

An Out of
the World
Adventure!
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4B

About the Author

Anvay Varshney is a student at National Public School, Koramangala in Bangalore. He has held the post of class monitor multiple times in his school years. He is an excellent badminton player and has won several awards including the Birdie tournament Single Under 10 Award, Yadav's Pro Badminton Academy Silver Medal etc. In 2018 he set a group world record of "Biggest Rubik Cube Mosaic". Anvay Varshney aspires to be the world's best badminton player.



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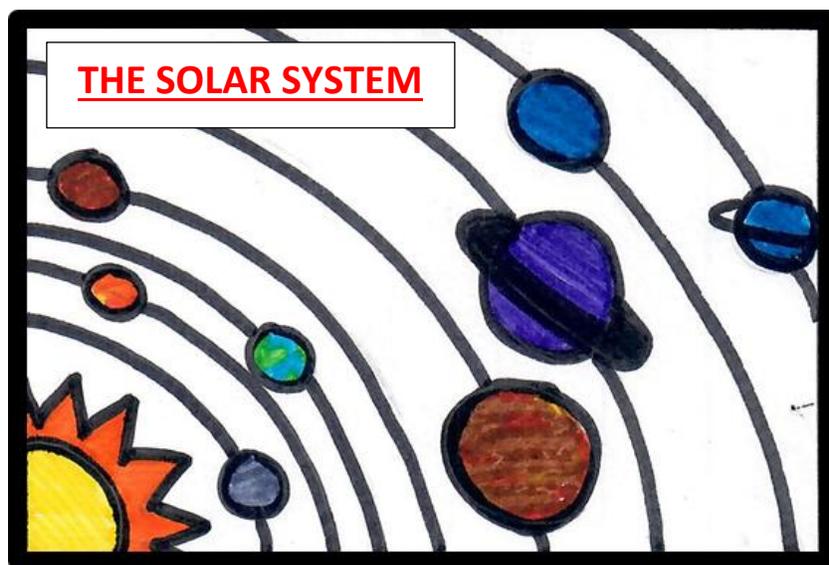
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The Unexpected Visitors

“3...2...1...Launch!” the speakers announced as the control tower was ready to launch its mega mission to send a manned aircraft to the Moon. A relentless, thunderous crackling rumbled across the sky as the main engines came up to full thrust. The rocket flew higher and higher as it escaped the Earth’s gravity.

After the rocket was comfortably on route to the International Space Station, the rocket’s captain Mayank went to get a snack but he was shocked to see no food left. Instead of the food he saw two kids gobbling on his sandwich. “Who are you a-and what are you doing here?”. “I am Varun, and this is my sister Varsha. It is in an honour to meet you sir” said the boy who was holding the sandwich. “Before we tell you how we got here, allow us to introduce ourselves in detail sir.” said the little girl standing next to her brother.

Varsha explained that she and her brother were ten-year-old twins from an ordinary family. Ever since their teacher taught them about space, they had been fascinated by it. The school had conducted a science fair and the judge was the head of ISRO, Mr. K. Sivan. They were awarded the first place and were given a chance to see a rocket launch at Indian Space Research Organisation also known as ISRO.



“That is wonderful, but WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE ROCKET?!” said Captain Mayank angrily. Varun continued “On the day of the launch as we were looking around the campus, we felt extremely hungry. We decided to eat some of the food in the crate, little did we know we were transported inside the rocket. After eating we quickly fell asleep and awoke to you opening the door.” After listening to that captain Mayank fainted.

“I knew this was going to happen once we told him everything. We should’ve just said that the Headquarters had appointed us as his assistants”, said Varsha as she panicked at the sight of an unconscious captain. “Mother always told us to tell nothing but the truth. Honesty is the best policy”, replied Varun who looked much calmer than her sister.



“**Control tower to rocket:** is everything under control?” a robotic voice said. Varsha and Varun looked at each other with fear in their eyes.

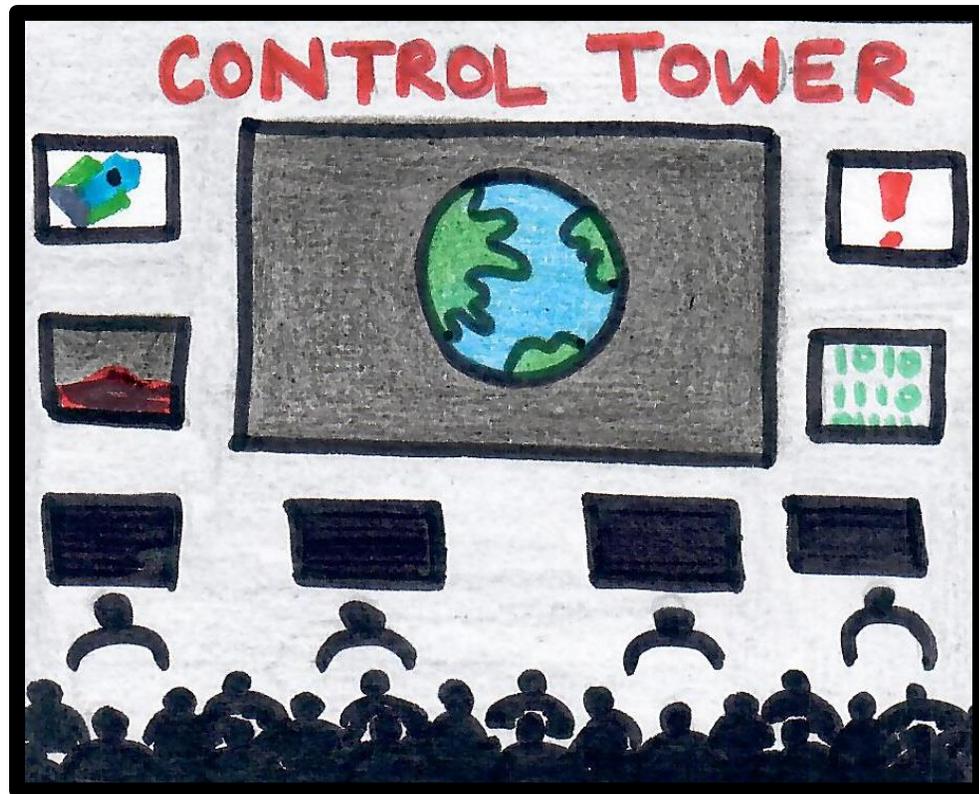
“**Control tower to rocket:** is everything under control? I repeat is everything under control? Please respond immediately.” the robotic voice echoed in the distance.

“**Rocket to control tower:** This is Varsha and my twin brother Varun. The captain has fainted” replied Varsha with a trembling voice.

“**Control tower to rocket:** WHAT ARE YOU DOING CHILDREN AND HOW DID THE CAPTAIN FAINT?!”.

The twins then proceeded to narrate the entire incident.

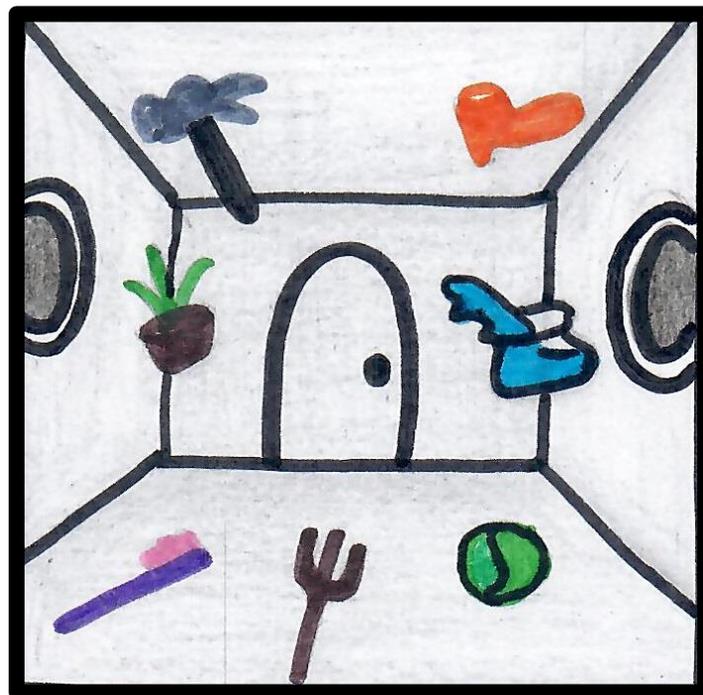
“Control tower to rocket: Since the captain has fainted and there is nobody else on board, the two of you are in charge of the rocket. While we come up with a plan to get the both of you back to earth safely, we want you to cause no trouble whatsoever.”.



The Rocky Strike

The twins were ecstatic. The joy of being captains of a rocket was something they had never imagined, not even in their wildest dreams. "First things first, we need to switch off the gravity, here. I really want to fly around like superman!" said Varsha in an excited tone. "As long as we don't cause trouble, it would be alright" replied Varun who was just as excited as her.

As they turned off the gravity, everything in the rocket flew up towards the ceiling. Varsha leaped across the room like superman but collided with some books floating around. Varun found a camera in one of the shelves and decided to record this hilarious incident to make fun of his sister back home. Varsha was furious when she saw varun record this ordeal and started chasing him around the rocket. This wasn't possible in the rocket and resulted in the two putting up acrobatics show. The twins spun all around, did cartwheels, summersaults and handstands which were previously impossible on earth.



Suddenly, loud, red sirens started ringing and 'DANGER' was written on the main screen in big bold letters. The twins looked up to see a gigantic, grey asteroid move towards them. As the twin sat in their seats, a terrified look came over their faces.

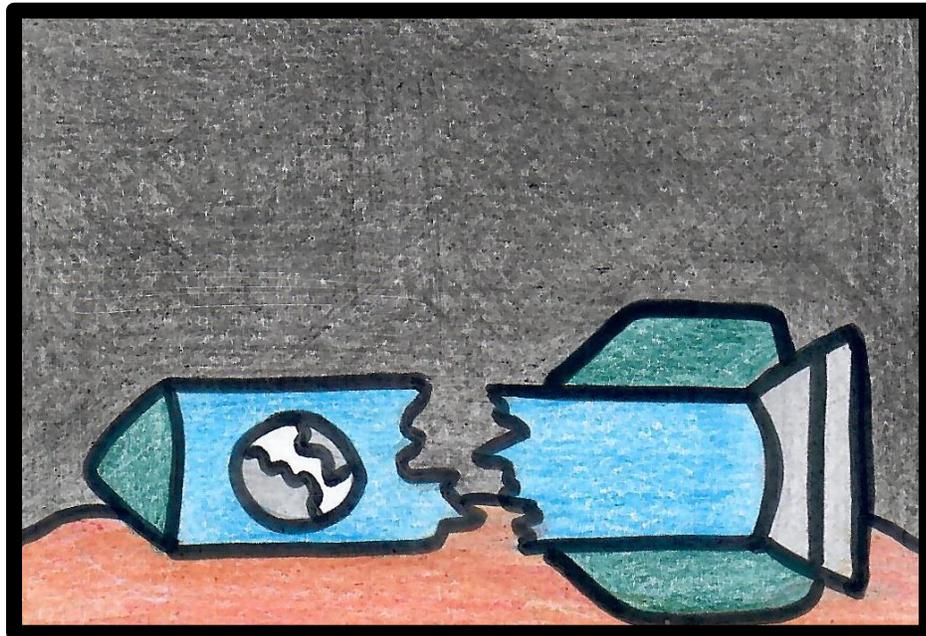


The control tower immediately started to pour instructions into the main systems to maneuver the rocket and avoid the asteroid. Slowly, the rocket altered its course but that was not enough. The asteroid grazed the rocket and did enough damage to give the twins a story they could narrate back home. The asteroid had put a massive dent on the side of the rocket and pushed it into a new trajectory. To make matters worse, all the communication systems had failed as well.

Due to the impact of the asteroid the inside of the rocket was in pure chaos. All the equipment, food supplies and the twins spun around like crazy. This resulted in the twins blacking out for the rest of the journey to an unknown planet.

The Unknown Planet

The rocket had crashed on an unknown planet. Due to the impact of the crash, the head of the rocket had broken off from the remaining part of the rocket and landed at a separate spot. After what seemed like an eternity, the twins woke up in fear, not knowing what to do and unknown to the fact their rocket was broken into two parts.



The first thing that came to their minds, was to check if they were injured or not. Varun had a bruise on his knee but Varsha was fine. Worried for her brother, she searched for a bandage to help him. As she searched the rocket, she realized that rocket had been totally damaged. She found a bandage and quickly went back to her brother to nurse his bruise.

As soon as the twins stepped out from the wrecked rocket, they saw a deserted planet with no sign of water or lifeform. All they could see was a crimson red ground. The distant Sun was as big as their little finger. Icy cold winds blew

around them as they tried to take a step ahead. Violent dust storms blew in the horizon. When they looked up, they could see a beautiful sky filled with sparkling stars.



After their brains could process what they were seeing the first thought that came in their heads was, how would they repair and start the rocket and second, how would they go back home. Varun was sobbing and said, “Why did we have to get on the rocket?! Oh, I want to go back to mother right now. I feel like pooping my pants!”. “We are stuck on another planet, millions of light years away from our family and friends” said Varsha as she burst into tears.

The Not-so-Welcome Guest

As Varsha looked up at the sky she remembered what her father told her after she got a bad report card- “It takes a lot of courage to push through hard times. **NEVER GIVE UP**. Good things are coming your way”. Varsha looked at her brother then the spaceship, again at her brother and gained courage to rebuild the rocket. She ran to her brother, tapped his shoulder and said what their father said to her. The twins hugged and promised each other that no matter what they would rebuild the rocket and go back home.



Varun asked Varsha if she could find anything in the rocket that he could use to fix the rocket. While Varsha looked around in the rocket she found a toolbox. She ran back to her brother to show it to him. Varun was delighted at the sight of the toolbox. After brainstorming for a little while Varun came up with a plan. If they could find some metals, with help of the equipment in the rocket they could join the two broken halves of the rocket.

The twins looked everywhere they could. Unexpectedly, Varsha found a humongous monster sleeping in a cave nearby. Before she could warn Varun, he

shrieked in fear at the sight of the monster. The monster got startled, woke up and started chasing the twins. The monster had a huge head and 8 arms which had the strength to juggle a hundred elephants. The monster had 2 feet which could run around Earth in fraction of a second. It had wings which were twice as large as the rocket. The monster could also change its skin color depending on its emotions e.g.: the monster was red as it boiled in anger due to disruption of his sleep.



The monster chased the twins for over an hour which made the twins exhausted. They quickly ran to hide behind their rocket which only made the monster angrier. The twins looked around and found a box that had a sword for emergency purposes only. Varsha wanted to charge at the monster but Varun wanted to stay behind the rocket till the monster was gone. Varsha spotted some gold plates hanging around the stomach of the monster and remembered Varun needed gold to fix the rocket. “Varun, we need to kill the monster to get the gold plates to fix the rocket to go back home”, said Varsha. Varun agreed to this idea.

Way back Home

Varsha went straight towards the monster. To catch its attention, she made loud noises by stomping her feet and screaming at the top of her lungs. This was followed by the monster chasing Varsha. All of a sudden, the monster screamed out in pain. Varun had stabbed the monster on his back as a surprise attack. Without wasting any time, they collected the gold plates from the monster and went to fix the rocket. After what felt like years, the twins finally fixed the rocket and a stable connection with the control tower was made.

“Control tower to rocket: Are you kids okay? report the events which happened during the communications blackout”.

“Rocket to control tower: We are okay. We crash landed on planet B2738c. A monster attacked us, but we killed it and have repaired our ship in order to come back home.”

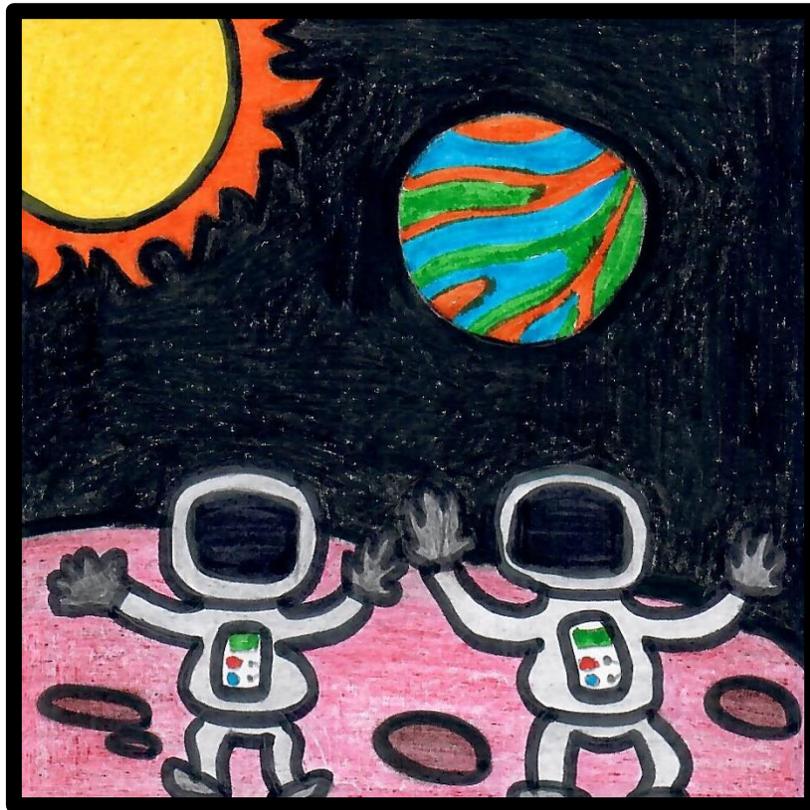
“Control tower to rocket: Great news! Now our talented scientists on earth will bring you back home. Fasten your belts and get ready for a bumpy journey.”

As the ship launched towards the blue planet the twins fondly called ‘home’, Varun and Varsha exchanged smiles because they were glad that they were alive. As the engines revved, the twins drifted into a deep sleep.



As the rocket entered the earth's atmosphere and landed at the ISRO base, people all around the planet prayed for the twins' safety. The moment the twins stepped out of the rocket; a crowd of people gathered to congratulate them. But what caught the twins' attention was their parents standing in front ready to hug them with open arms. In case the readers were wondering about captain Mayank, the rocket cleaning crew found him fast asleep in one of the cabinets.

A few hours after breathing oxygen on earth, the twins were asked to be a part of an interview to give details about their journey. All that the twins had to say was "this trip was out of this world!".



Blurb

Varsha and her brother Varun have got front row seats to witness a rocket launch at Indian Space Research Organisation also known as ISRO. What could possibly go wrong....

Varsha and Varun are swept into a terrifying adventure- out to a new planet where a sinister monster is out to destroy the twins. Read about the crazy journey that put the lives of Varsha and Varun under immense danger. Join them in this out of the world tale to kick your boredom during this lockdown!