

THE BLACK HOLE

Chapter 1

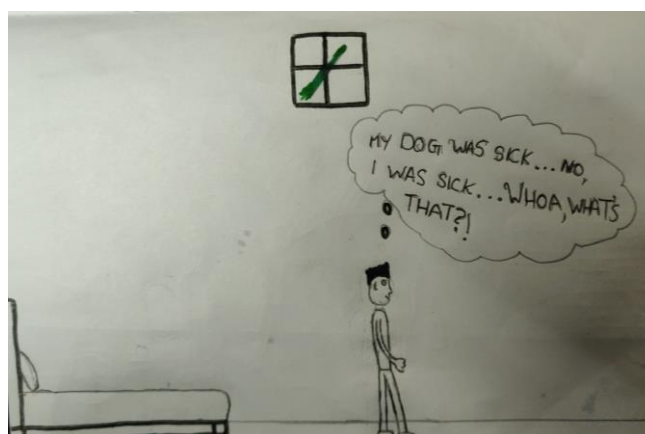
It was a Friday night when it happened. Of course, it could have happened to anybody in the Universe. But I guess I did something to make God angry, otherwise the alien wouldn't have landed in front of my house. Oh, sorry let me introduce myself. My name is Jack, and I am in a whole lot of trouble.

As I said before, it was a Friday night and I was just thinking of ways to get out of school when Monday came. I know right? You may think I am smart, planning for the future and all, but I just didn't want to go to school because of one person. The CHICKEN. When I am saying the chicken, don't think about poultry animals. I'm talking about our headmaster, Charles McChicken. From day one, he was on my case because I laughed at his last name. He is especially angry because today evening after class I put a big, white chicken egg on his chair. He didn't catch me in the act but I have a suspicion he know it is me.

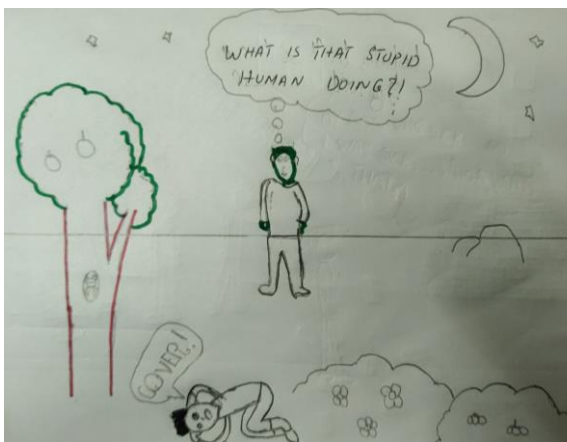
Anyway while I was thinking, I saw a flash of green light going through my backyard. Like any teenager, without thinking things through, I grabbed a flashlight and ran down the stairs. By the time I got to the backyard, the green light was gone. Undeterred I opened the kitchen door and ran through the thick dark overgrowth. Finally after running for about ten minutes I reached a clearing where my best friend Mike

and I played during the weekends. At first I saw nothing, but when I shone my torch straight through I saw a gleaming object. When I pulled the torch away, it disappeared. It was almost like a sort of camouflage. I slowly moved towards it. My mind was racing with the possibilities of what it could be. A special kind of meteor? A secret military jet? There were endless possibilities. I slowly looked around the object. I couldn't see it from a distance, but there was a sort of glamour. Like the camouflage, it disappeared when I looked at it from a certain angle. Then, I did a seriously stupid move. I touched it.

Suddenly sparks flew from the top. The thing made a sound like it was opening up. I have seen this in many movies before. I dived behind a piece of log, thinking that it would blow up. I covered my ears and waited. And waited. After a few minutes, I looked up. I felt mortally



embarrassed that the thing hadn't blown up. Instead if anything, it was now more visible. Now I was pretty sure that this was some sort of firework machine or something, so I went to the other side to take a closer look. While I was on the other side, I heard a hissing sound. Again, and I am deeply embarrassed to say this, I jumped behind a tree. After a few moments, I looked up. The thing was gone. Instead, in its place stood a creature. It was green with blue eyes, and the body structure of a human being. Its legs were covered with some sort of pants, while it was wearing a blue shirt-thingy. He looked like a normal human being, except for one thing. He was not speaking English. He was staring right at me and saying something. It sounded like something that maybe only sheep understood. He was staring at me in surprise, talking in sheep language.



My first thought was run, but my brain could not seem to send that order to my legs which were frozen with fear. Now most of you may have already understood this, but only at that moment I realized what it was. After a few moments of sheep talking, he realised that I didn't understand him. He took something out of his pocket, fitted it in his ear and said in a deep voice "Hello, human being. I am an alien. Please don't fear. I am not going to kill you".

Chapter 2

Most of you may have already known what it was going to be, but not me. I mean, the idea of "extra-terrestrials" running around in my backyard just seemed a bit... far-fetched to me. But standing in front of one, I felt all my fear vanished. I was able to get just one word out. "Cool" I said before I blacked out.

Now, this may be weird, but I'm a person who doesn't dream. I do not mean when I-grow-up kind of dream. Of course I have those! (Spoiler alert: I will become really rich). What I meant was sleep-dreaming. For some reason, dreams just don't come to me. Unless you count nothingness and emptiness as a dream. Then I have a lot of those. However my first ever dream came to me when I was unconscious. But that doesn't mean it was good. What I dreamt was I was standing on a hill, with lots of sheep surrounding me. Then the sheep started talking. They all began shouting so much, I woke up. And when I woke up, I was staring in the face of an alien. "aaaahhhhhh!!!!" I screamed.

He jumped away and screamed in sheep. Then he took the thing out of his pocket, a translator maybe, and fitted it into his ear. "Who are you, human being?" he asked. I was pretty terrified so excuse me if these words came out of my mouth. "Are you an alien?"

He looked at me strangely, then asked "Is this Earth?" Now if you are wondering why I didn't run at that moment it is because of two things. One, he seemed pretty harmless. Two, my legs were still petrified, so I couldn't move. "Yes" I said. He looked at me and then muttered some words in sheep which I am pretty sure was not pleasant. "Great!" He said. "I am now stuck in the land of monkeys." He took something out of his pocket and put it on the ground. "Move away human" he said and spoke something in sheep. I barely had enough time to jump before the UFO I saw earlier sprang back to its original size. The alien took something out of his pocket and went inside. Not knowing what else to do, I followed him.

I am pretty sure there was some great technology inside that ship, but I'm not a nerd, so I will explain it to you in the simplest way possible. It was big. There were a lot of buttons. There was a chair. See, done! I ignored all of that stuff and went near the alien. By then I was sure he was harmless. Otherwise I would have been dead by now. "So," I said. "Where do you come from?" I wasn't sure he could understand me. A moment passed. Then two. Finally he said, "I come from the black hole."

Now, when I think of the black hole, I think about the literal definition: a hole which is black. But from the last few minutes of my life, I knew he meant the one in space. "But I thought if you go into the black hole you die," I said. "How come you survived?" He waited for a minute to answer that question. "That's because we are aliens" he said. I was pretty sure that meant he didn't know. Before I could ask another question, he asked me one. "Human, what is your name?" "Jack," I said. "Ok jack. Where is the nearest hardware store?" "I could show you", I offered. "No human," he said. "Nobody can see an alien and stay alive. So after this I'm going to erase your memories of me."

Now, I know I just met him, but I didn't want these memories to go! I mean, I'm the first person in the world to make contact with an alien. "Wait!" I said. "If you erase my memory now, you might not get back to your ship! This town is huge and the hardware store is on the other side. You could erase my memories like, after you fix your ship?"

He hesitated for a second, then two. Then he took out his hand. "Deal" he said. I shook it. Human and alien. Shaking hands. A historic moment.

Chapter 3

We ran into our first problem in my room. After arguing for about 10 minutes that if people saw a person with green skin that they would have a heart attack, I finally convinced him to wear one of my shirt and pants which looked normal. Then the problem came of how we would get there. "Don't worry human," he said with a grin. And took a something out of his pocket. He pressed a button on it and waited. Almost immediately a car materialised in front of us. I looked at him. "You can spawn an intergalactic car?" I asked. "Human that's not the only thing I can do. Get in!" He said. Without hesitation, I jumped in the driver's seat. I have never driven an alien car before, but it didn't look that hard. Steering wheel, check. Accelerator, check. Brakes, check. The alien got in the shotgun seat. I started driving. Surprisingly, it was easy. My only problem was that if a cop pulled us over, I didn't know what would surprise him. An alien, or a high schooler driving an inter-galactic car? Anyway, I drove through the traffic with ease. While I was driving, I asked him a question. "So" I said, "Why were you going through Earth anyway?" "Oh," he said. "Well its al little bit embarrassing, but that was my driver's Ed test."

I looked at him again. "How old are you". "Me?" He said "Well I am going to be twenty one. Why?" "No nothing," I said. We reached the hardware store after a few minutes. Then it occurred to me, another problem. "Hey mister alien?" I said. "Do you have money?"

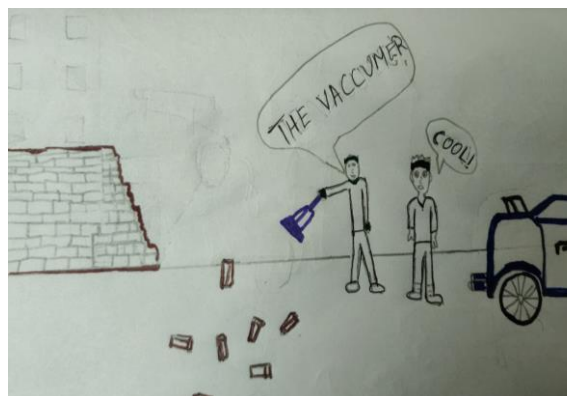
He looked at me and laughed. "You mean that green piece of paper which you call money?" He asked. "Yeah," I said. "Of course!" He said. He got out of the car, and opened the boot. He took a high tech alien printer-thingy from the back, and said something in sheep. A few minutes later, he came back with his fist full of money. "You do know people will understand it's printed?" I said. "He looked at me and laughed again. "Human" he said. "Do you know where this came from?". "From your alien printer, right?" "Exactly!" He said. "Nobody in this world will know the difference between your cash and alien printed paper. Now go get my tools". I was pretty nervous, buying tools with fake money, but the cashier took it without even blinking. I walked out of the shop before the cashier took a closer look. No matter what the alien said, I was not going to risk it. I ran back to the car, with a bag full of tools. This time, the alien was sitting in the driver's seat. I opened the door and sat in the passenger's seat. "Go!" I said. He looked at me and said, "Don't worry nobody will know that it's not real." But even he looked nervous as he started to drive. After a few miles when I was sure the hardware store was behind us, I started to breathe again. But before I could even say anything, our car crashed into a wall.

The only thing that saved us was the airbag and the seatbelt. Otherwise, I would have gone out of the window. None of us was hurt, including the car, which had not even been scratched. The

same could not be said for the brick wall though. Pieces of brick lay on the floor, while the whole wall fell on the car. We got out of the car. The alien didn't seem hurt. In fact, he seemed more upset. "What happened?" I asked. "My forty fifth crash," he replied. Suddenly I understood everything. "You have failed driver's Ed before haven't you? That's why you were nervous when we took off from the hardware store. That's why you crashed on earth." I thought he was going to get angry, but he nodded miserably. "Anyway," he said, "we have to go before the owner of this house comes out". "I know." I said. "But this is worse. The owner of this house... well, it's none other than The Chicken himself."

Chapter 4

It took me five whole minutes to explain about my headmaster, but after that, the alien was rolling on the floor laughing. "The Chicken? He said breathlessly when he got up. "Seriously??" "Yeah, well the chicken will kick our butts if we don't get out of here now!" He looked at me and laughed again. "You're worried about the wall? Wait a second" he said, and got something out of the boot of the car. It looked like a vacuum cleaner, except... more alieny. He took it out, set it on a medium dial and pointed it at the broken wall. Instantly, the vacuum sucked every broken piece inside. It made a few sounds, and then it spewed all of the broken pieces, correctly fixed, onto the wall. I looked at him in amazement. "We are way behind on alien technology" I said. He nodded in agreement. Just as he was about to say something, the door of the house opened and out came the chicken.



Now my first thought was run and I guess my alien friend had the same thought, because he jumped into the passenger seat, and I jumped in the driver's seat and pressed the ignition. Nothing happened! The engine was not working because the car didn't move. The chicken was gaining, and I started panicking. I didn't know what to do, so I started pressing random buttons. Just as the chicken

reached the car, I pressed a button called nitro. Honestly, I wasn't thinking. But I was glad I did it too, because just as the chicken was going to open the door, the car shoot up into the sky and wings spread from the side. We slowed into a glide and I was able to breathe again. But I shouldn't have celebrated too soon, because a warning flashed on the cars holographic screen: *Low nitro remaining.*

The car stopped gliding and crashed straight down to the house below us, which surprisingly, turned out to be mine. We went through the bed room and landed straight in the kitchen. We both got out of the car and the alien pressed the key again. The car disappeared. "That," he said, looking at me, "was awesome!" Before I could say anything though, he took the tool bag from me and ran outside. I was just shaken after what happened, so as calmly as possible I headed to my room. I sat on the bed, which surprisingly, was still there, I lay down and waited. It didn't take long for the UFO to rise into the air. It dropped something, a package, from the hole in the roof to my bed. Then it disappeared. I took the package. It was long and big. Like a vacuum. My heart pumping with blood, I ripped open the package and took out the alien vacuum. There was a note attached to it. It read:

Dear jack, this vacuum is a token of our friendship. I'm also guessing it will help you clean your home before your parents get here. I am willing not to erase your mind as long as this is kept quiet. We had a fun adventure Jack, but it is time for me to go home. Maybe we will see each other someday. Who knows? Goodbye!

I instantly went down and tried the vacuum. In a few minutes, the house was looking the same as before. I smiled. Yes, we were going to meet again.



THE END