



Collins

# TRAPPED



Written and Illustrated by

**K. Kamya Shivani**

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As Maya was running in the noisy hallway of the research lab she panicked to see people running hastily and that everything was broken and on fire. She locked herself in one of the labs but the giant black claws of this horrible looking animal broke the glass to open the door and started chasing Maya. Maya ran as fast as she could and jumped to climb the vent and hid herself.

She was terrified and confused about the events happening and wondered if she could ever make it alive out of this dreadful place. She was silently crying with thoughts lingering in her mind.

Maya was a bright young scientist, with a doctorate in wildlife biology, working at this lab for the past eleven years. Her parents immigrated from planet Earth to this planet Varia when Earth was becoming overpopulated. Human beings, though aliens on this planet, learned to live harmoniously with the already existing life and slowly became one among them.



Recently, Maya was made part of a team that was researching a new animal species. This animal was found dead and brought to the lab for study. It was a huge animal with its eyes popped up. Its nerves were black in colour and visible through the skin. When it was cut open by the team to study its physiology, alarmingly it had no organs. The blood samples were collected and passed on to Maya for study. While Maya started studying these samples she came across tiny unknown organisms. She tried to relate these with the existing ones but these appeared very new. She understood that this animal was infected with these microorganisms, but was it the same with others of this species or with this one only? They needed to find out. Maya informed her team about the organisms and they decided to conduct more studies to find if it is fatal to the other creatures on the planet.

On Saturday, the 2nd of August Akash came running to Maya and said, “ Maya, studies have revealed that the microorganism we were researching on is a virus and is



very infectious. It doesn't even respond to powerful antibiotics or anti-viral we have. We injected this into the rat to study if it really affects other lives. Yes, it does! We observed that not only did the organs of the rat get dissolved but it also grew in size. There is every chance of infection from such animals.”

Maya could sense a danger bell. She immediately got up from her chair and started walking towards the Directors Chamber with Akash following her. She explained to the Director the results and requested him to issue a high alert so that everyone would be precautious not to move out alone and unnecessarily. To her surprise, the Director reacted very coldly, “Look Maya, you are overreacting. There is nothing to worry. We still have to gather enough information to prove that this virus is really fatal, and then only can we convince the government to take up such an action. You just continue with your research.” said Director Mr. Steven

Maya said, “Sir, do we need more proof than this? This weird virus is not responding to any medications and its effect can be very fatal to any animal or human?” Mr. Steven replied seriously, “ I Know when and what to do Maya. Don't teach me how to do my job.” Frustrated with the foolish remarks from the Director, Maya left the place immediately.



It's been a month and this morning, everything was normal at the Lab till a loud sound was heard as if a bomb blew off. Before anyone could even realize what was happening people were running here and there and the building was on fire. Maya walked towards the entrance to find what happened and startled to see huge animals similar to the one they conducted research on, heading into the lab. She went blank for a moment but then started running into the Lab to hide herself.

While Maya was engrossed in all these thoughts sitting in the vent she suddenly shook up to another loud sound. She started climbing the vent pipe and it was very dark inside. She took her cell phone and switched on the torch in it to find the way and reached the other end of the building. She met her teammate and friend Bella there and both started running towards the exit gate while hiding themselves from the weird creature.

Maya and Bella met Akash and three others hiding near the exit gate and all of them decided to leave the place immediately and move to a safer place. At a distance they could see a fuel station and ran towards it. She was saddened to know that the creature had already killed some of her teammates.



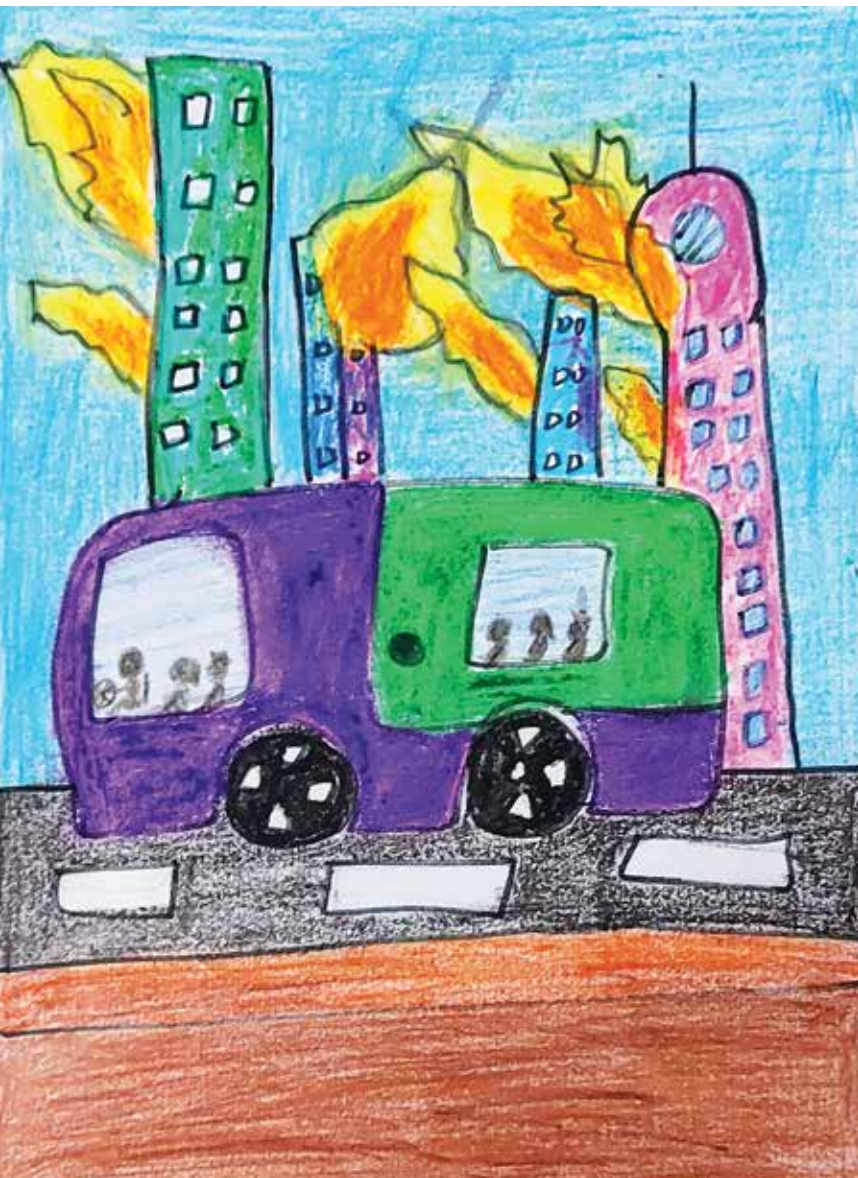
They found people dead near the fuel station. They entered inside the supermarket attached to the fuel station and picked up a few water bottles and items to eat.

Mike who was also a teammate of Maya whispered, "I heard Mr. Steven talk to the Council of Ministers over the phone and they were planning to leave this planet and go to earth in the space shuttle. They must have already left by now. We must also leave as we still don't have a remedy to kill the virus and save ourselves" Bella who was red with anger said, "A month back Maya warned Mr. Steven about the dangerous results but he ignored and put this planet in danger. We too are left with no option but to escape to the planet Earth".

Akash agreed, "Yes, there are a few space shuttles at the old launch pad. We can get away from there."

Listening to this Maya said "I agree that we have no option other than to leave but we should try and save as many people as possible and take them along with us".

Everyone agreed to what Maya said.



The six people started walking out slowly and silently to find a vehicle to reach the launch pad. As they reached the door they saw a Van near the gas filling unit and got in. They started moving towards the van when Maya saw two people lying on the floor, moving. Maya, thinking these people were just mistaken to be dead, neared them to help them and take them in the van.

But, they were not humans anymore they were transforming into animals. She immediately understood that these were the humans infected with the virus. She started running as fast as she could to reach the van. While Mike started driving the van, Akash stood near its door and once they neared Maya he grabbed her hand and pulled her into the van and closed the door. The creature tried to break open but they fled as fast as they could. While the van was moving, two children who hid under the seats of the van came out crying with fear. Though everyone was surprised at first, they were glad that the children were safe. Maya asked Mike, "How faraway is the launch pad from here?"

"Just 4 miles." Mike continued, "Hope we reach the launch pad without any issues."

They could see so many dead bodies all along the road.





As they neared the launch pad they could see a space shuttle flying above and could immediately identify that it was the Council of Ministers and Dr. Steven escaping in the shuttle.

As they got down the van they saw that the family members of the team mates had brought along as many people as possible to the launch pad to escape. Maya had already called up all of them and informed them. They saw two space shuttles on the launch pad. It was all dusty. Maya and Mike hurried into a spaceship to the control board. They tried to start it but it wouldn't. "It looks like the fuel tank is empty" said Mike, showing the red light blinking at the fuel tank button. "Filling the tank will take a minimum of one hour we have to protect ourselves from the creatures till then." said Akash All the people came forward; they helped in closing the gates of the launch pad. All of them picked whatever heavy objects they could get hold of like Iron rods, chains, weapons etc and stood near the closed gates to confront the animals if they entered. Some mechanical engineers in the crowd helped the team to check and repair issues in the engines. All united could bring one space shuttle to a working condition. Everyone got onto the ship and the space shuttle started . In two minutes it flew nearly 6000 miles above the planet Varia. While Maya was sad that she was leaving her home she also felt happy that many lives were saved. Little did she know that among them was a person who was injured and infected by the animals.

## About the Author

K.Kamya Shivani loves painting, reading and writing stories, playing kabaddi and eating chicken. If she could have a super power, she would want the ability to read people's minds. Kamya aspires to become a Writer and an Artist. She would like to make the world a better place by giving equal opportunities to all genders, races, religions etc in this world.

## Mentor

Poonam Dasilva  
Dhanashri Ubhayakar

# TRAPPED

Maya Reddy, a scientist on the planet of Varia discovers a strange creature which has started killing and spreading a virus all over the planet turning people crazy and violent. Can Maya with the help of her friends save the survivors and escape from the planet?