his backpack. The girls watched him carefully. He got irritated with them so he was also going. The forest was huge so there must have been other things they could do. Sarah and Elizabeth got out of the water and quickly changed their clothes. When they were done they ran into the forest in search of their friends. As they were walking and shouting for their friends, Elizabeth happened to trip on a huge tree trunk. She fell on her knees. Sarah ran back to her friend. She helped her up. Her knees were bruised and she was in pain. ‘’We have to find them as soon as possible. I’m not okay without them.’’ said Sarah. Elizabeth laughed through the amount of pain she was in. ‘’Relax. I know you just missing Samuel. We will find them and nothing will happen to us. So just relax my friend.’’ She said. Sarah could see the pain she was in. She held Elizabeth’s ankle and felt the bone. She had a sprain. Sarah though she had a sprain. Well she had to find out. She helped Elizabeth up and made her stand and walk on her own. Unfortunately she couldn’t walk using both feet as her left ankle was really sprained. Sarah happened to know a lot as she used to visit the hospital often with her mother. Her mom would teach her all the medical things which Sarah loved learning about. It was her dream to become a doctor but after her father’s death, she didn’t really worry much about her dreams and responsibilities. All she was now was a reckless teenager with a gang. At least she had mental and physical support. That was something that her mother never gives her.

‘’Samuel will surely come back for me once he realizes that he left his girlfriend and best friend alone in the forest.’’ said Sarah with a lot of confidence. Elizabeth just giggled over her pain which did seem to be getting worse. Sarah put Elizabeth’s hand around her neck so she can help her with balance and walking. So the two of them walked and walked until finally Elizabeth was out of breath. She couldn’t walk anymore so they decided to give it a break but for only a while. Sarah was disappointed. She was waiting for Samuel to come running back to her but it now seemed like he was really very angry or maybe something in the forest happened to be hungry and eat the three men. Sarah giggled at her thought while Elizabeth looked at her as if she was crazy. She took a bottle of water out of her bag and drank. She indeed drank a lot. She was thirsty. When she was done, the bottle was empty. She threw the bottle aside and rested down. Right now she didn’t care about the dirt. She was tired and if she put her down on the pillow then she would fall asleep immediately. Elizabeth took off her bag and pulled out her phone from inside. There was a cheese sandwich inside. She pulled that out and threw it on Sarah’s lap. Sarah was too lazy to pick her head up so instead she picked up the sandwich and put it in front of her face to see what it is. She was not hungry but still she opened the plastic sealed bag and pulled out the sandwich half way. Sarah took a bite of it and pushed it back in the bag. It was tasty but Sarah couldn’t eat anymore with the stress she was going through. She looked in her bag for her phone. ‘’Shit! I forgot my phone at the resort. Do you have yours?’’ said Sarah. Elizabeth shook her head saying ’no’. She had forgotten it at home back in Scotland. Just then Elizabeth remembered. When they got off the car, Jason gave her his phone. She shuffled through her bag and found the phone. Immediately she passed it to Sarah. Sarah dialed Samuel’s number but sadly there was no signal. ‘’Okay, so the facts are simple. We are going to die in the forest. There is nothing to stress about.’’ said Sarah. This time Elizabeth did not laugh but she still had positive vibes. ‘’Look. You just being dramatic because you dear boyfriend did not come back to you.’’ She said. Sarah took Elizabeth’s water and drank a small sip. She closed the bottle and tried to relax her mind. Just when she gave up, a from behind a tree was heard. The person said, ‘’I’m here.’’ Immediately Sarah and Elizabeth’s face was covered with a smile. It was Samuel. Sarah got up and turned around to see Samuel revealing himself from behind a tree. Gabriel and Jason came behind him. They were all grinning. Sarah ran to Samuel and gave him a big hug. Samuel hugged her back. Then Elizabeth slowly got up and walked towards them but the pain in her left foot was unbearable. ‘’Ouch!’’ she shouted. Sarah and the boys dropped their eyes on her and ran towards her. ‘’What happened?’’ questioned Jason. ‘’Actually, when we were walking to find our way to you’ll, Elizabeth tripped and sprained her ankle but now it seems more than that happened.’’ said Sarah. Jason did not wait for anybody else to say anything. He went close to Elizabeth and carried her in his massive arms. ‘’Now, what are we waiting for. Let’s go.’’ They all smiled except Gabriel who was always serious no matter what the situation was. They began the journey to leave the Amazon Forest.

***CHAPTER NINE***

**T**he four teenagers and Gabriel walked and walked until they actually realized the fact that they lost their way out of the forest. Eventually they stopped. It began to get dark and they started worrying. Luckily they all carried survival kits in their back packs. The kit contained a torch, lighters, fireworks, a shotgun and a tiny first aid kit that only catered for one person. They each also carried extra water bottles. ‘’Guys, now we need to stick together what so ever. Anything can happen to us now.’’ said Samuel. Jason was not carrying Elizabeth anymore but he was sticking to her side and he did help her keep her balance. Sarah started to get really scared and Samuel could see that. He went by her and put his arm around her and said, ‘’Hey, relax. We are going to be fine. Okay?’’ She looked at him and pushed his arm off and said, ‘’Are you telling me to relax!? This is your entire fault. If you hadn’t left Elizabeth and I then we would have had the time to get out of this forest. You caused this. Can you see the mess we in. It is because of you and only you.’’ She kept shouting and eventually she began to cry. Samuel tried to calm her down but she refused to listen to him. ‘’She is right Samuel. You shouldn’t have played that prank on them by leaving them to find us all alone. What is something happened. By the way, something already happened. Who knows whether we will make it out alive?’’ Jason took Sarah’s side. Samuel stood up. ‘’You walked with me and now you saying this is my bloody fault. Why did you follow me if you knew is will happen to us? Huh? Answer me if you think I’m at fault. Answer since you know everything!’’ shouted Samuel. His anger was not justified but he did not realize that yet. Samuel went close to Jason shouting and yelling every insulting sentence that came to his head. He pushed Jason so hard that Jason fell on the ground. Now a fight was about to happen. They could all see that and it didn’t look like anyone was interested to avoid it. Jason picked himself up and threw a punch at his best friend, his buddy for twelve years long. Everything was ruined in just a moment of a stupid mistake. The two boys started fighting. They were beating each other up black and blue. Eventually Jason landed on top of Samuel. He punched him on his face which made his nose bleed and that’s when Sarah, Elizabeth and Gabriel came in between to bring their fight to an end. Sarah and Elizabeth held onto Samuel while Gabriel had a firm grip of Jason. Both the boys still wanted to beat each other up but their friends held them tightly so they don’t fight. Eventually their friends let them go. They did not fight instead they just gave each other a side eye. ‘’I don’t want to work my way out of this forest with that moron following me. I’m going my own way. Sarah if you want to come with me, then you can. I’m not forcing you.’’ said Samuel before he started walking away. ‘’Let’s go Eli. Come on. We can go with Samuel.’’ Sarah said. Elizabeth did not look very happy. None of them looked happy. ‘’Why would I want to go with him. He got us into this mess. I’m going with Jason. We already in a mess and I don’t want to get into a bigger mess. Jason lets go.’’ She said. So Jason and Elizabeth began walking away. Sarah ran to Samuel. They all went into their own direction. Only Gabriel stood there, silent. He took a deep breath. Who would he want to follow or maybe go with? He looked at the direction Samuel took and the direction Jason took. He decided to go with Samuel and Sarah and he was just in time to catch up with him. Now the two groups were far apart from each other which hurtful if you happen to think about it. It didn’t really affect Gabriel but the four teenagers; it affected them A LOT as they were really best friends for twelve long years. Everything was over for them but who knows, they might want to fix things when they realize things were really going to be havoc in their life.

***CHAPTER TEN***

**T**hey all continued their journey in the cold. They were all out of food and so as they walked through the Amazon Forest, they collected fruit and berries for the long journey. In Samuels group, had Gabriel who knew about the poisonous fruits and berries but in Jason’s group, they had nobody so that meant they could have died easily.

Sarah, Gabriel and Samuel just walked. They had no idea where they were going but they just walked without stopping. It was now really dark. It was a long day for everyone. ‘’Samuel, do you know where we are or where you leading us to?’’ asked a very frightened Sarah. He looked at her and replied, ‘’I don’t know. Sarah, I seriously don’t know. I’m just walking and I bet Jason and Elizabeth is doing the same thing. They will come finding us just now. Just watch.’’ He was exhausted but full of confidence for some reason. Sarah ran up close to him and pulled his hand. His torch fell aside. ‘’Are you serious? We are definitely going to die because of you. You ruined everything for us. Do you get that?’’ Sarah shouted over Samuel’s voice. Gabriel just kept quiet and watched the dramatic scene going on. Sarah began to weep. She sat down on the soil and put her hands. Samuel couldn’t keep his anger to himself after everything she said. ‘’Why the hell did you follow me if I got you’ll into this shit. Is it my fault now? Is it always my fault?’’ shouted Samuel. He was so close to saying something awful to her but Sarah spoke again. ‘’Fine. Consider me a burden, okay? I will go my own way without you. I didn’t need this drama in my life and now I don’t need you either. So go and do whatever suits you best. I hate the fact that I fell for you, Idiot!’’ she shouted. Samuel gave her a befitting reply. ‘’Fine then. You can go your own way and I won’t care a single bit and I promise you, this time I will not come back in search of you!’’ and that was the end of Sarah and Samuel’s love story because faith had other things on their side.

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Sarah had no idea what it was. It just came and attacked her. If she had a good look at that creature then she would see a grey creature that had a shape as a human body with a long tail and when it opened its mouth to attack then the creature would reveal enormous yellow teeth and a tongue that was as long as a women’s strand of hair. The black poisonous tongue would often be stretched out to attack its prey. The creature was slim and tall with claws sharper than a blade. One look at that creature would make a human faint. Its eye balls were white with two red pupils. The villages named the creature the ‘BUSH NIGHT WANDER’.

Sarah almost screamed her life out. She walked backwards as the creature walked towards her with its mouth open, tongue hanging out and whitish-yellowish saliva dripping. It looked disgusting but its appearance was scary. It was worse than a nightmare. Sarah’s scream echoed across the great Amazon Forest. She cried so hard that her eyes began to burn. Samuel and Gabriel stopped in their tracks after hearing her scream and immediately both the boys ran in search for Sarah. Jason and Elizabeth also heard Sarah scream and they also ran. ‘’Sarah!’’ they all shouted. Back at the center of the forest, Sarah her friends screaming for her and each moment the shouting’s became louder and louder which obviously meant that they were getting closer. It wasn’t long before her friends reached the center of the forest. Jason, Elizabeth, Samuel and Gabriel stood there before each other. They were all gasping for air. They found nothing except Sarah’s bag which was pathetically messed with blood. The pink bag was stained. The blood was not only on the pink bag but also on the plants and soil around the bag. Samuel fell to his knees after seeing that. Elizabeth ran over to him and sat beside him. Her eyes were drenched with tears. Her best friend was death. ‘’Whatever this thing was, definitely it wasn’t an animal or human. It was something else.’’ Said Gabriel. They all looked at him except Samuel who was heartbroken. He punched the soil and said, ‘’It is my entire fault. I caused this mess for everyone. Sarah is gone because of me and only me.’’ Gabriel went and stood by his younger cousin Jason. He put his bag on the ground and kneeled down. Then he unzipped his back pack and pulled out the book he was reading earlier. It was called ‘’Secrets of the most haunted forest ever’’. He opened to page number fifty two and passed the book to Jason. ‘’What is this now Gabriel?’’ Jason said. Gabriel looked at him and said, ‘’Read it.’’ Jason hesitated and he looked at the book. Slowly he read it with his face expression changing really quickly. He looked at Gabriel dumbfounded. Immediately Gabriel pulled the book away and shut it closed. ‘’That creature who was said to be a legend was here today and it murdered Sarah.’’ He said. Just then it began to rain heavily. They were all quiet. Quiet enough to hear someone or something rattling in the trees and bushes behind them. The rattling was louder than the sound of the heavy rain dropping hard and hitting the earth. Elizabeth picked herself up and said, ‘’Guys, am I the only one here that hears that?’’ Samuel picked his head up. They all could hear that. Jason went and picked Samuel up. ‘’We need to work together and forget about blaming each other if you want us to live.’’ He said. Samuel looked at him and smiled. He shook his hand and just then the creature popped out of the bush revealing itself to them. Elizabeth screamed, ‘’Run!’’. Including Jason and they all ran for their life while the hardcore killer creature chased after them. They all ran as fast as they could but unfortunately Elizabeth could not pick up her pace due to the injured leg. Samuel stopped to help her but that was a decision he started to regret.

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The Bush Night wander got a hold of Jason. He could not put his best friend’s life in danger so he tried to persuade her to run away. ‘’ Run Elizabeth. Just run for Sarah’s sake. Please.’’ He pleaded. Elizabeth just ran as the bush night wander stretched out its tongue to strangle Samuel. Its claws dug into Samuel’s stomach and poked into its guts which made him cough blood. He reached for a stone and hit it on the bush night wander claws which broke off one of them. It cried in pain while Samuel tried to take advantage of the moment and run off. Obviously he couldn’t run far knowing the fact that any which way he was going to definitely die. He stopped at a huge tree, breathing hard in and out. His pain was unbearable. Before he could even think about running of again the bush night wander caught him. It shoved his claws into Samuel’s spine. Samuel held his stomach where the blood was gushing out. The creature bit into Samuel’s neck cutting his jugular vain and that was the end of Samuel James. The heavy rain washed his blood away from the soil and his belongings lay drenched.

Elizabeth, Jason and Gabriel were still running. Sadly Elizabeth was still behind them all. The pain on her leg got worse with the pressure she was putting on it. She had to pick up her pace in order to save her life hence she closed her eyes and ran harder and faster. She opened her eyes slightly to see where she was going. She passed Gabriel and was catching up to Jason who was slowly tiring out. Eventually Jason slowed down. His cousin and Elizabeth ran in front of him and they did run fast in deed. Jason had asthma and running so fast triggered an attack but luckily he had his pump in his pocket which he pulled out and put in his mouth but unfortunately the pump was empty. He tried it again but there was no luck at all. Jason fell to the ground. He had no energy to get up and start running again. It was unfortunate as Gabriel and Elizabeth didn’t notice he was not running. They didn’t notice that Jason was not with them anymore. The rain stopped. Gabriel and Elizabeth were close to the exit of the forest. Above them they could see a helicopter flying with their lights flashing over the forest. Gabriel and Elizabeth began screaming and waving their hands in the air and the helicopters light landed on them. ‘’There they are. I can only see two.’’ shouted a man from the helicopter. They sent a rope ladder down for them to climb but the creature caught up with the two lost innocent people. The creature bit into Gabriel’s hand. It tried its pity best to kill him but Gabriel was too strong. Elizabeth started to freak out until she saw a man wearing full black with a pistol in his hand, climbing down the rope. He fired his pistol at the creature killing him and immediately Elizabeth and Gabriel climbed up the rope ladder with help from the guy in black. Now they were all safe. Those guys who were driving the helicopter were alerted by the villagers that their visitors were missing and they found their vehicle just outside the forest. That’s how they knew that rescuing needs to be done. ‘’You people are the luckiest people ever that you’ll exited this forest alive as you’ll are the first. Many people entered this forest but nobody survived except you two.’’ said one of the guys.

**EPILOGUE**

**TWENTY-SOMETHING YEARS LATER**

Things were going really phenomenal for Elizabeth as she just received a bonus in her salary and a job as a surgeon. After Sarah’s death, she decided to complete all of Sarah’s dreams for her. Gabriel had organized a surprise party with help from Elizabeth’s mother.

If you still wandering about the Amazon forest tragic summer vacation, then I’d tell you. Gabriel changed a hell a lot after that vacation and he and Elizabeth took oath that they would never tell anybody about that vacation including their own parents and children.

Anyways at the party Elizabeth was with her mother drinking wine. Gabriel eventually came and joined them. “Where did my kids go for vacation?’’ asked Gabriel. Yes, Elizabeth’s mother was a nanny so Gabriel paid her often to look after his kids when he goes on business trips and don’t worry. He had a good reason for that as his wife past on a few years after she gave birth. “Oh, those teenage explorers went with Elizabeth’s dad to some forest in South America. I forgot what it’s called though.’’ said Elizabeth’s mother. Gabriel smiled but then his smiled got wiped away from his face. Elizabeth and Gabriel glared at each other. Elizabeth questioned her mother, “Was it called the Amazon Forest.” “Well yes. Why do you ask?” her mother replied. Elizabeth and Gabriel immediately looked at each other with shock and fear. “Oh no!” they both shouted and that’s how the story repeats itself with a different and more stubborn generation! …☺♏

***ACKNOWLEDGMENTS***

**THANKYOU TO MY READERS AS YOU NOW MEAN THE WORLD TO ME ☺**

***#MUNAWWARAH DAWOOD***

***ABOUT THE AUTHOR:***

***Munawwarah Dawood***

***BIRTH: 28/01/2010***

***DEPUT AUTHOR***

***SCHOOL GOING; GRADE: 9 AT APOLLO SECONDARY HIGH SCHOOL***

***RESIDES IN HER HOME TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, DURBAN WITH HER FAMILY.***

***MOTTO: Darkness always comes with a bit of light that helps exit the fear inside you!***

***FOLLOW ON: Facebook: Munawwarah Dawood***

**FOR ALL MY LOVED ONES AND INSPIRATIONS ESPECIALL PRANELLE NAIDOO, XAVIERA CHARNE ALEXANDREA BEMIAH**