

A message that changed everything

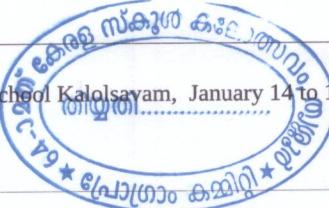
It was the morning of Christmas. Shawn was in deep sleep. Malcom yelled from downstairs, "Shawn! Wake up. Come downstairs and help your mom." Shawn woke up with a ~~hatred on~~ grief in his face. He woke up and turned to his father's picture. "It's been 13 years since you left me and my mom." I will always be waiting for you. That's when Shawn heard a knocking on his door. It was Malcom, his stepfather. Malcom always tried his best to become a father figure for Shawn but Shawn always ignored this. He was still in the memories of his father. ^{since his father} Shawn ~~always~~ hated Christmas. Left them on Christmas, Shawn hated every Christmas from that moment. He always sat on his bedroom waiting for Christmas to end. He woke that day ~~to~~ believing it would be same as past years. But things were going to change. Shawn opened the door revealing Malcom holding a gift box. Merry Christmas Son! Shawn ignored him and went downstairs. Malcom's heart was broken from was heartbroken but he still put up a smile and followed Shawn. Marie, Shawn's mother was cooking in the kitchen. She noticed the look on Shawn's face. She

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Questioned Shawn whether he was being rude to malcom. He ignored his mother and went out to walk for a while. the cold breezy air, the snowfelling of snowflakes all of this reminded back to 13 years. He was so happy that day, tears were loaded up in his eyes but didnt dare to fall out.

Thats when he got a strange notification. "Im Sorry Son for everything Son". Shawn frowned by reading the message. Several thoughts clashed Shawns mind. who could possibly send this message to him? whether it was just a wrong number or maybe it was his father? Shawn was both confused and frightened at the same time. He replied to the message asking whether they mistakenly sent the message to wrong person. The three dots appeared in the chat but now the message was "I have been missing you too". Later on, messages were flooding onto his phone. All of them were referred to missing Shawn, regret of leaving his family. By now Shawn was fully believed that it was his father. He quickly returned to his home and started calling the number. But no one

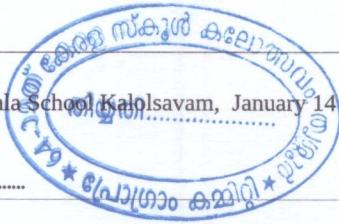


responded. ~~He~~ Its been 1 hour. Shawn was staring at his phone hoping for a new message or a call. Suddenly... Suddenly he saw the message, I am alive, Come meet me at the old building near Tompkins Square park. Shawn was in disbelief. ~~It was~~ same The old building were the place once his father worked. It was a Shoe factory but now its just some old building.

Shawn couldnt wait any more longer, he packed a bag carrying essentials and left his home.

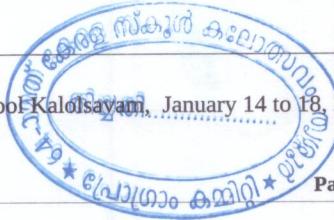
Shawn walked through ^{the} busy cities, all ~~was~~ stores was in Christmas theme, at the end of the road he saw the old building. It was past 7 at ⁶ eve night. people on the streets went to home as it was Christmas eve. He stepped in front of the old building. His hands were trembling, his breath ~~bitched~~ he couldnt breath normally, he thought to himself. either I am going to meet my father or It will be my last day. He gathered all his courage and entered the building. ~~It was~~ Inside It was pitch dark, He took out the torch he was carrying on his backpack. By flashing, he saw bundles of shoes piling on the a block. He

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went near it. Somehow from the pile, something was glowing. He decided to look up in the pile, that's when he heard a voice, Shawn, what are you doing here? It was malcom. your mother and I have been worried of you. Shawn felt angry, he shouted, why did you come here, you are always ruining my life. malcom was too stunned to speak, yet he somehow spoke. I have always tried so hard to become a good father for you but you always pushed me away. please shawn, give me a chance without hearing another word. Shawn turned and tried to pull the glowing thing. Swishhh. It pulled Shawn and malcom both inside it.

Where am I? Shawn woke up and turned to malcom. I think we were sucked on to another world. They could hear voices screaming for help, But the place was like a fever dream. They could move things just by looking at them. Shawn felt angry, he was started to blame malcom as it was his fault they were here. malcom didn't argue back instead he decided to check the place.



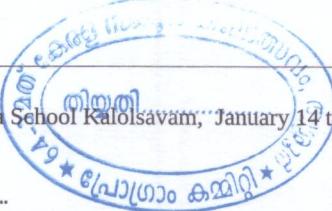
It was like a fantasy world but we could the one we could control but the only thing that was not suitable was the voices. They Malcom asked Shawn to follow him, he ignored but malcom begged him saying that he promised Shawn's mother that he would bring Shawn back home safely. Shawn agreed to his request and followed malcom. It was a beautiful place, but things were about to mess up.

Shawn noticed an animal coming towards them, when it reached near them they saw an elephant but in the size of dog. They were both surprised. Shawn froze upon seeing them. That's when they heard a buzzing sound they looked up at the sky and saw a giant bee. That's when they realised that this world doesn't follow nature's rule. They walked a bit and saw a waterfall instead of water flowing downwards it flowed upwards, mountains were floating in the sky. They were both baffled upon this view. Malcom discovered a rock nearby, In that the name "Aurinia" was carved out. That's when they realised that



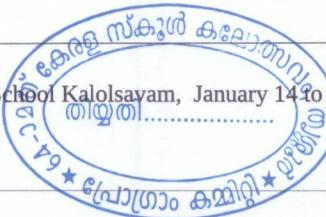
they are trapped on a mysterious yet magical world called "Aurinia". They both wandered around the place that when a giant cat appeared in front of them. It was about to attack Shawn but Malcolm somehow fought the ~~fat~~ giant cat and saved Shawn. Shawn felt love towards Malcolm for the first time. He realised that Malcolm was ready to risk his own life to save his Shawn even though Shawn always hurted Malcolm. Shawn apologised to Malcolm about everything, Malcolm couldn't resist his joy, he jumped and hugged

Shawn out of the happiness. They both decided to find ways to get out of this place. At the end they found a cave. Shawn and Malcolm entered the cave. Inside there was Shawn's father. Shawn ran and tried to hug him but he couldn't. He was ~~body~~ lifeless, he could only see him but couldn't touch him. Alvin, Shawn's father spoke, Shawn, I wanted you to ^{see} come to my own world, Aurinia. I was trying to make a portal to another world in the factory. I would use my free time trying methods



to make it work, one but one day a fire was started. Caught on the shoes, it burned my ~~the~~ postal machine. It destroyed everything even killed my fellow co-workers. they were the one who encouraged me to make this postal, they knew about my crazy science obsession, but the fire killed them all. I was devastated, I lost my job, I didn't dare to tell the truth to my wife or others. I couldn't bare the pain inside me so I burned myself here so that no one could find out, I'm sorry son for everything, Malcom will take good care of you and your mother. I just wanted to see my son ^{one} and for the last time. Shawn was crying out loud, malcom quickly held Shawn, that's when his father turned into golden ashes. Suddenly they were outside the old building. They couldn't find Shawn and malcom walked around the streets it was still 6 pm. Time wasn't changed since they left. They went home, Marie was waiting for them preparing the dinner. Marie saw both Malcom and Shawn entering the house smiling.

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Marie Couldnt believe her eyes. She welcomed and hugged them both. They three sat on for dinner and ate. ♡

Shawn had ~~some~~ ~~bad~~ always rejected christmas dinner since his father left, but now things changed.

He was happy seeing his both mom and dad.

The day could have ended differently if he hadnt received the message from his father, He was grateful and happy for his

life now. He took out the his phone and wrote ~~thankyou~~ and Sent to the number ^{where} ~~were~~ his father's message was arriving. Suddenly malcons phone notification popped up, It came a message "Thankyou!"