***Mission 101***

***(Lost in Space)***

A Heartfelt Thank You for Reading My Story

Hey, I just wanted to say a huge thank you for reading my Story! Honestly, I can’t even explain how much it means to me that you took the time to read something I created. I know it’s easy to get distracted by a million other things, so the fact that you gave my Story a shot really makes me appreciate it even more.

Writing this Story wasn’t exactly a walk in the park, but knowing that someone like you spent time with it makes it all feel worth it. I really hope it connected with you in some way—whether it made you think, laugh, or just enjoy the story for what it is.

There are so many other things you could’ve been doing, so I’m seriously grateful that you chose to spend a little bit of your time on my work. I hope it was worth it and that you got something out of it.

Thanks again for supporting me by reading my Story. It honestly gives me the motivation to keep writing and creating. You’re awesome for being part of this journey with me!

**About my book**

Hey,  
Welcome to the world of this story. What you’re about to read is more than just words on a page—it's a journey, one filled with twists, unexpected turns, and characters that might just surprise you. Whether you're looking for adventure, mystery, or something deeper, this book has something to offer.

The world I’ve created isn’t perfect, and the characters are far from it, but that’s what makes it real. You’ll see them struggle, grow, and maybe even make some mistakes along the way. That’s the beauty of this story—it’s not about being flawless, it’s about discovering who you really are when everything gets turned upside down.

So, sit back, relax, and get ready to dive into something you won’t forget. The journey is about to begin, and I’m curious to see where it takes you.

**Part-1**

Chapter-1

Chapter- 2

Chapter- 3

Chapter- 4

Chapter- 5

Chapter- 6

Chapter- 7

Chapter- 8

Chapter- 9

Chapter- 10

Chapter- 11

Chapter- 12



***Mission 101***

***(Lost in Space)***

***By***

***Sachin Pathak***

Chapter-1

**<h1>Chapter 1: The Beginning</h1>**.

Luv walked into the building, his clothes tattered and his face covered in dirt from running around all day. His heart raced as he approached the receptionist's desk, the paper in his hand shaking slightly. He placed it down in front of her, his voice shaky but determined.

**"I... I’m here for the mission 101."**

The receptionist looked up, her eyes scanning him from head to toe. For a moment, there was silence. She stared at him—his worn-out appearance, the desperation in his eyes—and then something shifted.

Without a word, she stood up and rushed to the door of the main office.

**"Sir, there’s someone here interested in mission 101!"** she shouted, opening the door wide. Inside the main office, the boss—Mr. Bikram—was startled when he heard about Luv's interest in mission 101. His face showed a mix of surprise and curiosity. He quickly looked at the receptionist and gestured for her to bring Luv in.

**"Send him here right away,"** Mr. Bikram ordered.

The receptionist hurried back to the hallway and signaled for Luv to enter.

As Luv stepped into the room, he was met by Mr. Bikram, who was sitting at a large desk, papers scattered across it. Mr. Bikram’s expression shifted from shock to calm curiosity. He leaned back in his chair and looked Luv up and down.

**"I see you're interested in mission 101,"** Mr. Bikram said with a smile, his tone surprisingly warm. **"But tell me, why do you want this? What’s your reason?"**

Luv hesitated for a moment, then straightened his back. His voice was steady, but there was an edge of urgency in it.

**"Do you know what mission 101 involves, sir?"**

Mr. Bikram raised an eyebrow at Luv’s question, clearly intrigued by his response. As Luv stood there, nervously awaiting Mr. Bikram’s response, the door to the office opened. Another man walked in—a close friend of Mr. Bikram, a scientist from the space agency. He looked at Luv and exchanged a quick glance with Mr. Bikram.

**"Who’s this?"** the scientist asked, eyeing Luv skeptically.

Mr. Bikram explained the situation, and the scientist looked Luv up and down, clearly unsure about the young man before them.

Luv, sensing the doubt in their eyes, didn’t wait for them to speak. He stepped forward and spoke with raw emotion.

**"I want the money... to save my mom. She’s dying, and I don’t have the resources to help her. This mission… it’s the only way. I’ll do whatever it takes. Please."**

The room fell silent. The scientist and Mr. Bikram exchanged another look, their expressions hard to read.

Finally, Mr. Bikram sighed and looked at Luv with a serious tone.

**"You have no idea what mission 101 entails, do you?"**

Luv shook his head. **"I don’t care what it is. I just need to save my mother."**

The scientist finally spoke, his voice low and cautious.

**"The mission involves destroying an asteroid on a collision course with Earth. It’s a mission of extreme danger—one that few would even consider."**

Luv’s eyes widened, but he didn’t falter.

**"I don’t care how dangerous it is. I just want to save my mother. Please, give me the chance."**

The scientist and Mr. Bikram exchanged a long, knowing glance.

Finally, Mr. Bikram nodded, his voice stern but understanding.

**"You’re willing to risk your life to save her? Then we’ll prepare you. But understand this: there’s no turning back. You may never return.". "Okay, then. Meet your teammates," Mr. Bikram said, his tone firm.**

**Luv’s eyes widened in shock. "Teammates?" he repeated, unable to hide his confusion.**

**"What did you think?" Bikram replied, raising an eyebrow. "That you’ll be going into space alone? This mission is no small feat. You’ll need to work with others. It’s not easy."**

**Luv stood there, momentarily stunned. He had been so focused on the idea of saving his mother that he hadn’t considered the fact that others would be involved. "But... I thought..." he trailed off, unsure how to respond.**

**"No. You’re not doing this alone," Bikram interrupted. "Now, go and get ready. There’s much to practice for, and time is running out. We’ll inform you about the details soon, but for now, focus on preparing yourself for the mission."**

**Luv nodded, still in disbelief at what was happening. He was about to embark on the most dangerous journey of his life, and now he had to face it alongside a team of strangers.**

**As he turned to leave, his heart pounded with both excitement and fear. His goal was clear, but the road ahead was more uncertain than ever.**

Luv took a deep breath and stepped forward, his hands trembling. He looked at Mr. Bikram and the scientist, his eyes filled with desperation.

**"Please,"** Luv pleaded, his voice shaking. **"I don’t want one crore. Just give me five million. I’ll work for it. I’ll risk my life. I promise I won’t run. My mom is fighting for her life right now. I need this money to save her. I swear, I’ll do whatever it takes."**

The room went quiet. The scientist exchanged a glance with Bikram, who had a faint smirk on his face. They both burst into laughter, as though Luv’s words were a joke.

**"You’re asking for money, but you don’t even understand the mission,"** Bikram said, his tone condescending. **"You think this is a game? You want to risk your life for five million? You’re just greedy."**

Luv’s face flushed with embarrassment, but he didn’t back down.

**"I’m not greedy,"** Luv said, his voice now firm and clear. **"I’m just trying to save my mother. This money... it’s the only way. Please, just give me a chance. I won’t run. I’ll do whatever it takes to finish this mission."**

The laughter stopped. The room fell silent once more. Luv’s words seemed to have reached them in a way nothing else had.

Finally, Bikram nodded slowly, his expression serious.

**"You have guts, kid. But understand this—the mission isn’t just about money. You’re putting your life on the line. If you’re willing to risk it, we’ll give you the five million. But it’s not guaranteed."**

Luv nodded, his heart pounding.

**"I’m ready,"** he said. **"I’ll do whatever it takes." Luv’s hands shook as he took the pen from Mr. Bikram’s desk. His heart raced, knowing that signing this agreement meant he was committing to something far beyond what he had ever imagined.**

**He signed the document, his signature barely legible as his emotions took over.**

**Mr. Bikram looked at him, nodding approvingly. "You’ve made your choice. Now, you’re part of this mission."**

**Just as Luv was about to turn away, Mr. Bikram spoke again, his voice softer this time.**

**"Don’t worry about your mother’s medical fees. The Nepal Space Organization will cover her treatment until she’s well. You focus on the mission."**

**Luv’s breath caught in his throat. His knees wobbled, and before he could control himself, tears streamed down his face.**

**He dropped to his knees and touched Bikram’s feet in gratitude, his hands trembling. "Thank you. Thank you so much!" Bikram, though slightly taken aback, controlled him gently. "Get up, Luv. You don’t need to do that. Just go to the meeting hall now. It’s time to prepare for the mission. "Luv wiped his tears, nodding quickly, and stood up. He felt a heavy weight lift from his shoulders, knowing his mother would be taken care of. But the journey ahead still loomed large, and he had no time to waste. He took one last look at Mr. Bikram, his heart filled with gratitude and resolve, and then turned to head toward the meeting hall, ready forwhatever came next.**

Chapter-2

Luv stepped into the meeting hall, his heart still pounding from the whirlwind of emotions. The moment he entered, an officer stood up and called the room to attention.

**"Everyone, this is Luv,"** the officer said, motioning toward him. **"He will be joining the mission. Let’s make him feel welcome."**

The room was filled with several faces, all looking at Luv with varying expressions.

The officer then went on to introduce Luv to his teammates.

**"Luv, these are your team members: Shreya, Shrinu, Aayushma, Jack, and Sameer. They’re all Nepali Gorkha commandos, highly trained for special operations. You’re in good hands."**

Luv nodded nervously, trying to absorb everything.

Shreya, a young woman with a confident smile, stood up and waved. **"Hi, Luv. Welcome to the team."** Her friendly demeanor immediately put him at ease.

The others greeted him as well. Aayushma gave him a short nod, Jack offered a handshake, and Sameer gave him an encouraging smile.

But as Luv looked around, he noticed one person who wasn’t engaging with him. Shrinu, sitting in the far corner of the room, had his head buried in a book. His posture was stiff, and his focus was entirely on the pages.

Luv felt a wave of awkwardness wash over him. He glanced at Shrinu again, but the man didn’t even look up.

It was as if Luv had been completely ignored. He couldn’t shake the feeling that something about Shrinu was different. Everyone else had been polite, warm, even welcoming. But Shrinu seemed distant, cold.

Luv tried not to let it bother him, but the unease lingered. He shifted his focus back to the rest of the team, hoping the tension wouldn’t stay with him for long. The officer’s tone grew serious as he addressed the team, his face hardening with the weight of the mission.

**"Forget about personal matters for now,"** the officer said, his voice firm. **"We need to focus on the mission."**

He gestured to the large screen in the front of the room, where a picture of a massive asteroid appeared. The asteroid was enormous, its jagged surface threatening and cold against the backdrop of space.

**"This,"** the officer continued, **"is the asteroid you will be targeting. It’s heading straight for Earth. You’ll need to destroy it using a missile. But make no mistake, this mission isn’t easy. You will be in space for 101 days."**

Luv’s stomach tightened at the thought. The time frame alone was daunting, but the implications were even worse.

**"If you don’t return to Earth after those 101 days,"** the officer added grimly, **"you can only pray that the missile destroys the asteroid. If it doesn’t... the Earth will be in danger. And make no mistake, other developed countries are also involved in this mission. But we need to do our part. We need to make our country proud."**

Luv’s mind raced. The mission felt heavier now—more real, more dangerous. He could sense the same tension in the room. The fate of Earth rested on them.

**"You will have unlimited food and water supplies,"** the officer added. **"But your lives... that’s something only you can control. The success of this mission depends on you working together as a team."**

The room fell silent. Luv felt the weight of the words sink in, the full scope of what they were about to do hitting him like a ton of bricks. He looked around the room at his new teammates, wondering if they were as ready as he was—or if anyone could truly be ready for this. Luv raised his hand, his curiosity overcoming the nerves in his chest. **"Officer,"** he asked, **"Why are all of them soldiers, but I’m the only one who's a civilian?"**

The officer paused for a moment; his gaze steady as he looked at Luv. There was a shift in his expression, as if weighing the right words to say. He cleared his throat before responding.

**"Luv,"** the officer began, his voice surprisingly kind. **"In this mission, it’s not just about training or rank. It’s about heart, determination, and the willingness to sacrifice for something greater. You, as a civilian, have shown a strength of spirit that others might not have. The fact that you’re here, choosing to risk your life for a cause beyond yourself... that’s something we need on this mission."**

The officer leaned forward slightly. **"These soldiers have been trained for combat and defense, but you bring something they might lack—passion and a personal drive that cannot be taught. We believe that’s just as valuable, if not more. Your willingness to fight for your mother, to risk everything... that is the kind of resolve we need in space. You might be a civilian, but that’s what makes you unique. And that’s why you’re here."**

Luv was taken aback by the officer’s words. A weight seemed to lift from his chest, and for the first time, he felt that maybe, just maybe, he truly belonged here. Seems they were hiding something.

Chapter-3

The sound of the time clock alarm echoed through the training facility, signaling that it was time for another round of intense exercises. The officer looked at the team with determination in his eyes.

**"Be ready at all times,"** he commanded. **"Push yourselves beyond your limits. This mission is unlike anything you’ve faced. You’re training for the survival of Earth. Every minute counts."**

For the next month, the team went through grueling physical training—endless runs, weight lifting, combat drills, and simulations. The soldiers, with their years of experience, moved through it with the skill and precision of well-trained commandos. Each of them exceeded expectations, pushing through their fatigue without hesitation.

But Luv... Luv struggled. His body, unaccustomed to such intense physical demands, felt as if it was breaking down with each passing day. He could barely keep up with the others during the runs. His legs burned with exhaustion, and his lungs gasped for air.

There were moments when he felt like he couldn’t go on, when the weight of the challenge seemed unbearable. But Luv was determined. He refused to quit. He kept pushing forward, not for himself, but for the chance to save his mother.

Even though he couldn’t match the soldiers in speed or strength, Luv’s persistence began to show. Each day, he ran farther, lifted heavier, and fought harder. He never stopped, never took a break when the others rested. He trained as if his life depended on it—and in a way, it did.

By the end of the month, something had changed. The team looked at Luv in a different light. He was no longer just the civilian among them; he had earned their respect. His hard work, determination, and unwavering spirit had transformed him.

The officer watched Luv closely. After the final drill of the day, he pulled him aside.

**"Luv,"** the officer said with a nod of approval. **"You’ve done something that many others would never have the courage to do. You’ve pushed yourself beyond what anyone thought possible. You may not have the training of a commander, but you have the heart of one."**

Luv, though exhausted, felt a sense of pride swell inside him. He had worked harder than he ever thought he could, and it had paid off. He was now standing on equal ground with the best.

The officer smiled and patted him on the shoulder. **"You’re ready, Luv. You’ve earned your place in this mission. Welcome to the team." The officer’s voice echoed through the training room as he gathered the team together. "For the rest of your mission preparation, you’ll need to understand everything about the space shuttle, the spaceship, and the space station," he said. "Welcome to the mission, everyone."**

**As the officer spoke, the door to the room opened, and a tall man with sharp eyes and a calm demeanor walked in. The officer motioned toward him. "This is Captain Mr. Prem. He has an incredibly intelligent mind, is multitalented, sincere, and will guide you through the complexities of space."**

**Mr. Prem stepped forward, his presence commanding yet approachable. He gave a slight nod and addressed the group.**

**"Good to meet all of you," he began, his voice steady. "I’ll be explaining what you need to know to survive in space, and the vital steps that could make the difference between life and death."**

**Luv watched as Mr. Prem moved to the screen, pulling up detailed diagrams of the space shuttle and spaceship. "This is the space shuttle," he explained. "It’s designed for long-duration travel, equipped with the necessary modules for communication, life support, and weaponry. This is where you’ll spend most of your time during the mission."**

**Mr. Prem then switched to another image—the space station. "And here’s the space station, where you’ll be docking for resupply and to adjust your trajectory. It’s where you’ll rest and carry out vital scientific experiments."**

**He paused, letting the information sink in before moving on.**

**"Survival in space isn’t just about technology. It’s about how you manage the human body in a place where gravity no longer works the way it does on Earth."**

**The room fell silent as Mr. Prem continued, focusing on a list of survival techniques. "Hand signals are essential for communication. In space, there’s no room for noise. These signals will help you communicate when you can’t speak aloud—whether it’s during a critical moment or to keep things clear while working."**

**He raised his hand, demonstrating a few basic signals: a fist for stop, two fingers for attention, and a palm for caution. The team watched closely, memorizing every move.**

**Luv’s mind was racing with all the new information, but it didn’t end there.**

**Mr. Prem turned back to the team with a slightly amused expression. "And another thing: you cannot throw carbohydrates in space. Once they’re outside of gravity, they’ll turn into a mush that can have side effects—like nausea and vomiting. So, no throwing food around, alright?" He smiled slightly, as if to lighten the mood.**

**Luv, still trying to absorb everything, couldn’t help but chuckle quietly. Space was proving to be more complex than he could have ever imagined. But the weight of the mission was clear—it wasn’t just about survival, but about precision, discipline, and the ability to think on your feet. Mr. Prem finished his explanation, the weight of the knowledge settling heavily on everyone in the room. He looked around at the team, his gaze unwavering.**

**"Now, I want all of you to leave this room and prepare yourselves," he said, his tone firm. "The real training begins tomorrow. You’ll need to be physically and mentally sharp. Rest up, because there’s no time to waste. This mission is about to become real, and we need every one of you to be ready."**

**The team nodded, each of them understanding the gravity of his words. They slowly began to gather their things, preparing to leave the room and head to their quarters. But Luv lingered for a moment, his mind racing with everything he had learned.**

**Mr. Prem caught his eye and gave a slight nod. "You’ve done well so far, Luv. Keep your focus, and we’ll get through this."**

**Luv gave him a quick smile, his nerves replaced by determination. He was ready. He had no choice but to be.**

**As the team filed out of the room, Luv felt a sense of camaraderie beginning to form. He wasn’t just a civilian anymore—he was part of something far bigger than himself. He was part of a team that was going to save Earth.**

**With one last glance at the space shuttle and the training diagrams, he followed the others out of the room, ready to begin the next chapter of their preparation. The mission ahead was waiting, and there was no turning back now.**

Chapter-4

From the window of the observation room, Bikram and Shrinu stood silently, watching Luv through the glass. Luv was seated in a small corner of the facility, speaking softly to his mother on the phone. His face showed a mix of concern and determination, but there was also a tenderness in the way he spoke, as if every word was a promise to her.

Bikram broke the silence, turning to Shrinu. **"We kept him because you told us to. But tell me,”He** said, his voice curious, **"What did you see in him that made you want to work with him?"**

Shrinu, still watching Luv, responded in his usual deep voice, his words carrying a sense of conviction. **"He has something positive—something raw, something real. He’s sacrificing his life for his mother. You can see it in the way he talks, in the way he pushes himself."**

He paused for a moment, his eyes narrowing as he turned to Bikram. **"He wants money, yes. But that’s not all. He’s driven by something bigger than himself. And that’s why I chose him."**

Bikram listened carefully, studying Shrinu’s words. He could sense the weight behind them, but there was something else in Shrinu’s tone that caught his attention. It wasn’t just about Luv’s personal story—it was about the bigger picture. Shrinu was choosing him not just for his heart, but for the team.

**"I need six members for the mission,"** Shrinu added, his voice now quieter, almost to himself. **"And I believe Luv can be the key to completing it."**

Without another word, Shrinu turned and walked out of the cabin, leaving Bikram to stand there, deep in thought. Bikram stared after him, a look of contemplation on his face. Shrinu’s words lingered in the air, and though Bikram didn’t fully understand why Shrinu had picked Luv, there was no denying the strength of his conviction. The final day of training arrived, and the atmosphere in the facility was tense. Everyone knew that after tomorrow, they would be heading into space, into the unknown, where their lives would depend on everything they had learned over the past month. The countdown had begun, and there was no turning back now.

Luv stood among his teammates, sweat beading on his forehead as he wiped it away. He was exhausted, his body sore from the relentless training. But today, there was no time to rest. Today, they would push beyond their limits.

**"Today,"** Mr. Prem said as he walked into the room, **"we focus on the last few critical skills: fighting in zero gravity, balancing in space, and using weapons in the most challenging environment you’ll ever face."**

The team gathered around, each of them silently acknowledging the gravity of the day. Mr. Prem explained each of the exercises, giving them a final rundown of what would be expected of them.

**"First, we will practice balancing in zero gravity,"** he continued. **"This will be essential when you’re in the shuttle or on the space station. Without gravity, even the smallest movement can send you spiraling. You’ll need to master control over your body."**

The team stepped into a specialized room, where artificial gravity was momentarily turned off. Luv’s body felt weightless as he floated, disoriented for a brief second. His mind raced to adjust, and he instinctively pushed off a wall to steady himself. It took a few tries, but soon enough, he began to find his rhythm. The others were doing the same, their bodies floating and twisting in the air as they learned to control their movements.

The initial disorientation faded, and Luv found himself improving—his body adapting to the absence of gravity.

Next, they moved on to fighting in zero gravity. This was perhaps the hardest challenge yet. Fighting without gravity meant that every punch, every block, every move had to be executed with precision. Without gravity pulling you down, your punches had less force, and you had to rely more on technique and positioning. Luv’s arms ached as he practiced combat moves with his teammates, trying to maintain his footing and balance, but he pushed through. His persistence paid off as he started to get the hang of it.

**"Good, Luv,"** Mr. Prem said after watching him struggle through a few rounds. **"You’re starting to get it. Remember, in space, there’s no room for hesitation."**

Finally, the team was introduced to the use of weapons in space. The special equipment was designed to work in the zero-gravity environment. Luv was handed a space rifle, and as he held it, he felt the weight of it—not from gravity, but from the responsibility that came with it. He practiced aiming, shooting, and reloading, all while floating in the zero-gravity environment. Each shot had to be calculated, and each movement had to be controlled, or else the recoil would send him flying off course.

By the end of the day, everyone was exhausted. Their bodies ached, their minds were tired, but they had learned everything they could about surviving in space.

Luv stood with his teammates, staring at the shuttle that would take them to the stars. They were ready—or as ready as they would ever be. The first day of rest was a quiet one. After the intense training, everyone needed to recharge, and the team spent the day sleeping, recovering from the physical and mental toll the mission had taken on them. Everyone, that is, except for Luv.

Luv sat by his mother’s side in the medical room, his eyes tired but unwavering. He gently fed her, ensuring she was comfortable. He could hear her faint breathing and felt a wave of both hope and worry in his chest. She had been through so much, and yet here she was, still fighting to stay alive. Luv didn’t want to leave her side, not even for a moment.

As he sat there, his thoughts kept drifting to the mission ahead. But it didn’t matter. Right now, his mother needed him. He couldn’t focus on anything else. He sat by her, softly caressing her hand, his eyes eventually closing as he drifted into a light sleep beside her.

The next day was the party. The team had gathered for a celebratory moment before the mission began. Laughter and cheers filled the air as everyone mingled, knowing that the real challenge would begin soon. They had earned this moment to let loose before stepping into the unknown.

Luv, however, felt a disconnect. He wasn’t in the mood for celebration. He couldn’t just forget his mother for the sake of a party. She was still in the medical room, still fighting for her life. So, Luv stayed close to her, watching from the sidelines as the others laughed and danced. He felt like an outsider, but his heart was with his mother.

Shrinu, however, noticed Luv standing off to the side, his eyes distant. Shrinu, who had been sitting quietly reading his book, looked up and saw Luv’s weary expression. With a firm yet understanding tone, he approached.

**"Luv,"** Shrinu called out softly, getting his attention. **"Why aren’t you sleeping? You need rest. It’s not just a normal travel we’re preparing for. You need at least 8 hours of sleep."**

Luv opened his mouth to respond, to explain that he couldn’t leave his mother, that she needed him, but he found no words. The guilt of leaving her behind, even for a few hours, held him back.

Shrinu, seeing the struggle in Luv’s eyes, stepped closer. He placed a hand on his shoulder and said, **"Don’t worry about her. I understand. I lost my parents, too, and I know how hard it is. But you can’t help her if you don’t take care of yourself. You can’t keep going like this, Luv."**

Luv hesitated, his emotions running high, but Shrinu’s words felt like a weight lifting from his shoulders. Shrinu didn’t say anything more, but his tone was gentle, firm, and reassuring. **"Now, go take that rest. You’ve earned it. I’ll keep an eye on things here. You’ve done enough."**

Luv finally nodded, feeling a mix of relief and guilt. Shrinu had a point. He needed to take care of himself to be able to take care of others. With one last glance at his mother, he reluctantly stood up and walked away, heading toward the rest area. Shrinu watched him go, his expression softening. He knew that Luv had a heavy burden to carry, but for now, rest was the best thing he could do. The next day, the team gathered in the launch bay, preparing for their journey into space. The air was thick with anticipation and tension. The countdown had begun, and the mission was about to take off. They were all moments away from leaving Earth, their lives and the fate of the planet in their hands.

Luv stood with his teammates, each of them talking with their families for the last time before departure. He could hear voices crackling over the communication system, the final words of encouragement and love from his family. But his thoughts were elsewhere—back with his mother, still unconscious in the medical room. He had whispered to her earlier, hoping she could hear him, telling her how much he loved her and that he would come back for her, no matter what. (*Mummy Mah aaunxu khyal rakhnu hajur le*)

While the others exchanged their farewells, **Shrinu** stood a bit apart, holding a small locket in his hand. He traced the edges of the locket with his fingers, lost in thought. His expression was unreadable, but his mind was elsewhere. **"I think it’s fate,"** he thought to himself, the weight of the locket heavy in his hand. **"I might be the last of us. If something happens, I’ll be the one left standing."** A small shiver ran down his spine, but he pushed the thought away. He had learned long ago to trust his instincts. But today, something felt different—more uncertain than ever before.

As the news anchors on the screens around them reported live from Earth, everyone’s eyes were glued to the screens. The world was watching, their eyes filled with hope and fear for the mission. The anchors spoke with a sense of gravity, reporting on the preparations and the risks. It was surreal—Luv had never imagined he would be part of something so monumental. The world, his world, was depending on him and his teammates.

Then, in a quieter moment, Luv stood by his mother’s bedside for one last time. He leaned over, brushing a stray lock of hair from her face. **"I promise, Mom. I’ll come back. You’ll see."** His voice trembled slightly, but he steadied himself, trying to hold back the tears. His heart ached as he kissed her forehead and whispered goodbye.

The loud speaker crackled to life, signaling that it was time. **"All personnel, please board the spacecraft. The launch will begin in T-minus 30 minutes."**

Luv took one last, lingering look at his mother. He couldn’t stay, but he would carry her in his heart, no matter where he went.

The team slowly made their way toward the spaceship, the large doors opening in front of them. They all exchanged one last look, their faces a mix of determination and nerves. Shrinu, with his locket still in hand, walked past Luv without a word but gave him a meaningful glance. Luv nodded back, feeling a strange sense of unity in that moment.

As they all climbed aboard the spacecraft, Luv felt his heart race. The mission was no longer a distant dream—it was real. The countdown to space had begun. Each of them had their own personal reasons for being here, but now, they were a team. They would face the unknown together.

The doors of the spaceship sealed shut with a loud thud, and the hum of the engines filled the air. The final countdown began.

**"T-minus 10... 9... 8..."**

Luv tightened his grip on the seat. He couldn’t help but glance out the window one last time. Earth looked so small from here, as if everything he had known was drifting away into the distance.

**"7... 6... 5..."**

Shrinu sat quietly in his seat, his fingers still resting on his locket. His thoughts remained clouded, but he pushed them aside, knowing there was no time for doubts.

**"4... 3... 2..."**

Luv took a deep breath, eyes focused ahead. He had come this far, and now, there was no turning back.

**"1... Launch."**

Chapter-5

The countdown had ended, and the spacecraft began its journey away from Earth. The massive engines roared to life, and Luv could feel the pressure against his body as they ascended. The hum of the engines filled the cabin, and a brief moment of weightlessness followed as they broke free of Earth’s gravitational pull.

Outside the spacecraft, Earth began to shrink, its vast oceans and continents slowly disappearing into the distance. The mission had officially begun.

Back on Earth, in the command center, the scientists and aerospace operators were watching the spacecraft's progress closely. **"Step 1 complete—launch successful,"** one operator called out, his voice sharp with focus. **"Step 2 complete—separation from Earth’s orbit. We are on course."**

They watched as the spacecraft’s trajectory adjusted, locking onto the path toward the asteroid, ready to make its way through the void of space. Everyone in the room was tense, but the operators remained calm, their work precise. They had trained for this moment for years.

**"Everything looks good, Sir,"** one of the engineers reported to Bikram, who stood nearby, his arms crossed, watching the monitors intently. He hadn’t taken his eyes off the display since launch. His expression was serious, his mind focused on the team up there.

Bikram nodded but said nothing. His thoughts were far away, with the team on the spacecraft. He trusted them, but a lingering feeling of unease tugged at him. This mission wasn’t just about saving the Earth—it was about testing their limits. He hoped they were ready.

Inside the spacecraft, in the captain’s cabin, **Mr. Prem** sat with his eyes fixed on the navigation screen. The stars outside were distant, and the space around them felt infinite. It was a strange feeling, being so far from Earth, with no real sense of time or space. He knew that it would take several days to reach the solar system’s outer reaches, where the asteroid lay. The journey felt long, the minutes stretching endlessly ahead.

Luv, sitting in the passenger section, glanced out of the window and watched as the stars drifted by. He still couldn’t quite grasp the reality of where he was. His heart raced with excitement and fear in equal measure. There was no turning back now. This mission wasn’t just about space—it was about survival, the fate of Earth, and his mother’s future.

**"We’ll reach the solar system in a few hours,"** Prem’s voice echoed through the intercom, cutting through the silence. **"Stay alert, everyone. It’s a long journey, and we need to be ready for anything."**

Luv nodded quietly, still absorbing the magnitude of the mission. This was just the beginning. The real challenges were yet to come.

As the spaceship drifted farther from Earth, the crew could only watch in silence as the planet slowly receded into the vastness of space. The stars glistened all around them like diamonds in the endless black sky. It was a beautiful sight, yet to each of them, it was a reminder of the enormous responsibility they carried.

Aayushma gazed out the window, her eyes focused on the distant, shimmering stars. Despite the beauty, her mind was clouded with the memories of her past and the weight of the mission ahead. She knew they still had 50 days to wait until they could engage the asteroid. In the meantime, they would have to keep themselves sharp—trained and focused for the critical moment.

The spaceship was equipped with everything they needed for survival.

There were supplies, food, and water for the journey, and even a small exercise room to keep their bodies in shape.

But the waiting was the hardest part. The long stretch of time felt endless, with nothing but the cold, unchanging void of space around them.

Luv, who had always been focused on getting the money to save his mother, found it hard to adjust to the stillness of space. Without the constant worry of his daily life on Earth, he found himself reflecting more. He spent a lot of time talking to his mother, even though she was unconscious back in the medical room. He spoke to her as though she could hear him, telling her about the stars, the mission, and his hopes to return with the money to give her a better life.

**“Mom, I’m doing this for you,”** he whispered one evening. **“Just wait for me. I’ll be back soon. I promise.”**

Meanwhile, Shrinu kept mostly to himself, as always. He had no interest in engaging in the light chatter that the others tried to spark during meals or downtime. He preferred solitude, and the vast emptiness of space seemed to be the perfect place for him to reflect. His thoughts were focused on something beyond the mission. Perhaps it was his own past, or maybe something else entirely, but it was clear that he carried a burden of his own.

Prem, on the other hand, seemed to embrace the quiet. As the captain, he was responsible for keeping everyone focused and prepared for the mission. He led training sessions during the quiet days—practicing emergency drills, simulating the missile launch, and testing the crew’s mental endurance. Prem knew that they couldn’t afford to let their guard down, not even for a moment.

As the days dragged on, each of them dealt with the isolation of space in their own way. Some found solace in the routine, others in the distraction of training. But the sense of waiting grew heavier as the days passed.

The asteroid—**the threat to Earth**—was still far off, its path slowly closing in on the planet. Every day, the crew monitored its progress, watching as the asteroid grew larger on the radar, moving toward its deadly collision with Earth.

The tension was palpable. In the quiet of the ship, when everyone was alone with their thoughts, the reality of what they were about to do started to sink in. Their mission was to stop the asteroid. They were the only line of defense between Earth and destruction.

But there was also a fear that grew with each passing day. What if they failed? What if they couldn’t destroy it in time? What if they never made it back home?

For now, all they could do was wait and prepare for the inevitable moment when they would have to engage the asteroid. They would have to rely on each other—on their training, their discipline, and their courage. The 50 days felt both like an eternity and a fleeting moment, and as they waited, the weight of the mission loomed larger with each passing day.

The vast emptiness of space pressed in on the crew of the NSO spaceship as they drifted further from Earth. The stars surrounded them like tiny pinpricks of light in an infinite black canvas. Time felt strangely different in space. The days blurred together. It was easy to lose track of time, but they couldn’t afford to let that happen. Each day was another step closer to the moment when they would have to destroy the asteroid.

Luv woke up each morning with the same thought: **"I need to finish this for my mother."** Every morning, he would spend hours in the ship’s medical bay, looking after her. She was still unconscious, but Luv couldn’t stop himself from talking to her.

**“Mom, today was good,”** he would whisper. **“The crew’s been great. I’m doing well, you know. They trust me. I won’t let you down. I’ll be back to you soon. I promise.”**

But deep inside, Luv knew there was a part of him that was afraid. Afraid that something would go wrong, that the asteroid wouldn’t be destroyed, or that he wouldn’t be able to return home in time. But the thought of his mother kept him going. He couldn’t let her down. She had fought for him his whole life, and now it was his turn to fight for her.

As the days passed, he started to feel the isolation of space more acutely. He found comfort in talking to his mother, even though she couldn’t respond. **"I’m still here, Mom. I’ll do whatever it takes."**

**Shrinu’s Silent Struggle**

Meanwhile, Shrinu remained a mystery to everyone. The quietest of the team, he spent most of his time alone, often reading or training in silence. There were moments when he’d look at Luv, and his eyes would soften—perhaps because he understood the weight of Luv’s mission.

But Shrinu had his own burdens. Unlike Luv, who had a clear motivation tied to his family, Shrinu’s past was far more complicated. His parents, who had died when he was just a teenager, left him with an unshakable loneliness. They had been soldiers—brave, honorable people—but their tragic deaths in the line of duty had left Shrinu with a sense of unresolved guilt. He had never fully processed the pain of losing them, and space seemed to amplify it.

Sometimes, when he thought no one was looking, Shrinu would stand in front of the window, his eyes fixed on the vast, endless expanse of space. **"You would have been proud of me, Mom. Dad… I’ve come so far."** His voice was barely a whisper, barely audible over the hum of the spaceship’s systems.

Despite his silence, there was something about Shrinu that others could sense—an intense focus, a quiet strength that made him stand out among the crew. He wasn’t just here for the mission; he was here to prove something to himself. Maybe he didn’t want to admit it, but deep down, he wanted redemption. Space was a place where he could face his past and leave it behind.

**Aayushma’s Silent Grief**

Aayushma, too, had her own personal battles. The grief from losing her younger brother, Arjun, weighed heavily on her every day. No matter how many times she trained or how many times she tried to distract herself with mission-related work, the memories of her brother kept creeping in. She remembered the way he used to look at her with admiration, the way he’d always run after her, calling her name.

But the day the storm came… that memory was still too raw. She could still feel his tiny hand slipping away from hers as the floodwaters pulled them apart. The guilt that followed—thinking that there was more she could’ve done—haunted her every day.

But in space, she tried to keep the tears in check. The other crew members would never know how much she carried inside. It wasn’t just about the mission. It was about the promise she had made to herself—to live on in her brother’s memory. She had to show him she could be strong. **"I’m doing this for you, Arjun. I will never forget you."**

Aayushma threw herself into the training and the daily routine, but during the quiet moments, when everyone else was asleep or preoccupied, she would often stand by the window and look at the stars. **"Are you out there somewhere, Arjun?"** she would wonder. **"Can you see me now?"**

**Prem: The Weight of Command**

For Prem, the captain of the mission, the days felt long and tiring. As a leader, he had to be the one to keep everyone focused, even when doubts and fears crept in. He had experienced the pain of loss too—he had lost his wife in a tragic accident before he joined the space agency—but he had learned to bury his pain. He was used to the solitude, the responsibility of making decisions that affected others. But this mission was different. It wasn’t just about saving Earth; it was about saving each other.

He’d often spend hours looking over the mission logs, calculating the trajectory of the asteroid, or monitoring the ship’s systems. He knew that once they entered the asteroid’s gravitational field, everything would move fast. There would be no time for second-guessing. He needed the team to be ready—mentally, physically, and emotionally.

In the quiet moments, Prem would take a break from his work and walk to the observation deck. He would look at the stars, at Earth in the distance, and think about his wife. **"I’m doing this for you, love. I’ll make you proud."** It was his way of coping, his way of reminding himself why he was on this mission.

Chapter-6

**Day- 15**

The hum of the spaceship’s systems filled the quiet hall as the crew gathered, each one quietly preparing for the final confrontation with the asteroid. The walls were lined with monitors and displays, tracking their progress and the trajectory of the deadly asteroid. It was a constant reminder of the high stakes they faced.

**Sameer** leaned against the wall, his arms crossed, deep in thought. His usual cocky demeanor was absent now. He was calm, collected, but the tension in his eyes betrayed how serious the situation had become. **“We’re almost there,”** Sameer muttered. **“This is it. Just a few more days, and we’ll either make history or…”** His voice trailed off, but everyone knew what he meant. It was either a victory or the end of the world.

**Jack**, always the optimist, slapped Sameer on the back. **“Hey, we’ve trained for this. We’ve got this. We just need to stay focused and do our job. We’ve come this far. No turning back now.”** Jack’s words were meant to reassure, but deep down, he, too, was feeling the weight of what was to come. The mission had become personal for all of them now.

**Shreya**, ever the realist, nodded in agreement but had a look of quiet concern in her eyes. **“The asteroid is getting closer,”** she said. **“We’ll be in range in a few days. We have to be ready for everything—anything can go wrong. We have one shot.”** Her voice was steady, but the hint of uncertainty was there. She knew better than anyone that the slightest miscalculation could lead to disaster.

**Prem**, their captain, stood at the head of the group, silent for a moment. His gaze was fixed on the holographic display showing the asteroid’s proximity to Earth. He had always been the leader, the one to keep the team moving forward, but this time, he couldn’t hide the weight of the responsibility. **“It’s not just about destroying the asteroid. It's about us, working together. The mission is tough, but we've trained for this. We know what we have to do."**

His words, though reassuring, seemed to hang in the air, heavy with the gravity of the situation. They were all standing on the precipice, and the moment of truth was rapidly approaching.

But amidst the discussion, **Shrinu** was quiet, his intense eyes scanning the room. He wasn’t participating in the conversation. He was watching everyone else, listening to their words, taking in every bit of information. While the others spoke of plans, strategies, and motivations, Shrinu's mind was elsewhere, focused on the mission—and something deeper, something personal.

He had always been a man of few words, preferring to keep his thoughts to himself, but his attention was razor-sharp. The weight of his past, the loss of his parents, and the responsibility of this mission sat heavily on his shoulders. This mission wasn’t just about saving Earth—it was his chance to prove something to himself.

Across the room, **Aayushma** was working out in the small exercise area. She was pushing herself harder than ever before, her muscles burning with each movement. Her mind was focused on nothing but the task at hand. She couldn’t afford to let her emotions get the best of her, not when they were so close to the asteroid. Each movement, each rep was an attempt to suppress the grief, the memories of her brother that still haunted her.

She glanced over at the others for a brief moment.

**"They’re all getting ready. We all have to be ready."** She whispered under her breath, knowing this mission was about more than just the asteroid. It was about the things they carried with them, the sacrifices they’d made, and the people they wanted to protect.

As they gathered in the hall, the conversation shifted from strategy to personal reflections. The silence that followed spoke volumes. They all understood what they were about to face—the risk of never returning home, the possibility of failure, and the undeniable responsibility they carried.

**Sameer** broke the silence again. **“We’re not just doing this for the money or the glory. We’re doing this because it’s what needs to be done.”** He paused, looking at each of them. **“There’s nothing more important than this moment. We either stop that asteroid, or we don’t. We either survive, or…”**

He didn’t finish, but the unspoken truth hung in the air. There was no turning back.

**Jack** raised a fist, smiling with a touch of determination. **“We’re ready. I believe in all of us.”**

**Shreya** followed suit, her eyes sharp. **“The asteroid won’t know what hit it.”**

Luv, who had been quiet through most of the conversation, finally spoke up. **“We’re all in this together. I’ll do my part.”** His voice was firm, but the weight of his promise to his mother still lingered in his eyes. He wasn’t just fighting for Earth. He was fighting for the life he’d always dreamed of giving her.

Meanwhile, **Shrinu**, who had been observing quietly, stood up from where he was sitting. He walked over to the center of the room and looked at each of his teammates. His voice was calm, yet there was a depth to it that commanded attention.

**“We all have something to fight for,”** he said. **“But remember, it’s not just the asteroid we’re up against. It’s the unknown. We don’t know how this will go. We don’t know what we’ll face. But we can’t let fear control us. We do what we came here to do—no more, no less.”** He turned to face the others. **“Are you all ready?”**

There was a pause, but slowly, one by one, the others nodded. They had trained for this. They had prepared for this moment. They had come a long way, and now it was time.

As the conversation wound down, each member of the crew stood lost in their own thoughts. The asteroid was still out there, but now, there was no more waiting. They were ready. In the final days before they would engage the asteroid, the team could feel the bond between them growing stronger. They had trained together, lived together, and now, they would face the greatest challenge of their lives together.

And though space was vast and endless, they no longer felt quite as alone.

As the spaceship drifted through the vast expanse of space, the crew's minds were weighed down by the reality of the mission ahead. Time seemed to stretch, the silence in the hall broken only by the faint hum of the engines and the soft beeping of the control systems. They had spent days in isolation, waiting for the right moment to strike.

In one corner of the room, **Shrinu** sat by himself, staring out a small porthole at the cold, distant stars. His face was impassive, but his thoughts were racing. He had been trained for this—his mind was honed for battle. Yet, there was something different about this mission. The risk of losing everything, the weight of being the one to lead them into the unknown, gnawed at him.

**"I can't afford to fail,"** he muttered to himself, clenching his fist. His thoughts turned inward, remembering the day he lost his parents. He had vowed never to be weak again, never to be someone who relied on others. But here he was, part of a team—dependent on others' lives just as much as his own. **"This... this is my test,"** he whispered.

Across the room, **Aayushma** was working out again. She was pushing herself harder than ever before. Her body ached, but she couldn't afford to stop. Sweat dripped down her face as she completed one set of push-ups after another. It was the only way to keep her mind off the memories of her brother. **"Focus on the mission,"** she told herself. **"Do it for them. For everyone who won't get a second chance."**

Despite the harsh training, Aayushma felt a certain peace when she worked out. It was her escape, her way of channeling the fear and grief into something useful. **"The asteroid won’t know what hit it. The world depends on us."** She could almost feel the weight of the lives she was carrying in her hands—the lives of her team, her family, and the people of Earth.

Aayushma paused and glanced over at **Shrinu**, who was still sitting in his corner, lost in thought. She had never quite understood his quiet, reserved nature. But in this moment, she realized that beneath his stoic exterior, he carried a burden just as heavy as hers. Maybe heavier.

**Sameer** broke the silence as he walked toward the table where **Luv** and **Jack** were sitting. The tension in his usual playful demeanor was palpable. He slumped down on a chair, exhaling deeply. **“I’ve been thinking,”** Sameer said, rubbing his hands over his face. **“Once we destroy that asteroid, we’ll be legends. But will anyone even remember us? Will they care? After all this, what do we have left?”**

**Jack** immediately chimed in, always the optimist. **“What do you mean, Sameer? We’ll save the world! That’s the only thing that matters. The rest—fame, fortune—it’ll come. People will remember us forever, even if they don’t know our names.”**

**Luv** sat quietly, listening to the exchange. He had been feeling the pressure for days. **"It’s not about fame,"** he said softly, almost to himself. **"I just want my mom to be okay. I want to go home, see her smile again. I don't care about anything else. I don't care if anyone remembers my name. But I will do whatever it takes to finish this."**

**Shreya** overheard Luv’s words and walked over, her gaze softening as she looked at him. **“I know what you mean,”** she said, her voice more gentle than usual. **“We all have our reasons. For some of us, it’s about redemption. For others, it’s about protecting those we love. You’re not alone in this, Luv. We’re all fighting for something.”**

The room fell silent for a moment as everyone reflected on what they were truly fighting for. The reason they were here was different for each of them, but it all led to the same end: stopping the asteroid.

**Prem**, their captain, had been silent for most of the conversation, but now he stood and addressed the crew. His voice, always authoritative, carried a weight that commanded attention. **“Listen up,”** he said. **“I know this mission means a lot to each of you. And I know the pressure is heavy. But we are a team. And a team doesn't let anyone fall behind. We do this together. No matter what. I don’t care what happened in the past. I don’t care about the reasons you're here. What matters is that you’re here now.”**

His eyes met each of theirs. **“We’ve trained for this. We’ve lived together for weeks. We know each other’s strengths, we know each other’s weaknesses. We’re ready for this. There’s no turning back.”**

As the conversation died down, **Shrinu** slowly stood up from his corner. The others turned to look at him, surprised to see him so active. He walked over to **Luv**, placing a hand on his shoulder.

**“You’re not the only one fighting for someone,”** Shrinu said quietly, his voice low but resolute. **“I’m here because I have my own reasons. And if we fail, it won’t just be Earth that loses. It’ll be everyone we care about. So, don’t think you’re alone in this. We’re all in this together.”**

Luv looked up at Shrinu, his eyes meeting the older man's. For the first time, he saw something different in Shrinu’s eyes. It wasn’t just cold detachment. There was something deeper there—something that mirrored his own determination. They were in this together. And together, they would succeed.

The team stood together in the hall, each of them feeling the weight of what lay ahead. The asteroid was getting closer. But in this moment, despite the looming threat, they found something stronger than fear: hope.

They had trained for this, and now, they would fight for what mattered most.

The countdown to the mission had begun, and they would face it as one.

Chapter-7

**Day - 35**

The final week before the asteroid destruction mission was supposed to be a time of intense focus. Every moment counted, as the crew had prepared tirelessly for the mission ahead. However, that plan quickly unraveled the moment the alarm rang.

**“What? How is this even possible? How can this happen?”** Prem shouted, his voice laced with disbelief and alarm.

The spaceship shook with an unfamiliar vibration, the lights flickering as the crew scrambled to their feet. **Luv**, still trying to process what was going on, stood frozen for a second. **“What’s happening? What’s going on?”** he muttered, but no one had an answer.

**Shreya**, **Jack**, and **Sameer** immediately dashed toward the space shuttle’s hatch; weapons drawn, ready for anything. **Shrinu**, ever the silent observer, pulled his gun out of its holster and pointed it toward the door. His hands were steady, but his mind was racing.

Suddenly, the loud *crack* of a gunshot echoed through the narrow halls of the spaceship.

**“Aayushma!”** Luv screamed, his voice cracking in terror as he turned around.

Blood was pouring from her side, staining her uniform. A shadowy figure stood in the doorway, a gun raised, ready to fire again. Before Luv could react, the figure disappeared into the shadows, leaving only the ringing of the shot behind.

Luv rushed to Aayushma’s side, his heart pounding in his chest. Her face was pale, her breaths shallow. The crew had no time to waste. **“No! Not now!”** Luv shouted, lifting her gently in his arms. **“Hold on, Aayushma. Please hold on.”**

Luv sprinted toward the medical center with Aayushma’s lifeless body in his arms, not caring about the chaos around him. Every step felt like an eternity. His thoughts were a blur, each one louder than the last.

When he burst into the medical room, the AI system, Vega, activated immediately.

**“Luv, what happened? Please provide the patient’s details,”** Vega’s calm, synthetic voice requested.

**“Aayushma… she’s been shot. I— I need you to save her, Vega. Please, help her,”** Luv gasped, his voice shaking. He laid her on the medical bed, frantic.

The AI's diagnostic system flickered on, scanning Aayushma’s body. **“Injuries severe. Blood loss critical. Immediate intervention required. Blood transfusion necessary. Preparing medical protocol.”**

Luv’s heart sank as he watched Vega’s display fill with lines of code. **“Do something, Vega! I can’t lose her too. Not like this,”** Luv pleaded, his voice trembling.

Vega’s lights blinked rapidly, but then the AI spoke in a soft, almost apologetic tone. **“The damage is extensive. Stabilization required, but survival is uncertain. Administering emergency measures.”**

Luv could feel his hope slipping away as the AI worked to stabilize Aayushma. But it wasn’t enough. The room felt colder with every passing second. The thought that he might lose another teammate—someone he had come to trust—was unbearable.

**“Please, just... please.”** Luv fell to his knees beside Aayushma, tears welling up in his eyes.

Meanwhile, the rest of the crew was dealing with their own confusion and fear. **Prem**, **Shrinu**, and the others were on high alert, trying to track down whoever had attacked them. **“It doesn’t make sense,”** Prem muttered, his brows furrowed. **“We’ve been in deep space for weeks, and now this? How could someone board our ship without us noticing?”**

The shadowy attacker’s actions were calculated, and the crew realized this wasn’t an accident. **“We need to find out who’s responsible, and why,”** Sameer said, scanning the area for clues. **“Someone’s sabotaging us, and we don’t have much time before the asteroid comes into range. We can’t afford to waste any more.”**

But the damage was done. Aayushma was injured, and the entire mission was compromised. The team now had to fight not just the asteroid but also the enemies within their own ranks.

Back in the medical center, **Luv** couldn’t take his eyes off Aayushma, willing her to wake up. The sterile light from Vega’s scanning device illuminated her lifeless form, and Luv clenched his fists in frustration.

**“I promised... I promised I would save you...”** Luv whispered to her.

Vega, after several tense moments of silence, replied in a soft tone. **“Luv, I regret to inform you that the patient has shown no signs of recovery. Aayushma’s condition is critical, and immediate medical evacuation is required. We can no longer provide full treatment here in space.”**

Luv’s heart shattered into pieces. **“No... I can’t accept that. I can’t lose her. Not after everything we’ve been through.”**

Vega’s voice, always calm and calculating, added, **“You must focus, Luv. Your mission is still crucial. Aayushma’s survival may depend on your actions now. Stay strong.”**

Luv stood up, looking down at Aayushma one last time, his resolve hardening like steel. The attack had come too close, and the mission was far from over. **“I’ll make sure she didn’t die in vain,”** Luv whispered fiercely. **“I’ll make sure we finish what we started. We won’t fail.”**

As the crew worked together to uncover the identity of the attacker, the atmosphere aboard the ship grew tense. The stakes were higher than ever. Not only did they have to stop an asteroid from colliding with Earth, but now they also had to fight an enemy from within.

Who was behind the attack on Aayushma? What other threats awaited them? And would they be able to carry on the mission without her?

The answers were yet to come.

After the attack, the crew was in turmoil. The spaceship was divided, the remaining team members questioning every decision, every action that led to this point. **Prem**, **Shrinu**, and **Sameer** immediately began investigating, using the spaceship's surveillance systems to search for any trace of the attacker. The ship’s internal cameras were supposed to have been locked down for security, but clearly, someone had hacked them.

**“I don’t get it,”** Sameer muttered, tapping away at the control panel. **“How could someone board this ship without triggering any alarms? This doesn’t make sense. We have the best security in space.”**

**Shrinu**, still quiet but determined, stood at the edge of the control room, his eyes scanning the monitors. **“It’s not about security. It’s about timing. Whoever did this know exactly when to strike.”**

The group fell silent as they stared at the data. The surveillance footage showed a shadowy figure moving through the corridors, seemingly unnoticed. They could barely make out the person’s face, but the figure was fast and purposeful.

**“It’s almost like they were one step ahead of us the whole time,”** Prem said, his face grave. **“We’ve been too focused on the asteroid. We missed this.”**

Back in the medical center, Luv was not giving up. He was pacing back and forth, his mind racing with every possibility. Aayushma had been shot, but why? Who would do such a thing? It was clear now that someone among them was working against them, but who?

**“I can’t lose anyone else,”** Luv whispered to himself. **“Not like this.”**

He knew the stakes were higher now. The mission was already a race against time. With only a few days left before the asteroid's impact, they couldn’t afford distractions or enemies on their own ship. Yet, someone had sabotaged them.

**Vega**, the AI, continued to monitor Aayushma's vital signs, but Luv could see the grim reality in her readings. She was too weak. **“Vega,”** Luv asked, his voice strained, **“can you tell me who did this? Can you trace where the attacker came from?”**

**“Analyzing... No trace of external tampering found. Intruder likely is a member of the crew,”** Vega responded in her usual calm voice. **“I regret to inform you that this person is among you.”**

The realization hit Luv like a punch to the gut. **“A member of the crew... one of us...?”**

The tension among the crew was palpable. The hunt for the attacker was on, and everyone was on edge. **Shreya**, **Jack**, and **Sameer** were all questioning each other, but there was something unspoken between them. The bond they had formed during the long journey to space was beginning to crack.

**“I’m telling you; it wasn’t me,”** Sameer said, his voice defensive as he paced the hallway with **Jack**. **“We’re all in this together. Why would I risk everything now?”**

**Jack**, though visibly upset, nodded. **“I believe you, but we have to figure out who it was. There’s too much at stake. If we don’t find this person, we’ll all be dead before we even get a chance to destroy the asteroid.”**

Meanwhile, **Shrinu** was moving quietly through the ship, his sharp eyes catching every detail. He didn’t trust anyone fully anymore. He couldn’t afford to. The attack on **Aayushma** had opened his eyes to the dangerous reality they were facing. If someone was willing to sabotage the mission, they wouldn’t hesitate to take out anyone who stood in their way.

After hours of investigation and mounting tension, the crew finally pieced together the puzzle. **Shrinu** had been the first to notice a discrepancy in the supply logs—a certain crew member had accessed restricted areas of the ship when they weren’t supposed to. It wasn’t much, but it was enough to raise suspicion.

With the evidence gathered, they confronted the suspect, and the truth came tumbling out.

The attacker turned out to be **Sameer**. The quiet, easygoing crew member who everyone had trusted was hiding a dark secret. He had been working for a rival space agency, one that wanted to sabotage their mission to destroy the asteroid.

**“You have no idea what you’ve done!”** Sameer shouted as the crew surrounded him. **“Do you think you can just change the course of humanity with one little missile? This is bigger than any of you! The asteroid could be the end of all of us, or the beginning of something new. My agency wants to control that power, not destroy it!”**

**Luv**, his heart heavy with the betrayal, stepped forward. **“You used us. You used *me*.”** His voice cracked with anger, and he clenched his fists. **“Aayushma is gone because of you. My mother might never see me again because of you. And you— you want to control the future of humanity with some asteroid?”**

**Sameer** laughed bitterly. **“If we control the asteroid, we control the fate of Earth. You don’t understand the bigger picture. Your mission was a dead end from the start.”**

The crew had no choice now but to make a hard decision. They had to act quickly—there was no time for more delays. **Prem**, with a heavy heart, gave the order. **“Tie him up. We’re not letting this sabotage continue. We’ll deal with him later. Our priority is the mission. If we fail, Earth’s fate will be sealed.”**

Luv stood at the back of the group, feeling a mix of rage and grief. His mind was still on Aayushma, but he knew they had to finish what they started. **“We need to destroy the asteroid. I promised I wouldn’t let anyone die in vain. I won’t fail. Not now.”**

With Sameer now restrained, the crew refocused on their mission. The asteroid was coming closer, and there was no time to waste.

But as they prepared for the final strike, Luv couldn’t shake the feeling that this wasn’t over. There was still so much at stake. The future of Earth, the loss of his teammates, and the mystery of what lay beyond the asteroid—all of it haunted him.

Chapter-8

As the crew cornered **Sameer**, it was clear he wasn’t the calculated villain they had imagined. His face, once full of arrogance, was now clouded with confusion. He looked around at his teammates, who were glaring at him, ready for an explanation.

**“What’s going on? Why is everyone so angry?”** Sameer asked, his voice tinged with bewilderment. **“I thought we were all just joking around. This was part of the mission, right?”**

**Prem** stepped forward; his jaw clenched. **“You thought sabotaging the mission was a joke? You put all our lives at risk and Aayushma’s—she’s dead, Sameer!”**

Sameer’s eyes widened. **“Wait, wait, you’re telling me she’s dead?”** He looked around frantically at the crew, his disbelief evident. **“No, that wasn’t part of the plan... I never meant to hurt anyone. This was just to test how secure the ship was. I didn’t think it would go this far. I didn’t know!”**

**Shreya**, who had been silent up to this point, stepped forward. **“What are you talking about? You can’t just mess around like that! People’s lives aren’t a joke.”**

Sameer ran a hand through his hair, clearly distressed. **“Look, I didn’t mean any harm. I thought it was just a test. To see if the security systems were as tight as they said they were. I had no idea it would... escalate like this.”**

He turned to Luv, his face showing genuine regret.

**“I thought this was just part of the mission training. I didn’t know you were all this serious. It was supposed to be... a joke. I didn’t know it would end like this.”**

Luv stood there, unsure of how to process Sameer’s words. He wanted to believe him, but the consequences were real. **“You thought you could mess with the systems to test security on a life-or-death mission? That’s not a joke, Sameer. It was careless. And people got hurt.”**

Sameer’s eyes started to well up, his shoulders slumped. **“I messed up, didn’t I? I never thought this would happen. I thought it would be a laugh... just to see who could hack the system the best. I didn’t think anyone would get hurt... especially Aayushma.”**

**Prem** crossed his arms, still skeptical, but his anger began to fade as he saw Sameer’s genuine remorse. **“You messed with the mission’s security as a joke? You can’t be serious, Sameer. We have only one shot at this, and you put all of us in danger. You should have known better.”**

**Jack**, who had been quiet until now, took a step forward, his expression softening. **“I get it. It’s a strange situation we’re in, and stress gets to people in different ways. But messing with something this important? You can’t just play around with lives like that. This is bigger than any of us.”**

**Shreya** glared at him for a moment longer, then sighed. **“We’re all under pressure here, Sameer. But that doesn’t mean you can use that as an excuse. The mission still stands. We need to move forward. For Aayushma, and for everyone else.”**

Sameer’s tone changed, and he seemed to snap out of his disbelief, realizing just how serious the situation was. **“You’re right,”** he said, his voice quieter now. **“I didn’t think it through. I don’t know what I was thinking. I never imagined it would be like this.”**

Luv, still processing everything, looked at Sameer with a mix of disbelief and pity. **“We don’t have time to focus on what happened anymore. We have to keep going. The asteroid is still on a collision course with Earth. We have to destroy it. And we don’t have time to second-guess or make mistakes.”**

Sameer nodded; his guilt clear in his eyes. **“I understand. I won’t mess things up again. I’m in. Let’s finish this.”**

Despite the chaos caused by Sameer’s actions, the team had no choice but to move forward. They had one mission left: to destroy the asteroid before it wiped out humanity.

**Shrinu**, who had remained silent throughout most of the confrontation, finally spoke up. **“We’re all in this together. There’s no room for mistakes anymore. We focus on the mission, and nothing else.”**

**Prem** nodded in agreement. **“We’re a team. And we finish what we started.”**

The crew went silent for a moment, letting the weight of the situation sink in. They had come this far. There was no turning back now. And despite the tension, they knew they had to stick together.

**“Alright,”** Prem said, his voice firm. **“Sameer, you’re with us. But you better stay focused. If you mess up again, we’re done.”**

Sameer nodded, humbled by the words. **“I won’t let you down.”**

As the crew prepared for the final leg of their mission, the weight of what was ahead loomed large. There was no time for personal issues, no time for distractions. The asteroid was coming, and they had to destroy it—or risk the end of everything.

Luv stood at the window, staring out at the vast emptiness of space. He thought about everything he had lost, everything they were fighting for. And he knew, no matter what happened, he couldn’t stop now.

The mission was too important. The fate of Earth depended on them.

Shrinu already get a hint that someone is inside the spaceship but he didn’t tell anyone because he have a trust issue with his member.

**Day- 45**

Shrinu felt uneasy. Something was wrong with the ship. The air inside felt heavier, and the systems were behaving slightly off. He had spent the last hour checking every compartment, scanning security logs, and analyzing power usage. But he couldn’t shake the feeling that they weren’t alone—or that something wasn’t as it seemed.

Meanwhile, **Luv** sat silently beside **Aayushma’s lifeless body**, which rested inside the **non-decomposed machine**, preserving her as if she were merely asleep. He hadn’t moved much since they placed her there. His hands trembled slightly as he traced his fingers over the glass, lost in his thoughts. His mind was split between sorrow and the weight of their mission.

**Sameer** was in the shower, the sound of water humming through the thin walls. If anyone had seen his face, they would have noticed his hollow eyes—his mind replaying the accusations, the doubt, and his own regrets. Even though he hadn’t been guilty of the attack, he had played a part in the chaos, and now the weight of that realization sat on his shoulders like a curse.

In the other room, **Jack and Prem** stood near the observation window, gazing out at the vast emptiness of space. Their voices were low, their words filled with bitterness.

**“I can’t believe Sameer,”** Jack muttered, shaking his head. **“I don’t trust him anymore.”**

**Prem crossed his arms.** “He acted like it was all a joke. And now Aayushma’s gone. I don’t care what he says—he’s part of the reason this happened.”

Jack clenched his jaw. **“We should’ve never let him come. He’s reckless. A liability.”**

But while they were drowning in their resentment, **Shrinu knew something even worse was happening.**

The ship was off balance.

The oxygen levels were slightly fluctuating. The security doors had been overridden. Someone had tampered with the communication system.

And then it hit him.

**The attack wasn’t random.**

Someone—**or something**—was still on board.

Shrinu's heart pounded. He turned away from the monitors, gripping his gun tightly. If his suspicions were correct, **they weren’t just dealing with betrayal. They were being hunted. Shrinu gripped his gun tightly, his fingers hovering over the trigger. His instincts screamed at him—someone was behind him. His breath hitched, his body tensed, and for a split second, he was ready to spin around and pull the trigger.**

**But then—a soft touch.**

**Shrinu froze. His heartbeat pounded in his ears like war drums. He clenched his jaw, forcing himself to turn his head ever so slightly.**

**It was Shreya.**

**She stood before him, her eyes narrowed with concern. Her presence should have eased his nerves, but instead, it made him even more alert. What was she doing here?**

**"What are you doing, Shrinu?" she asked, her voice steady but laced with curiosity.**

**Shrinu exhaled sharply and lowered his gun. "Something’s wrong," he muttered, scanning the dimly lit corridor. "I think someone entered this ship… and they’re hiding."**

**Shreya’s expression remained unreadable, but she stepped closer. “You’re sure?”**

**Shrinu nodded, his hand instinctively moving to his locket. He gripped it tightly, his thumb brushing over the cold metal as if seeking reassurance.**

**Shreya noticed.**

**Her eyes flickered down to his locket—a simple yet significant piece of him. It wasn’t just an accessory; it meant something deeper, something personal.**

**She didn’t say anything. Instead, she just kept watching him, as if trying to read the emotions behind his guarded face.**

**Shrinu felt the weight of her gaze, but he didn’t acknowledge it.**

**His focus remained on the darkness ahead. If his theory was right, the intruder was still lurking, waiting for the right moment to strike.**

**"We need to tell the others," Shreya finally said.**

**Shrinu hesitated. He wasn’t sure who to trust anymore. But he nodded.**

**"Let's move carefully," he whispered.**

**As they walked down the corridor, a faint metallic clang echoed from somewhere deep within the ship.**

**They weren’t alone.**

Chapter-9

**Day- 47**

It was Day 47. Only three days remained before they would launch their attack on the asteroid. The pressure was immense, the weight of their mission growing heavier with each passing hour. But amidst all the tension, Shreya found herself lost in something else.

Or rather, in someone else.

**She stood near the large observation window of the spaceship, staring into the vast, endless space. The distant stars shimmered like scattered diamonds, their glow reflecting in her eyes. She had never felt so small yet so alive.**

**And then, Shrinu was beside her.**

**The silence between them wasn’t awkward—it was filled with something deeper, something unspoken. Slowly, he reached out, his fingers grazing her hand. A shiver ran through her, not from the cold but from the warmth of his touch.**

**Shrinu turned to her, his dark eyes steady. "I love you, Shreya," he said, his voice steady, firm—like a promise.**

**Shreya’s breath hitched. She felt her heartbeat quicken, her body frozen in place. But when he pulled her close, wrapping his arms around her, she let herself sink into his warmth. For the first time, fear and uncertainty didn’t matter.**

**She closed her eyes, taking in his scent, feeling the strength in his embrace. And then, he whispered, "Do you want to marry me, Shreya?"**

**She looked up at him, her lips parting, her eyes searching his for any hesitation. But there was none. Only sincerity.**

**She nodded.**

**And then, their lips met.**

**It was soft, slow, filled with emotions too powerful to be spoken. The universe seemed to fade away, leaving only them in that moment.**

**When they pulled away, Shrinu held her face gently in his hands, his thumb brushing her cheek. "You're everything I didn’t know I needed," he murmured.**

**Shreya smiled shyly, still lost in the feeling. She didn’t want this moment to end.**

**Outside the window, the stars continued to shine, unaware that two souls had just found something more infinite than space itself.**

**In the quiet hum of the spaceship, the team had begun to feel the weight of their mission. The asteroid was coming closer, and soon, they would have to destroy it. Yet, amidst the intensity of the task, something unexpected was beginning to bloom between Shrinu and Shreya.**

**It all started in the observation room. Shreya was looking out at the vast expanse of space when Shrinu joined her.**

**There was silence between them, not awkward but comfortable—like two people who had known each other for a long time. After a few minutes, Shrinu turned to her. "It’s beautiful out here," he said quietly.**

**Shreya nodded; her eyes fixed on the stars. "Yeah, it feels like we’re so far from everything. I guess that’s why I like it."**

**"Far from everything… and everyone," Shrinu muttered, a hint of sadness in his voice.**

**Shreya turned to look at him, her heart softening. "You’re not alone, Shrinu."**

**Their eyes locked for a moment. There was something in his gaze—something that made her heart beat faster. Shrinu wasn’t one to easily open up, but there was a quiet understanding between them, as if they both knew that this mission was more than just about saving Earth.**

**"Thank you," Shrinu whispered.**

**Day 50**

**As the crew trained, preparing for their dangerous mission ahead, Shrinu and Shreya spent more time together. It was always small, private moments that spoke louder than words.**

**One day, while practicing zero-gravity maneuvers, Shrinu reached out to steady Shreya as she struggled to find her balance. The touch was brief but electric, making both of them linger in the moment.**

**"Got it?" Shrinu asked, his hand still on her arm.**

**Shreya smiled up at him, feeling an unexplainable warmth. "I do now," she said softly.**

**They both let out a quiet laugh, but it was more than just a joke. There was a subtle connection between them—unspoken, yet clear.**

**Day 51 – Confessions**

**It was late. The rest of the crew was asleep. Shreya found herself wandering the halls of the spaceship, unable to shake the feeling that something had changed between her and Shrinu.**

**She stopped near the observation deck. The stars glistened in the distance, but it wasn’t the stars that occupied her mind—it was Shrinu. She didn’t know what had happened, but she had fallen for him.**

**"Shreya?"**

**She turned to see Shrinu standing behind her, his figure illuminated by the soft glow of the stars.**

**"I didn’t want to interrupt your thoughts," he said, his voice low.**

**Shreya smiled gently. "I was just thinking about you."**

**Shrinu stepped closer, his gaze softening. "I’ve been thinking about you too."**

**Shreya’s heart skipped a beat. "About… me?"**

**"Yeah," Shrinu whispered. "I never thought I’d feel this way in the middle of all this chaos, but you make it easier. You make everything feel less…" he paused, struggling to find the right words. "Less lonely."**

**Shreya’s eyes softened as she reached out, gently taking his hand. "I feel the same."**

**Their fingers intertwined, and without thinking, they drew closer. In the silence of space, the noise of the world outside seemed to vanish.**

**"I’ve never met anyone like you, Shrinu," Shreya whispered.**

**Shrinu pressed his forehead against hers, his breath warm against her skin. "And I never thought I’d meet someone like you, Shreya."**

**And in that quiet moment, surrounded by the stars, they found something they both needed—each other.**

**The final days before their asteroid mission were a blur of preparation, but amidst the chaos, Shrinu and Shreya made time for each other.**

**In the quiet corners of the spaceship, they shared private moments—soft whispers, fleeting touches, and stolen glances. They didn’t talk much about what would happen in the coming days, but the bond between them grew stronger, unshakable.**

**One night, as they prepared for the upcoming mission, Shrinu pulled Shreya aside.**

**"Shreya," he began, his voice low. "No matter what happens, I need you to know something."**

**Shreya turned to face him, her heart racing. "What is it?"**

**Shrinu reached up to gently cup her face, his thumb brushing her cheek. "I love you."**

**Shreya’s eyes widened, her breath catching in her throat. "You do?"**

**"I do." Shrinu’s voice was steady, but his eyes betrayed the emotion that ran deep. "And I promise, no matter what happens, I will always love you."**

**Shreya smiled softly, her heart swelling with emotion. "I love you too, Shrinu. And I promise, I’ll be here when you get back."**

**The crew continued to prepare for the asteroid battle, but the love that had grown between Shrinu and Shreya was undeniable. Whether they faced victory or loss, they had found something precious in each other.**

**As the countdown continued and the mission loomed ahead, Shreya knew that whatever happened, she would cherish this connection forever.**

Chapter-10

**Day-48**

As Shreya snapped out of her daydream, she quickly blinked, feeling the weight of reality settle back in. The sweet moment she shared with Shrinu felt like it had only been a fleeting thought. She looked around, trying to shake off the lingering warmth in her chest.

Suddenly, the spaceship’s alarm blared loudly, cutting through her thoughts. The warning lights flickered, sending an uneasy shiver down her spine. **"Warning, system breach detected. Prepare for immediate action."**

Shreya's heart skipped a beat. She wasn’t sure whether her feelings were clouding her judgment or if this was something far more serious. Without a second thought, she grabbed her weapon and sprinted toward the control room.

Shrinu, Jack, Prem, Sameer, and Luv were already there, investigating the source of the problem. **"What’s going on?"** she asked, her voice sharp, all traces of her earlier daydream gone.

**"We’ve got a breach in the outer hull,"** Prem said, his expression grim. **"There’s no way it’s a natural malfunction. Someone's tampered with the systems."**

Luv clenched his fists in frustration. **"We’re going to need to find out who did this before it’s too late."**

Shrinu, who had been scanning the control panels, looked up. **"I don’t know who’s responsible, but this is no time to waste. We have to secure the ship before anything worse happens."**

Shreya’s eyes hardened as she took her position, glancing back at Shrinu before focusing on the task at hand. **"Let’s get this done,"** she said, steely determination in her voice.

As the group split up to investigate the ship's security systems, Shreya couldn’t shake the feeling that something was terribly wrong. The connection she had felt with Shrinu earlier still lingered, but she couldn’t afford to let her emotions cloud her focus. They had a mission, and the stakes had never been higher. As Shreya lay on the cold floor of the spaceship, her leg throbbing from the laser blast, she felt an intense mix of pain and relief. Her vision blurred for a moment, but then her gaze focused on Shrinu, who had rushed to her side without hesitation. His face was filled with determination, yet there was a tenderness in his eyes that calmed her nerves amidst the chaos.

**"Shreya, stay with me,"** Shrinu said, his voice firm but gentle as he carefully assessed her injury.

She barely registered the sounds of gunfire and clashing metal around them—there was too much happening, too much pain. But as Shrinu knelt beside her, the world seemed to slow down. His hand gently cupped her face, his touch warm, and she could feel her heart race despite the agony in her leg. **"I’m here,"** he whispered, though his voice was strained, as if trying to comfort her while also holding back his own fear.

Shreya stared at him, her pain momentarily forgotten. In this moment, with the entire crew fighting for their lives, **Shrinu** was the only person she needed. He was there when no one else could be. **"I don’t want to die here, Shrinu,"** she said weakly, but with a quiet resolve. Her eyes never left his.

He placed his hand on her leg, trying to stop the bleeding, his movements hurried but precise. **"You’re not going anywhere, Shreya,"** he said, his words unwavering. **"Not while I’m here."**

But the battle was far from over. The enemy was relentless, and the ship was still under siege.

**Luv**, who had activated the AI robot soldiers, was working frantically with Sameer, trying to hold the attackers back. Jack and Prem were also engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the intruders. The odds were stacked against them, and it seemed like the enemy was everywhere. **Fifteen from their side, five from theirs.**

The AI robot soldiers were doing their best to fend off the attackers, but the numbers were still overwhelming. Shreya could hear the sounds of mechanical limbs clashing, the hum of laser guns firing, and the shouts of her teammates.

As she stared into Shrinu’s eyes, she could see the worry etched on his face, but it wasn’t just fear for her—it was something deeper. Something unspoken, but mutual.

**"I’m not leaving you,"** Shrinu whispered, more to himself than to her.

Her heart fluttered despite the pain. She was trying to gather enough strength to speak, to tell him how she felt. But before she could, Shrinu turned his attention back to the battle as he heard another shot fired nearby.

Without a second thought, he grabbed a weapon, glancing at Shreya one last time to make sure she was okay. **"Stay safe, I’ll be back,"** he said firmly, though it was hard to tell if he was reassuring her or himself.

As the sounds of battle raged on, the tension aboard the spaceship reached a suffocating peak. Shrinu’s heart was racing, adrenaline pumping through his veins, but his mind remained laser-focused on his objective: to protect the crew and complete the mission. **Shreya** was injured, and it was up to him to get her to safety. But in that moment, he was unaware of the storm brewing in her heart, the emotions she could never express.

He swiftly wrapped a makeshift bandage around her leg, his hands shaking from the intensity of the situation. Her breathing was shallow, and though she was trying to be strong, the pain in her leg was evident. Her lips trembled as she looked up at him, her eyes filled with silent words—words Shrinu would never hear.

**"Shrinu,"** she whispered, but he was already moving, his focus solely on the danger around them. He had no idea that in the silence of that moment, Shreya’s love for him had bloomed like a quiet, fragile flower.

Shrinu was just doing his duty. He wasn’t thinking about anything else. He wasn’t aware that, in saving her, he had already become her anchor, her reason to fight. She had wanted to tell him, but now was not the time. She couldn't find the words; her body felt heavy with the weight of the battle and her unspoken feelings.

Shrinu stood up, wiping the sweat from his brow. **"Stay here, I’ll be back,"** he said, his voice cold but caring as he turned toward the chaos unfolding in the other rooms. But before he could leave, he hesitated. **"You’ll be okay,"** he added, as if trying to reassure both of them.

Shreya nodded, but inside, a mix of sorrow and longing filled her. She wanted him to see her, to understand. But there was no time for that now. She forced a faint smile, trying to appear stronger than she felt.

As Shrinu rushed to rejoin the others, he didn’t realize that Sameer, who had been standing guard at the hallway, had been critically wounded. The ship was under siege from all sides. **Sameer** had been one of the first to go down, trying to protect the others with everything he had.

Luv had noticed Sameer’s absence and ran to find him, only to discover the lifeless body of their comrade slumped against the wall. Blood pooled beneath him, and the once-vibrant energy of Sameer was now extinguished. **"Sameer…"** Luv’s voice broke as he knelt beside him, trying desperately to revive him, but it was too late.

The atmosphere in the ship was thick with dread. Sameer’s death struck the crew like a lightning bolt.

They had already been fighting for their lives, but now, with one less member, the reality of their situation hit them even harder.

**"No! Not Sameer!"** Prem shouted, grief and anger bubbling to the surface as he clenched his fists.

Jack, who had been fighting fiercely just moments before, stood frozen. The fight outside seemed to slow as the harsh reality of their situation settled in. **"This is getting out of control,"** Jack muttered under his breath, looking around for any sign of hope.

But as they stood there, a deadly silence fell over the spaceship. There was no time to mourn; they still had to survive. And now, every decision carried the weight of a life lost.

Shrinu reappeared, still unaware of Sameer’s fate. His focus was on one thing: protecting the rest of the crew, including Shreya, who he had left behind. But the moment he entered the room, the shock of seeing Sameer’s lifeless body hit him like a punch to the gut.

**"Sameer…"** Shrinu’s voice faltered as he took in the sight of their fallen comrade. There was no time for a proper goodbye, no chance for words that would never come.

Luv stood up, his face grim. **"We need to finish this. We owe him that,"** he said, his voice cold but determined.

Shrinu’s hands clenched into fists, rage bubbling inside him. But he knew that he couldn’t let the anger consume him. They had to fight. **"We’ll make sure his death wasn’t in vain."**

The atmosphere in the ship felt suffocating as they continued to fight. Every moment was filled with tension, and with Sameer gone, the reality of their mission set in even harder. There was no time for mourning, no time for distractions. The only thing that mattered now was the success of their mission.

But amidst all this chaos, Shreya remained behind, her heart heavy with both sorrow and love. She had never told Shrinu how she felt. But in the thick of battle, with lives on the line, perhaps it was the moment to fight for something deeper.

**Day-50**

Prem commands the AI robot to send a signal to Earth, alerting them that they’ve completed all necessary preparations to destroy the asteroid. As the signal transmits, the remaining crew members—Jack, Prem, Shrinu, Shreya, and Luv—look around at the wreckage and the fallen bodies of Sameer and Aayushma. The tension is thick in the air as they realize their losses, but they know the mission must continue.

Suddenly, the ship’s alarm blares, signaling a new wave of enemy attacks. The remaining five enemies, who had been hiding aboard the ship, launch a surprise assault.

Jack grabs his weapon, his eyes narrowing as he realizes the magnitude of the situation. "Five of them left. We have to act fast, or this will be the end for all of us."

Prem, determined as ever, orders, "We don’t have time to waste. We’re down to just five hours. The asteroid has to be destroyed, or Earth is doomed."

Shrinu, looking at the destroyed bodies of Sameer and Aayushma, clenches his fists. He’s not only angry but driven. "We can’t let them win," he says through gritted teeth. "Let’s finish this."

Shreya, still recovering from her injuries, gives Shrinu a determined look. "I’m with you. We have no choice but to fight. For Sameer, for Aayushma… for everyone."

The team rallies together, using the ship's weapons and their own training to fight off the remaining enemies. It’s a chaotic, fast-paced battle, but the crew is united in their mission. Each of them has their own personal reason for pushing forward, and none of them will give up.

The three remaining enemy members step forward, their faces cloaked in dark shadows. With a wicked smirk, one of them speaks, "You fools, it’s too late. The asteroid has already crossed the critical time limit. There's nothing you can do now."

Prem and Jack stare at each other in disbelief. The weight of the words hangs in the air as the realization sets in. Their chance to destroy the asteroid is slipping away.

Meanwhile, Shreya is in the medical room, supported by two AI bodyguards. Her gaze shifts to the corner, where Sameer and Aayushma’s bodies lie lifeless, a silent reminder of the battle they had fought.

Shrinu, standing firm, chuckles. His eyes gleam with confidence. "You really thought you had the upper hand, didn’t you?" He turns to face the enemies. "I already activated the missile. It’s in auto-launch. You’re too late."

The air crackles with tension. The countdown begins.

***"5… 4… 3… 2… 1…"*** Shrinu’s voice is steady as the countdown reaches its final moments.

The spaceship trembles as the missile launches, heading straight for the asteroid. A massive explosion lights up the distance outside the ship. The asteroid is destroyed.

The crew cheers in relief, knowing they’ve saved Earth. They look to each other, their faces reflecting the gravity of the situation. But before they can fully relax, the remaining enemy members growl in frustration.

"NO! This can’t be happening!" one of them yells, furious.

Shrinu and Jack quickly move to confront the enemies. Without hesitation, Shrinu pulls out his weapon and takes down one of the enemy soldiers. The crew watches, breathless, as Shrinu approaches the fallen enemy.

With a swift motion, he pulls off the mask of the enemy soldier, revealing a woman’s face.

Shrinu and Jack both freeze, shocked by the revelation. Jack’s eyes widen as recognition hits him. "You…," he whispers, a cold chill running down his spine.

The woman’s face is familiar—an enemy they didn’t expect. She had been one of their own all along. The betrayal is staggering.

Before they can process the shock, the next enemy soldier steps forward. Shrinu, still in disbelief, shoots again, and the second enemy falls. Slowly, Shrinu removes this second mask, and his jaw drops as he stares at the person behind it.

It’s someone he never thought would be involved—someone close to them, someone he trusted. The betrayal cuts deep.

Jack stands motionless. "This... this was all planned from the beginning. We’ve been played."

The room goes eerily silent, the weight of their realization hanging heavy.

**Day-51**

The room is thick with confusion as the last of the enemy soldiers lies dead. Luv and Prem look at Jack, desperate for answers. They can’t fathom why Jack was so shocked by the woman’s identity, or why Shrinu hadn’t killed the other two enemies.

Luv speaks first, his voice firm but concerned. “Who is she? Why were you so shocked, Jack? Why did Shrinu hesitate to kill the other two?” His gaze flickers between Jack and Shrinu, unsure what to make of the strange situation.

Prem chimes in, his brow furrowed. "Yeah, Jack. What happened? We need answers now."

Before Jack can respond, Shreya steps forward, her voice cutting through the tense atmosphere. “She’s Ocean,” she says, her words drawing the attention of everyone in the room.

Luv and Prem both freeze. The mention of that name sends shockwaves through them.

“*Ocean*?” Luv repeats, looking at Shreya. “Who is she, and why is she so important?”

Shreya’s eyes narrow as she looks from Luv to Jack. She glances down at the locket around her neck, and with a swift motion, she throws it to Luv. “Here,” she says, her voice steady. “Look at this.” (the locket Shrinu used to put)

Luv catches the locket and opens it cautiously. His eyes widen as he looks at the photo inside. It's a picture of Shrinu and Ocean—together, smiling, hugging each other tightly. The image is clear and vivid, as if frozen in time, taken during their days at the campus.

Luv is stunned. “This… this is Shrinu and Ocean? They were… *together*?”

Prem, just as shocked, turns to Jack. “You knew about this? Why didn’t you tell us?”

“What is the mystery telling us” Shreya asked.

Chapter-11

***Jack speak (tell the story)***

A boy was shouting like hell in the college grounds. He was suffering from pain and was covered in blood. He couldn’t even move his body. He managed to move to the medical room of the college. He slowly closed his eyes. One of his friends was with him in the medical room, and he went into a coma.

A boy was riding a bicycle at high speed, even though he couldn’t see anything. On the other side, he saw a girl on a bicycle at 6:00 AM. He turned back and looked again at the girl. He fell in love with her at that moment. He was in a hurry, so he sped up the cycle but couldn’t stop looking at her. He went home, had his meal, and got ready for school. He couldn’t stop thinking about her. Although he didn’t know her name, he went to school and kept thinking about her. His friend asked him what had happened and why he was so happy that day.

“I saw a beautiful angel. Her eyes were like a piece of infinite cuteness, and her ponytail made her look like a goddess. She had a smile on her face with the cutest cheeks,” he replied. His friend asked her name, but unfortunately, he didn’t know. He just thought that she was only attracted to him, so he decided to forget everything. The next day, he saw her again. It was like she was the only one he loved. He started imagining a future with her. He told his friend that one day when she came to his class, he showed his friend that she was his crush. His friend laughed at him and said that she was the girlfriend of another friend. He was completely heartbroken. After that, he stopped smiling and stopped talking about her. He respected his friend and let her go.

The next day, he saw his friend holding her hand, and he felt incredibly jealous. He couldn’t control his feelings and was about to cry when his sister came and took him aside, saying, "Come on, she’s not yours." He cried so hard, but he couldn’t show how he felt. So, he tried to forget her. One day, he cried in his class, and his sister helped him. She told him, “Ocean would not love anyone from her true soul; she was only passing time.” Shrinu asked how she knew this. She replied that she had asked her, and she told him that she would never fall in love with anyone. The sound of her words hurt him more than when he had lost her. In response, he increased his hatred towards her. He never talked about her or looked at her again after that conversation.

One day, he was returning home after school with his sister, Ocean, who also joined them. Shrinu’s sisters looked at him and told him not to be hurt and not to think about her. Shrinu’s sisters then left him and Ocean together, pretending they had some work to do. They were planning to bring Shrinu and Ocean together.

Shrinu and Ocean walked together that day. Shrinu couldn’t talk to Ocean and felt awkward and shy. He was embarrassed. They walked together the next day, and Shrinu texted her, “Hey,” but then deleted the text, saying, “Sorry, I wrote it mistakenly.” Ocean replied with “OK.” They started talking the following day when they were returning from school. Shrinu gave Ocean a piece of a dog chain, and she smiled and accepted it. That was Shrinu's first gift to Ocean, and Ocean didn’t realize she had also given Shrinu a precious gift. Her smile was so precious to Shrinu that he couldn’t forget it.

After they went home, Shrinu was going to text her, but Ocean had already texted him. He was so happy; he had finished all his homework and helped his mom with the household work. Then he started to talk with her. She invited him for an evening walk at 7:30 pm. Shrinu took his dog with him. He wanted to talk to her, but she was very silent, and Shrinu did most of the talking. After about 5 minutes, she spoke with him, and then they went home and texted each other. Shrinu was so happy; that when his phone died at 10:00 pm, he opened his laptop and started talking to her. They had the following conversation:

Shrinu*: Hello, what's going on?*Ocean: *Everything's fine.*Shrinu: *Have you had your dinner?*  
Ocean: *I want to ask you something.*  
Shrinu: *Go ahead (curious).*  
Ocean: *Do you like me or not, Shrinu? (Expressing her love for Shrinu*)  
Shrinu: Yeah, I like everyone who talks to me properly (realizing she loves him).  
Ocean: Okay, give me a nickname.  
Shrinu: What? I don't understand (confused and shy).  
Ocean: I will name you BUNNY.  
Shrinu: I don’t know what to call you.  
Ocean: Anything you want.  
Shrinu: What about pumpkin? (laughs)  
Ocean: I am not fat! (laughs)  
**Shrinu gave her a lot of nicknames before he came up with a final one**.  
Shrinu: What about Babe? (feeling shy)  
Ocean: Okay (feeling love).  
**Shrinu was shocked, and he was now sure she was in love with him. But he didn’t want to ruin their friendship by turning it into a relationship, so he stayed silent**.  
Ocean: Do you love me? (blushing)  
Shrinu: What? (shocked)  
Ocean: Do you love me? (asked again)  
Shrinu: Yes (with a smile).

Ocean and Shrinu talked a lot about their families, studies, dreams, and many other things. After a while, they turned off their phones and went to sleep. The next day, Shrinu told his sister that he was happy for himself but also worried, because he knew that Ocean would not love him back. After a week of talking, Shrinu changed his behavior. Ocean asked him what had happened, and he replied, "Nothing."

During this time, Shrinu's friend came over and scolded him, telling him not to dare go near Ocean. Shrinu was sad, and while returning home, he saw another friend walking with Ocean. Shrinu walked alone. His other friend told him to propose to her, or someone else would take her away. He overthought the situation a lot.

Then his sister noticed he was upset, so she called that boy over and told him, "Don't walk with her." Ocean knew that Shrinu was hurt, so she ran to catch up with him.

Ocean: "What happened?" (softly)

Shrinu: "Nothing."

Ocean: "Are you hurt?" (asking in a gentle voice)

Shrinu: "No."

Ocean told the boy, "Hey, listen, he is my boyfriend, so please don't come near me." She said it proudly. Shrinu was happy.

Ocean then asked, "Do you want to hold my hand?"

Shrinu replied, "No." Ocean asked again, "Do you want to hold my hand?"

Shrinu replied, "No."

Ocean: "But I want to hold your hand."

She held his hand and they walked together home. Their homes were an hour away from school. As they walked, Ocean held Shrinu's hand and said:

Ocean: "Don’t worry. I know I’m not perfect, but I’ll try to be good for you. I’ll never leave you alone. I’ll always be by your side. I promise."

Shrinu remembered this promise for a long time.

On the other side, his friends were watching and laughing. The boy who wanted Ocean to leave Shrinu’s side, and Shrinu's sister, were both shocked and moved forward. Shrinu and Ocean's love felt like something special. But one day, Shrinu noticed that Ocean seemed to have lost interest, and he became upset. He went out with his sister on a bicycle, while Ocean sat at home, thinking about how she might be his new girlfriend, crying.

The next day at school, Ocean asked him about it, and he replied, "She’s my maternal uncle’s daughter." Ocean was relieved and said, "Thanks, God!" Shrinu laughed and hugged her. She then said, "Go away!" in a cute voice.

They were in class 10, and they give their final exam, they moved up to the next grade. On the first day of class 11, Shrinu chose one stream, and Ocean chose another, so they couldn’t be in the same class anymore. Ocean and Shrinu were in the same class. Ocean requested Shrinu to join her, but he rejected. Shrinu had seen a message from Ocean and her friend Emma, where Emma was pressuring Ocean to study with her. After that, they decided to study together.

In the fourth month of grade XI, Shrinu caught Ocean talking to another boy about wanting to be in a secret relationship with him. Shrinu was hurt. He fought with the boy and beat him up. Shrinu called his group of friends, but he only had one friend with him, named Robert. Robert beat the boy and scolded him. There were 15 boys in total, and Shrinu and Robert were standing with dog chains in their hands. One of the boys from the group went and complained to the Discipline In-charge.

The Discipline In-charge called Shrinu and Robert that day. Ocean was absent, but the Discipline In-charge spoke to Shrinu.

Discipline In-charge: "Listen, my boy, this is not the age to fall in love with any girl. But if you are already in love and she is cheating on you, go call her."

Shrinu: "She is absent today."

Discipline In-charge: "Go call that boy."

Shrinu: "Sir, leave them now. I won’t fight with them."

Discipline In-charge: "Promise?"

Shrinu: "I can’t promise, but I will try."

That day, Shrinu forgave the boy and Ocean, but he was still hurt. He decided not to fall in love again. However, the next day, Ocean came and apologized to him. He cried, and Ocean hugged him. He pushed her away, but she promised it would not happen again. Shrinu forgave her and accepted her apology.

They lived happily together. Shrinu lost his parents in a bus accident, and Ocean used to care for him, cooking and feeding him. Shrinu lived alone at his house, so Ocean would cook food for him. Shrinu’s uncle and aunt paid for his school fees. Ocean had also lost her mother. They shared their problems with each other and cared a lot for one another. Their love story was pure, and everyone in college knew about them. Shrinu was happy that he had found someone loyal.

One day, the college took them on a tour. Shrinu and Ocean stayed together, talking about their future and enjoying the trip. But when Shrinu checked her phone, he saw that she had been talking to the guy who had wanted her while they were holding hands. Shrinu was completely broken. His hands started to shake, and he screamed in frustration. He punched the wall and cried a lot, shouting and hitting himself. Ocean cried and ran to him, but he ignored her that night. Shrinu went to the terrace of the hotel and started drinking beer, hiding from the college guardians and friends. Ocean felt guilty and regretted what she had done. She cried too, but when she was about to hit herself, Shrinu came and hugged her. He kissed her forehead, then hugged her tightly and said goodbye.

Ocean cried and begged him, "Please don’t leave me. I won’t repeat it." But she did. Shrinu promised himself that he would change her and make her a well-mannered person. She repeated her mistakes many times, but Shrinu forgave her each time. Shrinu tried to teach her and scold her, but he was losing his mind. Ocean started ignoring Shrinu, and one day, Shrinu broke up with her. For two weeks, they didn’t talk to each other.

One day, Shrinu thought to himself, "I should change her; only I love her. No one can love her like I do." So, he decided to go back to her, but she had already come and apologized. "Please, this is the last time. Please forgive me," she said. He hugged her, and this time, Ocean cried a lot. She kissed Shrinu on the forehead and said, "You are the only one loyal to me." Shrinu slowly slapped her and took her to meet his sister and uncle. From that day on, Ocean never left Shrinu and always loved him.

For three years, they lived a happy life together, caring for and loving each other. They visited their homes, talked to their families, and enjoyed their time together. Ocean and Shrinu excelled in their studies. After completing their lower-level college, they decided to go to a different college for higher studies. Ocean called Shrinu and said, "Listen, you are not alone. You shouldn’t distract your mind. We will study together, focus on our studies, and show society that teenage love truly exists. I will never leave you. Please focus on your career. I will always love you and care for you. We will stay together until we die."

Shrinu accepted her words, feeling happy and motivated.

He got the loyal one who cared for him and loved him like her own. They studied together at a new college, taking different streams. They moved to Kathmandu to study. Ocean was scared she wouldn't find any friends, and they moved to their respective buildings. Ocean made new friends, but one of her friends was particularly precious to her, named Abhilasha. Abhilasha and Ocean used to sit on the same bench, and she introduced Shrinu to her. However, Abhilasha and Shrinu never met that day. Shrinu also made many friends, but his two closest friends were Alex and Arman.

One day, Shrinu and Ocean were seated in the college canteen. Ocean opened her mobile and showed a video with her friend. Randomly, Shrinu mocked her and said, "Go and show it to Brother Arman." Shrinu scrolled through his phone and showed another girl's video to Arman. Arman immediately fell in love with that girl. He began talking to Shrinu and asked about the girl. He wanted her social media accounts and Ocean told him her name: Abhilasha. Arman searched for her on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, but he couldn’t find her. One day, he finally found her and sent her a friend request, but Abhilasha didn’t accept it.

Arman asked Ocean, "Please tell her to accept my friend request." Ocean said, "I will try."

Then one day, Ocean and Shrinu had a small fight, and Shrinu was hurt by it. He refused to talk to her and cried secretly. Ocean never returned to him. After two days, Shrinu saw Ocean with another guy. Shrinu ran to her, thinking it was a prank, but no, she had really left him. Shrinu was heartbroken. He stopped going to college, and he developed a minor chest pain. He ignored it and started drinking beer. However, one day, the pain in his chest became severe. He began going to the hospital daily, getting injections and glucose drips.

One day, he asked for some money, and his brother’s friend, who was a well-known doctor at the hospital, told him to think about Ocean and his deceased parents. Shrinu thought about them and cried a lot. He completely broke down. The next day, the doctor called him and took him to a dark room. There were four doctors there: one held his legs, another one held his hand, and Shrinu's chest hurt terribly. He screamed in agony, feeling as if his chest was slowly damaging. He cried, shouting that he was ready to give up his life, but the doctors managed to stabilize him and sent him home. The doctor told him to call his parents, but Shrinu never returned to the hospital again.

One day, Shrinu fully recovered and returned to college. He focused on his studies and health. He no longer cared about others. Life was going completely fine. Shrinu used painkiller tablets to manage his chest pain. One day, Arman was going to meet Abhilasha, and Shrinu saw that Ocean was being beaten up by her new boyfriend. Shrinu watched her from a distance, struggling to control his feelings. Ocean saw him and started crying.

As Shrinu walked toward her, her friend stopped him, but Ocean ran toward him and hugged him, crying. Shrinu didn’t want to hug her, but he did. He took her to a nearby water tap. "Wash your face and stop crying," he told her. Ocean couldn’t move, so Shrinu turned on the tap and washed her face for her. He tied her hair, handed her a handkerchief to rub her face, and told her to ask Abhilasha to take her with her.

Then, a girl named Lucille came and called Shrinu, "Hey, come on, we’re late!" Ocean looked at Lucille and asked Shrinu, "Is she your new girlfriend?" Shrinu replied, "No."

Suddenly, a group of people stormed the college in protest. The protesters began attacking students. Everyone ran to escape. Fifteen people entered the school and started attacking students. The students defended themselves, hitting back. Shrinu, who was weak, noticed that Ocean was scared and frozen in place. He was about to go to her, but he was attacked by more people. He fought back, and seeing Shrinu fighting alone, his friends and teachers joined in to help. Together, they managed to close the main gate of the school, keeping the attackers out.

Shrinu, Alex, and Arman fought with the attackers, while the teachers restrained them. Shrinu went to hold Ocean, but as he tried to hold her from behind, someone stabbed him in the back with a knife. There was a moment of silence. The pain in his chest, which had already healed, returned. One of the people in the group had stabbed him, and he collapsed. He was carried to the medical room, with blood pouring out from the wound. The pain was excruciating, and he cried, unable to bear both the chest pain and the new pain from the stab wound.

The teachers caught the attacker and brought Shrinu to the medical room. They called for a doctor, but the doctor refused to come because of the ongoing protest outside. Ocean watched as Shrinu was taken to the medical room. She wanted to follow, but Lucille grabbed Shrinu's hand and went with him instead. Ocean, heartbroken, held Abhilasha's hand as she felt the pain inside.

Shrinu requested his brother to leave everything else and stay with him. The teachers gave the mobile recorder to his brother so that Shrinu’s last words could be heard. Shrinu fought through the pain, looking at his brother and smiling.

Shrinu: "Did I do anything wrong, brother?" (smiling weakly)

Brother: "No..." (in a soft voice)

Shrinu: "I want something. Will you give it to me?" (looking into his eyes)

Brother: "What do you want?" (he knew Shrinu would talk about Ocean)

Shrinu: "Please take care of Ocean. She’s not wrong. I loved her. She’s the one who took care of me during my hardest time..." (crying)

Brother: "Why do you want her again? She made you feel like this, and you still want her?" (frustrated)

Shrinu: "Please..." (pleading)

Brother: "Okay."

Ocean and the others were listening to this outside the room.

Shrinu: "It hurts. It really hurts..." (shouting, crying, clutching his chest)

Brother: "What happened?"

Ocean tried to go to Shrinu, but Lucille pushed her away and stayed with Shrinu.

Shrinu slowly closed his eyes. Lucille cried as she stayed by his side, holding his hand. They all remained stuck in the college for three days.

Shrinu opened his eyes, and Lucille hugged him.

Shrinu: "It’s hurting... ouch..." (slowly)

Lucille: "Sorry. Now you won’t go anywhere, leaving me. I love you, and you’re only mine."

Shrinu: "Seriously, I love you too." (smiling)

Lucille: "Now you won’t be a hero for anyone else. You’ll only be with me, understand?"

Shrinu: "Yes."

Then, Shrinu was taken to the hospital, and he was discharged from there. Shrinu and Lucille completed their studies together and focused on building their careers. Shrinu and Lucille married and lived in a big house. Shrinu became a successful businessman, and Lucille became a CA. Shrinu and Lucille had a baby, named Deepin.

Lucille: "Thank you for supporting me and being with me."

Shrinu: "Thank you too."

They lived happily, and their baby boy grew up strong and healthy. Shrinu never thought about Ocean anymore.

But Ocean disappeared. She was no longer in contact with anyone. Then, one night, Shrinu and Lucille went to bed, talking about their future—how they would enjoy life and what they would do for their baby. They eventually fell asleep. (Lucille was dreaming)

Lucille held Shrinu's hand until the doctor arrived and asked her to step aside to begin treating Shrinu. Ocean was crying, wanting to go to Shrinu, but upon seeing Lucille care for him, she couldn’t go to him.

Shrinu gave up his life.

Ocean was shocked. Lucille cried, and Shrinu's brother approached Ocean and said, "Are you happy now?" before walking away.

Ocean committed suicide, choosing to be with Shrinu. Shrinu lived as a loyal soul, forever dedicated to his Ocean. Ocean, feeling regret for hurting Shrinu, committed suicide too, wanting to be with him forever.

Lucille remained loyal to Shrinu and never remarried.

However, in reality, Shrinu was alive. Ocean’s body was never found. Shrinu prepared for the rest of his life and left the city.

Chapter-12

**Jack**: "But then, just when things seemed to get a little better, Shrinu found himself in another storm. This time, it wasn't just his heart breaking—his body was too. He had been trying so hard to hold it together, but the pain, both emotional and physical, was too much. He could barely breathe, feeling like the weight of the world was pressing on his chest. And through it all, Ocean, the one person he loved most, was the one causing him the most pain."

**Luv** (shaking his head): "I can’t believe it. How can someone do that to him over and over again? That’s pure cruelty."

**Prem** (visibly frustrated): "He forgave her time and time again. How much could anyone bear? That’s not love... that’s just manipulation. I feel so bad for him."

**Shreya** (with a sigh): "It’s heartbreaking. He was always so kind, so patient. But with Ocean, he kept getting hurt. And no matter how much he tried to make things work; she only took advantage of him. I feel so helpless just hearing about it. What could he have possibly done to deserve that?"

**Jack** (with a sad expression): "I felt the same way. It was like he was trapped in a cycle he couldn’t escape. But he always believed in her, always thought that maybe... maybe this time things would be different. But it never was."

**Luv** (leaning back): "It’s insane. And then, for him to end up stabbed like that... after everything he went through? It feels like he was just being punished for loving too much."

**Prem** (clenching his fists): "He didn’t deserve this. No one deserves this. It’s messed up. All that pain... for what? Just because he trusted someone who wasn’t worth it?"

**Shreya** (softly): "I just want him to be happy. To find peace. He’s been through too much, and it’s hard to see someone so full of life get torn apart like that."

**Jack** (nodding slowly): "Yeah... it’s hard for all of us, really. But Shrinu... despite all of it, he kept going. He tried, even when it seemed impossible. That’s the kind of person he was—no matter how much life pushed him down, he kept fighting."  
**Luv** (looking at Jack, his voice filled with disbelief): "Jack, who's next with Ocean? After everything Shrinu went through... who is she with now?"

**Jack** (sighing heavily): "The next with Ocean... is Arman.(her brother she made and Shrinu friend)"

**Prem** (eyes widening, his expression frozen in shock): "Arman? No way... after all that, he's with her? How could he do that to Shrinu?"

**Shreya** (shaking her head, trying to hold herself together): "This is crazy... but it’s been 70 days already. We’re almost back home. After one more month, they’ll be arrested for everything they’ve done. We just have to hold on a little longer."

*Suddenly, a voice interrupts their conversation— a voice they all know well.*

**Shrinu** (appearing at the entrance of the room, looking more serious than ever): "We can’t go back to Earth now."

**Luv, Prem, and Shreya** (in unison, turning toward Shrinu with a mix of surprise and concern): "What do you mean, Shrinu? What happened?"

**Shrinu** (his expression dark and troubled): "While we were fighting in the ship... something happened. The ship malfunctioned during the chaos. We've left the Solar Orbit... we’re... lost. We’re no longer in our solar system."

**Shreya** (staring at Shrinu, her voice trembling): "What? What do you mean, we’re lost? How? How can that be possible?"

**Prem** (his tone rising with panic): "This can't be happening! We’re out here... floating in space with no way back? How did this even happen?"

**Luv** (his face pale, taking a step back): "You’re serious, aren’t you? We’re stranded... out there... beyond the stars?"

**Shrinu** (nodding grimly, his eyes reflecting the weight of the truth): "Yes. The damage to the ship... it’s worse than we thought. And now... now we’re completely off course. We’ve left the Solar System, and there’s no telling how far we’ve gone or where we are."

**Jack** (his voice quiet, but filled with disbelief): "This... this is unreal. We can’t go back? We... we have no way home?"

**Shrinu** (looking at each of them with determination): "No. We have to figure this out. We’ve got no choice now but to survive out here and find a way back. But for now, we’re stuck. And everything... everything just got a lot harder."

**Shreya** (staring at Shrinu, her heart racing with fear): "How are we supposed to survive out here? We don’t even know where we are or how far away, we are from home..."

**Luv** (gritting his teeth, frustrated): "This is a nightmare... how could everything go wrong like this?"

**Prem** (his hands shaking, but trying to stay strong): "But Shrinu... you’re saying... we’re just floating out here? There’s no going back?"

**Shrinu** (his face hardening with resolve): "Right. We’re lost in space."

Part – 2 (Two)

Chapter-1

Chapter- 2

Chapter- 3

Chapter- 4

Chapter- 5

Chapter- 6

Chapter-1

The silence in the spaceship was suffocating. Shrinu stood frozen, the gravity of his words sinking in. They were no longer in control. The ship was adrift in the cold, endless void of space, far beyond the orbit of Earth.

Luv, Prem, and Shreya exchanged glances, their faces pale and eyes wide with disbelief. The calmness in Shrinu's voice only heightened the sense of dread.

"Lost?" Prem whispered. "How... how did this happen?"

"We were fighting," Shrinu began, his voice breaking as he remembered the chaos. "The ship malfunctioned... and we were pulled out of the solar orbit. There's no way back. We’re stuck out here. I couldn't even fix it." His hands trembled as he spoke, every word like a heavy burden.

Shreya, still reeling from the revelation, shook her head. "But we... we were supposed to come back. We were supposed to fix everything."

Shrinu looked at her, his eyes filled with regret. "I tried... I tried everything. I didn’t want this. I never wanted this."

Luv stepped forward, his voice barely above a whisper. "What about the others? Ocean... Arman?"

"Their fate is tied with ours now," Shrinu said with a heavy heart. "I don’t even know if they made it or if they’re... somewhere out here too."

The coldness of space pressed in on them as the ship drifted further away from everything they once knew. They had no destination. No hope of salvation.

Luv tried to put on a brave face, masking the pain he had carried for so long. He stood there, his voice steady but with a tinge of sadness. "No problem," he said quietly. "My mom is safe now. Till now, the government has given her 1 crore rupees for the care she needed. I’m just happy that I could do something for her. She deserved better."

Shreya nodded, her expression cool as always, but her eyes reflected the same sorrow everyone else was feeling. "Yeah, we’ve made it this far. We can hold on a little longer. It’s all part of the mission."

Prem, always the optimist, put a reassuring hand on Luv’s shoulder. "Now, we will live happily... until we die. We’ve survived this much, right? We’ve come too far to give up now."

But in that moment, the silence was shattered by Shrinu’s voice. His words hung heavily in the air. "The last message from Earth… it was, ‘Congratulations on your mission.’ And then…" He paused, as though the words hurt him too, "‘And what?’"

Prem frowned, not quite understanding the depth of the statement. "What do you mean, Shrinu?"

Luv’s face drained of color, his mind struggling to process what he was hearing. "Luv," Shrinu continued, his voice breaking, "your mom... she’s no longer with us."

For a moment, the world seemed to stop. Luv stood frozen, his eyes staring blankly as his heart seemed to implode. He didn’t move. He didn’t speak. The words didn’t make sense to him. He had been holding on to the belief that his mother, in some way, was still out there, safe. But now, everything had come crashing down.

"No," Luv whispered, barely audible. "No... no, that’s not possible. It can’t be true."

But Shrinu’s eyes, filled with an unspoken sorrow, confirmed it. Luv’s knees gave way, and he collapsed to the ground, unable to contain the wave of emotions that overwhelmed him. His body shook with quiet sobs, the weight of his grief too much to bear. He clutched his chest, his breath ragged and shallow as the tears streamed down his face.

"I... I couldn’t even be there for her in her last moments," Luv choked out, his voice barely a whisper. "She was everything to me. And I wasn’t there."

Shreya stepped forward, placing a gentle hand on Luv’s shoulder, her voice soft and comforting, though she herself was fighting back tears. "Luv, she knew you were doing everything you could for her. You gave her everything. You were her strength, even from here."

But Luv couldn’t hear it. His world was spinning, a blur of emotions and pain. It was all too much. The mission, the dangers of space, the uncertainty of the future—they all felt so meaningless now. In that moment, he realized that no achievement or success could ever replace the love of a mother.

"We failed her," Luv whispered, his voice cracking. "I failed her."

And in the cold, empty silence of space, Luv let his emotions spill out, unable to control the tidal wave of grief that had consumed him. For the first time in what seemed like forever, he allowed himself to mourn the loss of the one person who had given him life.

Chapter-2

Jack and Shrinu entered the cold, dimly lit prison, the sound of their footsteps echoing off the metal walls. Ocean and Arman sat in separate cages, their faces etched with confusion and fear. The atmosphere was thick with tension as Jack approached them, his eyes burning with anger and pain. Shrinu stood beside him, his expression unreadable.

Jack glared at them, his voice cold and accusing. "Are you happy now? You wanted to be heroes, to save Earth. But look where we are. Lost in space, with no way back. And Luv’s mother… she died because of you."

Ocean and Arman exchanged a quick glance, their faces suddenly paling. They were taken aback by Jack’s words, clearly not expecting the anger and bitterness. They knew their mission was supposed to help, to protect Earth from the impending asteroid, but they hadn’t imagined the consequences would spiral out of control like this.

Ocean, her voice trembling slightly, looked at Jack with pleading eyes. "What are you talking about, Jack? How could we have caused this? We were only trying to help. We never meant for any of this to happen."

Arman, who had been silent until now, spoke up, his tone calm but filled with concern. "We didn’t want this. We were sent on a mission by the secret agency, and we thought we were doing the right thing. But now… now everything is falling apart."

Jack's hands clenched into fists, his emotions running high. "You’re telling me that you didn’t know? You didn’t know that your actions would lead to this?"

Ocean’s eyes filled with regret, but also with a deep sadness. "We didn’t know, Jack. We were told to infiltrate, to blend in with other countries to keep the Earth safe. We never intended for any of this chaos."

Shrinu stepped forward; his voice quiet but firm. "So, you weren’t the ones who caused the attack? You weren’t the ones who betrayed us?"

The room fell into a heavy silence, broken only by the hum of the spaceship’s systems in the background. Ocean and Arman shared a glance, their eyes full of guilt and confusion. Arman, struggling to process the truth, spoke again, his voice strained.

"No. We didn’t do that. The agency… they sent us to do this job, but we had no idea they were manipulating us. They gave us false orders. They told us we were working for the greater good, but… but now we see the consequences. We never wanted to hurt anyone. We just wanted to stop the asteroid."

Jack’s gaze hardened, but there was a flicker of doubt in his eyes. "Then who did it? Who’s behind all of this?"

Ocean and Arman exchanged a glance, their expressions growing more serious. "We don’t know," Ocean said, her voice shaking. "But we’re not your enemies. We were pawns in a much bigger game, Jack. And now… now we have to find out the truth together."

The words hung in the air, and for the first time, Jack began to question everything he had believed. The twists were beginning to unfold, and the situation was more complicated than anyone had imagined.

"You’re telling me you were used?" Shrinu asked, his voice low. "So, if you weren’t behind this… then who was?"

Arman shook his head slowly. "We don’t have all the answers yet. But we know one thing for sure: whoever’s behind this… they’ve been manipulating all of us. And we need to find them before it’s too late."

Jack’s mind raced, the weight of their words settling heavily on him. There was something more sinister at play, something that had been hidden from them all. And in this endless stretch of space, the truth was their only hope.

The silence in the hall was deafening as Shrinu stood there, Ocean and Arman by his side. Prem’s face twisted in anger, his fists clenched at his sides as he glared at Shrinu. "Why the hell did you bring them here? Are you out of your mind?" he snapped, his voice full of frustration.

Shrinu, though clearly exhausted, stood firm. His eyes were intense, unwavering. "They're innocent, Prem. Someone used us, and they were used too. We’re all pawns in this, manipulated by someone far more dangerous than we realize. We need to stick together."

A deep sense of betrayal washed over Prem's face. "You believe them? After everything that’s happened? After Luv's mother…" He faltered; the pain evident in his eyes. But before he could say more, Shreya, who had been standing off to the side, ran towards Shrinu, her voice trembling.

"Shrinu!" She flung herself into his arms, holding him tightly as though she were afraid to let go. "I’m scared, Shrinu. What’s happening? I don’t know what to believe anymore…" Her voice quivered, and her grip tightened around him.

Shrinu stood still, unmoving. His eyes, though tired and heavy, didn't show any sign of emotion as he looked ahead, his thoughts elsewhere. It was as though her words and her touch didn’t reach him. His body was rigid, his heart distant.

But in the background, a subtle tension began to build. Ocean, standing a few steps away, was watching Shreya with an intensity that wasn’t lost on anyone. Her gaze, sharp and filled with something unspoken, lingered on Shreya for a moment longer than necessary.

Shreya, feeling the weight of that gaze, slowly pulled away from Shrinu, turning to face Ocean. The air between them crackled, as if they were caught in some invisible web. Shreya gave a soft, almost teasing smile, her eyes twinkling despite the chaos around them. "What’s with you?" she asked, her voice light, but there was a tension in her tone. "You staring at me like that? You’ve got a problem?"

Ocean didn’t flinch. She simply met Shreya’s gaze, her expression unreadable. But there was a flicker in her eyes—something that could only be described as both defiance and something more complex. "I’m just observing," she replied, her voice cool and smooth. "Nothing wrong with that."

The unspoken words hung between them, a challenge that neither of them could ignore. Shreya smiled again, her lips curving in a way that seemed to imply she wasn’t backing down.

Prem, noticing the silent tension between the two women, took a step forward, his brow furrowed in frustration. "This is not the time for games. We’re stuck in space, and we’ve got no idea what’s really going on. Can we focus on that?"

But Shrinu, still distant and lost in his own thoughts, didn’t respond. He stood there, his mind a swirl of conflicting emotions—guilt over Luv’s mother, confusion over Ocean and Arman’s true role in all this, and a growing sense of helplessness.

As the silence stretched on, it was clear that something had shifted. Not just between the group, but within Shrinu himself. The weight of everything—the lies, the manipulation, the betrayal—was starting to take its toll. And amidst it all, the quiet and subtle battle for Shrinu’s attention had begun.

Shreya, now more aware of the invisible tug-of-war between her and Ocean, felt a pang of jealousy in her chest. She could see it. Ocean’s gaze on Shrinu was lingering a little too long. She didn’t know what to make of it, but the feeling gnawed at her. She had always been the one to stand by Shrinu, but now, for the first time, she felt like she might be losing him to something—or someone—else.

Shrinu remained silent; his heart heavy with the storm of emotions inside him. He couldn’t bring himself to confront Shreya’s vulnerability or Ocean’s quiet intensity. He felt torn in so many ways, and for the first time in a long while, he wasn’t sure which direction to take.

Jack’s voice trembled with a mixture of disbelief and confusion as he stepped forward, his gaze locked onto Ocean. “Where were you, Ocean? How did you meet Arman—your brother? Didn’t you… commit suicide?”

The words hung in the air, heavy and painful. Ocean’s eyes widened, and for a brief moment, a flicker of confusion crossed her face. Her breath hitched. “Suicide?” she repeated, her voice barely a whisper. The idea seemed so foreign, so far removed from the reality she knew. She shook her head, as if trying to shake away the sting of Jack's accusation. “What are you talking about? I never… I didn’t—”

Her words faltered, the weight of the question cutting deeper than she expected. She couldn’t even fathom what Jack meant. Her mind raced back to the day when everything had spiraled out of control. She had been lost, broken, and someone had reached out to her. Someone from a secret agency, offering her a way out, a purpose. She had never imagined it would lead to this.

“I never tried to end my life,” she finally spoke, her voice shaking. “Someone called me. They… recruited me. They wanted me to join their agency as a secret agent. I had no choice but to accept. And that’s how I found Arman. My brother… He was already there, working for them too.” Her eyes wandered for a moment, then she turned, meeting Jack’s gaze with a quiet intensity.

A silence fell between them, thick with the unspoken history that connected them all.

But in that moment, Ocean’s gaze shifted, and her eyes found Shreya—standing next to Shrinu, her hand tightly clutching his. Ocean couldn’t help but notice the way Shreya was so protectively close to him. She had always known there was something between them, but now, seeing it so plainly, stirred a strange feeling deep within her chest. It wasn’t jealousy. Or maybe it was. She couldn’t quite place it, but it was there—a gnawing ache.

Shreya, feeling Ocean’s eyes on her, instinctively tightened her grip on Shrinu’s hand, her fingers pressing down hard as though to remind herself that he was hers. Her heart pounded in her chest, and she could feel the heat of Ocean’s gaze burning into her. She didn’t know what it meant, but she didn’t trust Ocean—not now, not after everything that had happened. And the way Ocean had looked at Shrinu earlier… it unsettled her more than she cared to admit.

Ocean’s stare lingered a moment too long, her eyes tracing the delicate curve of Shreya’s face, the way she clung to Shrinu as if he were the only thing keeping her grounded. And there it was again—that feeling. The one she had pushed down for so long, but now it surged forward, raw and uncontrollable. Jealousy. It had no place here, no reason to exist, but it was undeniable.

Shreya met Ocean’s gaze, her lips pressed into a thin line, her chest tightening with every second of this strange, silent exchange. She wasn’t about to let Ocean slip into her life like this—like she could simply waltz back in and take what wasn’t hers. Shrinu had been through too much, and he had fought so hard to stay strong for all of them. The thought of losing him, of letting someone like Ocean take him away—no, she couldn’t even entertain it.

Ocean saw the way Shreya’s posture had shifted, the way her protective stance toward Shrinu had become even more pronounced. It was an instinct, something so primal, and for a fleeting moment, Ocean envied that connection. She envied how Shreya could be so sure of her place in Shrinu’s world, while Ocean had always been left wondering if she had ever really had a place at all.

She looked away, trying to suppress the aching emptiness inside her. “I’m not here to cause trouble,” Ocean said quietly, her voice now strained. “I never wanted to hurt anyone. I didn’t want to be used. But I was. And now we’re all caught in this mess.”

Shreya’s grip on Shrinu’s hand didn’t loosen, but her heart ached with a new understanding. Was it possible that Ocean had been manipulated, too? Was it possible she had been used just as much as they had? Shreya didn’t know, but she wasn’t ready to trust Ocean—no matter how much pain she saw behind her eyes. She could see the cracks, the vulnerability, but she wouldn’t let that cloud her judgment.

Jack, sensing the tension between Ocean and Shreya, spoke up, breaking the silence. "You expect us to just accept this? To believe you were only a pawn in someone else’s game? How are we supposed to trust you after everything?"

Ocean’s face hardened again, but there was a flicker of sadness in her eyes. “You don’t have to trust me. But I’m telling you the truth. You don’t know the whole story, Jack. I didn’t want any of this. And I certainly didn’t want to hurt anyone. But now we’re in this together, and the truth is, we need to figure out how to survive this, or none of us will make it out alive.”

The room fell silent again, the weight of her words settling heavily over everyone. Shreya looked at Shrinu, their hands still intertwined, and for the first time in a long while, she felt something stir inside her—a deep sense of fear, of uncertainty. What was the future going to look like now?

Ocean’s words hung in the air like a ghost. "We’re all lost… in ways we never expected."

And somewhere deep inside, Shreya couldn't shake the feeling that things were about to get even worse.

Ocean took a slow, deliberate breath, her gaze drifting to the floor as if the weight of her words was too heavy to bear. “Yeah, I know someone. One of the heads of the agency. The one who authorized us to join this mission and attack you all. But I think he was also… innocent, in a way.” She hesitated for a second before her eyes met Jack’s, her voice barely a whisper, yet it cut through the silence like a knife. “His name is Bikram… Shrinu’s brother.”

Jack’s heart skipped a beat. He couldn’t believe what he was hearing. “Bikram?” he repeated, the name hanging in the air, sharp and unexpected. “But how? What does Shrinu’s brother have to do with this?”

Ocean's eyes darkened, the shadows of the past creeping into her expression. “I didn’t know it at the time, but Bikram was working with the agency. He was one of the ones pulling the strings behind the scenes. He approached me when Shrinu was unconscious, lying in the hospital after… after everything had happened. He told me that it was time for me to leave Shrinu behind. He asked if I was happy with what I had done, and then he handed me a paper. A contract. It was an invitation to join the agency, to become a secret agent.”

Ocean’s voice cracked slightly, the weight of her own realization sinking in. She had never expected this. She had never imagined that someone so close to Shrinu, someone she had once considered family, would betray him in such a way.

She looked around the room at the stunned faces, the shock evident in everyone’s eyes. “Bikram... he wanted me to disappear from Shrinu’s life. He wanted me gone. And he knew that by doing this, I would be forced to sever all ties with him.” Ocean’s voice faltered, a tear threatening to fall, but she wiped it away angrily. “He made me believe it was for the best. But now I realize… it wasn’t for me. It was for him. For the money.”

Jack’s face twisted in disbelief, trying to make sense of the impossible. “Wait. Are you saying that Bikram… he did all of this—he manipulated you, turned you against us—just for money? Just for a payout?”

Ocean nodded slowly; her heart heavy with the truth she hadn’t wanted to face. “I didn’t know it at the time, but that’s exactly what happened. Bikram wasn’t just working for the agency; he was working for his own gain. They promised him a reward for getting me on board, for getting me to do their bidding. And the bigger the mission, the bigger the payout. He knew exactly what he was doing—he used me as a pawn in a game I didn’t even understand.”

The room was silent, the realization settling over them like a thick fog. Everyone exchanged glances, unsure of what to say next. Shrinu’s face was a mask of confusion and hurt, but deep down, there was a gnawing feeling in his chest. His brother… his own brother. How could Bikram have done this? How could he have betrayed him like this?

Shreya spoke first, her voice trembling with disbelief. “No. No, this doesn’t make sense. Why would Bikram do that? What could he possibly gain by hurting Shrinu like this?”

Ocean looked at her with sorrowful eyes. “I don’t know. I don’t know what went through his mind, but I know what he told me. He said that Shrinu was a liability, that his love for me was getting in the way of everything. He wanted me to be out of the picture so that Shrinu could focus on the mission. But in the end, it wasn’t about Shrinu. It was about money. And power. Bikram used me to get both.”

A chill swept through the room as the truth sank in. Jack’s jaw clenched. “This whole thing—our lives, our futures, everything—it was all part of a bigger plan. A plan that Bikram set in motion to benefit himself. And we were just pawns in his game.”

“But what about Shrinu?” Prem asked, his voice filled with confusion. “What about his connection to Bikram? Does Shrinu even know about this?”

Ocean’s eyes flickered to Shrinu, her heart breaking for him in that moment. “No. He didn’t know. I kept everything from him. I thought it was for the best. I thought I was protecting him by leaving. But now…” Her voice trailed off, her throat tight with emotion. “Now I see the truth. Bikram didn’t care about Shrinu. He only cared about himself.”

Shrinu stood frozen, his body numb with disbelief. The betrayal of his own flesh and blood was something he couldn’t even comprehend. How could Bikram have done this? How could he have played with their lives, manipulated everyone around him just for personal gain? The anger bubbled up inside him, a storm that he couldn’t contain.

“He wanted to destroy everything I had,” Shrinu muttered under his breath, his fists clenched tightly at his sides. “He used me, used my feelings for Ocean, used my love to get what he wanted. He’s no better than the people who betrayed me.”

The room was thick with the weight of that realization. But there was more. There was a deeper darkness to all of this—something far more complicated and sinister than any of them had realized. The agency wasn’t just after them. They were after something much bigger, something that no one could have anticipated.

Ocean’s voice dropped to a whisper, her words carrying a weight that made everyone lean in closer. “And I think… I think Bikram wasn’t the only one involved. There’s someone else. Someone even higher up. Someone pulling all the strings. And I think he might be coming for us next.”

The air around them seemed to thicken, the tension crackling like static. A new sense of dread filled the room. They had thought they understood the danger they were in, but now they realized they were just beginning to scratch the surface.

“Now leave it we will stay here until we die or with the hope of being return which is impossible but also just enjoy and live a wonderful life until we die.” Luv said full of confidence  
yeah forgot the past now. Replied Prem.

Chapter-3

***Article By Bardaghat Patra***

MISSION 101: A HEROIC VICTORY BUT A TRAGIC FATE—CREW LOST IN SPACE

**Bardaghat Patra | Special Coverage**

**Date: 2081/11/08  
By: Pabi Sharma**

**Breaking News**: A monumental moment in history has unfolded—Mission 101, the daring space expedition that saved Earth from an impending asteroid catastrophe, has successfully completed its mission. However, in a devastating turn of events, the crew has now been declared lost in deep space.

According to the final transmission received from the spaceship, the brave astronauts aboard Mission 101 have lost all contact with Earth. The last distress message from the crew confirmed that due to an unforeseen internal conflict aboard the spacecraft, two members, Aayushma and Sameer, tragically lost their lives. The remaining crew members—Shrinu, Jack, Prem, Luv, Shreya—continue to fight for survival, but their fate remains uncertain.

Adding to the mystery, the final transmission also revealed that two new individuals have joined the crew—Ocean and Arman—whose presence raises numerous questions about the mission's security and internal dynamics.

The Mission That Saved Humanity

Mission 101 was humanity’s desperate effort to stop the RAGNAR-09 asteroid, a celestial object the size of a city, from colliding with Earth. If it had struck, experts estimated that the impact could have led to global devastation, wiping out entire nations and altering the planet’s climate permanently.

The mission was initially deemed an impossible feat. However, against all odds, the crew of Mission 101 executed a daring plan to divert the asteroid’s trajectory, preventing a catastrophe of unimaginable proportions. The world celebrated as the official space agencies announced the success of the mission.

But celebrations turned to sorrow when the final distress message reached Earth.

The Last Message from Mission 101

The last transmission from the spaceship revealed the horrifying truth:

"This is Mission 101. The asteroid has been successfully destroyed. But… we can’t go back. We have drifted beyond the solar system. Our course is lost. There is no way home. Aayushma and Sameer… they didn’t make it. Tell their families we’re sorry. If anyone ever finds this message… tell Earth… we tried."

The voice in the recording, believed to be Shrinu, carried a mix of exhaustion, grief, and helplessness. The crew had fought, sacrificed, and succeeded in their primary mission, only to face an even crueler fate—eternal exile in the void of space.

**New Faces on Board: Who Are Ocean and Arman?**

One of the most shocking revelations in the final transmission was the presence of two unexpected crew members—Ocean and Arman. The mission logs had no record of these individuals being part of the original team. Speculations are running wild:

* Were they part of a covert agency embedded into the mission?
* Were they stowaways, unknown to the official authorities?
* Did something happen in space that forced their inclusion into the team?

The government has yet to release any official statement regarding their identities. However, leaked sources suggest that their involvement may be linked to an undisclosed internal conspiracy.

Families Await Answers

Back on Earth, the families of the missing astronauts are demanding transparency from the space agencies. Luv’s mother, who was reportedly promised a financial settlement of ₹1 crore, tragically passed away upon hearing the news of her son being lost in space. Her death has added another layer of sorrow to an already heart-wrenching situation.

Other families, still reeling from the shock, are clinging to hope that somehow, some way, the crew may find a way back. But the reality is grim.

**Global Reactions: The World Mourns Its Lost Heroes**

The news of Mission 101’s tragic fate has sent shockwaves across the world. Social media is flooded with messages of support and grief. World leaders have issued official statements, honoring the bravery and sacrifice of the crew.

**President** **of** **the** **United** **Nations** **Space** **Council**:  
***"These individuals are not just astronauts. They are warriors, pioneers, and saviors of humanity. Their courage ensured that Earth would see another day. We will not forget them."***

**Prime Minister of India:  
"*Mission 101 will be remembered as the greatest sacrifice in space exploration history. Their names will be etched in the stars forever."***

Meanwhile, conspiracy theorists are already speculating government cover-ups, hidden agendas, and secrets that the agency has yet to disclose.

**What Happens Next?**

With Mission 101’s crew lost in deep space; several pressing questions remain:

* Is there any chance of recovery or rescue?
* Was there a hidden agenda behind the mission?
* Who truly orchestrated the events that led to their current fate?

As the world mourns its fallen heroes, one thing remains certain—Mission 101’s sacrifice will never be forgotten. They were more than astronauts. They were humanity’s last hope. And now, they are a mystery that the stars will keep forever.

Chapter-4

The spaceship drifted silently through the endless void of space. The others had retired to their quarters, exhausted from the chaos of the past few days. But Ocean stood by the window, gazing at the infinite darkness speckled with distant stars. Her heart was heavy, her mind restless.

Footsteps echoed in the quiet corridor, and she turned to see Shrinu approaching, holding a glass of wine. He stopped beside her, taking a sip, his eyes locked onto her reflection in the glass.

“Do you still love me?” Shrinu’s voice was deep yet hesitant, filled with longing.

Ocean turned to him, a sad smile forming on her lips. “Yeah… but I can’t admit it now.”

Shrinu’s brows furrowed. “Why?”

Ocean let out a soft chuckle, shaking her head. “Because you have Shreya now.”

Shrinu’s eyes widened in disbelief. “What? She’s like my sister, Ocean! How could you even think that?”

Ocean, however, wasn’t convinced. “It doesn’t seem like it,” she murmured.

Shrinu exhaled sharply, running a hand through his hair. “Ocean… you were always the one. No one else. No matter what happened, it was always you.”

Ocean’s breath hitched. Her emotions, suppressed for so long, began to resurface. “Then why did everything go so wrong? Why did you let me go?”

Shrinu stepped closer, setting the wine glass aside. “I never let you go. You left, Ocean. And I was left searching for you in every shadow, in every dream.”

Tears welled up in Ocean’s eyes. “I was taken away. I was forced to disappear from your life, Shrinu. But I never stopped loving you… I just never got a chance to come back.”

Shrinu gently reached for her hand, his fingers intertwining with hers. “I love you, Ocean,” he whispered.

Ocean looked into his eyes, the warmth of his touch sending shivers down her spine. “I love you too,” she whispered back.

They stood there, lost in each other’s eyes, until Shrinu pulled her into his arms. Ocean melted into his embrace, burying her face in his chest as silent tears escaped her eyes. They held each other for what felt like an eternity—two souls finally reunited in a moment that transcended time and space.

Shrinu gently lifted her face, brushing away her tears with his thumb. Then, he leaned in, pressing a tender kiss on her lips—soft, slow, filled with all the love and pain they had endured. He kissed her forehead, lingering as if trying to seal away all the hurt she had carried for so long.

Without another word, he took her hand and led her toward his room.

The door slid shut behind them, enclosing them in their own world—a world where, for the first time in forever, there was no betrayal, no pain, no separation. Only love.

Shreya walked down the dimly lit corridor of the spaceship, her footsteps light but her heart heavy. She wasn’t looking for anything in particular—just wandering, lost in thought, trying to make sense of everything that had happened. The betrayal, the fight, the revelation about Shrinu’s brother—everything felt like a storm raging inside her. But nothing could have prepared her for what she was about to see.

As she passed by Shrinu’s room, her gaze unintentionally drifted toward the small gap between the sliding door. At first, she thought she was mistaken. But as she took a step closer, her breath hitched. There, inside the room, bathed in the dim glow of the control panel lights, she saw Shrinu and Ocean—together.

Ocean was resting her head on Shrinu’s chest, her hands gently clutching onto him as if she never wanted to let go. Shrinu's arms were wrapped around her, holding her like she was the most precious thing in the universe. They weren’t just standing close—they were lost in each other, their love written in the way they held on, the way Shrinu tucked a strand of Ocean’s hair behind her ear, the way Ocean closed her eyes as if she had finally found peace.

Shreya felt something inside her shatter.

Her fingers trembled as she clutched her jacket, her breath uneven. A sharp sting burned in her chest, a pain so deep that she could barely stand. She blinked rapidly, but it was no use—the tears had already begun to fall. She wanted to look away, to turn and leave before the pain became unbearable, but her body refused to move.

***A bitter smile crossed her lips. So, this is how it ends...***

She had always known that Shrinu loved Ocean. She had seen it in his eyes, in his pain, in the way he never stopped talking about her, even when he was broken. But some part of her had still hoped. Some part of her had believed that maybe, just maybe, she could be the one to heal his wounds. That maybe he would look at her the way he once looked at Ocean.

But she was wrong.

The truth stood right in front of her, in the way Shrinu held Ocean as if nothing else mattered. As if she was his whole world.

Shreya bit her lip, suppressing the sob that threatened to escape. She wiped her tears quickly, forcing herself to step back, but the ache in her heart only grew. She had lost. Not in a game, not in a fight, but in love.

And the worst part?

Shrinu never even noticed her standing there.

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

Chapter-5

*The spaceship’s hall is dimly lit. The soft humming of the ship’s system echoes through the walls. Shrinu, Ocean, Prem, Jack, Luv, and Arman sit in a circle, exhausted from everything they’ve been through. There’s a strange silence, one that feels too heavy to break. The weight of being lost in space, the betrayals, the deaths—it all lingers in the air like an unseen force pressing against their chests.*

**Jack**: (Leaning back) *"So… this is it, huh? Floating in space, waiting for something to happen. It’s funny. I always thought we'd go out with a bang… not like this."*

**Luv**: (Forcing a smile) *"At least the Earth is safe. At least we did something meaningful before..."* (pauses, looking down) *"...before we disappear."*

**Prem**: (Scoffs) *"Meaningful? Bro, I wanted to die with a full stomach, not starving in an empty void!"*

*(The group chuckles half-heartedly, but the laughter fades quickly, swallowed by the overwhelming reality.)*

**Shrinu**: (Quietly) *"We were used."*

**Ocean**: (Nods, lost in thought) *"Yeah… someone set us all up. Someone played with our lives. And the worst part? We still don’t even know who the real enemy is."*

**Arman**: (Serious) *"The question is… do we still have a future?"*

*(A deep silence follows. No one knows the answer. The emptiness of space beyond the glass windows seems to mock them.)*

*Shreya is sitting by the window, staring into the void. A single tear slides down her cheek, catching the dim light. She quickly wipes it away, but Jack notices. He frowns, concerned.)*

**Jack**: (Softly) *"Shreya...?"*

*(She stiffens, forcing a small smile.)*

**Shreya**: *"I’m fine. Just tired."*

*(But Jack knows a forced smile when he sees one. He doesn’t push further, but he keeps watching her, sensing something is wrong.)*

*(A few minutes pass. The crew remains in their conversation, but Shreya stays silent, staring into space. Shrinu, who had been lost in thought, suddenly looks at her.)*

**Shrinu**: (Gently) *"Shreya… why are you crying?"*

*(The question is simple, but it makes Shreya freeze. Her breathing becomes shallow. She doesn’t look at him. The tension in the room rises instantly. Everyone stops talking.)*

*(Ocean looks at her. Luv and Prem exchange glances. Jack stays silent, watching.)*

**Shrinu**: (Leaning forward) *"Shreya?"*

*(She opens her mouth, but no words come out. Her hands grip her lap tightly. She tries to swallow the lump in her throat. But then—something inside her snaps.)*

*(Her voice is small at first, but then it grows, trembling with years of bottled-up pain.)*

**Shreya**: (Breathing shakily) *"Because I’m tired, Shrinu… I’m tired of pretending."*

*(Everyone stiffens. Ocean’s expression darkens. Prem frowns. Luv looks uneasy. Shrinu is completely taken aback.)*

**Shreya**: (Tears falling) *"I’m tired of watching you love someone else while I stand here like a fool!"*

*(A deep silence follows. The words hit like a shockwave.)*

*(Ocean shifts uncomfortably. Arman looks at Shreya in disbelief. Jack sighs, rubbing his temple.)*

**Shrinu**: (Stammering) *"Shreya… I—"*

**Shreya**: (Voice cracking) *"No! You don’t get to say anything now! You were so broken when Ocean left you. You were in pain! And I was there! I was always there!"*

*(Shrinu clenches his fists. His face is a mixture of guilt and shock. Ocean looks away.)*

**Shreya**: (Crying harder) *"I stayed up with you when you couldn’t sleep. I held you when you cried. I listened to your pain, your anger, your regrets. And what did I get in return?"*

*(She laughs bitterly, her eyes full of hurt.)*

**Shreya**: *"Nothing. I got nothing."*

*(Shrinu lowers his head. The guilt is too much. Luv and Prem are frozen, not knowing how to react. Jack stays quiet, letting her speak.)*

**Shreya**: (Voice breaking) *"And then Ocean comes back… and just like that, I’m invisible again? I don’t matter anymore?"*

*(Ocean flinches. Shrinu’s eyes widen.)*

**Ocean**: (Softly) *"Shreya, I—"*

**Shreya**: (Snaps) *"No! You don’t get to say anything either!"*

*(Ocean clenches her fists, hurt flashing in her eyes.)*

**Shreya**: (Shaking) *"You left him, Ocean. You left him to suffer. And I… I was there to pick up the pieces. But the moment you came back? He ran to you without a second thought."*

*(The room is suffocating with emotions. Ocean’s face is unreadable. Shrinu is speechless. The guilt in his eyes is unbearable.)*

*(A long silence stretches between them. Shreya wipes her tears aggressively, but they keep falling. Shrinu finally speaks, his voice barely above a whisper.)*

**Shrinu**: (Broken) *"Shreya… I never meant to hurt you."*

**Shreya**: (Bitter laugh) *"But you did, Shrinu. You did."*

*(Shrinu looks away. His hands tremble slightly. Ocean stares at the floor. The air is thick with unspoken pain.)*

**Jack**: (Muttering) *"Damn..."*

**Luv**: (Softly) *"What now?"*

*(No one answers. The room is drowning in silence. Shreya shakes her head, her heart shattered beyond repair. She turns and walks away.)*

*(Shrinu watches her go, guilt crushing him. Ocean remains quiet, lost in thought. The emptiness of space outside the window feels heavier than ever.)*

**Prem**: (Whispers) *"What the hell just happened?"*

**Luv**: (Staring at Shrinu) *"The truth came out. And now… nothing will ever be the same."*

*(No one speaks. The silence is deafening. And just like that, their unbreakable bond begins to crack.)*

**Jack and Prem sitting in the hall of the spaceship, sipping whatever close-to-coffee drink they could find in the food supply. The atmosphere is light, but there's an underlying sadness in Prem's voice.**

**Jack (stretching and yawning):** "Man, this silence is killing me. What is this?"

**Prem (shrugging, looking unbothered):** "Just... normal."

**Jack (raising an eyebrow):** "Normal? Bro, we’re lost in space. Normal was left behind with Earth. You're acting weird."

**Prem (smirking):** "Weird? Nah, I’m just built different."

**Jack (mocking):** "Oh yeah? ‘Built different’ or ‘heartbroken different’?"

**Prem (laughing, then sighing):** "Alright, alright, you caught me. It’s just... memories, man."

**Jack (leaning forward, interested):** "Aha! Spill it, Mr. Emotional. Who was she?"

**Prem (leaning back, exhaling deeply):** "There was this girl… back at the space training center. She wasn’t just a girl—she was *the* girl. I had the biggest, most ridiculous crush on her. Like, if she sneezed, I'd be ready with tissues. If she walked into a room, suddenly oxygen felt unnecessary."

**Jack (laughing):** "Damn, sounds serious. What was she like?"

**Prem (smiling nostalgically):** "She was a pain. A stubborn, arrogant, overly competitive pain. We didn’t talk much—mostly argued. If I said the sky was blue, she’d say it was red just to annoy me. And I swear, every time I tried to act cool, she'd be there to humble me."

**Jack (laughing harder):** "Bro, she was your *rival*, not your love interest!"

**Prem (grinning):** "Hey, love and war aren't that different. The moment I realized I actually liked her was when she beat me in a zero-gravity combat drill. I was so pissed, but she just smirked and said, *‘Better luck next time, loser.’* And at that moment, I thought, ‘Damn, I want to marry this woman.’"

**Jack (holding his stomach, laughing):** "Oh man, that is *tragic*. What happened next?"

**Prem (sighing, shaking his head):** "Before I could tell her how I felt, she just… left. No warning, no goodbye, nothing. Just vanished from the training center like a ghost. I thought, ‘Alright, maybe it wasn’t meant to be.’ But then, when my dad passed away, she texted me. Out of nowhere. Just a simple, *‘Hey… I heard. You okay?’* I should’ve been sad, but damn, Jack, I was just happy she remembered I existed."

**Jack (nodding):** "And?"

**Prem (laughing bitterly):** "A month later, I returned to complete my final training. Guess who I ran into?"

**Jack (grinning):** "Your mysterious space ninja?"

**Prem (mocking a dramatic sigh):** "Yep. But this time, she had a ring on her finger. Engaged. To some guy from the advanced space division. Probably a *doctor*, too, because life loves kicking me when I’m down."

**Jack (wheezing):** "Bro, you got *romance-movie’d* so hard!"

**Prem (chuckling, shaking his head):** "Yeah, yeah. Life's a comedy, and I'm the punchline."

**Jack (smirking):** "Damn. Maybe getting lost in space was a good thing, huh? No more painful memories."

**Prem (grinning but looking down at his drink):** "Yeah... except now I have to deal with *your* annoying face instead."

**Jack (dramatically putting a hand over his heart):** "Ouch, Prem. That *hurt* more than your heartbreak."

**Prem (laughing):** "You’ll live, bro. You’ll live."

Chapter-6

The crew was exhausted. The weight of betrayal, heartbreak, and uncertainty pressed on them as they drifted through the void. They had lost friends, uncovered hidden truths, and realized they had been pawns in someone else’s game.

But just when they thought they had pieced everything together… something changed.

Shrinu sat in the control room, his fingers hovering over the ship’s system, staring at the endless darkness outside. Luv, still grieving for his mother, sat beside him in silence. Jack and Prem were arguing over their next steps, while Shreya remained distant—her eyes swollen, lost in her thoughts.

And then… the lights flickered.

The ship’s radar—silent for weeks—suddenly began beeping. An alert flashed on the screen.

Shrinu’s heart pounded. “Impossible,” he whispered. “There’s nothing out here.”

Jack rushed to the monitor. “Is it Earth? A signal from home?”

The screen glitched, and then, a series of coordinates appeared—coordinates that made no sense. The transmission wasn’t coming from Earth. It wasn’t coming from their agency.

It was coming from **inside the ship.**

Everyone froze. A shiver ran down Shrinu’s spine as he turned around.

That’s when they heard it.

A voice.

Not from the speakers.

Not from the radio.

But from the shadows of the hallway behind them.

A whisper.

🔊 **“You were never supposed to leave.”**

Panic set in. The crew ran to the next monitor, their hands shaking as they tried to make sense of the data. The impossible was happening.

“We’re back… we’re back in the solar orbit!” Ocean gasped, staring at the screen in disbelief.

Prem was frozen. “How? We left the solar orbit months ago. This doesn’t make any sense.”

Shrinu quickly pressed the communication button. “Hello? This is Mission 101. We were stranded in deep space, but we are now back in the solar orbit! We don't know how this is possible, but—”

Static.

Only static.

Then, a deep, distorted voice crackled through the speakers.

🔊 **“You never left.”**

The ship's autopilot system suddenly activated, flashing a countdown.

**Re-entering Earth’s Atmosphere in T-Minus 30 Minutes.**

Excitement and fear gripped them. They were finally going home. But something felt… wrong.

And then—

“SCREAM!”

Shreya’s terrified voice cut through the air.

Everyone turned.

She was frozen in place, eyes wide with horror, pointing at something in the dark corridor.

A **body** was standing there.

A figure. Motionless. Lifeless.

Arman gasped. “What the hell is that?”

Shreya pulled out her gun, her hands trembling. “That’s… that’s Aayushma and Sameer.”

Luv’s breath caught in his throat. “No. That’s impossible. They died.”

But there they were. Aayushma and Sameer, standing **perfectly still**, their heads tilted, their eyes empty.

And then, in unison… **they moved.**

A horrifying mechanical twist of their necks. Their lips parted.

🔊 **"You left us behind."**

Aayushma’s body took a step forward. The sound of her foot against the metal floor echoed through the ship.

Jack stumbled backward. “This can’t be real… Their bodies were gone! We buried them in space!”

Sameer’s body twitched violently, like a broken machine trying to restart.

Ocean whispered, “All AI systems were turned off. There is no way… no way this is happening.”

Then—

The countdown alarm blared.

**T-Minus 10 Minutes Until Re-Entry.**

But the ship wasn’t descending.

It was **spinning.**

Faster.

Out of control.

The crew ran, their breaths ragged as they tried to escape the approaching figures of their dead crewmates.

Shrinu pounded the control panel. “We need to regain control—NOW!”

Jack screamed, “Brace for impact!”

The ship entered the Earth’s atmosphere at an unnatural speed. The outer layers heated up, fire trailing behind it.

**T-Minus 3 Minutes.**

The ship **jerked violently**. The bodies of Aayushma and Sameer **lunged** at them. Shreya fired her gun. The bullets passed through their bodies—**like smoke.**

“THEY’RE NOT REAL!” Prem shouted.

The ship spiraled.

**Earth was right below them.**

**T-Minus 1 Minute.**

Then—

**A deafening explosion.**

The spaceship **burst into flames** just above Earth’s surface. Metal debris scattered through the sky, raining down like meteors.

There were no parachutes.

No escape pods.

No survivors.

**Mission 101 was gone.**

But before the last piece of wreckage disintegrated, a single transmission was sent from the ship’s black box.

A final whisper.

🔊 **“We never left.”**

**To be continued….**

***Author: Sachin Pathak***