

Item Code: 695

Participant Code: 061

# The Unraveled Truth!

The morning light flickered through the curtains... The dust particles shining like glitters... The sunlight warmed her face and the faint hum of the bees filling the air. Tiana's eyes fluttered open with the sudden intensity of warmth on her face... Her eyes scanning each and every corner of her room... that's when her eyes landed on the calendar which was right in front of her on the table... Tiana's thoughts began to wander...

"Tiana, are you not going to get up?"

Her thoughts were interrupted by the frustrated voice of her mother... With a sudden jolt, she glanced at the clock and then she realized the fact that she had overslept again!

If was not the first time this had happened... Each and every day her mother had to call her like this in order to wake her up...

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Now there is no time to waste. She jumped up from the bed packing her bag. Eating breakfast everything was done in a hurry. However, when it was the time to go to her college she didn't forget one thing. Her best friend's birthday. The one that had been with her since childhood. Tiana carefully grabbed the cake she had prepared for her and placed it inside her bag and took a bus to her college.

When she reached there, the first thing she did was to search for Maria, her best friend.

"Tiana, where do you think you are going without me?" - The voice echoed through the empty hallways.

"Oh, my God, you scared me". Tiana's voice was just perfect for only making her laugh. "So, where is my present?" Maria extended her hand and closed her eyes dramatically.

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"What gift? , I have no idea about what you are talking." - Tiana said with a quiet laugh. . . . .  
But Maria knew that she was joking around. . . . .  
When they reached their class Tiana gave the cake that she made to Maria. The cake itself made Maria's heart flutter in joy. . . . .  
Just in a split of second the whole day had passed. Tiana was chatting with her mother about her upcoming exams. She had always been an average student. But her mother never complained about it. She always made her feel blessed, safe and supported her even at her lowest point. On the other hand Maria was always the topper, charming and shining like a star both in her beauty and academics. Tiana was really tensed, she had barely studied. Her exams are just a few days away. The only thing that made her feel a bit relaxed was the words from Maria. "I will help you, no matter what"



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Everything passed in the blink of an eye. Today was her exam. The only thing that she <sup>was</sup> afraid of. Tiana sank into the plastic chair. Her pulse drumming a frantic rhythm against her ribs. The shrill cry of the bell cut sliced through the suffocating air. The wait was over. Now the paper on her desk was not just a sheet of wooden pulp. It was her judge and jury. Her hands trembled with each move. But when she saw the question paper. Her eyes grew wider. Not from the fear but from the shock of witnessing the questions that she studied last night.

The bell rang. Finally the exam was over! Her eyes immediately searched for maria. But her state was just like Tiana. They both were glad that the exam was easier than they thought. Now its vacation. It was like a wave. Smooth and quick. Enchanting. Journeys through her home town. How beautiful!

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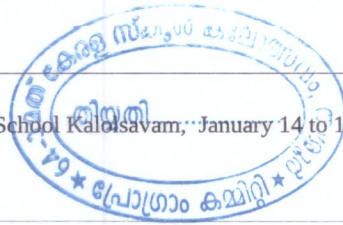


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The reopening time had arrived. time  
 Now its school reopening. Besides that  
 it is also the time for their results. The  
 results were published. Tiana and Maria  
 rushed towards the notice board, but the  
 stream of students grew thicker. When the  
 crowd was over they checked the results.  
 Tiana's face lit up while Maria's expression  
 remained unreadable. When she observed it  
 again: "Her heart could have missed a beat"  
 Tiana thought. For the first time in her  
 life Maria was second while Tiana became  
 the topper. The <sup>teacher</sup> ~~professor~~ praised her before  
 the whole class. The only one that remained  
 frozen was Maria.

At home Tiana sank into her  
 thoughts. Maria hadn't spoken to her for  
 days. She was acting distant, cold, unreadable.  
 "What am I supposed to do?" she whispered  
 to herself. She shared her thoughts with  
 her mother. She remained silent because



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She knew that now something bad is going to happen.

..... Maria barely spoke to her during break times..... Tiana's heart shattering into pieces..... day by day..... Then something happened..... something that she never expected. Maria's behaviour..... began to change. She became the old Maria, funny, talkative, their friendship reconnected. Tiana didn't know what it was or how it had happened. However, she was extremely happy to make their bond more intense.

..... Time had passed, days..... months..... years..... The only thing that had changed was the "Power". The teachers began to be more connected towards Tiana rather than Maria..... The topper..... The charming and powerful Maria. TIANA Her life was not like before..... scholarships..... awards and so on. Many changes had happened during this year.

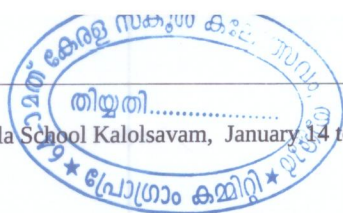
..... The moment they had been waiting for.....



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.. had arrived! The Graduation ceremony.....  
TIANA trudged proudly through the pathway.....  
filled with lights that made her gown.....  
Shine like diamonds. The Topper prize was.....  
given to her. When she came back she.....  
extended her award towards Maria. She just.....  
gave her a forced smile. The afternoon party had  
began. Cheers... shouting... everything to.....  
make the day memorable. Tiana and Maria.....  
were standing quietly near the stage.....  
Both whispering cheers to each other.....  
"Tiana, come have a talk with us dear.....  
Topper" - Her friend called her towards the.....  
crowd in a teasing tone. The word Topper.....  
itself made Maria's blood boil. Tiana excused.....  
her self from Maria and went towards the.....  
group. After a pep talk, she came back to Maria.  
Maria with a polite smile handed her the.....  
drink. Tiana took small sips while talking to.....  
Maria with a calm voice. Suddenly her pulse.....



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began to quicken. Her throat became dry like sand. Her nose began to bleed. Everyone rushed towards her, calling ambulance, giving her water. While Maria stood at a corner, smirking in front of her own reflection. Chaos erupted at the hospital, her mother sobbing, her friends panicking, a situation that no one could ever imagine. Then the doctor came, "we had tried our best, let's hope that she would survive". That words. That single sentence was given by the doctor. Not sure, hope, only hope! The doctors rushed towards her mother, after a few hours she had opened her eyes. Tiana had no idea where she was or what had happened, but the only thing that she knew was the drink. Maria. The last thing she saw. Her smirk. How? How could she. The one that she truly cared, no matter what! The one



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that she trusted with her heart and soul.  
 Maria... The only person that made her  
 feel loved other than her mother... she  
 was jealous of her... no, not just jealous...  
 but instead she had attempted a crime...  
 a crime to kill her own best friend: Tiana...  
 never - ever imagined HER... Maria... someone  
 she had truly trusted... could treat her so  
 badly!