CHAPTER 9

**END TO NEW**

Eventually, the first year came to an end. The final week was consumed by exams, but since most subjects were relatively easy and many concepts were familiar from the start, the exams weren't too stressful.

Group study sessions proved invaluable, especially for Prathamesh, who struggled with a few subjects. Despite his mischievous demeanor, Ram emerged as a surprisingly clever and studious friend, teaching his peers during their late-night library sessions.

Thanks to their collective efforts, everyone managed to navigate the exams smoothly. With the exams behind them, many parents arrived to visit their children, and some students took the opportunity to go home for a short break.

Prathamesh left for his home, and shortly after, Yash's mom arrived to pick him up as well. A brief but well-deserved vacation of a few weeks began for everyone, offering a welcome respite before the next chapter of their journey.

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In the background, some serious events were unfolding. The Astarch of Orionis, Aeon, soon received a report that one of his agents was missing. He was certain that the agent had been killed, but he couldn't launch an official investigation, as agents operated in secrecy. An agent could be a guard, assassin, information collector, or anything else the Astarch required.

Each Astarch had a number of agents whose identities were known only to them. Even the agents' families were unaware of their roles, and agents of the same Astarch were forbidden from revealing their identities to one another. These agents were in direct contact with their Astarch, executing special missions that were often illegal or of top priority. Agents were among the strongest individuals in a galaxy, usually high-class veterans or aces.

Aeon was alarmed by the loss of his 17-year-old agent. After conducting a secret investigation, he discovered that the young agent had encountered another agent on a mission in Orionis. A confrontation had ensued, leading to his agent's death. Aeon's priority now was to identify the galaxy to which this other agent belonged.

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Yash's school life had been filled with enjoyment, laughter, and the typical challenges of growing up. Yet, beneath the surface, serious events were unfolding, unknown to Yash and his friends. As they reveled in their carefree days, darker forces were at play, setting the stage for future revelations. Yash felt a surge of excitement for the new experiences and adventures that awaited him, unaware of the complex and perilous journey that lay ahead. The first year had ended, but the real story was just beginning.