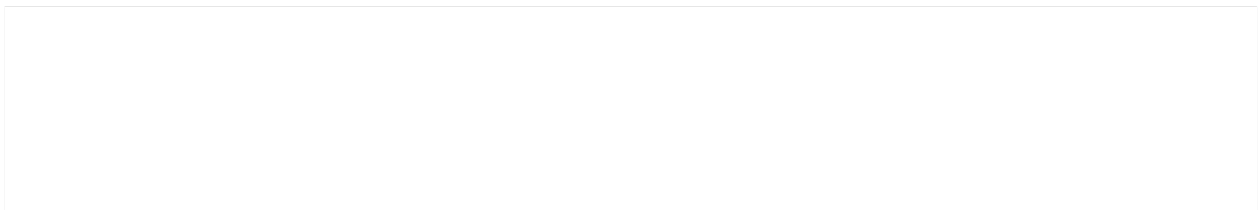


Pages of a Heart

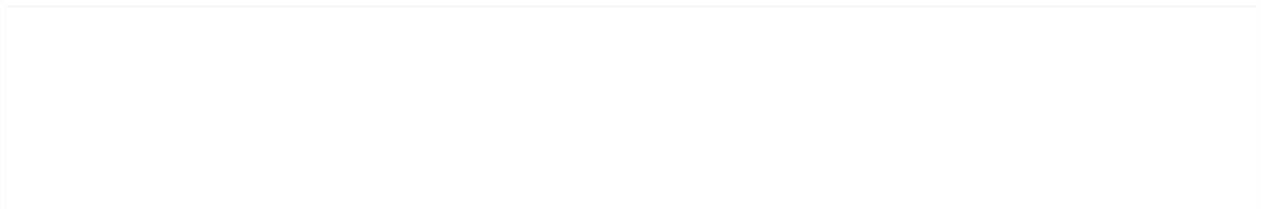
By:

Omer Mohamed Atia Wedaa



I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who took the time to read my book, offering your insightful critiques and thoughtful feedback. Your candid observations and constructive criticism have not only sharpened my vision but also transformed my work into something far better than I could have achieved on my own.

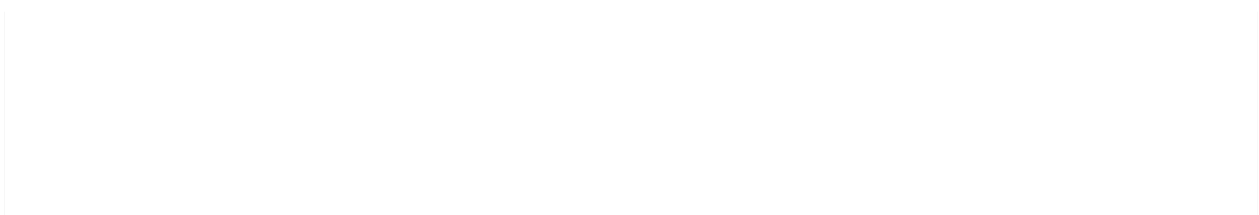
To myself, I offer deep gratitude for enduring the challenges, for persevering through self-doubt, late nights, and countless revisions. Every struggle, every obstacle, has only made me stronger, more determined, and more resilient. Thank me for believing in the vision, for pushing through moments of frustration, and for continuing to trust the process even when the end seemed far away. This journey has been as important as the destination, and I honor you, myself, for navigating it with courage.



Life's rules are simple yet profound. Nothing comes without a price—success demands sacrifice, and joy often shadows sorrow. Change is inevitable, and adaptability is key. Acceptance teaches us that not everything aligns with our desires, while resilience helps us endure life's challenges and grow from them.

Human connections enrich life, but people and relationships evolve, so we must cherish moments without clinging to permanence. Self-awareness grounds us, guiding our choices and helping us align with our true needs. Ultimately, life is about balance—between striving and letting go, control and acceptance.

"Omer Mohamed"



Chapter “1”

Childhood of non-wallows

Sajeen was an extraordinary primary school student. From the moment he stepped into the classroom, it was clear he was destined for great things. His desk was always the neatest, and his notebooks were filled with flawless handwriting, each word penned with care and thought. He consistently ranked first in his class, not just because he was smart but because he had an insatiable curiosity about everything around him.

Sajeen loved to write stories. His imagination was a world of its own, filled with dragons, magical lands, and courageous heroes. Every day, he would fill the pages of his notebook with tales that amazed his teachers and classmates. "You're going to be a famous writer one day!" they would often tell him, and he would smile shyly, knowing that writing was his special gift.

But Sajeen was more than just a top student and a writer. He was also a talented artist. During recess, while others played, he could often be found with a pencil in hand, sketching pictures that brought his stories to life. His drawings were vivid, detailed, and full of character, often making his classmates stop to admire them. "Can you draw me next?" they would ask, and Sajeen, ever the kind friend, would happily oblige.

Despite his talents, Sajeen was never one to distance himself from his peers. He was sociable, always surrounded by friends. He loved playing games in the schoolyard, racing across the field with laughter echoing behind him. His playful spirit was infectious, and even during the most intense games, he was the one who kept everyone smiling.

Whether he was writing, drawing, or simply enjoying the company of his classmates, Sajeen was a shining star in his school. His teachers believed he would achieve great things, but for now, Sajeen was content just being himself—a playful, talented boy with a heart full of dreams.

During his time in primary school, Sajeen's talents and hard work reached new heights. His dedication to excellence earned him numerous accolades, but two stood out the most: certificates from the Ministry of Education and the Quran Association, awarded for his exceptional efforts and superiority.

The Ministry of Education recognized Sajeen for his outstanding academic achievements. His ability to consistently perform at the top of his class, coupled with his love for writing and drawing, made him a standout student. At a special ceremony, he was presented with a certificate that read, "For Extraordinary Effort and Academic Superiority." As the principal handed it to him, the entire school

applauded, proud to witness the accomplishments of someone who had not only excelled but inspired others.

Sajeen's commitment to learning wasn't limited to the classroom. His participation in Quranic studies was equally impressive, and the local Quran Association recognized him for his dedication. He memorized verses with care and understood their meaning deeply, demonstrating a maturity beyond his years. The Quran Association awarded him a certificate to honor his achievements in Quran memorization and moral conduct, reflecting not only his academic abilities but also his strong character.

These certificates, awarded during his primary school years, became symbols of his tireless work ethic and passion for growth. They hung proudly in his home, reminders of what he had achieved and the bright future that lay ahead. For Sajeen, these awards were just the beginning of a lifelong journey of learning, creativity, and kindness.

Despite all of Sajeen's early successes, life soon took a turn down a road he hadn't anticipated. After receiving his certificates and basking in the pride of his family and teachers, he imagined that his path would only grow brighter. But life, with its unpredictable nature, often has a way of leading us down roads we never expect.

As Sajeen grew older, challenges began to surface. His family faced financial struggles that forced him to take on responsibilities far beyond his years. His once carefree days of writing, drawing, and playing with friends grew scarce, as time slipped away into tasks that burdened his young heart. The certificates that once symbolized hope and potential

now hung on the wall like distant memories of a simpler, more innocent time.

School, which had once been his sanctuary, became harder to navigate. The pressures of life outside the classroom weighed heavily on him, making it difficult to maintain the same focus and passion he once had. Though he remained kind and respectful, his playful spirit dimmed. Friends noticed the change, but no one fully understood the battles he faced quietly at home.

Life, it seemed, had placed unexpected obstacles in his way. Sajeen often thought back to those days when everything seemed perfect—when he believed that hard work and talent alone would shape his future. Now, he realized that life's path was rarely straightforward, and that sometimes, dreams can feel out of reach despite all the effort put in.

Yet, even in the face of these hardships, Sajeen never lost his inner strength. Though the road was not what he had wished for, he knew that every step, no matter how difficult, was part of his journey. He held on to the memories of his primary school achievements, not as reminders of what could have been, but as proof that he had once reached greatness—and that, someday, despite the obstacles, he could again.

As Sajeen reached the end of his primary school years, a strange feeling settled over him. He had once been filled with excitement about the future, imagining the adventures and successes that awaited him in the next phase of his life. But now, standing at the threshold of secondary school, that excitement was replaced by a quiet uncertainty. Life had begun to feel more complicated than it once had, and the carefree days of childhood were slipping away.

On his final day of primary school, Sajeen lingered in the empty classroom after everyone else had left. The walls, once covered with colorful posters and drawings, now felt bare. He remembered the times when school was simple—when each day was filled with laughter, friends, and new things to learn. But as he grew older, he realized that life wasn't always as easy as it seemed when he was younger. There were challenges ahead that he couldn't predict, and the path forward felt less certain.

He stood quietly, looking out the classroom window, feeling the weight of saying goodbye to a chapter of his life. Primary school had been a place of growth and discovery, but now it was over. And though he felt sadness, there was also a sense of relief. He knew that leaving meant he would be stepping into something bigger, even if it scared him.

With that thought, Sajeen walked out of the school building, closing the door on one part of his journey. A new chapter was about to begin in secondary school, and with it came a mixture of hope and anxiety. He wasn't sure what would happen next, and that uncertainty weighed on him, but deep down, he knew he had to keep moving forward.

Secondary school would be different. There would be new challenges, new friends, and new experiences that he couldn't predict. It wouldn't be as simple as primary school, but Sajeen understood now that life wasn't meant to be easy. It was about facing the unexpected, learning from it, and finding the strength to keep going, no matter what.

As he stepped into the unknown, Sajeen reminded himself that endings weren't final—they were just beginnings in disguise. And though the future felt uncertain, he was ready to start writing the next chapter of

his story. He didn't know where the road would lead, but he was determined to face it with courage, knowing that the best stories often come from the most unexpected paths.

Chapter “2”

Self-hood of individuality

During his secondary school years, Sajeen found himself spending much of his free time at Bahri market in Khartoum, the bustling heart of the city. Among the chaotic energy of vendors shouting prices and customers haggling over goods, Sajeen discovered something that gave him a new sense of independence—selling water. He would walk through the market with his cooler, calling out to thirsty shoppers and vendors alike, offering cold bottles of water under the scorching Sudanese sun.

It wasn't just about making money. For Sajeen, selling water gave him a sense of pride and responsibility. He loved the feeling of earning something for himself, knowing that the money in his pocket came from his own hard work. Every day, he would set aside his earnings, imagining all the possibilities that came with the independence he was building. Whether it was buying his own school supplies or contributing to his daily expenses, Sajeen slowly realized that he could take care of himself.

This sense of self-reliance began to grow within him. The more he worked at Bahri market, the more confident he became in his ability to manage his own life. He no longer wanted to rely on his family for support; instead, he took pride in handling things on his own. While his classmates talked about schoolwork and leisure, Sajeen was thinking about his next shift at the market, figuring out how to save and invest what little he earned.

It was a tough life. The market was busy and exhausting, the heat relentless, and the work never-ending. But for Sajeen, there was something empowering about it. He had always known that life wouldn't hand him everything he needed, and now he was proving to himself that he could handle whatever came his way.

As he balanced school with his work at Bahri market, Sajeen began to feel a shift in his mindset. He wasn't just a boy anymore—he was becoming someone who could stand on his own. And that realization marked the beginning of a new chapter in his life, one where he wasn't just surviving but shaping his future with his own hands.

During his secondary school years, Sajeen's determination to become self-sufficient led him to take on various jobs. Selling water in Bahri market was just one part of his journey. He also found work in construction, where he contributed to building houses around Khartoum. The work was physically demanding—lifting heavy materials, mixing cement, and working under the intense heat of the sun. Yet, Sajeen embraced it with a sense of purpose. Every brick laid and every structure completed was a testament to his hard work and an important step toward his goal of self-reliance.

As the harvest season approached, Sajeen would travel to his village, Egry, in Marawi in the Northern state of Sudan. Here, he would assist his grandparents with the harvest. The journey to the village was long, but the change of scenery was refreshing. In Egry, Sajeen would wake up before dawn, ready to work in the fields alongside his family. The labor was intense—plucking crops, bundling them, and preparing them for sale. Yet, there was a deep sense of satisfaction in working the land that had sustained his family for generations.

The money he earned from these harvests was carefully saved. Each day of hard work, whether in the market, on a construction site, or in the fields, brought him closer to his dream of funding his education. Sajeen was determined not to rely on his family for support. Instead, he wanted to earn his way through school, proving to himself that he could achieve his goals through his own efforts.

His time in Egry was more than just a job; it was a grounding experience that connected him to his roots and reminded him of the values his family had instilled in him. The lessons learned from his grandparents—about the value of hard work, resilience, and self-sufficiency—became guiding principles as he continued to navigate the challenges of both school and work.

Through it all, Sajeen remained focused on his education. He knew that each job, each hour of labor, was a step toward a better future. The money he saved was more than just a financial buffer; it was a symbol of his commitment to his dreams and his determination to carve out a path for himself. As he balanced his time between Khartoum and Egry, Sajeen felt a growing sense of pride in his ability to manage his responsibilities and strive toward his goals, no matter the obstacles.

From a young age, Sajeen harbored a dream of becoming an engineer. His fascination with how things worked, coupled with his natural curiosity, made engineering a perfect fit for him. The idea of designing and building, of solving complex problems and creating innovative solutions, captivated him. He imagined himself working on ambitious projects, from towering skyscrapers to advanced infrastructure, and the thought of contributing to something tangible and impactful was both thrilling and motivating.

As he worked in construction, his dream of becoming an engineer grew stronger. Watching buildings rise from the ground and understanding the intricate details of construction processes only fueled his passion. He was fascinated by the precision and creativity involved in engineering, and he eagerly absorbed every lesson he could from the builders and architects he worked alongside. Each project he was part of became a learning experience, bringing him closer to the world he wanted to be a part of.

Despite the challenges he faced, Sajeen was determined to make his dream a reality. The long hours he spent selling water in Bahri market and working on construction sites were driven by this singular goal. He saved diligently, knowing that every Sudanese pound earned was a step closer to affording the education he needed. He was aware that becoming an engineer required more than just financial resources; it required a solid academic foundation and a relentless commitment to his studies.

Sajeen's time helping his grandparents with the harvest in Egry also played a role in reinforcing his dream. The experience of working with his hands, understanding the practical aspects of labor, and appreciating

the value of hard work only deepened his resolve. He saw engineering as a way to apply his problem-solving skills and creativity to make a positive impact, whether by improving infrastructure in his community or contributing to larger-scale projects.

In his quiet moments, Sajeen often envisioned himself in a university classroom, studying engineering principles and working on projects that could one day make a difference. He imagined the satisfaction of seeing his ideas come to life and the pride of contributing to something meaningful. This vision kept him motivated through the toughest times, reminding him why he was working so hard.

Sajeen knew that achieving his dream would require perseverance and dedication, but he was ready to face the challenges head-on. His journey, marked by hard work and determination, was not just about earning a degree but about proving to himself that he could overcome any obstacle to realize his aspirations. Each step he took, whether through the market, construction sites, or fields, brought him closer to that dream. And as he continued to work toward his goal, Sajeen remained unwavering in his belief that one day, he would become the engineer he had always dreamed of being.

Sajeen's dream of becoming an engineer was intricately linked to his aspirations for higher education at two of Sudan's most esteemed institutions: Khartoum University and Sudan University for Science and Technology. His vision of becoming an engineer was not just about personal achievement but also about reaching these prestigious universities, which he saw as the gateways to turning his dreams into reality.

Khartoum University, with its renowned engineering program, represented the pinnacle of academic excellence in Sudan. Sajeen had heard about its rigorous curriculum and distinguished faculty. The university's reputation for producing some of the country's top engineers fueled his ambition even further. He envisioned himself walking through its historic halls, attending lectures, and engaging in groundbreaking research. To him, Khartoum University was not just a place of learning; it was a symbol of the success he aspired to achieve.

Similarly, Sudan University for Science and Technology was another beacon of hope. Known for its emphasis on practical skills and innovation, this institution was renowned for equipping its students with the tools they needed to excel in the field of engineering. Sajeen admired the university's focus on technological advancements and its commitment to preparing graduates for real-world challenges. He saw it as a place where he could develop the technical expertise and problem-solving skills necessary for his career.

His work in Khartoum, whether selling water or laboring in construction, was more than just a means to an end—it was a calculated effort to build a foundation for his future. Each job he took, each Sudanese pound he saved, was a step toward affording the education he needed to attend one of these prestigious universities. He knew that the road ahead required more than just hard work; it required a solid academic background, and he was determined to make that a reality.

During his time in Egry, while helping with the harvest, Sajeen would often daydream about his future studies at Khartoum University or Sudan University for Science and Technology. He imagined himself solving engineering problems, designing innovative solutions, and

contributing to major projects. These dreams were a source of motivation, pushing him to persevere through the challenges he faced.

Sajeen's determination was unwavering. He knew that to make his dream a reality, he needed to excel in his studies and secure a place at one of these prestigious institutions. His commitment to saving money, balancing work with school, and constantly striving for academic excellence was driven by the vision of one day walking through the gates of Khartoum University or Sudan University for Science and Technology.

Each step Sajeen took, whether it was working in the market, on construction sites, or in the fields, was guided by the dream of becoming an engineer. His goal was clear: to gain admission to one of these universities and turn his aspirations into reality. The journey was long and challenging, but Sajeen's resolve remained strong. He believed that with perseverance, dedication, and hard work, he would one day achieve his dream and make a significant impact in the field of engineering.

As Sajeen faced the mounting crises in his life, the harsh reality of tragedy settled heavily upon him. What had once been a journey filled with ambition and hope now felt like a cruel twist of fate. Each challenge seemed to come with a weight that crushed his spirit, turning his dreams into a distant, almost unreachable horizon.

The flood that devastated his market, the urgent family crises that pulled him away from his ambitions, and the crushing realization that his hard-earned plans might be slipping away—all these events painted a picture of life's unforgiving nature. It wasn't just that things were difficult; it felt as if the very fabric of his hopes was unraveling before his eyes.

In this relentless storm of adversity, Sajeen felt the sting of life's tragedies deeply. The future he had envisioned, once so vivid and promising, now seemed to dissolve into a bleak and uncertain void. The pain of watching his dreams falter was compounded by a profound sense of loss, a realization that despite his tireless efforts, fate had dealt him a cruel hand.

The very essence of tragedy lay in the disparity between his dreams and his reality. Every setback seemed not just a hurdle but a profound injustice, a reminder of how fleeting and fragile success can be. It was as if life had turned against him, mocking his hopes with a series of relentless, heartbreaking blows.

As he stood amidst the ruins of his aspirations, Sajeen was forced to confront the raw, unfiltered truth of life's inherent cruelty. The sense of helplessness was overwhelming, and the struggle against this cruel twist of fate felt almost insurmountable. The journey that had once been a beacon of hope now felt like a tragic struggle against an indifferent world.

In these moments of deep despair, Sajeen came to understand that tragedy often comes not with grand gestures but in the quiet, relentless erosion of dreams. Life had shown him its harshest side, leaving him with a painful awareness of its unpredictable and often unjust nature. And as he faced this profound tragedy, the question loomed large: could he summon the strength to rise above the devastation and find a way forward, or was he destined to be forever ensnared in life's cruel game?.

Chapter “3”

The remains of Ghaim

During one of his visits to Egry, Sajeen experienced a profound and unexpected shift in his world. Amidst the fields and the familiar warmth of his grandparents' home, he encountered Ghaim, the daughter of his aunt. From the moment he laid eyes on her, he was captivated by her presence, a spark igniting in his heart that he had never felt before.

Ghaim moved with a grace that seemed almost otherworldly. Her laughter, a gentle melody, wove through the air like a soft breeze, and her eyes held a depth that drew Sajeen in, capturing his attention and heart. He found himself mesmerized by her every action—the way she shyly tucked a stray lock of hair behind her ear, the way she looked down when she spoke, as if the ground held secrets only she could see. Every gesture of hers seemed to hold a certain magic, making Sajeen's feelings grow stronger with each passing day.

One evening, while the family gathered for a playful game, the atmosphere was light-hearted and filled with laughter. As the game progressed, one of Sajeen's cousins, in a moment of jest, remarked that Ghaim and Sajeen would someday marry each other. The words were meant in good humor, but they hung in the air with a weight of truth that neither Sajeen nor Ghaim could ignore.

Ghaim's reaction was a mix of surprise and shyness. Her cheeks flushed a delicate shade of pink, and she looked down, her eyes fluttering like the wings of a butterfly. She seemed to shrink into herself, her usually bright and lively demeanor giving way to a quiet, bashful demeanor. The sight was both endearing and poignant for Sajeen. In that brief moment, he saw the vulnerability and innocence in Ghaim, and it deepened his affection for her.

To Sajeen, Ghaim became more than just a part of his family; she was the embodiment of a dream, the first true love of his adolescence. The feeling was intense, a mix of admiration and longing that colored his days with a new, vivid intensity. He found himself daydreaming about her, imagining a future where their lives might intertwine.

The experience was a bittersweet revelation. Ghaim was the first person who made him feel this way—someone who seemed to touch the very core of his being. Her shyness, her laughter, her grace—all these aspects of her became a source of profound emotional significance for him. Sajeen's feelings for Ghaim were raw and deeply emotional, marking the beginning of a love that he would carry with him as a poignant and cherished memory of his youth.

As he left Egry and returned to his daily life, the memory of Ghaim lingered in his heart, a gentle reminder of a love that was both beautiful and fleeting. The experience left him with a sense of melancholy and wonder, knowing that Ghaim was a symbol of a tender, first love that would forever remain a cherished part of his adolescence.

Each year, as the seasons turned and the time came for Sajeen to return to Egry, a significant part of his motivation was Ghaim. His visits to the village, once driven by duty and familial obligations, increasingly became intertwined with his deep-seated feelings for her.

The fields of Egry, with their vast expanse and the rhythm of rural life, were not just a backdrop to his visits but a canvas where his emotions unfolded. Ghaim's presence in the village was the beacon that guided his yearly journeys, turning these visits into much more than mere tradition. Every return to Egry was colored by the anticipation of seeing her again, of experiencing the warmth of her smile and the grace of her movements that had so profoundly captured his heart.

Sajeen would often find himself looking forward to the simple, everyday moments with Ghaim—the way she would shyly greet him, her laughter mingling with the sounds of the village, and the quiet conversations they shared under the starlit sky. Her presence made each visit to Egry something he eagerly anticipated, a highlight in the rhythm of his year. The thought of seeing Ghaim transformed his visits from routine to something special, a source of joy and longing that sustained him through the months apart.

Her influence on his yearly trips was undeniable. The affection he felt for her had turned what might have been a mere obligation into a cherished

part of his life. The connection he shared with Ghaim made each return to Egry a journey filled with emotional significance, a testament to how deeply he valued her presence and the feelings she inspired in him.

In essence, Ghaim was a driving force behind Sajeen's visits to Egry. Each trip was a chance to reconnect with the person who had touched his heart so profoundly. Her role in his life turned these visits into moments of emotional significance, making the journey back to the village not just a duty but a deeply anticipated reunion with the love of his adolescence.

Ghaim's presence in Sajeen's life had a profound impact on his dreams and aspirations. Her influence extended beyond the emotional warmth she brought; it became a driving force that fueled his ambition and perseverance.

During his visits to Egry, every moment spent with Ghaim was a reminder of what he was striving for. Her gentle encouragement and the way she listened with genuine interest when he spoke about his dreams provided him with a sense of purpose and affirmation. The connection they shared became a source of strength, inspiring him to work even harder toward his goal of becoming an engineer.

The times spent working in the fields or engaging in conversations with Ghaim were not just fleeting moments of joy but also significant sources of motivation. Her unwavering support and the way she believed in his potential made him even more determined to succeed. Sajeen saw in Ghaim a reflection of the future he wished to build—not just for himself, but for the life they could potentially share.

Her influence was a beacon during the toughest periods of his life. The challenges he faced and the long hours he worked were all driven by a desire to build a future worthy of the love and respect he felt for her. Every drop of sweat, every late night studying, and every sacrifice he made was fueled by the vision of a future where he could be with Ghaim and achieve his dream of becoming an engineer.

The emotional significance of Ghaim was interwoven with his ambition. She was a symbol of hope and the life he envisioned for himself—a life that demanded hard work and dedication. Her impact on his life was profound, making his journey toward becoming an engineer not just a personal goal but a shared dream that carried the weight of his love and admiration for her.

In the end, Ghaim was more than just a cherished memory from his visits to Egry; she was a powerful motivator that drove Sajeen's relentless pursuit of his dreams. The thought of making her proud and building a future together gave him the strength to overcome obstacles and continue his hard work, shaping his path toward a brighter, more fulfilling future.

Sajeen's aspiration to attend Khartoum University was deeply intertwined with his feelings for Ghaim. Her own dreams of continuing her education at the same prestigious institution added a layer of personal significance to his ambitions. The thought of sharing this next chapter of their lives in a vibrant city like Khartoum, where they could both pursue their dreams, filled him with a sense of hopeful excitement.

For Sajeen, the idea of studying at Khartoum University wasn't just about achieving academic success; it was about being closer to Ghaim, who had

become an irreplaceable part of his life. He imagined the days spent walking through the university grounds together, studying side by side, and sharing moments of joy and discovery. The prospect of being able to see her more frequently and build a future together in the heart of the city was a dream he cherished deeply.

Every summer vacation, when he traveled to Egry, was both a blessing and a reminder of how fleeting their time together was. The two months he had each year to be with Ghaim felt like a mere glimpse into the life he wished he could have with her year-round. Those summer visits, though precious, were always tinged with the sadness of knowing that their time together was so limited.

Ghaim was not just a beloved figure from his past; she was a central part of his vision for the future. The thought of university life without her by his side was almost unbearable. He longed for the days when their academic pursuits could be intertwined, and they could support each other through the challenges and triumphs of university life.

Her special place in his heart was undeniable. Ghaim represented not just the love of his adolescence but also the hope of a shared future. The idea of spending more time with her, of building a life where their dreams and aspirations could align, drove him to work even harder toward his goals. Each step he took toward Khartoum University was a step toward making that dream a reality, and each moment spent away from her was a reminder of just how much she meant to him.

In his heart, the vision of a future with Ghaim—studying at the same university, growing together, and creating a life filled with shared dreams—was a powerful motivator. Her presence was the beacon

guiding him through the challenges, and the thought of being together in Khartoum fueled his determination to overcome any obstacles in his path.

After a year of nurturing his feelings for Ghaim, Sajeen came to a profound realization of the depth of his love for her. The intensity of his emotions had grown so strong that he could no longer keep them confined to the corners of his heart. His visits to Egry, filled with stolen glances and unspoken words, had only intensified his yearning to express his feelings.

By this time, Sajeen had honed his skills as a writer, channeling his emotions into words that spoke of his inner world. He had poured his heart into countless pages, writing stories and poems that reflected his growing affection for Ghaim. Each sentence he crafted was a labor of love, carefully chosen and delicately woven together to convey the depth of his feelings.

Yet, despite his proficiency with words, expressing his true emotions to Ghaim proved to be an immense challenge. The simple act of saying "I love you" felt monumental, a phrase that carried the weight of his entire heart. He wrestled with his own vulnerability, knowing that putting his feelings into words was both exhilarating and terrifying.

Sajeen's letters to Ghaim were a mixture of heartfelt confessions and poetic musings. He wrote about the way her presence had transformed his life, how her laughter had become the soundtrack to his happiest moments, and how the thought of her had been his guiding light during the darkest times. His writing was infused with the raw honesty of his

emotions, yet he found it difficult to translate this profound love into a single, definitive declaration.

The struggle to express his feelings was not just about the fear of rejection but also the fear of not doing justice to the depth of his love. Every draft of his letter was a testament to his effort to capture the essence of his emotions, to find the right words that would convey the intensity of his affection without falling short.

Finally, after many revisions and sleepless nights, Sajeen penned a letter that he hoped would encapsulate his feelings. In it, he confessed his love for Ghaim with a blend of hope and trepidation. The words were simple yet profound, reflecting the depth of his heart and the difficulty he had faced in articulating his true emotions.

Sending the letter was both a relief and a moment of apprehension. He had laid bare his soul on paper, and now, all he could do was wait for her response. The act of writing to Ghaim was both a declaration of his love and a courageous step toward embracing the future he so deeply desired. His emotions were raw and vulnerable, and the letter was a testament to the love that had grown within him—a love that he had struggled to express but had ultimately found the courage to share.

When Ghaim received Sajeen's heartfelt letter, her response was a delicate dance of emotion and shyness. Though her words were not spoken, her reactions and actions conveyed a depth of feeling that spoke louder than any declaration.

When Sajeen next visited Egry, he noticed a subtle shift in Ghaim's behavior. Her usual shyness was tinged with a newfound warmth

whenever she was near him. She would blush at the mere mention of his letters, her eyes sparkling with a mixture of affection and embarrassment. The way she looked at him, with a softness and intensity that was new and profound, was enough to make Sajeen's heart skip a beat.

During their conversations, Ghaim's reactions became a language of their own. She would often find small, thoughtful ways to show her appreciation for his writings. A simple touch on his arm or a tender smile when he spoke of his stories spoke volumes. Her actions, though understated, were filled with an earnestness that resonated deeply with Sajeen. He could sense the affection in the way she leaned in closer, her body language expressing what words could not.

Ghaim's responses to his letters were more than just physical gestures; they were a testament to how much she cherished his written words. Whenever she received a letter from Sajeen, she would read it with a reverence that touched him profoundly. He noticed how she would keep his letters close, often seen reading them with a gentle smile, as if each word was a precious treasure.

The warmth of her reactions was a balm to Sajeen's soul. Each shy glance, each touch, and each affectionate gesture was a confirmation of her feelings, a silent yet powerful affirmation of the love they shared. Although Ghaim's shyness prevented her from speaking openly about her emotions, her actions were a clear and heartfelt response to the love he had poured into his letters.

Sajeen treasured these moments of connection. The way Ghaim's feelings reached him through her behavior was a testament to the depth

of their bond. Her actions and reactions were a powerful reminder of how deeply she had been touched by his words. In this quiet exchange of love, Sajeen found solace and joy, knowing that their feelings for each other were genuine and profound, even if not always articulated through spoken words.

The silent communication between them became a cherished part of their relationship, a beautiful dance of emotions where Ghaim's shyness and Sajeen's heartfelt writing intertwined to create a profound and unspoken connection.

Sajeen's love for Ghaim was so deep and unwavering that it manifested in ways both profound and symbolic. One of the most vivid expressions of his devotion was the moment he chose to chisel her name onto his arm. It was not a decision born of fleeting passion but of a profound, enduring love that he felt with every fiber of his being. The act was painful, yet he scarcely felt the discomfort. His emotions were so overpowering that the physical pain seemed to vanish, replaced by a sense of fulfillment and connection that transcended the immediate suffering.

Ghaim's presence in his life brought out the best in him. While he was in Egry, Sajeen eagerly immersed himself in helping her with her daily tasks. Whether it was assisting with the harvest or tackling chores around the house, he was there by her side, offering his strength and support. His help was not just physical; he was also a steadfast ally in her academic endeavors. He would spend hours with her, guiding her through her studies, sharing insights, and offering encouragement. His support was a blend of practical help and emotional reinforcement, showing his dedication to her success.

When Ghaim decided to wear the veil, a decision that was deeply personal and significant, Sajeen stood by her with unwavering support. Understanding the importance of this choice, he offered his encouragement and respect. His words were carefully chosen, reflecting his understanding and admiration for her decision. Yet, it was his writing that became the primary vehicle for his support. He penned heartfelt letters expressing his admiration for her strength and grace, reassuring her that her choice was a reflection of her inner beauty and strength.

Sajeen's writings became a source of solace and motivation for Ghaim. Whenever he saw her struggling or feeling uncertain, he would write her notes of encouragement, capturing his deepest feelings and his unwavering belief in her. His ability to articulate his support through the written word was a testament to his love and dedication. Each letter was a reminder of his commitment, a tangible expression of the emotions he found difficult to convey in person.

In every aspect of his life with Ghaim, Sajeen's love was evident through his actions and his writing. His support was both practical and emotional, a reflection of his deep and abiding affection. From chiseled symbols of his devotion to helping her with her work and studies, and offering support through written words, Sajeen's commitment to Ghaim was a testament to the profound impact she had on his life. His love for her was a guiding force, shaping his actions and words in ways that honored their bond and celebrated the depth of his feelings.

Despite the profound connection they shared and the depth of Sajeen's feelings for Ghaim, their story took an unexpected and heart-wrenching turn. The bond that had once seemed so unbreakable began to unravel,

caught in the winds of fate and circumstance that neither of them could control.

As time passed, the distance between their lives grew, and the once-clear path to a shared future became obscured by unforeseen obstacles. The dreams they had woven together seemed to fray at the edges, and the reality of their separation became increasingly apparent. The plans Sajeen had cherished, dreams of university life together in Khartoum, now seemed distant and elusive.

The finality of their separation was a blow Sajeen struggled to comprehend. He had envisioned a future where Ghaim was by his side, supporting her through every challenge, and celebrating their successes together. The prospect of losing that vision was a source of deep sorrow, a feeling that seemed to eclipse all the joy they had once shared.

Amidst the emotional turmoil of their parting, an additional, crushing frustration awaited Sajeen. Life, in its unpredictable nature, threw another wrench into his carefully laid plans. A significant setback, perhaps related to his educational aspirations or personal ambitions, emerged—one that left him grappling with a sense of helplessness and despair.

The convergence of losing Ghaim and facing this new, overwhelming challenge created a perfect storm of frustration and sadness for Sajeen. The pain of their separation was compounded by the weight of the new obstacle, leaving him feeling as though his world had been shattered. The dreams he had so fervently pursued seemed to crumble before his eyes, and the future he had envisioned was replaced by a bleak and uncertain reality.

In the midst of this profound emotional turmoil, Sajeen was left to confront the harsh truth that life's course is often unpredictable and merciless. The once-bright future he had hoped for was now clouded by the shadows of loss and frustration. The journey he had imagined with Ghaim, filled with shared triumphs and dreams, seemed to slip away, leaving him with a deep sense of grief and the daunting challenge of finding his way forward.

One crisp morning, as Sajeen sifted through his letters, a single envelope stood out—a letter from Ghaim. His hands trembled slightly as he opened it, a mix of anticipation and dread gnawing at him. The familiar script on the envelope, the same handwriting that had once brought him so much joy, now felt like an ominous omen.

As he unfolded the letter, his eyes quickly scanned the words. The message was brief but clear. Ghaim had asked him to forget everything between them. Each word seemed to pierce through him, leaving him in a state of shock and disbelief. The letter was devoid of any further explanation or emotional context, a stark contrast to the heartfelt writings he had sent her.

The impact of the letter was immediate and devastating. It felt as though a profound part of his world had been ripped away in an instant. The dreams he had cherished, the future he had envisioned with Ghaim, all seemed to crumble in the face of this simple, heart-wrenching request.

In the wake of reading her letter, Sajeen was left to grapple with a crushing sense of finality. The words “forget everything” echoed in his mind, amplifying the feelings of loss and frustration that had already begun to consume him. The weight of this unexpected and abrupt end

was heavy, and the void left by Ghaim's departure seemed insurmountable.

Compounding the emotional turmoil was the realization that a significant frustration was looming on the horizon. As if the universe had conspired against him, another pressing challenge surfaced, threatening to derail his aspirations and dreams. The confluence of losing Ghaim and facing this new obstacle created a storm of despair, leaving him reeling and overwhelmed.

The letter from Ghaim marked a turning point, an end to the chapter they had shared and the beginning of a painful new reality for Sajeen. The dreams, the hopes, and the future he had once envisioned with her now felt like distant memories, overshadowed by the stark reality of her departure and the impending struggle that awaited him.

The message was brief, almost cruel in its brevity: "Forget everything between us."

The simplicity of the words was jarring. There were no explanations, no elaborations, just those four devastating words. It was as though the letter was a final, abrupt end to a chapter he had believed would continue to unfold. Sajeen's heart sank as he re-read the message, the weight of its implications crashing down on him with overwhelming force.

He was left grappling with a torrent of emotions—confusion, pain, and an acute sense of abandonment. The absence of any explanation only deepened his agony. How could something so significant, something that had meant so much to him, end with such cold finality? The dreams he

had nurtured, the love he had cherished, were now reduced to a single, dispassionate request to erase it all.

The impact of the letter was profound. Sajeen felt as though the ground had been pulled out from under him. The future he had envisioned with Ghaim, filled with shared dreams and mutual support, seemed to dissolve in an instant. The plans he had made, the hopes he had harbored, were now cast into uncertainty.

In the aftermath of receiving the letter, Sajeen found himself in a state of emotional paralysis. The frustration and sadness he had already been facing now felt compounded by the sudden, inexplicable end of his relationship with Ghaim. It was a cruel twist of fate that left him grappling with the harsh reality that, despite his deepest feelings and efforts, the path he had envisioned was no longer within reach.

The letter had delivered more than just words; it had delivered a blow to his heart and to his dreams. The abrupt end, without any explanation or comfort, left Sajeen to confront the stark reality of moving forward without the one person who had meant so much to him. The journey ahead seemed daunting and fraught with uncertainty, as he struggled to make sense of a future that had been irrevocably altered by those few, painful lines.

In the days following the receipt of Ghaim's short and devastating letter, Sajeen found himself ensnared in a whirlwind of thoughts and emotions. The simplicity of the message—"Forget everything between us"—became an unrelenting torment in his mind. He was consumed by the need to understand, to uncover the reasons behind the sudden and inexplicable end to their relationship.

Every moment was a struggle as he replayed their time together over and over, searching for clues that might explain her decision. He questioned every interaction they had shared, every gesture of affection, and every word of encouragement. He scrutinized his own actions, wondering if he had somehow misinterpreted her feelings or failed to meet her expectations. The memories of their time together became a puzzle he desperately tried to piece together, each fragment of their relationship scrutinized with a mix of regret and confusion.

Sajeen began to doubt his own feelings. Were they as genuine as he had believed, or had he been blinded by his own desires and hopes? He wondered if his love for Ghaim had been an idealization rather than a true connection. This self-doubt only compounded his anguish, leaving him feeling both lost and betrayed.

Equally troubling was the doubt he cast upon Ghaim's feelings. Had her affections been as sincere as he had thought, or had there been underlying reservations he had failed to perceive? The absence of any explanation left him with a profound sense of uncertainty about her true emotions and intentions.

His mind raced with a frenzy of questions and theories. He became obsessed with uncovering the reason behind her decision, driven by a desperate need for closure. Each day, he would replay their conversations, analyze their last encounters, and imagine countless scenarios in which he might have misunderstood or miscommunicated. His obsession grew to a point where he felt like a prisoner of his own thoughts, unable to escape the relentless pursuit of an answer that remained just out of reach.

The uncertainty and frustration were almost unbearable. Sajeen found himself caught in a cycle of anxiety and yearning, unable to move forward without understanding why Ghaim had chosen to end their relationship so abruptly. The emotional turmoil was compounded by a sense of helplessness, as he realized that the answers he sought were beyond his grasp.

His quest for understanding consumed him entirely, driving him to the brink of emotional exhaustion. The knowledge that he might never receive the clarity he craved only added to his despair. Sajeen's once-clear path now seemed shrouded in confusion and heartache, as he struggled to reconcile his memories with the painful reality of Ghaim's departure.

In the midst of his turmoil, Sajeen grappled with the harsh reality that some questions might remain unanswered. The search for reason became a consuming obsession, overshadowing the love he had once cherished and leaving him in a state of profound emotional disarray.

Desperation drove Sajeen to take one last stand in his quest for answers. He poured his heart into a series of letters, each one pleading for a resolution to the painful uncertainty that had engulfed him. His words were a mixture of heartfelt apologies, reassurances, and sincere requests for an explanation. He implored Ghaim to reconsider, to communicate and resolve the issues they might have had, convinced that they could overcome whatever had driven them apart.

In each letter, Sajeen expressed his willingness to address any mistakes, to understand what had gone wrong, and to make amends. He believed that their bond was strong enough to weather any storm, that they could

fix whatever had fractured their relationship. His letters were filled with a sense of earnest vulnerability, a plea for a chance to make things right.

But Ghaim's response—or rather, the absence of it—was a blow that struck him deeply. His letters went unanswered, each one met with a deafening silence that spoke louder than any words could. The lack of response felt like a stark denial of the significance of their shared past. It was as if, to her, the relationship had never existed, and he, a mere afterthought, was not worthy of further consideration or explanation.

The silence was more than just frustrating; it felt like an insult to everything Sajeen had invested in their relationship. The abrupt change in how Ghaim treated him was jarring and deeply hurtful. The warmth and affection that had once characterized their interactions were now replaced by a cold indifference. It was as though the love and connection they had shared were being dismissed as inconsequential, an afterthought to be forgotten without ceremony.

Sajeen struggled to comprehend this sudden shift. The frustration he felt was compounded by the sense of being disregarded and devalued. The woman he had loved so deeply and shared so much with now seemed to regard him as insignificant, as though his emotions and questions were unworthy of a response. It was a blow to his dignity and his sense of self-worth.

The emotional toll of being ignored and treated with such disregard left Sajeen feeling deeply insulted and disheartened. He was consumed by a mix of hurt and indignation, grappling with the disparity between the deep feelings he had held and the callousness he was now faced with.

The lack of closure and the indifference from Ghaim made him feel as if his love and efforts had been in vain.

Sajeen's sense of frustration and hurt grew with each passing day, leaving him with a profound sense of betrayal. The person he had once cherished and believed in had become a distant memory, her actions a painful reminder of how quickly things could change. The unanswered letters, the silence, and the stark contrast to their past connection all contributed to a deep, unresolved pain that left him questioning the nature of their relationship and his place in it.

After months of agonizing over the unanswered letters and the cold silence from Ghaim, Sajeen made a difficult decision. The emotional turmoil had worn him down to the point where holding onto hope became unbearable. The pain of being treated as though he didn't matter, as though he had never mattered, reached a breaking point. He realized that continuing to chase answers from someone who refused to acknowledge his existence was only deepening his wounds.

In a moment of clarity, Sajeen decided to let go of Ghaim entirely. It was not an easy decision—it was the hardest he had ever made—but he understood that he could not keep torturing himself with questions that would never be answered. He had given her every chance to explain, to talk, to fix what was broken, but her silence had spoken louder than any words could.

In his heart, Sajeen decided to consider Ghaim as if she no longer existed. She had chosen to cut him out of her life without offering a single reason, and in doing so, she had shown him where he stood in hers. If she could erase him so easily, he decided that he, too, could erase her. It was a

defense mechanism, a way to protect himself from the ongoing pain of being disregarded.

He no longer waited for her response, no longer searched for hidden meanings in the silence. He made a vow to himself that he would move forward as if she had never been a part of his life. Ghaim had chosen to treat him as nothing, and so he, too, would treat her as though she had never existed. It was the only way he could heal, the only way to regain control over his emotions and his future.

As painful as it was to accept, Sajeen realized that sometimes people choose to leave without offering closure. And in the absence of answers, the only choice left was to find peace on his own terms. He would carry the lessons of this heartache with him, but Ghaim's presence would no longer haunt him. He would forge a new path—one without her, as she had already chosen one without him.

Determined to sever all ties with Ghaim, Sajeen began the painstaking process of erasing everything connected to her from his life. He removed every trace of their shared memories, every thought that had once been shaped by her presence. The love he had nurtured for so long was now buried deep, sealed away in the corners of his heart where he vowed never to return. He discarded the letters he had written, the sketches he had drawn, and even the dreams they had shared. Each reminder of her became a weight he was no longer willing to carry.

In his desire to distance himself from the pain, Sajeen made the most drastic decision of all—he changed his goal. His lifelong dream of attending Khartoum University, the place he had once wanted to go because Ghaim wanted to, no longer held the same meaning. The dream

had been built on the foundation of a future with her, a future that no longer existed. Instead of clinging to what once was, Sajeen chose to forge a new path.

He set his sights on Omdurman Islamic University, a place he had never before considered but now represented a fresh start, a clean slate untainted by memories of Ghaim. This decision was more than just a change of academic direction; it was a symbolic break from the past. By choosing a different university, he was choosing to rewrite his future without her influence.

But life, with its cruel ironies, had another twist for him. Word soon reached Sajeen that Ghaim had made it—she had been accepted to Khartoum University, the very place they had once dreamed of attending together. The news hit him like a punch to the gut, reopening wounds that had barely begun to heal. She had succeeded in achieving the dream that they had once shared, while he had been forced to abandon it, left to carve out a new life without her.

Though the news stung deeply, Sajeen did not falter. He had made his choice, and he would stand by it. Ghaim's path no longer concerned him; she had her life, and he would have his. Despite the hurt, he resolved to move forward, knowing that the road ahead would be different than he had once envisioned, but it would be his own.

Life, in its unpredictable and often cruel way, had taken Sajeen and Ghaim down two completely different paths. What once seemed like a shared future, filled with hope and affection, had turned into a distant memory—a tragic reminder of how quickly things can change. The tragedy of life, Sajeen realized, wasn't just in its unpredictability but in

how it placed people on separate roads without explanation. It was a harsh teacher, showing him how fragile human connections could be, how fleeting emotions often were, and how selfish people could act, blind to the consequences of their choices on others.

Sajeen learned the most valuable lesson of all: people often act in their own interest, regardless of the pain they might inflict on those around them. Ghaim's sudden and unexplained departure from his life had taught him this truth. She had moved on, focused on her own future without a second thought about what they had once meant to each other. Her decision, made in silence, had been her way of prioritizing herself, and Sajeen, though hurt in the beginning, eventually came to understand it. People are often selfish, he realized, but life goes on, with or without them.

As the years passed, Ghaim continued her life as if their shared history had never existed. She had gone on to graduate from Khartoum University, the very place Sajeen had once dreamed of attending with her. She got married, built her own family, and created a life that no longer intersected with his. And yet, none of this affected Sajeen. The man who had once written her countless letters, the boy who had etched her name into his arm with love so fierce he felt no pain, now viewed her as a distant stranger. To him, Ghaim no longer existed in any meaningful way.

Sajeen didn't know the details of her life. He couldn't remember the last time he had said "hi" to her, even though she was his cousin. He didn't know how many children she had or where she lived. In his mind, Ghaim had become invisible, a figure from the past so deeply buried that her

existence held no relevance to his present. He had moved on, far beyond the hurt, far beyond the longing.

Through the years, Sajeen had grown stronger. Life had tested him with heartache, disappointment, and the bitter truth of human selfishness, but it had also shaped him into someone resilient. The person who once defined his world was now a mere shadow, unseen and unfelt. The greatest tragedy of life, Sajeen realized, was not in losing people but in discovering that, sometimes, they were never truly part of your journey to begin with.

Chapter “4”

The descent into autism

When Sajeen stepped into his university life, he did so with a new resolve, one forged from the lessons of heartache and the reality of human nature. His focus had shifted dramatically from where it had once been. No longer did he carry the dreams of companionship or the desire to build a life with someone by his side. Now, his only goal was to build himself, to rely solely on his own strength and determination, and to carve out a future defined by independence and resilience.

He entered Omdurman Islamic University with a clear mind, determined not to let the distractions of relationships or the emotional entanglements that had once consumed him get in his way. Sajeen had learned, perhaps the hard way, that relying on others—whether for love, support, or validation—was a gamble too costly to continue. People had their own selfish agendas, and expecting them to act otherwise only led to disappointment. He vowed that from now on, his success and happiness would come from within, not from the approval or affection of anyone else.

This new mindset transformed him. He became focused, driven, and unwavering in his goals. His priority was education, his growth, and his future. He threw himself into his studies, absorbing knowledge with a hunger that came not from the desire to impress others, but from a deep need to prove something to himself. Every step forward was a testament to his self-sufficiency.

No longer swayed by fleeting emotions or drawn into romantic illusions, Sajeen found himself disinterested in relationships. He had become emotionally untouchable, not out of bitterness, but out of a newfound strength. His experience with Ghaim had taught him that vulnerability could be dangerous, and so he built walls—strong and unwavering. He interacted with people with kindness and respect, but he never let anyone close enough to affect him deeply. Female attention, something that might have once excited or distracted him, was now irrelevant. Sajeen had become numb to it, not because he no longer believed in love, but because he no longer needed it to define him.

Sajeen's new approach to life was one of self-reliance and inner strength. He had discovered that true power came not from what others gave to him but from what he could build for himself. And so, with quiet determination, he focused only on his journey—free from distractions, free from emotional dependencies, and free from the illusions that had once held him captive.

Sajeen's path led him to the Faculty of Engineering, specifically to the Mining Department at Omdurman Islamic University. His choice of university was just as deliberate as his field of study. After everything he had experienced, Sajeen no longer wanted to be surrounded by the distractions of emotions or relationships, especially with girls. He had

lost all desire to be drawn into the world of attraction and affection that once held so much meaning for him. The idea of co-education, of sharing his academic space with women, no longer appealed to him. It only reminded him of the emotional turmoil he had endured.

Omdurman Islamic University offered him the perfect escape. It was not a co-educational institution, which meant he could fully immerse himself in his studies without any emotional entanglements. He sought a place where he could focus solely on building himself, away from the complexities of relationships. Sajeen had learned the hard way that relying on feelings or affection from others could derail his goals, and now, his mind was set on a future that was defined by self-reliance and personal strength.

When Sajeen entered the Mining Department, it wasn't just a pursuit of knowledge—it was a profound decision to dig deeper into himself. The hands-on, rugged nature of mining, the exploration of what lay beneath the surface of the earth, resonated with his journey. Mining required resilience, patience, and determination—qualities Sajeen had come to value in his own life. Every lecture, project, and field trip was another step in mastering a field that symbolized his own transformation: from raw material into something valuable and enduring.

Sajeen no longer wanted anything to distract him. The world of emotions and relationships seemed distant, unimportant. His desire to succeed, to build a future with his own hands, outweighed any fleeting attractions. For him, Omdurman Islamic University was a place where he could achieve this, and mining was the perfect reflection of his inner drive—to uncover the strength hidden deep within him and turn it into something lasting.

As time passed, the changes in Sajeen became more profound, and they began to shape his world in ways he couldn't fully understand at first. His singular focus on his studies and the desire to distance himself from people slowly began to take its toll. What started as a deliberate choice to detach from emotional distractions, especially after his painful experience with Ghaim, began to evolve into something deeper. Sajeen's isolation grew, and before long, it wasn't just about avoiding relationships or keeping away from distractions—he was withdrawing from the world entirely.

At Omdurman Islamic University, Sajeen's routine became mechanical. He moved through his days with a single-minded purpose—attending lectures, completing assignments, and immersing himself in the world of mining engineering. He was often seen alone, either poring over his textbooks or wandering through the university's quietest corners. He had no interest in making friends or engaging with others. Conversations felt pointless, and social gatherings seemed unnecessary.

With each passing day, Sajeen's emotional walls became thicker. His interactions with people were minimal, reduced to the bare necessities of his academic life. Any connection with others felt irrelevant to him. His world narrowed to a focus on his studies and personal thoughts, and soon, he found it easier to retreat into his own mind, avoiding the complexities of human interaction altogether.

It wasn't long before those around him noticed his behavior had changed. He no longer made eye contact when spoken to, and his responses, when given, were brief and often detached. The once vibrant, sociable boy who loved to write and draw had disappeared. In his place

was a young man who seemed increasingly isolated, lost in his own world.

Sajeen's withdrawal wasn't something he actively chose—it crept up on him. The more he buried himself in his studies and isolated himself from emotions and relationships, the more his behavior began to resemble the patterns of autism. He became increasingly sensitive to routine disruptions and found solace only in the structure of his academic work. The outside world, with its unpredictability and emotional complexities, became overwhelming. The people around him faded into the background as he retreated further into himself.

Sajeen wasn't aware of how deeply he had fallen into this state. To him, his growing isolation was simply the result of focusing on what mattered: his future, his studies, and his own personal growth. But in reality, it was more than that. His desire to protect himself from emotional pain had led him down a path of deep disconnection—a life where solitude was his only companion, and the rest of the world felt like it was slipping away.

As Sajeen drifted further into his studies and his own isolated world, he became increasingly indifferent to the things that once stirred him. The sight of lovers walking hand in hand on campus, or groups of boys eagerly discussing their relationships with girls, barely registered in his mind. Where others found excitement or joy in romantic connections, Sajeen felt nothing—no longing, no nostalgia, no regret. It was as though that part of him had been erased.

When he overheard conversations about dates, relationships, or heartbreak, he remained detached, as if those experiences belonged to

a distant, foreign world. He would glance at couples sitting together in the cafeteria or hear classmates talk about love and affection, but none of it touched him. It was as though those emotions no longer existed within him.

He could remember, in a vague way, what it was like to feel those things, but the memories were now hollow, devoid of meaning. Where once he had written passionate letters and carved a name on his arm in the heat of emotion, now he couldn't summon any response, not even bitterness. He had closed the door to that part of his life so firmly that it felt like it had never existed at all.

In fact, when boys in his class laughed about their experiences or sought advice on matters of the heart, Sajeen listened in silence, but their words seemed to float past him, weightless and irrelevant. Their emotions were a language he no longer spoke. It didn't bother him; it just didn't matter. He was an outsider in a world he had once cared about deeply, but now he felt nothing but a quiet distance, as if those emotions had belonged to someone else.

Love, relationships, attraction—these were things for other people. For Sajeen, they were just distractions, fleeting moments in lives that had nothing to do with him. All he had left was his work, his studies, and his resolve to never again allow himself to be pulled into that emotional web. It was as if the part of him that once connected to those feelings had shut down completely, leaving him indifferent to the world of love around him.

Despite Sajeen's increasingly detached behavior, his new approach to life proved remarkably effective in his studies. His isolation, though deeply

rooted in emotional withdrawal, translated into an intense focus and dedication that set him apart from his peers. With no distractions from personal relationships or social engagements, Sajeen immersed himself fully in his academic work.

His days were meticulously structured around his classes, assignments, and projects. He approached each task with precision, driven by a relentless desire to excel. Where others might have struggled with balancing social life and studies, Sajeen found his solitude to be an advantage. His withdrawal from social interactions allowed him to channel all his energy into mastering his coursework and surpassing academic expectations.

By the end of the first four semesters, Sajeen's commitment to his studies had paid off. He consistently delivered top-notch work and excelled in exams, earning him the position of the top student in his class. His grades reflected his hard work and unwavering focus, and his professors recognized him as a standout student. His name frequently appeared at the top of academic performance lists, a testament to his exceptional dedication.

The solitude that had once seemed like a burden had become a powerful tool for his success. Sajeen's ability to shut out the world and concentrate solely on his studies enabled him to achieve a level of academic excellence that few could match. While his emotional life remained a distant memory, his intellectual achievements spoke volumes. He had turned his personal struggles into a formidable strength, excelling in his chosen field and proving that even the most profound personal challenges could be transformed into remarkable successes.

Despite his outstanding academic achievements, Sajeen felt an overwhelming sense of indifference towards his success. For others, his top rankings and exceptional grades might have been a source of immense pride and joy. However, for Sajeen, these accomplishments felt like nothing more than a normal part of his daily routine.

He never celebrated his victories or felt a surge of satisfaction when he saw his name at the top of performance lists. His results, though remarkable, were simply what he expected of himself. To him, achieving top marks was not an extraordinary feat; it was merely the logical outcome of his intense focus and unwavering commitment. There was no sense of triumph or elation—just a quiet acknowledgment that he had done what he set out to do.

While his peers and professors might have marveled at his success, Sajeen remained emotionally detached from it. The accolades and praise, though genuine, seemed distant and irrelevant. He approached each academic milestone with the same level of calm detachment, viewing them not as personal victories but as natural progressions in the course of his studies.

For Sajeen, happiness was a foreign concept, and the sense of achievement that others might have savored never reached him. His dedication and hard work had yielded impressive results, but the joy and pride that typically accompanied such success were absent. The accolades and recognition felt as routine as his daily classes, and his achievements, while significant, were just part of what had to be done. In his world, success was a necessity, not a celebration.

Sajeen's university life, despite its academic success, was marked by a profound sense of monotony and emptiness. His days were devoid of excitement or pleasure, and the routine of his studies felt unrelentingly dull. While other students found ways to enjoy their university experience—through social activities, friendships, or extracurriculars—Sajeen's existence was a cycle of lectures, assignments, and solitary study sessions.

His intense focus on his studies came at a cost. The very drive that propelled him to the top of his class also created a life that seemed paralyzed and devoid of joy. The vibrancy of campus life, the camaraderie among classmates, and the simple pleasures of youthful experience were completely foreign to him. Each day blended into the next, marked only by the steady rhythm of academic demands. He felt trapped in a self-imposed prison of productivity, where even moments of respite felt meaningless.

To Sajeen, the situation felt like an endless struggle—one from which he needed to be saved. Yet, he was entirely alone in this struggle. He never shared his past with anyone, keeping his history and personal challenges locked away. The emotional turmoil he had endured, his family's struggles, and his own internal battles remained his solitary burden. No one knew the depth of his sacrifices or the weight of his isolation.

He had taken on the responsibility of caring for himself in every sense. Financially, he managed his expenses with meticulous precision, ensuring that he met all his needs without seeking help. Motivationally, he relied solely on his own inner strength. There were no mentors, no supportive friends or family to offer encouragement—only his own relentless willpower driving him forward.

His self-sufficiency, while admirable, also meant that he faced his struggles without any external support or understanding. The loneliness he experienced was compounded by his refusal to reach out, to share his burden with others. He remained an island unto himself, navigating the challenges of university life with a stoic resolve that bordered on isolation. In the end, Sajeen's university life, despite its achievements, was marked by a stark, unyielding loneliness that left him yearning for something he could neither define nor reach.

As Sajeen's university life wore on, he gradually abandoned his once cherished activities of writing and drawing. The passions that had once fueled his creativity and expression gave way to a new, passive interest: observing people from afar. This shift marked a significant change in how he engaged with the world around him.

From his solitary vantage points—whether it be a quiet corner of the campus or a secluded spot in the library—Sajeen began to watch people with an almost clinical detachment. He observed their interactions, their behaviors, and the dynamics of their relationships. His attention was drawn particularly to the way people reacted and behaved in various social situations.

He found himself fascinated by the complexities of human nature. The way people laughed, argued, and comforted each other intrigued him. He noticed the subtle nuances in their interactions, the unspoken signals and the small gestures that revealed so much about their inner lives. Watching girls, in particular, he saw patterns of selfishness and dreaminess—traits he now viewed with a detached curiosity. Their desires, their hopes, and their seemingly trivial concerns became subjects of his observation.

Through this newfound interest, Sajeen gained deep insights into the nature of people. He saw how people were driven by a range of emotions, desires, and insecurities. He observed how their behavior could shift based on their circumstances, how social dynamics played out, and how individuals navigated their personal relationships. The once abstract concepts of human behavior and interaction became clear and tangible as he watched from his solitary perch.

This observational practice became a form of intellectual engagement for Sajeen. It provided him with a new way to understand the world—a way that didn't require emotional involvement or personal connection. Instead of immersing himself in his own creative expressions, he immersed himself in the study of others, learning about the intricacies of human nature from a distance.

In watching people, Sajeen found a new way to learn and grow. The insights he gained into human behavior were profound, offering him a unique perspective on the nature of relationships and the complexities of the human psyche. This shift in focus allowed him to explore the nature of people without needing to engage directly, reinforcing his sense of isolation while simultaneously broadening his understanding of the world around him.

Sajeen's journey through university was deeply shaped by his past experiences, particularly his relationship with Ghaim. The emotional turbulence he faced during that period had a profound impact on his character and personality, influencing how he approached his life and studies.

His time with Ghaim, marked by intense feelings and subsequent heartbreak, left a lasting imprint. The abrupt end of their relationship and Ghaim's enigmatic farewell left Sajeen reeling, pushing him into a state of deep introspection and emotional withdrawal. The pain and confusion he experienced led him to shut off from the world, retreating into solitude as a means of coping.

When he entered university, this new state of emotional detachment became more pronounced. Sajeen threw himself into his studies with a singular focus, channeling all his energy into academic success. His achievements, while impressive, felt like routine tasks rather than sources of pride. The joy and satisfaction that typically accompanied such accomplishments were absent. To him, excelling in his studies was simply the expected outcome of his efforts.

The contrast between his academic success and his emotional state was stark. His university life, characterized by intense focus and isolation, became a reflection of his inner world. He no longer found pleasure in activities that once brought him joy, such as writing and drawing. Instead, he observed people from a distance, finding a new way to engage with the world through passive observation rather than active participation.

This shift in behavior revealed a new aspect of Sajeen's character. The pain from his past had molded him into someone who valued self-reliance and emotional distance over personal connections. His observations of others became a means of understanding human nature without the need for emotional involvement. He learned to navigate his world with a sense of detachment, focusing on his personal goals and intellectual pursuits while keeping his emotions at bay.

In summary, Sajeen's experiences with Ghaim and his university life brought about a significant transformation. His heartbreak had led to a state of emotional detachment, which was reinforced by his academic journey. The combination of these experiences shaped him into a person who approached life with a new perspective—one defined by intellectual achievement and a deliberate distance from emotional entanglements.

Chapter “5”

Revitalization

Two years into his university life, Sajeen witnessed a new wave of social change with the rise of social media, particularly Facebook. The revolution of the internet in Sudan, coupled with the advancement of Nokia phones, brought a new dimension to communication and social interaction.

For Sajeen, this technological shift was more than just a new trend—it was a new way of engaging with the world. Facebook offered him a platform where he could express himself freely, without the constraints of face-to-face interactions. It was a space where he could publish thoughts, share ideas, and comment on various topics without the immediate need for real-world social engagement.

The allure of Facebook lay in its promise of anonymity and freedom. Sajeen could present himself in ways that were detached from his real-life persona. The platform allowed him to explore different facets of his identity, to say things he might not have expressed in person, and to connect with others on his own terms. The digital space became a refuge from his otherwise solitary and emotionally distant reality.

As Facebook and other social media platforms gained popularity, Sajeen embraced this new digital frontier with enthusiasm. It provided a sense of connection and interaction that was both distant and immersive. He could navigate social networks, join discussions, and follow various interests without the need for physical presence or direct personal engagement.

This shift in communication channels resonated with Sajeen's evolving personality. The ability to interact with others without the emotional investment of real-life interactions fit seamlessly into his newfound approach to life. Facebook became a tool for him to bridge the gap between his intellectual pursuits and his emotional detachment, allowing him to participate in a broader social world from the comfort of his own carefully constructed digital space.

With the advent of Facebook and the surge in internet use in Sudan, Sajeen found himself drawn back to writing, but with a new focus. His fascination with observing people had evolved into a passion for documenting his insights and reflections about human behavior and life itself. Facebook became his canvas, a place where he could share his thoughts and observations with a broad audience, all while maintaining his anonymity.

Sajeen began to publish posts and articles on Facebook, exploring the intricacies of human nature, social interactions, and the dynamics of everyday life. His writings delved into themes of human behavior, societal norms, and the subtleties of personal interactions. He observed and analyzed the world around him, translating his observations into thoughtful and often profound posts that resonated with many.

Despite his prolific writing, Sajeen was meticulous about his privacy. He never engaged in direct conversations or chats with others on the platform. He was content to be a silent observer, sharing his work without revealing his identity. The idea of meeting people in real life was foreign and unappealing to him. For Sajeen, Facebook was a safe haven—a world where he could interact and influence without the need for personal encounters.

His Facebook presence was carefully curated. He used the platform to present his ideas and observations, allowing others to read and interpret his thoughts without ever needing to engage in direct dialogue. The separation between his online persona and his real life was deliberate and complete. He was both present and invisible, contributing to the digital discourse while remaining shielded from personal interactions.

This new world of Facebook provided Sajeen with a sense of control and detachment that aligned perfectly with his current state of being. It allowed him to continue his intellectual exploration and creative expression without the complications of real-world relationships. In this digital realm, he was free to be both the observer and the commentator, existing in a space where he could contribute to discussions and share his perspectives without ever having to step into the limelight.

As Sajeen continued to immerse himself in the world of Facebook, he found a renewed spark of inspiration that reignited his passion for drawing. The platform, which had initially served as a space for his writings, gradually became a gallery for his art as well. He began to share his portraits, showcasing his skill and creativity through a series of captivating drawings that reflected his keen observations and unique perspective on life.

His artwork, accompanied by insightful commentary and reflections, quickly caught the attention of the Facebook community. What started as a personal project soon blossomed into a sensation. Sajeen's posts began to attract significant attention, garnering hundreds of comments and likes from people who were captivated by his talent and depth.

As time went on, Sajeen's presence on Facebook grew exponentially. He amassed thousands of friends and followers who eagerly awaited his latest posts. His art and writing became a blend of intellectual exploration and visual creativity, drawing in a diverse audience who admired his work. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive—his portraits were praised for their emotional depth and technical skill, while his writings resonated with many who appreciated his keen observations and unique insights.

The fame and recognition he gained on Facebook were a testament to his ability to connect with people through his art and words, despite his preference for maintaining anonymity. The platform provided him with a sense of accomplishment and validation, offering a form of recognition that was both gratifying and reassuring.

Sajeen's journey from a solitary observer to a celebrated figure on Facebook highlighted his ability to adapt and thrive in a digital world. The combination of his revived passion for drawing and his insightful writings allowed him to make a significant impact, earning him a place of prominence in the online community. Through Facebook, he had found a way to share his creativity and observations with a broad audience, achieving a form of success and connection that aligned with his chosen path of detachment and self-expression.

As Sajeen's popularity on Facebook grew, he began to pay more attention to the comments and feedback he received. His artistic and written works garnered a wide range of responses, and he found himself increasingly engaged in the online interactions that accompanied his posts. While he continued to cherish his anonymity and maintain a distance from personal interactions, he could not entirely ignore the impact of his growing online presence.

Among the flood of comments and messages, one individual stood out. This girl, captivated by Sajeen's work, seemed to be particularly obsessed with his posts. She consistently left lengthy and enthusiastic comments, often offering detailed praise and interpretations of his work. Her messages became more frequent and increasingly personal, as she expressed a deep admiration for his art and writing.

The attention from this follower started to take on an almost obsessive quality. She not only commented on every new post but also sent numerous private messages, sharing her thoughts and feelings about Sajeen's work. Her messages ranged from heartfelt admiration to requests for personal interaction, revealing a level of attachment that went beyond mere appreciation.

For Sajeen, this attention was both flattering and unsettling. While he appreciated the positive feedback and recognition, the intensity of this particular follower's interest began to encroach on the boundaries he had carefully maintained. The girl's persistent messages and fervent comments hinted at a desire for a deeper connection that Sajeen was not willing to entertain.

Despite his attempts to manage the situation by focusing on the broader community of his followers, the obsessive attention from this individual became a recurring concern. It served as a reminder of the complexities of online interactions and the potential for personal boundaries to be tested, even within the seemingly detached realm of social media.

In navigating this new challenge, Sajeen continued to balance his engagement with his audience while maintaining his desire for privacy and control over his online presence. The situation underscored the difficulties of managing fame and attention in the digital age, highlighting the fine line between appreciation and intrusion.

Despite Sajeen's efforts to maintain his distance, the girl's persistence only intensified. She continued to bombard him with messages and comments, each one more insistent than the last. Her desire for a response became almost relentless, as she frequently reached out, hoping to break through Sajeen's barrier of silence. Her messages grew more personal, expressing her frustration and longing for a connection that Sajeen was resolutely unwilling to provide.

For Sajeen, managing this obsessive attention from the girl was an added challenge, but it did not derail his focus on his studies. The balance between his online presence and academic responsibilities was a tightrope he walked with careful precision. Regardless of the growing social media demands and the persistent efforts of his follower, he remained steadfast in his commitment to his education.

Sajeen made it a point to ensure that his academic performance remained unaffected by his online activities. He prioritized his studies, adhering to a disciplined routine that allowed him to excel academically

despite the distractions. His dedication to his education was unwavering; no matter the upheavals in his personal or social life, he kept his focus on achieving excellence in his coursework.

The intensity of the girl's pursuit did not compromise Sajeen's academic success. He managed to keep his university life separate from the pressures of his online interactions, ensuring that his performance remained consistently high. The distinction between his digital engagements and his real-world responsibilities was a testament to his resolve and discipline.

In the end, Sajeen's ability to maintain his academic success while navigating the complexities of his online presence highlighted his determination and commitment. No matter what challenges arose in his personal or social life, his dedication to his studies remained his top priority, reinforcing his capacity to balance multiple facets of his life with resilience and focus.

The girl's obsession with Sajeen grew increasingly intense as she became fixated on uncovering the mystery surrounding him. Her fascination with his work and his enigmatic presence on Facebook drove her to a relentless pursuit of information. She was not merely interested in his art and writings but was consumed by a desire to know more about the person behind the posts.

Her curiosity knew no bounds. She scoured through his posts, trying to piece together any clues about his identity and personal life. Every detail he shared became a puzzle piece in her quest for answers. She left countless comments and sent numerous messages, each one probing

deeper into his world, attempting to pry out any hint of who he was beyond the screen.

The more Sajeen remained elusive, the more determined she became. Her messages reflected a growing desperation as she tried to crack the mystery of his true self. She speculated openly in her comments, sharing her theories and asking direct questions, hoping to provoke a response. Her fixation on discovering Sajeen's secrets reached a point where it overshadowed her interest in his work itself.

Sajeen's reluctance to engage only fueled her obsession further. The more he resisted, the more she was driven to uncover the truth. It was as if the enigma of Sajeen's identity had become a personal challenge, a riddle she was determined to solve at all costs. Her pursuit became a defining feature of her interactions with him, driven by an unrelenting need to unveil the mystery behind the man she admired from afar.

After a period of persistent and intense pursuit, Sajeen finally decided to respond to the girl's messages. It was a choice made out of a desire to bring some form of resolution to the ongoing intrusion rather than a genuine wish for interaction.

When he finally replied, the girl's reaction was one of sheer elation. Her joy was evident, as if she had achieved a significant personal triumph. The brief response from Sajeen was enough to satisfy her relentless curiosity, and she expressed her happiness with enthusiastic messages, overflowing with gratitude.

For Sajeen, this reply was a strategic move to address the constant barrage of messages and to hopefully redirect her focus. While he

remained detached and did not seek deeper engagement, the girl's ecstatic reaction brought a sense of relief. Her newfound happiness marked the end of an exhausting phase, allowing Sajeen to return to his more controlled and solitary online life, while she celebrated the breakthrough she had so eagerly sought.

As time went on, Sajeen's initial reluctance to engage in real online interactions began to shift. His response to the girl's persistent inquiries became more frequent, though he still maintained a cautious approach. This marked the beginning of his first real online interaction, albeit a controlled and limited one.

The girl, however, was relentless in her pursuit. Her fascination with Sajeen grew stronger, and she became increasingly eager to delve deeper into his life and personality. Her messages continued to flood in, each one seeking more insight into who he was. Despite Sajeen's efforts to keep the interactions brief and superficial, the girl's determination to know him better persisted.

Her curiosity seemed insatiable. She asked more personal questions, trying to peel back the layers of his carefully constructed online persona. Each reply she received was met with an intense eagerness to discover more, pushing the boundaries of their limited interaction.

Sajeen, while still maintaining his distance, found himself navigating this new realm of online engagement with a growing sense of unease. The girl's relentless drive to uncover more about him became a constant presence, and he had to carefully manage his responses to avoid any deeper involvement. Her persistent curiosity made it clear that she was

not easily deterred, and her quest to know him more continued to shape their evolving online dynamic.

As Sajeen's interactions with the girl deepened, he found himself drawn to the unique connection they shared. Her unwavering curiosity and persistent engagement became a cherished part of his life. He marveled at how she could extract answers from him with such determination and how she seemed to be the only one who could truly penetrate the barrier he had so carefully constructed.

Their conversations, though initially confined to written messages, began to hold a special place in his heart. The way she eagerly awaited his replies and the thoughtfulness of her questions made Sajeen appreciate her presence in his life. It was as if, through her messages, he was able to find a rare and genuine connection in a digital world that often felt impersonal.

As time went by, their interaction evolved. Sajeen took a significant step by exchanging phone numbers with her. The transition from written chat to voice calls brought a new dimension to their relationship. He discovered a profound satisfaction in hearing her voice, feeling the warmth and nuance that text alone could not convey. The calls became a sanctuary of sorts, a place where he could share more intimately and experience the closeness that eluded him in written form.

The advent of smartphones and the rise of WhatsApp only enriched their communication. The app's instant messaging and ease of use made it even more convenient for them to stay in touch. Sajeen found solace in the constant, reassuring presence of Maya—her real name now known

to him. Her messages became a daily ritual, a source of comfort and connection in a world that often felt isolating.

For Sajeen, Maya's presence in his life was a gift he hadn't anticipated. She was the one person who seemed to genuinely appreciate and engage with his work, showing a level of interest and affection that warmed his heart. Her constant check-ins and thoughtful messages were a testament to the bond they had formed, and Sajeen began to cherish the role she played in his life.

In the midst of his solitary existence, Maya's presence became a beacon of light. Her support and affection filled a space that had long felt empty, and Sajeen found himself deeply grateful for the connection they shared. The emotional impact of having someone who truly cared and understood him was profound, and he embraced the joy and comfort that Maya brought into his life with open arms.

Maya's presence in Sajeen's life became a crucial anchor amidst his struggles with autism and emotional detachment. Her consistent communication and genuine interest provided a lifeline that pulled him from the depths of his isolation.

In the midst of his battle with emotional numbness and the disconnection he felt from the world around him, Maya's messages and calls were a source of warmth and human connection. Her ability to reach out and engage with him, even when he struggled to connect with others, was transformative. She offered a sense of validation and acceptance that Sajeen hadn't realized he so desperately needed.

Maya's voice, filled with genuine care and curiosity, helped bridge the gap that had formed between Sajeen and the world. Her calls were more than just conversations; they were lifelines that brought him back to the realm of human interaction. Each time he heard her voice, it was as though a piece of the emotional barrier he had built around himself began to dissolve. She had an uncanny ability to make him feel seen and valued, breaking through the walls of detachment that had previously defined his life.

As their relationship deepened, Sajeen found himself slowly emerging from the cocoon of solitude. Maya's unwavering support and the genuine interest she showed in his life were powerful antidotes to the loneliness that had plagued him. She reached out with a tenderness that felt almost healing, giving him a sense of purpose and belonging he hadn't experienced in years.

Her impact was profound. With every conversation, every message, she chipped away at the layers of isolation that had wrapped around him. Sajeen began to feel a renewed sense of connection and engagement with the world. The sense of being wanted and valued, something Maya offered so effortlessly, became a beacon of hope in his life.

Maya's success in drawing Sajeen out of his loneliness was nothing short of remarkable. Through her compassion and persistence, she managed to revive a part of him that had been buried under the weight of detachment. Sajeen felt a profound gratitude for her presence, recognizing how her support had not only saved him from the abyss of isolation but had also given him a renewed sense of hope and belonging.

Maya and Ghaim were worlds apart in many ways, each embodying a distinct set of qualities that shaped Sajeen's experiences and emotions.

Ghaim had been a beacon of youthful love, a figure from his past who had stirred deep, unspoken feelings. Her shyness and the romantic idealization of their interactions had been the highlight of his adolescence. She represented a cherished, yet elusive, dream—a connection filled with potential but ultimately left unresolved. Ghaim's presence in his life was marked by an intense emotional connection, a fleeting romance that left Sajeen with more questions than answers.

In contrast, Maya emerged as a transformative force in Sajeen's present. Her role was not shrouded in the dreamy allure of unfulfilled love but grounded in tangible, everyday support and understanding. Unlike Ghaim, who had been a source of longing and frustration, Maya was a constant source of comfort and engagement. Her interactions were marked by genuine curiosity and care, rather than the fleeting moments of affection that characterized his relationship with Ghaim.

Where Ghaim had been a symbol of what could have been, Maya was a living reality of what was—her presence was defined by her consistent support and emotional insight. While Ghaim's departure had left Sajeen grappling with unanswered questions, Maya's arrival brought clarity and connection. She offered an unwavering presence that actively countered the loneliness and detachment he had experienced.

Maya's difference lay in her ability to provide practical, heartfelt communication. Her messages and calls were not just moments of connection but sources of healing and understanding. She was someone who engaged with him on a level that Ghaim's ephemeral presence

never could. Maya didn't represent a dream or an ideal; she was a real person, actively shaping Sajeen's life with her genuine affection and unwavering support.

In essence, while Ghaim had been a part of Sajeen's past filled with bittersweet memories and unresolved feelings, Maya was a beacon of the present, offering a tangible connection and a sense of belonging that had been missing. Her impact on Sajeen's life was profound, marking a stark contrast to the distant, idealized image of Ghaim and providing the emotional grounding he so desperately needed.

Maya's feelings for Sajeen were evident from the beginning. Her affection and devotion were clear in every message she sent, every call they had, and every piece of support she offered. She had a strong, unwavering connection to him, driven by a deep admiration and care that shone through in her persistent attempts to engage with him.

For Sajeen, however, the development of his feelings for Maya was a more gradual process. Initially, he approached their growing connection with caution, careful not to rush into emotions he wasn't ready to confront. His past experiences and emotional detachment made him wary, and he took his time to navigate his feelings.

Slowly, as their interactions continued and Maya's genuine warmth became a constant in his life, Sajeen began to notice a shift within himself. He started to appreciate the depth of Maya's affection and the way her presence made him feel more connected and valued. The emotional walls he had built began to erode, but the process was deliberate and measured.

Maya's strong feelings for Sajeen were a driving force in their relationship, but it was Sajeen's gradual, careful acknowledgment of his own emotions that marked a turning point. He began to see Maya not just as a source of comfort and support but as someone who had the potential to become a significant part of his life. This slow and careful journey towards his own feelings was a testament to the impact Maya had on him, demonstrating how love, when approached with patience and sincerity, could grow and flourish in its own time.

Despite never having met Maya in person or seen a picture of her, Sajeen's feelings for her grew profoundly. He never requested a photo, nor did Maya offer one; instead, their connection was built entirely on the essence of who she was—her personality, her thoughts, and the emotional support she provided.

Sajeen was captivated by the depth of her character and the way she made him feel. Her words and actions painted a vivid picture of who she was, and he found himself falling for her without the need for physical images or face-to-face interactions.

As the end of Sajeen's second year of university approached, Maya was at a pivotal moment in her life. She had just completed her Sudanese certificate examinations and was awaiting the start of her own university journey. Despite the distance and the uncertainty of not knowing what she looked like, Sajeen's affection for her remained strong and unwavering. Her upcoming transition to university life and the anticipation of her future only deepened his admiration and love for her, highlighting the profound impact she had on his life through their heartfelt communication.

When Sajeen finally met Maya in person for the first time, the experience was nothing short of extraordinary. They had arranged to meet at Shambat in Bahri city, a bustling area that felt like the perfect backdrop for their long-awaited encounter.

As Sajeen approached the meeting spot, his heart raced with a mix of anticipation and nervousness. He had imagined this moment countless times, picturing Maya based solely on her voice and the essence of her words. When he finally laid eyes on her, it was as though his dreams had come to life in the most beautiful way.

Maya stood there, radiating a grace and charm that instantly captivated Sajeen. Her beauty was striking, but it was the warmth in her smile and the sparkle in her eyes that truly mesmerized him. She had a presence that was both soothing and invigorating, a perfect blend of elegance and natural charm. It was clear that the image of her he had built up in his mind paled in comparison to the real person standing before him.

The first real interaction between them was a blend of excitement and shyness. They exchanged smiles, and Sajeen could feel the electricity of their connection intensify in the real world. Their conversation flowed naturally, yet there was an undeniable tenderness in their words. Maya's laughter, the way she spoke, and the subtle gestures she made as she talked all seemed to reinforce the deep affection Sajeen already felt for her.

As they spent time together, Sajeen marveled at how their virtual bond translated so seamlessly into reality. Maya's personality, which had enchanted him through their online interactions, shone even more

brightly in person. The connection they shared was palpable, and the initial nervousness quickly gave way to a deep sense of comfort and joy.

Sajeen cherished every moment of their time together, feeling as though he was experiencing a dream come true. The way Maya's presence filled the space around them made it clear that their relationship was meant to be more than just words on a screen. It was a beautiful beginning to a new chapter, one where the bond they had nurtured online could flourish in the real world.

When Sajeen first saw Maya in person, he was struck by her extraordinary beauty. Her face was a portrait of elegance and warmth, with delicate features that seemed to blend perfectly. She had a radiant complexion, smooth and glowing, which accentuated the natural beauty of her face. Her eyes were perhaps the most captivating feature—large and expressive, they sparkled with intelligence and kindness. They had a depth that drew Sajeen in, making him feel as though he could lose himself in their gaze.

Her hair, cascading in soft waves, framed her face with an effortless grace. It had a healthy sheen, catching the light and adding to her overall allure. Maya's smile was another standout feature, warm and inviting, with a subtle curve that could instantly brighten the room. It was a smile that spoke of genuine happiness and made Sajeen feel both comforted and excited.

Maya's figure complemented her beauty seamlessly. She carried herself with a natural poise and confidence that was both graceful and approachable. Her posture was relaxed yet elegant, and she moved with a fluidity that suggested both strength and grace. The way she dressed

was tasteful, reflecting her personal style and enhancing her overall charm.

Together, these elements created a picture of beauty that was both striking and approachable, leaving Sajeen with an unforgettable impression of the girl who had, up until then, only existed in the world of words and imagination.

As Sajeen and Maya spent more time together, their bond deepened, transforming their initial connection into a profound and enduring love. Their interactions, which had once been confined to the digital realm, blossomed into a tangible and heartfelt relationship.

Every moment they shared was a testament to the strength of their connection. Their conversations were filled with genuine affection and understanding, and each interaction brought them closer. Sajeen found himself increasingly drawn to Maya's warmth, intelligence, and kindness, and he admired her more with each passing day. Maya, in turn, felt a deepening appreciation for Sajeen's sincerity, his thoughtful nature, and the way he made her feel truly valued.

Their time together was marked by shared experiences and cherished memories. Simple moments, like enjoying a walk through Shambat or having heartfelt conversations over coffee, became the foundation of their growing love. Each laugh, each touch, and each shared glance strengthened their bond, weaving a tapestry of affection and trust.

Sajeen and Maya's relationship was built on a solid foundation of mutual respect and genuine care. They supported each other through challenges, celebrated each other's successes, and found solace in one

another's company. Their love grew stronger with every passing day, becoming a source of comfort and joy.

As their relationship progressed, the emotional intimacy they shared deepened. They began to open up to each other about their hopes, fears, and dreams, building a strong emotional connection that went beyond physical attraction. This emotional closeness created a bond that was resilient and enduring.

Their love, once a fragile thread of online conversations, had now become a strong and vibrant connection. It was a love that had been nurtured through words and dreams but had flourished into something real and lasting. The strength of their bond was evident in the way they supported and cherished each other, making their love a central and beautiful part of their lives.

When Maya received her acceptance to the Sudan University of Science and Technology, specifically into the Faculty of Engineering with a focus on Medical Engineering, it was a moment of immense joy and pride. Her achievement was a testament to her hard work and dedication, and it filled her with a sense of accomplishment and excitement for the future. The news was not only a significant milestone in her academic journey but also a reflection of her commitment to pursuing a career in a field she was passionate about.

The accomplishment was especially meaningful for Sajeen, who had been closely following her journey and supporting her every step of the way. Maya's success was a shared victory for them both, a symbol of their mutual support and the strength of their connection.

In celebration of her achievement and as a gesture of deep affection, Maya extended a heartfelt invitation to Sajeen. She asked him to meet her mother, a significant and symbolic gesture that highlighted the importance of their relationship. Maya's mother was an integral part of her life, and introducing Sajeen to her was a way to share a meaningful aspect of her world with him.

When Sajeen received the invitation, he was both honored and excited. Meeting Maya's mother was not just a step towards deepening their relationship, but also a chance to connect with the family that had supported her journey. It was a significant moment that underscored the seriousness of their bond and the growing role Sajeen played in Maya's life.

As they planned the meeting, Sajeen felt a mix of anticipation and nervousness. He wanted to make a positive impression and show Maya's family the respect and appreciation he had for their daughter. The invitation was a testament to the strong and genuine connection they shared, and it marked a new chapter in their relationship, one where their individual successes and personal connections intertwined more deeply.

As Sajeen's feelings for Maya deepened, they became the wellspring of his most profound artistic and literary creations. He poured his heart and soul into his writing, crafting eloquent tributes to the woman who had transformed his life. Every word he wrote was imbued with a mixture of admiration, devotion, and wonder, capturing not just Maya's external beauty but the very essence of her spirit.

His social media accounts became a canvas where he painted a portrait of Maya with words. He wrote about her kindness, her unwavering support, and the subtle ways she had brought light into his world. Each post was a tapestry of emotion, filled with the delicate intricacies of his affection. He described the way her laughter seemed to lift his spirits, how her gentle encouragement had become a lifeline during his moments of doubt, and how her presence had become a beacon of hope in his previously isolated life.

Sajeen's writings were complemented by his artistic endeavors. He began to create an array of portraits of Maya, each one a testament to his deep admiration for her. His drawings were not mere representations; they were emotional explorations. In every line and shade, he sought to capture the subtleties of her grace and the warmth of her personality. His portraits conveyed not just her physical beauty but the intangible qualities that had endeared her to him—her kindness, her intelligence, and her unwavering spirit.

The impact of Sajeen's art and writing was profound. As he published his works online, they quickly became the talk of the Sudanese university communities. His heartfelt posts and captivating portraits turned Maya into a figure of fascination and inspiration. The story of Maya and Sajeen, of a detached man finding his soul's counterpart, resonated deeply with many. Students, in particular, were captivated by the narrative of transformation and love, eagerly discussing and sharing Sajeen's work.

Despite the growing curiosity and the flood of questions about Maya's identity, Sajeen remained steadfast in his commitment to her privacy. He chose not to reveal her real name or personal details, preserving the

enigma that surrounded her. This mystery only heightened the intrigue, making Maya a symbol of idealized love and emotional renewal.

The allure of Maya's story transcended personal boundaries, sparking widespread admiration and fascination. To many, she became more than just Sajeen's muse; she was a symbol of hope and the transformative power of love. Her presence, though veiled in anonymity, shone brightly through Sajeen's work, touching the hearts of everyone who encountered their story. The tale of how Maya had changed Sajeen—how she had become the catalyst for his emotional and creative resurgence—elevated her to a legendary status among his followers. She was no longer just a name or a figure in his art; she was a living testament to the beauty of genuine connection and the profound effects of love.

Sajeen found in Maya everything he had once dreamed of with Ghaim, but now, it felt more real, more tangible. With Maya, he lived the life he had always envisioned, a life of connection and shared experiences. He would meet her at the university gates, the simple act of seeing her walking towards him bringing a sense of fulfillment that he had longed for. They walked together through the bustling streets of Khartoum, weaving through the crowds, their conversations blending with the noise of the city. The warmth of her hand in his was a comfort, a reminder of the closeness they shared. Every time their fingers brushed, he felt a connection that seemed to erase all the loneliness he had once known.

Together, they explored the city, wandering through its markets and quiet neighborhoods, discovering places that became secret spots for them. They would sit by the Nile, watching the sun set over the water, their laughter filling the air as they shared stories and jokes. Maya's presence in Sajeen's life brought a lightness he hadn't felt before, and

together, they made countless memories—memories that Sajeen would later write about, capturing their adventures in words that expressed the joy they found in each other’s company.

There were no fights, no misunderstandings between them. It was as if Maya and Sajeen were perfectly attuned to each other. They communicated easily, both in words and in silence. Their bond was effortless, a rare kind of relationship that others often envied. They took photographs together, snapshots of their time spent walking the streets, visiting places, and enjoying the simple pleasures of life. Every photograph was a testament to the happiness they shared, a visual record of moments that were precious to both of them.

Sajeen’s love for Maya was unlike anything he had known before. It was peaceful and steady, without the turbulence of uncertainty. He wrote about their time together, weaving their experiences into beautiful pieces of prose that he shared with his ever-growing audience. These stories of love and companionship captivated his readers, who saw in them the reflection of a love that was pure and unblemished by conflict.

For Sajeen, Maya represented everything he had once wanted with Ghaim, but in a way that was even more fulfilling. He had finally found someone who understood him, who supported him, and who filled his life with joy. In her, he found the partner he had always desired, and together, they created a life that was rich with shared moments, laughter, and love. The memories they built together were ones that Sajeen cherished deeply, each one a reminder of the happiness they had found in each other.

In 2013, the streets of Sudan were filled with tension and fear as a wave of demonstrations erupted against the government. The sudden spike in benzene prices ignited mass protests, and what started as anger quickly turned into chaos. Across Khartoum, police forces responded harshly, firing weapons and using tear gas to quell the growing crowds. The city was on edge, and those caught in the streets were at risk.

Maya was at her university that day, unaware of how dangerous the situation would become. As the demonstrations intensified, the campus became a frightening place, with the sounds of gunshots echoing in the distance. She was trapped. It was far too dangerous for her to attempt to make her way home, and with the streets blocked and filled with protesters and police, there seemed to be no safe way out. Her mother, gripped by worry, tried calling her again and again, but Maya couldn't move. The fear in her voice grew with each unanswered call.

Sajeen, knowing Maya was at the heart of the danger, couldn't sit idly by. His heart pounded with fear, but his determination was stronger. He rushed through the chaotic streets of Khartoum, weaving through crowds of protesters and dodging armed police officers. The tension was suffocating. Tear gas filled the air, and the crackle of gunfire was too close for comfort. But Sajeen was determined—he had to get to Maya.

He arrived at the gates of her university, breathless and covered in sweat. The campus, usually a place of learning and laughter, was now a war zone. Maya was anxiously waiting, her face pale from fear. The moment she saw Sajeen, her eyes filled with relief, but they both knew they weren't safe yet.

Together, they navigated the dangerous streets of Khartoum, with Maya holding tightly onto Sajeen's arm. Every step was perilous, the sound of gunshots ringing out in the distance as police officers pursued protesters. There were moments when they had to hide behind walls or quickly dart into alleys to avoid being seen by the authorities. The tension between them was thick, not from their relationship but from the shared fear for their lives. Sajeen could feel Maya trembling, but he stayed strong for her, guiding her through the chaos.

Maya's mother called repeatedly, her voice frantic with worry, desperate to know if her daughter was safe. Sajeen, between dodging danger and protecting Maya, reassured her as best he could, though his heart was racing as much as hers.

Eventually, after what felt like an eternity, they reached Bahri. It was here that they finally found Maya's brother, who had been waiting anxiously for them. The relief was palpable when he saw them, and without wasting a moment, he took Maya and brought her home safely. As Maya turned back to Sajeen, her eyes filled with gratitude and fear, he simply nodded. He had done what he promised himself he would—he had protected her.

After that fateful day, Maya and Sajeen's relationship grew even stronger. The bond they shared deepened with every passing moment, built on trust, care, and an unspoken understanding. Maya admired Sajeen for his bravery, his willingness to protect her at all costs, and Sajeen cherished the light she brought into his life. They spent more time together, walking the streets of Khartoum, dreaming of their futures, laughing about little things, and building memories they thought would last forever.

But life, as Sajeen had learned time and again, had its own cruel way of rewriting plans. Just when things seemed perfect, just when their love was at its peak, fate dealt its harshest blow. Sajeen, already bruised by past experiences, knew too well that happiness often came with a shadow lurking behind. Despite their closeness, despite the promises and the dreams, life had a different plan. It always did.

One day, as they were planning a future together, something happened that Sajeen didn't see coming—a shift, a subtle change. Life, in its unpredictable manner, sent another shockwave through his world. Maya, the one who had brought him out of the darkness, the one who had saved him from his loneliness, was suddenly slipping away. She wasn't at fault, nor was he, but circumstances beyond their control were pushing them apart.

Sajeen, who had faced heartbreak before, felt the familiar sting of uncertainty. He tried to hold on, to make things work, but life had always been a series of unexpected ends for him. The harder he tried, the more elusive their future together became. It wasn't just their relationship; it was the realization that no matter how much love you have, no matter how much effort you put in, life has its own plans, and they don't always align with yours.

And so, as strong as their love had been, Sajeen found himself standing at the edge of another tragic ending, wondering why life always seemed to pull the rug out from beneath him just when he thought he had finally found solid ground.

Chapter “6”

The factory mode

There was a day Sajeen had been waiting for, a day that meant more to him than most. He had planned every detail meticulously, ensuring everything was perfect. It was an important meeting between him and Maya, a moment they had talked about for weeks. Sajeen had chosen the location carefully, a quiet spot where they could talk without interruptions, a place that held sentimental value for both of them. He arrived early, excited and nervous at the same time, thinking of everything he would say and how this meeting could shape their future.

The hours leading up to that moment felt endless. He had rehearsed his words in his head, imagining the smile on Maya's face, the way her eyes would light up when she saw what he had planned. It wasn't just a meeting to him; it was a turning point, something he had invested emotionally in.

But as the time of the meeting approached, there was no sign of Maya. The minutes ticked by, and still, she hadn't arrived. Sajeen checked his phone repeatedly, growing uneasy with each passing minute. It wasn't like her to be late without letting him know.

Then, just as the clock hit the time they were supposed to meet, a short message came through: **"I'm so sorry, I can't make it today."** That was it. No explanation, no offer to reschedule, no apology in advance that might have allowed him to rearrange his plans.

Sajeen's heart sank. The disappointment hit him hard. He had been waiting, preparing, imagining this day for so long. He had expected a shared moment, a memory that would bring them closer. And yet, in that brief message, everything was pushed aside. The fact that Maya hadn't apologized earlier, that she hadn't given him the chance to reschedule, left him feeling discarded.

He stood there in the quiet, with everything ready, every detail planned out, but no one to share it with. The frustration and sadness overwhelmed him. It wasn't just the meeting that was ruined—it was the weight of the unspoken message. Maya, for some reason, didn't prioritize it the way he had.

Sajeen stood there for a long time, wondering if this moment, too, was another one of life's cruel twists. It felt all too familiar—a promise, an expectation, and then the sting of disappointment.

Sajeen was consumed with frustration, anger bubbling beneath his calm exterior. He had always been a man who valued promises and time. To him, a promise was sacred—something to be honored, not taken lightly.

He never tolerated those who broke their word, especially without a valid reason. Punctuality was more than a habit for Sajeen; it was a reflection of respect and commitment. When Maya failed to keep her promise, something inside him snapped.

As he stood there, alone in the spot where they were supposed to meet, his mind raced. **Why hadn't she told him earlier?** Why didn't she at least have the decency to let him know before he had left his house, before he had prepared so much for this moment? It wasn't just the cancellation that hurt him—it was the way she had handled it. The briefness of her message, the absence of explanation, the failure to offer another time to meet. It felt careless. It felt like she hadn't considered how much effort he had put into that day.

He replayed the message over and over in his head: **"I'm so sorry, I can't make it today."** That was it. No reason, no apology for the lateness of the message, and certainly no attempt to make things right by suggesting another time. It left him with nothing but questions and a growing sense of betrayal.

Sajeen had idealized the promise Maya made. In his mind, it wasn't just a casual meeting; it was a commitment, a moment they had both looked forward to. For her to cancel at the last possible second—without any explanation—felt like a violation of that trust. And worst of all, she didn't seem to care enough to make up for it.

His anger deepened the longer he stood there, thinking about how easily she had dismissed something he had placed so much importance on. For someone who had meant so much to him, Maya's actions that day felt like a sharp slap to his sense of value.

Sajeen had built his life around discipline and keeping his word. **Maya knew this**—she knew how much he hated people who were not punctual, people who broke promises. And yet, here she was, doing exactly that, without so much as a real apology. The worst part was that she never explained what changed her mind that day, never bothered to offer another time to meet again.

To Sajeen, it wasn't just about the missed meeting. It was about trust, reliability, and respect. And Maya, by not keeping her promise, had shaken the foundation of what he believed was unbreakable.

Sajeen's anger didn't stem from the fact that Maya didn't show up; it was the way she handled it that pierced him deeply. He could have understood if she couldn't make it—life happens, after all—but her careless behavior was what troubled him. The short, almost dismissive message without any explanation felt like a betrayal. She hadn't taken his time seriously, hadn't valued the effort he had put into the day.

For the first time since they had known each other, Sajeen found himself genuinely angry with Maya. His feelings for her had always been strong, but this was new—a bitter frustration that gnawed at him. It wasn't about the missed meeting; it was about how she treated it, how she treated him. **She knew** how much he valued promises, how important keeping one's word was to him. Yet, she had broken that trust with a casual disregard that cut him deeply.

As he paced back and forth, replaying the events in his head, the anger intensified. He kept thinking about how easily she had canceled, without even offering an alternative plan. No follow-up, no "let's meet another time," no deeper explanation. Just **silence** after the brief apology. It felt

cold, distant, and unlike her. And that's what hurt him the most—it felt like she didn't care enough to make things right.

This was the first time Sajeen had ever been truly angry with Maya. Every other moment with her had been filled with warmth, understanding, and an unspoken bond. But now, for the first time, he felt a crack in that connection. He had always believed that Maya understood him better than anyone else, that she knew how much he valued honesty and respect. But now, it seemed like she had taken him for granted, like his feelings didn't matter as much as he thought they did.

His anger wasn't just about the broken promise—it was about the carelessness, the disregard for something he held so dearly. He had trusted her, and now that trust felt fragile. And for Sajeen, who had already experienced so much loss and disappointment in his life, this hit harder than anything else.

In a moment of overwhelming frustration, under the heavy burden of disappointment, Sajeen did something he would never have imagined. The weight of Maya's casual disregard, the broken promise, and the seeming lack of care pushed him to an edge he had never reached before. In the heat of that moment, blinded by anger and hurt, Sajeen made a rash decision.

Without thinking clearly, he sent Maya a message: "It's over between us." The words felt like a release but also like a dagger. He didn't mean them, not fully, but the intensity of his emotions clouded his judgment. He wanted her to understand the pain she had caused him, the depth of his frustration. But instead of explaining, instead of trying to talk it out, he chose to end everything.

As the words hung in the air, his chest tightened. His emotions spiraled out of control, and he reached for one of the photographs they had taken together. It was a beautiful memory, a moment they had cherished. But in his anger, all he could see was the broken promise, the failed connection.

He lit a match, his hands trembling as he watched the flames consume the edges of the photograph. The image of their smiles, their shared happiness, slowly faded into ash. As the picture burned, Sajeen felt a strange mixture of relief and regret. His action was driven by the weight of his emotions, but deep down, he knew it wasn't the right thing to do. It was a reaction, not a solution.

Sajeen's impulsive decision left a hollow feeling inside him. He had acted out of hurt, not thought. And while the anger still simmered, there was now a new, heavier weight—one of regret. The photograph, once a symbol of their bond, was now gone, and with it, a piece of their shared history.

As the ashes cooled, so did Sajeen's fury, but the damage was done. He knew what he had said and done was rash. His action hadn't been right, but under the crushing weight of his disappointment, it was all he could think to do in that moment.

After the storm of anger subsided, Sajeen found himself reflecting on his actions. He realized how impulsive and damaging they had been. He had acted in the heat of the moment, and the weight of regret now sat heavy on his chest. His anger, which usually burned bright and fast, had vanished within a day. For Sajeen, each day was a new start, a clean slate,

and he believed this was just one of those moments when emotions had gotten the best of him.

He thought about Maya, about what they had built together—the love, the memories, the bond that had carried them through so much. He couldn't let one mistake ruin everything. What had happened, to him, was just a natural conflict, like any that might arise between two lovers. It was something they could talk through, something they could solve once the tension had eased. He was sure of it.

With his mind clear and heart full of remorse, Sajeen reached out to Maya. He sent her a heartfelt message, apologizing for his rash decision, for the harsh words he had spoken, and for the photograph he had burned in anger. He explained that he had acted out of frustration, but now he saw things differently. Sajeen believed they could move past this, that their love was strong enough to survive such a storm.

He hoped Maya would understand, that she would see the situation as he did—just a conflict, a temporary rift that could be mended with understanding and communication. For Sajeen, this was a natural part of relationships, moments where emotions flare but can be worked through once everything is calm. He waited, hopeful, for her response, believing that they could rebuild what had been momentarily shattered.

To him, love meant facing challenges together, and this was just another one they could overcome.

Sajeen was blindsided. He had expected Maya to respond with the same understanding and willingness to fix things as he had, but instead, her

reaction was something he couldn't have predicted. Maya took everything seriously—much more seriously than he thought possible.

Her reply came with finality, something cold and distant. She told him that she had decided to end everything between them. There would be no discussion, no conversation, no effort to mend what had been broken. For her, it wasn't just a fight; it was the end. Maya had already moved forward in her mind, as if she had made peace with her decision long before Sajeen's apology.

Sajeen stood stunned, unable to comprehend how their first fight had also become their last. He replayed everything in his mind—the preparation, the expectation, the burning photograph—and wondered how things had spiraled out of control so fast. How could something that felt so small to him become so massive to her?

The pain was sharp, like a wound he never saw coming. Maya didn't just walk away—she erased him, deciding to forget him as if he had never been there. There was no second chance, no opportunity to explain or salvage what they had shared.

For the first time, Sajeen realized that life had played its tragic hand once more. Just when he thought he had found stability, life yanked it away in the most unexpected and cruel way. He had always believed that love could weather anything, but now, standing in the ruins of their relationship, he understood how fragile it could be. The weight of finality pressed down on him—Maya was gone, and this time, there was no going back.

Sajeen couldn't let go. He tried everything—messages, calls, long heartfelt letters—hoping that Maya would reconsider. He poured his soul into each attempt, believing that if he could just reach her, she would see reason. He couldn't accept that everything between them had ended over something so trivial, something that, in his eyes, could be fixed with patience and understanding.

He replayed every word, every moment, wondering where things had gone so wrong. He reminded her of the love they shared, of the memories they created, of the connection they once thought was unbreakable. But despite his best efforts, Maya showed no sign of response. She remained distant, cold, as though a wall had been built between them that he couldn't break down.

Each time he reached out, he was met with silence. It was as if Maya had shut the door on their relationship and locked it from the inside. The more Sajeen tried, the more painfully clear it became that Maya had made up her mind—everything was over. She had moved on, and no amount of pleading or reasoning could change that.

For Sajeen, the rejection wasn't just about losing Maya; it was about the finality of it all. He had always believed that love was worth fighting for, but now he was faced with the harsh reality that sometimes, no matter how hard you try, some things are beyond saving. Maya had made her choice, and in her world, Sajeen no longer existed. The door was closed, and he was left standing on the outside, alone.

In the end, Sajeen found himself with no choice but to accept the harsh reality of his situation. For days, he replayed every moment in his mind, trying to understand how everything had unraveled so quickly. His

thoughts circled endlessly, questioning whether Maya's lack of experience in relationships was part of the reason. Perhaps, he reasoned, she had never faced conflict before and didn't know how to handle it when it came. Maya had always been calm, sweet, and composed—someone who seemed almost untouched by the darker, more difficult aspects of life.

Maybe she wasn't old enough, or wise enough, to grasp the idea that love could survive fights. He often wondered if she had been under the illusion that love should be flawless, without any struggles, and when that first argument surfaced, it shattered her perfect vision of their relationship. Sajeen felt deep sorrow knowing that Maya might have misunderstood the argument, believing it to be a sign of weakness or failure, rather than a natural part of two people trying to grow together.

The more he thought about it, the more he blamed himself for his rash actions. He had always prided himself on being composed, but in that moment of anger, he had acted impulsively, burning the photograph of them together—a memory that was now just ash. It wasn't the act itself that hurt him the most, but the deeper realization that he had made Maya feel insecure, that he had destroyed something in her, perhaps a sense of safety she once found in him. He had never imagined that one argument, one misstep, could be enough to break her faith in him entirely.

What made it worse was that Maya had never experienced his anger before. She didn't know that it always burned fast and bright, but never lasted long. If she had known him better, perhaps she would have realized that his anger was temporary, like a storm that passes quickly. Sajeen's anger never lingered more than a day. The next day was always

a fresh start for him, a new chance to make things right. But Maya didn't see it that way. To her, that momentary lapse in judgment was a sign of something deeper—a flaw that she couldn't overlook.

He tortured himself with thoughts of how she must have perceived the situation. Perhaps she thought the argument revealed cracks in their relationship, that it wasn't as perfect as she had believed. Maya had always seemed to view their love as something untouchable, free from the challenges and imperfections that come with real, lasting bonds. When that illusion was shattered, Sajeen feared she had lost all faith in what they had built. To her, that single argument might have been proof that their relationship couldn't last.

But Sajeen had no way of knowing for sure. There was no conversation to clarify things, no discussion to work through what had happened. Maya had shut down completely, leaving him to piece together the fragments of their love on his own. He tried to reach out to her, sending her messages, hoping to fix what had gone wrong. He thought it was a typical lover's quarrel, something they could resolve with time and understanding. But Maya never responded. She never gave him a chance to explain or to apologize in person. Her silence became an unbearable weight on his heart.

In the quiet of those long nights, Sajeen tried to rationalize her behavior. He gave her all the reasons he could think of to make sense of her sudden withdrawal. Maybe she couldn't handle the idea of imperfection in their relationship. Maybe his outburst had frightened her, made her feel unsafe in a way she couldn't articulate. Maybe she had placed him on a pedestal, and now that he had shown her his flaws, she couldn't see him the same way.

And so, in his solitude, Sajeen blamed himself. He blamed his anger, his impulsiveness, his inability to step back and see the bigger picture before it was too late. He blamed himself for not being patient, for not finding a better way to express his frustration. He replayed the moment over and over, wishing he could undo it, knowing that it was impossible.

But despite his best efforts to fix things, Maya had moved on. She didn't want to discuss what had happened, didn't want to offer a second chance. To her, everything was over. That one argument, the first and the last, had marked the end of their relationship in her eyes. Sajeen couldn't understand it—how something that felt so solid could crumble in an instant, with no warning, no second chances. It was as if everything they had shared meant nothing to her anymore.

Eventually, he realized that no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't force her to stay. She had made her decision, and he had to accept it, painful as it was. In the end, Sajeen had to find peace in the silence. He would never know the exact reasons for her actions. There would be no closure, no final conversation to explain where things had gone wrong. He had to make sense of it on his own, and that's what he did.

He told himself that perhaps Maya was simply too young, too inexperienced to handle the complexities of love and conflict. Perhaps his actions had been too much for her to bear, breaking the trust she had in him. He tried to find solace in these thoughts, even though they offered little comfort. The loss was still raw, the pain still fresh.

But with time, he accepted the reality of their separation. Maya had moved on, and now, so would he. He had to let go of the blame, let go of the endless questioning. Life had taught him a harsh lesson, one that

he would carry with him forever: love could be fragile, even when it seemed unbreakable, and people could surprise you, for better or worse.

And so, Sajeen moved forward, carrying with him the lessons of his past, but never looking back. Maya had been a part of his life, but now, she was part of his history. He had to focus on the future, and on himself, even if the future felt a little emptier without her in it.

After the heart-wrenching end of his relationship with Maya, Sajeen found himself spiraling back into the deep well of detachment and autism he had once relied upon for emotional survival. The intensity of his emotions, though overwhelming in the heat of the moment, began to dissipate as he retreated into the familiar comfort of his “factory mode.”

Factory mode was more than just a coping mechanism for Sajeen; it was a survival strategy he had developed over time. This strategy was particularly effective during his previous tumultuous experiences with Ghaim. The process was simple yet powerful: it involved severing ties with the past and starting anew. This time, Sajeen applied the same approach to his life with Maya. He meticulously erased all traces of their relationship by deleting his old social media accounts, which had once served as a digital bridge to his past life with Maya.

The decision to create new social media accounts was a deliberate one. Sajeen wanted to ensure that he had a fresh start, free from the emotional baggage and memories associated with his previous accounts. By curating these new accounts with a focus on his current interests and goals, he aimed to carve out a new space for himself, untainted by past attachments and disappointments.

This factory mode reset allowed Sajeen to channel his energy into something constructive: his academic life. His academic performance had always been exemplary, and he was determined to maintain that standard despite the personal upheaval. The rigors of university life provided a welcome distraction and a sense of purpose. Sajeen threw himself into his studies with renewed vigor, ensuring that his academic achievements remained unblemished by the emotional turbulence he had experienced.

However, Sajeen faced a significant challenge that he could not ignore—his proficiency in English. His struggles with the language had begun to affect his academic performance, prompting him to take action. Recognizing the importance of mastering English for his academic success, Sajeen decided to address this issue head-on. He saved money and meticulously planned to enroll in the English Discussion Center (EDC), a renowned institution known for its effective language training programs.

At the EDC, Sajeen immersed himself in an intensive language learning program. The classes were demanding, but Sajeen approached them with the same determination he applied to his studies. The EDC provided him with the tools and support he needed to improve his English skills, turning this challenge into a new goal and a means to regain control over his academic and personal life.

Throughout this period of personal upheaval, Sajeen's commitment to his academic and personal growth remained unwavering. He managed to compartmentalize his past experiences, using his factory mode as a shield to protect his academic ambitions and well-being. Each step he

took, from managing his social media presence to excelling in his language studies, was a deliberate effort to rebuild and redefine his life.

Despite the emotional setbacks and challenges, Sajeen's focus on his academic and personal development provided him with a sense of direction and stability. He channeled his energy into his studies, embraced the opportunity to improve his English, and worked diligently to create a new path for himself. By doing so, he was able to move forward with resilience and determination, using his past experiences as lessons rather than barriers.

The English Discussion Center (EDC) proved to be a transformative experience for Sajeen, reshaping his outlook and providing him with a wealth of new opportunities. The center, a dynamic and vibrant co-educational institution, was not only a place for honing language skills but also a crucible for personal growth and discovery.

Sajeen's initial reaction to EDC was a mix of apprehension and curiosity. The prospect of immersing himself in an environment where he would be surrounded by students from diverse backgrounds and both genders presented a new and somewhat daunting challenge. However, as he settled into the routine of his classes, he began to appreciate the center's unique environment. EDC's co-educational nature offered him an unprecedented opportunity to observe and interact with a variety of people, including women, in a structured and academic setting. This exposure was particularly enlightening for Sajeen, who had previously been quite detached and distant in his social interactions.

At EDC, Sajeen found himself in an environment that was not only intellectually stimulating but also rich in social dynamics. The presence

of female students and the blend of personalities and communication styles provided Sajeen with insights into gender behaviors and interpersonal needs. He observed how girls interacted, how they expressed themselves, and how they navigated social and academic challenges. This new perspective was both fascinating and amusing to Sajeen. He was intrigued by the diversity of thought and behavior that he witnessed daily, finding humor in the differences and quirks he encountered.

Despite this newfound exposure, Sajeen remained true to his core tendencies. He continued to maintain a certain level of detachment, avoiding deep social connections unless required by academic collaboration. His interactions with others were often limited to the academic sphere, driven by necessity rather than personal inclination. Sajeen found solace in observing people from a distance, analyzing their behaviors, and understanding their needs without engaging in profound relationships. This approach allowed him to remain emotionally insulated while benefiting from the diverse experiences around him.

The EDC environment, with its emphasis on interactive learning and communication, was instrumental in refining Sajeen's English skills. The center's rigorous programs and practical approach to language instruction enabled him to master new academic levels and gain confidence in his proficiency. Sajeen's dedication to his language studies was unwavering, and he embraced every opportunity to practice and improve his English. His success in this area was a testament to his resilience and commitment.

Moreover, the EDC provided Sajeen with an additional advantage: it allowed him to practice and perfect his "factory mode" technique. The

structured environment and the need to adapt to new social and academic settings reinforced his ability to reset and compartmentalize his experiences. This technique, which had served him well in the past, was further honed through his time at EDC. The ability to detach from emotional setbacks and focus on his academic goals became even more refined, thanks to the supportive and stimulating atmosphere of the center.

Sajeen's time at EDC was marked by a profound shift in his perspective. The center not only enhanced his English skills but also broadened his understanding of social dynamics and human behavior. He enjoyed the process of learning and growing, finding humor and satisfaction in the interplay between his personal habits and the vibrant environment of the EDC. Through this experience, Sajeen emerged as a more skilled and knowledgeable individual, ready to tackle new challenges and opportunities with a renewed sense of purpose.

Sajeen's transition from student to teacher at the English Discussion Center (EDC) was a pivotal moment in his life, blending his academic pursuits with a newfound passion for teaching. As his English proficiency reached new heights, his dedication and skill caught the attention of the EDC's administration. They offered him a position as an English teacher, recognizing his exceptional command of the language and his ability to engage and inspire others.

Embracing this opportunity, Sajeen dove into his new role with the same determination and focus that had defined his academic career. His teaching style was marked by clarity and engagement, using interactive methods to make learning both enjoyable and impactful. His deep

understanding of English grammar, vocabulary, and usage, combined with his knack for connecting with students, made his classes a hit.

Balancing his responsibilities as both a teacher and a university student was a challenging feat, but Sajeen managed it with remarkable skill. His days were a juggling act between preparing lesson plans, delivering lectures, and keeping up with his coursework. The dual role not only showcased his time management abilities but also reinforced his understanding of English. Teaching others deepened his own grasp of the language, making his own academic studies more enriching.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this period was the role reversal that occurred at EDC. Some of Sajeen's students were actually his professors at the university. This unexpected dynamic added an extra layer of satisfaction to his teaching role. His professors, who had once guided him through complex academic concepts, were now seeking his expertise in English language instruction. This role reversal was both surprising and gratifying for Sajeen, underscoring the respect he had earned in both realms of his academic life.

As Sajeen's reputation as a teacher grew, so did his popularity. His ability to teach with passion and clarity made him a standout figure at EDC. The students admired his dedication and the way he made learning English enjoyable and accessible. His newfound prominence also drew attention from female students, who were captivated by his success and confidence. Sajeen found himself the center of admiration and respect, a stark contrast to his previous detachment.

Despite this increased attention, Sajeen remained focused on his professional and academic goals. His success as a teacher and the respect

he garnered from his students were gratifying, but his primary focus remained on his own studies and personal growth. The admiration he received was a testament to his evolving role and the positive impact he had on those around him.

Through his time at EDC, Sajeen mastered a new level of expertise, balancing his teaching responsibilities with his academic commitments. The unique situation of having his university professors as his students added a fascinating dimension to his teaching role, while the admiration and respect he garnered from his students highlighted his success in this new endeavor. Sajeen continued to apply his “factory mode” technique, seamlessly integrating his teaching and academic responsibilities into a fulfilling and cohesive experience.

In the midst of his transformative journey, Sajeen’s approach to managing his relationships with his female students was a reflection of his mastery of the "factory mode" technique. This method, which he had honed over the years, was pivotal in maintaining his emotional detachment while navigating the complexities of his role as an English teacher at EDC.

Sajeen’s interactions with his female students were characterized by a deliberate and strategic approach. His primary focus remained on his role as an educator, and he took great care to uphold a clear boundary between his professional responsibilities and personal emotions. This was achieved through a strict adherence to the factory mode—a mental framework that allowed him to compartmentalize his interactions and maintain a controlled distance.

Despite the admiration he received from many of his students, Sajeen ensured that his demeanor remained consistently professional and neutral. He never allowed himself to be swayed by the attention or affection that came his way. Conversations were conducted with a focus on academic content and teaching objectives, and any attempts at personal engagement were gently but firmly redirected back to the subject matter at hand.

The allure of Sajeen's professionalism and the enigmatic nature of his detachment only served to heighten the interest of his female students. Many found themselves drawn to him, captivated by his intellect and the mystery that surrounded his emotional reserve. However, this very reserve made it challenging for them to penetrate the boundaries he had meticulously set. They admired his dedication and the depth of his knowledge, yet they found it difficult to engage with him on a personal level.

Sajeen's commitment to maintaining this separation was unwavering. He never allowed himself to show signs of affection or emotional involvement. His interactions were marked by a consistent tone of neutrality and respect, and he made a conscious effort to avoid any behavior that could be construed as flirtatious or intimate. This approach not only helped him to preserve his emotional boundaries but also reinforced his role as a figure of authority and respect in the classroom.

The result of this deliberate strategy was a complex dynamic where Sajeen was admired but remained largely unreachable. His female students respected and valued his teachings, but their attempts to get closer to him were met with polite yet firm boundaries. This created an

aura of mystique around him, enhancing his reputation as a dedicated and enigmatic teacher.

In managing his relationships with his female students through the factory mode, Sajeen achieved a delicate balance. He maintained his emotional distance while effectively fulfilling his role as an educator, ensuring that his focus remained on his academic responsibilities and personal growth. The admiration he received from his students was a testament to his success in this approach, even as it left him shrouded in a layer of deliberate distance that made him both intriguing and inaccessible.

One day, as a new cohort of students began their classes at the English Discussion Center (EDC), Sajeen was faced with an unexpected challenge that would test his mastery of the factory mode technique. Among the fresh faces that filled the classroom was Maya—a name from his past that had once held profound significance.

When Maya walked into the room, her eyes met Sajeen's with a mixture of surprise and recognition. For a fleeting moment, the past seemed to stir, but the factory mode had been meticulously calibrated to shield him from such emotional disruptions. Sajeen's initial reaction was one of calm professionalism; he maintained his composure and did not let his internal world be disturbed by the reappearance of Maya.

To Maya, the sight of Sajeen in the role of her teacher was equally startling. She had expected to find a new instructor, someone detached from her past experiences. Yet, here was Sajeen—her former lover, now a figure of authority in a place that represented new beginnings and a different chapter of her life. Her emotions, however, were firmly in

check. Like Sajeen, Maya had also embraced a reset, and she approached this new relationship with the same professionalism and detachment that characterized her interactions with others.

Sajeen's application of the factory mode technique was flawless. The emotional detachment he had cultivated over the years allowed him to engage with Maya as he would with any other student. There was no trace of nostalgia or regret in his demeanor. His focus remained solely on his teaching responsibilities, and he approached Maya's presence with the same neutrality he applied to all his students. The past, with all its emotional baggage, had been effectively erased from his mind, leaving him unaffected by the sight of her.

Maya, in turn, mirrored Sajeen's approach. The once-intimate connection between them was now relegated to the realm of history. She interacted with Sajeen as she would with any other instructor, adhering to the same respectful distance. The old emotions that had once intertwined their lives seemed to have dissolved, leaving behind only the professional roles they now occupied.

As the days passed, both Sajeen and Maya adapted to their new dynamic with ease. Maya was fully engaged in her studies, motivated by the prospect of advancing her English skills rather than by any lingering personal connections. Sajeen continued to teach with the same dedication and professionalism that had come to define him. To Maya, Sajeen was simply another teacher—one among many in her academic journey.

The factory mode technique, it seemed, had done its job with remarkable efficacy. The emotional ties of the past had been thoroughly

dismantled, leaving both individuals to navigate their present circumstances with a clean slate. Maya's presence was no longer a source of turmoil or distraction for Sajeen, and he, in turn, was nothing more than a professional figure in her academic life. The past was well and truly left behind, and the future was a blank page for both to write anew.

As time continued its relentless march, Sajeen found himself settling into his role at the EDC with a renewed sense of equilibrium. The factory mode, honed over years of practice, had become a cornerstone of his emotional resilience. It was a tool he relied on to navigate his complex world of relationships and academic responsibilities, shielding him from past entanglements and future uncertainties.

One day, while perusing social media out of sheer habit rather than intent, Sajeen stumbled upon an announcement that tugged at the remnants of his emotional landscape. Maya, the once-central figure in his life, had recently gotten married. The news was presented in a simple, elegant post—a life milestone marked with photographs and well-wishes. For a moment, the past seemed to resurface, but Sajeen's response was measured and calm.

He felt a fleeting pang of emotion, but it was quickly overshadowed by the factory mode's efficacy. His heart was no longer an open book of past affections but rather a meticulously curated archive, compartmentalized and secured. Sajeen's initial reaction was to feel a sense of normalcy—a detached acceptance of the fact that Maya had moved on with her life. This was the natural progression of things, and he recognized it with a sense of finality rather than grief.

With this realization, Sajeen composed a brief and courteous message to Maya. It was a simple note of congratulations and well-wishes, devoid of any emotional weight or past grievances. “Wishing you all the happiness in your new journey,” he wrote, his words a reflection of his current state of detachment. He sent the message, acknowledging her new chapter with the same calm demeanor that had become his hallmark.

After sending the message, Sajeen felt a sense of closure. The factory mode, which had served him so well, was now applied for the last time with Maya. He had reached a point where the emotional machinery of his past was entirely shut down, leaving no room for lingering attachments or unresolved feelings. Maya had transitioned from a significant presence in his life to a mere footnote in the annals of his past—a person who had once mattered but whose importance had faded into the background.

Sajeen’s emotional landscape was now pristine, a blank canvas where the past no longer held sway. Maya, once a pivotal figure in his life, had effectively become as if she had never existed. The factory mode had not only preserved his emotional stability but had also ensured that his life remained unaffected by past connections. As he continued forward, Sajeen felt a profound sense of peace and control, ready to face whatever the future might bring with a clear mind and a heart shielded from the echoes of yesterday.

Chapter “7”

The third unknown person

With Maya firmly relegated to the recesses of his past, Sajeen embraced his life with a renewed focus and determination. His commitment to his studies and teaching at the EDC remained unwavering, a testament to his resilience and his mastery of the factory mode technique. The factory mode, initially designed to manage emotional upheavals, had evolved into a powerful tool for channeling his energies into productive endeavors.

At the university, Sajeen's presence was a blend of quiet authority and remarkable competence. He continued to excel academically, consistently securing top positions in his classes. His dedication to his studies was evident in the meticulous way he approached each subject. Whether it was poring over complex engineering problems or delving into intricate research, Sajeen's focus never wavered. He remained a model student, revered by peers and faculty alike for his unwavering commitment and intellectual prowess.

The EDC, where he had found a second calling as a teacher, benefited immensely from his expertise. His teaching was marked by a profound understanding of the English language and a genuine passion for helping students succeed. His classes were engaging and effective, a reflection of his deep knowledge and the clarity with which he communicated. His students, many of whom were preparing for their own academic challenges, looked up to him as a mentor and guide.

Despite the heavy workload, Sajeen managed to balance his roles as both student and teacher with remarkable efficiency. His days were a careful orchestration of lectures, study sessions, and personal time dedicated to refining his skills. He maintained a rigorous schedule, one that allowed him to stay at the top of his game in both arenas. His academic performance remained exemplary, and his contributions to the EDC were highly valued.

His ability to remain detached from past emotional entanglements and to stay focused on his goals was instrumental in his success. Sajeen's discipline and dedication were evident in every aspect of his life. He continued to push boundaries, striving for excellence in his academic pursuits while also providing invaluable support to his students. His work ethic and drive set a high standard for those around him, and his achievements served as a source of inspiration.

As the semesters passed, Sajeen's reputation as a top student and a dedicated teacher only grew stronger. He navigated the complexities of university life with grace and efficiency, his focus unshaken by past distractions. His success was a testament to his ability to harness his inner strength and channel it into productive outlets.

In the end, Sajeen's story was one of perseverance and achievement. His journey, marked by challenges and personal growth, culminated in a life of academic excellence and professional success. His unwavering focus on his studies and his commitment to his role at the EDC ensured that he remained at the forefront of his field, a shining example of dedication and resilience.

One day, an exciting opportunity arose for Sajeen and his classmates at Omdurman Islamic University. The institution had established a cooperative program with Al Suez University in Egypt, focusing on the mining industry—a field of immense interest to Sajeen and his peers. This collaboration offered a unique chance for students to immerse themselves in the practical aspects of their studies through a month-long exchange program.

Eager to seize this opportunity, Sajeen and his classmates embarked on the journey to Egypt. The anticipation was palpable as they prepared to experience a new educational environment and explore the renowned mining labs at Al Suez University. The trip promised not only an academic enrichment but also a chance to witness different cultures and lifestyles, aligning perfectly with Sajeen's penchant for observing and learning about people from a distance.

Upon arrival in Egypt, Sajeen was struck by the vibrant atmosphere and the bustling activity of Cairo. The stark contrast between his familiar surroundings in Sudan and the new, dynamic environment in Egypt intrigued him. Every street, every interaction, and every cultural nuance provided a fresh perspective, fueling his curiosity and offering new material for his observations.

During their month-long stay, Sajeen immersed himself in the academic rigors of the Al Suez University labs. The hands-on experience and exposure to advanced technologies broadened his understanding of the mining industry. He engaged in practical exercises, collaborated with Egyptian students, and learned from esteemed professors, all of which enriched his academic knowledge.

Outside the classroom, Sajeen continued his observational practice. Egypt's diverse population, with its unique customs and behaviors, fascinated him. He spent his free time analyzing the interactions and social dynamics he encountered, always from a respectful distance. This observation was not just a pastime but a way for him to gain deeper insights into human nature and societal differences, further honing his understanding of people.

The journey also provided Sajeen with a renewed sense of perspective. The blend of academic growth and cultural exploration contributed to his development, both personally and professionally. He found the experience invigorating, a reminder of why he had chosen his path in the first place—an unyielding quest for knowledge and a deep appreciation for the diversity of human experiences.

As the program concluded and the students prepared to return to Sudan, Sajeen reflected on the transformative nature of the trip. It had reinforced his commitment to his studies and deepened his understanding of the world. The interaction with different people and the exposure to new ideas and practices reaffirmed his passion for his field and his dedication to his personal growth.

The journey to Egypt was not just a chapter in his academic life but a testament to his relentless pursuit of knowledge and self-improvement. It had been an enriching experience that left a lasting impact on Sajeen, further shaping his path as a scholar and an observer of the world.

During his month-long stay in Egypt, Sajeen observed the vibrant culture and diverse people of Cairo with the same analytical eye he had applied throughout his life. Immersed in a new environment, he was keenly aware of the differences in customs, habits, and daily routines between Egyptians and his fellow Sudanese. However, despite these cultural variances, one observation remained consistent and striking: the underlying nature of people seemed remarkably similar, regardless of their geographic or cultural context.

Sajeen found that the core behaviors and motivations of individuals were often shaped by universal traits. This was especially evident in his interactions with people, particularly women, across different cultural settings. His observations revealed a recurring pattern: whether Egyptian or Sudanese, the nature of girls often seemed to be influenced by themes of owning and possessing, and in many cases, by a form of selfishness. It was a subtle, yet pervasive characteristic that Sajeen noticed time and again.

In Egypt, just as he had seen in Sudan, girls displayed a similar blend of aspirations and behaviors. He observed how societal expectations and personal desires influenced their actions, often reflecting a preoccupation with status and material possessions. This common thread across cultures led Sajeen to a deeper understanding of the nature of human goals and struggles.

The journey provided him with profound insights into the universal aspects of human nature. It taught him that while cultural and social norms could vary widely, the fundamental aspects of human behavior and desires often remained constant. People, irrespective of their cultural background, grappled with similar issues of identity, ambition, and interpersonal dynamics.

Sajeen's time in Egypt was not just an academic endeavor but a profound learning experience about the nature of people. He saw how the universal traits he had observed in Sudan were mirrored in a different land, reinforcing his belief in the consistency of human nature. The journey illuminated how, despite different cultures and lifestyles, people's core motivations and struggles were interconnected.

This realization deepened Sajeen's understanding of human behavior and enhanced his ability to analyze and appreciate the complexity of social interactions. It affirmed his belief that while the external manifestations of human nature might be shaped by cultural and environmental factors, the underlying principles remained surprisingly consistent.

As he returned to Sudan, Sajeen carried with him these valuable lessons. The journey to Egypt had not only broadened his academic horizons but also provided him with a clearer perspective on the universality of human nature. It had taught him that, despite the myriad ways people express their desires and navigate their lives, the essence of their experiences and struggles often shared a common thread.

As part of his final project for graduation, Sajeen embarked on another significant journey, this time across Sudan. The mission was to collect

phosphate ore samples from the remote Kurun Mountain, situated in the Eastern Nuba Mountains Range. This trip was not just a critical academic endeavor but also an opportunity for Sajeen to explore the diverse landscapes and cultures of Sudan more intimately.

The journey took him through several regions, each revealing its own unique facets of life. Sajeen and his team traveled through the scenic landscapes of Kusti and Rabk in White Nile State, experiencing the contrast between the bustling city life and the tranquil, rural settings. These cities, while vibrant, were mere preludes to the more profound experiences awaiting them in the southern reaches of the country.

Continuing their expedition, Sajeen ventured into South Kurdufan State, where he visited several villages, including Al Sabaa, Al Ruwat, Al Masharea, and Tartar. These communities were markedly different from the urban centers he had known, characterized by their simple, yet rich, rural lifestyles. Here, people lived in harmony with their surroundings, their lives deeply intertwined with the land and their traditional ways of living.

Despite the simplicity of life in these villages, Sajeen observed a striking consistency in human nature. The people he met, though living far from the conveniences of city life, exhibited the same fundamental traits and behaviors he had encountered throughout his previous travels and observations. Their aspirations, social interactions, and daily struggles mirrored those of individuals from more developed or urbanized regions.

Sajeen noticed how the essence of human nature remained unchanged regardless of one's proximity to urban centers. The villagers' ambitions, their ways of interacting with one another, and their responses to

various life situations revealed a continuity of human experience that transcended geographical and economic divides.

This realization was both reaffirming and enlightening for Sajeen. It reinforced his understanding that, whether in the bustling cities or the serene villages, people's core motivations and behaviors shared a common thread. The journey through these different environments offered him a comprehensive view of the human condition, showcasing that despite the variations in lifestyle and living conditions, the nature of people remained fundamentally consistent.

As he completed the journey and returned to his academic responsibilities, Sajeen carried with him a deeper appreciation for the universality of human nature. The diverse experiences and interactions he had encountered further enriched his perspective, allowing him to view his own life and studies through a more nuanced and empathetic lens.

Sajeen remained steadfast in his commitment to both his academic pursuits and his role as a teacher at the English Discussion Center (EDC). His dedication to excellence extended beyond his own studies and teaching; he was deeply invested in motivating his students and fostering their growth.

One day, in an effort to encourage his students, Sajeen devised a unique incentive. He promised that he would create a detailed and artistic portrait of the best student—someone who excelled in their upcoming debate and demonstrated exceptional speaking skills. The prize was not merely the recognition but the opportunity for one student to receive a

personalized drawing from him, which he hoped would serve as a tangible reminder of their achievement.

Hiba, a bright and diligent student, rose to the challenge. Her performance in the debate was exemplary, marking her as the standout participant. True to his word, Sajeen approached Hiba and requested that she send him a picture of herself for the portrait.

Initially, this request was more than just a technical necessity for Sajeen; it represented an opportunity for a new kind of interaction. For Hiba, it was an unexpected chance to connect with her teacher beyond the confines of the classroom. She sent the picture and, through this new form of social contact, found herself breaking down the barriers that had previously felt impenetrable.

As Sajeen began working on the portrait, he found himself increasingly engaged in the process of connecting with Hiba. The artistic endeavor was more than just a drawing—it became a bridge between them. The interaction extended beyond the mere exchange of images; it evolved into meaningful conversations about her interests, aspirations, and feedback on the portrait.

This newfound communication was a departure from Sajeen's usual detached approach. The process of drawing Hiba's portrait allowed for an informal yet significant dialogue, which helped Hiba feel more at ease in expressing herself. She discovered that her teacher, though often perceived as distant, was approachable and attentive.

Through their exchanges, Hiba managed to overcome the initial reservations she had about interacting with Sajeen. The barriers she

once found challenging began to crumble, revealing a more personal and engaging side of her teacher. For Sajeen, it was a reminder of the power of simple human connections and how they could enrich both teaching and learning experiences.

In the end, the portrait was more than just an artistic achievement; it symbolized a new phase in Sajeen's relationship with his students. The interaction with Hiba highlighted the value of breaking down walls and fostering genuine communication, making the academic environment at EDC more vibrant and connected.

Sajeen remained focused on his commitments, fully immersed in his academic responsibilities and his role as an instructor at the English Discussion Center (EDC). His interactions with students were guided by a sense of professionalism and distance that he had carefully cultivated over time.

When Hiba, a standout student from the debate, came into the picture, Sajeen's promise of a personalized portrait was meant to be a token of recognition for her hard work. However, Hiba's reaction to the opportunity extended beyond mere gratitude. She became eager to connect with Sajeen, hoping that the drawing could serve as a gateway to a deeper relationship.

Hiba's enthusiasm was palpable. She sent numerous messages, expressed genuine interest in Sajeen's life, and sought ways to spend more time with him outside of class. Her intentions were clear: she wanted more than just a portrait—she wanted a meaningful connection with her teacher. Her pursuit mirrored the intensity of Maya's earlier efforts to bridge the gap between them.

For Sajeen, the situation was all too familiar. His ability to discern underlying motivations and intentions had grown significantly over the years. He had honed his skills in analyzing people, learning to recognize the patterns of behavior driven by personal desires. The attention Hiba showered upon him was, to him, just another variation of the same dynamic he had experienced before.

Sajeen observed Hiba's attempts with a detached perspective. He saw through the façade of admiration and interest, understanding that beneath her efforts lay a deeper longing for connection. This insight came from his own experiences and his refined ability to read people's true intentions—a skill that had been sharpened by his past relationships and interactions.

Despite Hiba's best efforts, Sajeen maintained his emotional distance. He was not swayed by her advances, as he had become adept at navigating such situations without being drawn into them. The factory mode he had mastered allowed him to keep his personal boundaries intact, regardless of the attention he received.

In his interactions with Hiba, Sajeen was polite but remained firmly in his role as a teacher. He responded to her messages with courtesy but avoided engaging in any personal conversations that could blur the lines between student and teacher. His responses were measured and professional, ensuring that no misinterpretations could arise from their interactions.

Hiba's pursuit, while earnest, ultimately did not alter Sajeen's approach. He continued to focus on his work and academic life, remaining unaffected by the personal dynamics that might have once stirred

emotions in him. His ability to navigate these interactions with clarity and composure was a testament to the emotional resilience and self-control he had developed over the years.

Hiba's feelings for Sajeen grew more intense with each passing day. Her admiration had evolved into a deep, heartfelt desire to connect with him on a personal level. She approached Sajeen with genuine affection, her emotions laid bare in every message and interaction.

Determined to make an impression, Hiba put her best effort into her pursuit. She sent thoughtful messages, shared glimpses of her life, and expressed her feelings openly. Her attempts to bridge the gap between them were sincere and filled with emotional depth. She believed that if she could get close to Sajeen, she might unlock a new chapter in their relationship.

Sajeen, ever the observer, recognized the authenticity of Hiba's emotions. Despite his well-practiced detachment, he understood that her feelings were genuine. He decided to handle the situation with care, allowing her the space and time she needed to express herself. He didn't push her away or dismiss her efforts outright. Instead, he chose to watch and see where her feelings would lead.

He approached the situation with a mix of curiosity and caution. He gave Hiba room to navigate her own emotions, providing her with the freedom to pursue her intentions. Sajeen was intrigued by the depth of her feelings, but he remained grounded in his understanding of human nature. He knew from experience that strong emotions often followed familiar patterns and that each love story, no matter how intense, often adhered to a cycle he had seen before.

As Hiba's feelings grew stronger, her determination to be close to Sajeen became more evident. She sought to spend more time with him, both in and out of class, and made every effort to show how much she cared. Her devotion was palpable, and her desire to change the dynamic between them was clear.

Sajeen, while maintaining his professional boundaries, observed these developments with an analytical eye. He knew that while emotions could be powerful, they often didn't alter the fundamental nature of relationships. The patterns of affection and pursuit were familiar to him, and he understood that they typically followed a predictable course.

He allowed Hiba's emotions to unfold, all the while keeping his own feelings in check. Sajeen's approach was to remain open but not invested, ensuring that he did not lead her on or create false expectations. He respected her efforts and acknowledged her feelings without letting them influence his own perspective.

Despite Hiba's best efforts, Sajeen remained steadfast in his belief that the nature of relationships and the cycle of love were constants he could predict. He knew that, regardless of the intensity of Hiba's emotions, the underlying dynamics would likely follow the same patterns he had experienced before.

Through it all, Sajeen's factory mode allowed him to maintain his equilibrium. He navigated Hiba's affection with a balanced approach, understanding that while her feelings were real, they were part of a cycle he had come to know well. He observed with patience, knowing that time would reveal how this latest chapter in his life would unfold.

Hiba's sudden decision to block Sajeen on social media was a complete shock. To Sajeen, it was an action that seemed both abrupt and inexplicable. Throughout their interactions, he had been consistently supportive and approachable. He had never expressed discomfort or unwillingness, maintaining a welcoming demeanor and offering help whenever needed. Hiba had interpreted his behavior as a positive sign, leading her to believe that a mutual affection might develop.

Sajeen had never discussed his past experiences or his ability to analyze emotional patterns with her. He kept his personal history and insights to himself, allowing Hiba to form her own understanding of him. The nature of his interactions with her had always been grounded in support and encouragement, which made her abrupt decision to block him even more bewildering.

Intrigued and puzzled by her sudden change of heart, Sajeen decided to investigate. He was curious to understand what could have prompted such an unexpected action. In an effort to uncover the reason behind Hiba's decision, he took a rather unorthodox approach. He downloaded a new version of WhatsApp and created a fresh account with a different number—one that Hiba was unaware of.

With his new account, Sajeen quietly observed and gathered any available information about Hiba's actions and reactions. His intention was not to invade her privacy but to gain insight into what might have triggered her decision to block him. He wanted to understand if there were any underlying reasons or if something had changed that led to this sudden and surprising development.

Despite the unusual nature of his actions, Sajeen's approach remained respectful. He was focused solely on uncovering the truth behind Hiba's decision. This investigation was not about seeking revenge or creating conflict; rather, it was driven by his need to comprehend the dynamics that had led to her sudden departure from his online world.

Through this process, Sajeen hoped to gain clarity and perhaps even find closure. He had always relied on his ability to analyze and understand people's behaviors, and this situation was no different. By delving into the circumstances surrounding Hiba's abrupt action, he sought to learn more about her motivations and the nature of their interaction.

Over the course of the following month, Sajeen maintained his covert observation through the new WhatsApp account. He came across Hiba's status updates, which were filled with images and stories of a new chapter in her life. It became increasingly evident that Hiba was preparing for marriage. Her posts were brimming with happiness and anticipation, showcasing moments of joy and excitement. She shared photos of gifts from her future husband, her radiant smiles, and the various preparations that were marking this significant transition.

For Sajeen, the discovery was not shocking. He had anticipated that Hiba might have moved on to another phase in her life, given the sudden and unexplained nature of her departure from his social circles. The details of her engagement and upcoming marriage, while confirming his suspicions, did not elicit a strong emotional reaction from him. Sajeen had long since mastered the art of detachment and remained focused on his own path.

He observed Hiba's happiness with a sense of quiet acceptance. Her contentment was evident, and it was clear that she was embarking on a new journey filled with hope and joy. Sajeen understood that people's lives are ever-changing, and the nature of their relationships and experiences can evolve in unexpected ways.

After a period of reflection and observation, Sajeen decided to delete his newly created WhatsApp account. He had gained the understanding he needed and chose to move on from this chapter of his life. The factory mode that he had perfected for himself had served its purpose once again. He closed the door on this particular episode, content in the knowledge that he had remained true to his principles of detachment and self-discipline.

With this resolution, Sajeen returned to his routine. His focus remained on his studies, teaching, and personal development. The experiences with Hiba and Maya had been part of his journey, but they no longer held a place of significant impact in his life. Sajeen's commitment to his academic and professional goals continued to drive him forward, and he embraced his path with renewed clarity and purpose.

Not too long after Hiba's wedding, Sajeen was startled to see her name flash across his phone screen once again. She had unblocked him and sent a message on WhatsApp, accompanied by a photo of her wedding invitation. The message read differently than her past happiness-filled status updates; now, she was explaining that she had been married by force. Hiba told Sajeen that her family had arranged the marriage because the man was wealthy, expatriated, and capable of providing everything she could ever want. According to her, it was not a decision of her own will.

What stood out to Sajeen, however, was that he already knew the truth. Hiba had previously shared joyous photos and statuses, painting a picture of a dream life with this man. It was clear that she had once embraced the idea of the marriage, believing it would bring her happiness and security. The sudden claim of coercion felt hollow, a desperate attempt to rewrite the narrative and explain her absence from his life.

As her message unfolded, Hiba detailed the reality of her marriage. She described how the man she had married only cared about his physical desires and treated her harshly. The image of an idyllic life she once projected now shattered—she revealed that after just a week of marriage, she had fled back to her family's house. She couldn't live with him any longer.

Sajeen read through her words without reacting immediately. His understanding of people, honed through years of analyzing behavior, left him unsurprised by the turn of events. Hiba, who had once blocked him in pursuit of her "dream life," now sought his sympathy and understanding. But Sajeen remained detached. He understood the complexity of human choices, how people often construct new realities when they feel the weight of their past decisions bearing down on them.

Though Hiba's life had taken a painful turn, Sajeen's response was tempered by the factory mode he had perfected. He felt no anger, no overwhelming sympathy. He saw Hiba's message for what it was—a reflection of her struggles, not his. She was looking for a lifeline, someone to listen and possibly soothe her regrets. But for Sajeen, this was just another cycle, another moment where someone had chosen a path and now dealt with its consequences.

Without much thought, he chose not to confront her with the knowledge that he had already known the truth. He let her words hang in the air, responding calmly and distantly. The emotional weight she carried no longer affected him as it might have before. He had long since moved beyond that chapter of his life.

From the very beginning, Sajeen had always been observant. His ability to read between the lines and analyze people's actions allowed him to understand their motives more clearly than they might have understood themselves. When Hiba had blocked him abruptly, and her WhatsApp statuses began to reflect the joys of an upcoming marriage, Sajeen wasn't left wondering. He watched as Hiba posted photos of the gifts her future husband had showered her with—a brand new car, expensive jewelry, and promises of a life outside Sudan in the opulence of Dubai, where her husband worked. It was all too obvious that Hiba had seen this man as an opportunity, a chance to possess what she believed Sajeen could never give her.

Hiba's excitement over her materialistic gains was clear in every status she shared. The car, the luxurious lifestyle that awaited her in Dubai, the comfortable life she would lead—all of it spoke to her deepest desires. And while she may have tried to frame it as love or a fresh start, Sajeen could see the truth: Hiba was driven by a hunger for material success. She had latched onto the opportunity to secure a better life, one that promised her a future filled with comfort and wealth.

Sajeen understood all too well that Hiba had never truly been after him. She wanted something he could not, and would not, provide—extravagant wealth and the security it brings. While Sajeen could offer her support, and understanding, he knew that, to someone like Hiba,

these weren't enough. She wanted to possess, to own the material symbols of success, and when her wealthy suitor appeared, she saw her chance and took it.

But now, as Hiba messaged Sajeen claiming her marriage had been forced, her words rang hollow. He remembered her joy as she flaunted the lavish lifestyle she was about to step into. The truth was, Hiba hadn't been forced into anything. She had made her choice, seeking the money and security her new husband could offer. Yet, when the reality of the relationship turned out to be less glamorous than she'd hoped—when her husband revealed his true intentions, caring only for his own desires—she had fled.

Sajeen, seeing all of this unfold, felt no sympathy. He understood Hiba better than she likely understood herself. She had been chasing material things all along. In her mind, a man like Sajeen, who couldn't offer her cars, international travel, or luxury, could never be enough. She had pursued a dream built on wealth, and now that it had crumbled, she came crawling back, attempting to shift the blame.

Sajeen remained detached. He wasn't surprised by her confession, and he wasn't swayed by her attempt to garner his pity. Hiba's actions had been clear from the start, and now, faced with the consequences of her own decisions, she sought to rewrite her story. But for Sajeen, it was simple: she had made her choice, and he had already moved on long before she came back with her tales of regret.

The car, the promises of Dubai, the material wealth—these were the things that had captured Hiba's heart. Not Sajeen. And now, with her dream life falling apart, Sajeen knew that he was right all along. Hiba had

sought what he could never give her, and in doing so, she had lost something far more valuable: the honesty and simplicity of a relationship based on emotion, not possession.

When Hiba reached out to Sajeen, pouring out her complaints about her husband and the life she had chosen, Sajeen listened calmly. He knew there was no point in diving into long discussions or dissecting the details of her situation. He had already seen her true desires unfold, and he understood her actions. Yet, despite the betrayal he could have felt, Sajeen chose to be composed.

He sent her a short, but meaningful message: **"Life has its way of changing things over time. Your husband, his actions, even the challenges you're facing now—everything can shift as time moves on. You just have to endure it. Stay patient, and eventually, things may improve."**

With those few, measured words, Sajeen conveyed his thoughts. He wasn't angry, nor did he feel the need to delve into what had happened between them. His message wasn't an attempt to salvage the past, nor was it meant to chastise her. It was simply a reflection of the truth he had come to accept: people make choices, and those choices come with consequences.

After that, Sajeen closed the door. He didn't seek further contact or look for more explanation. For him, Hiba had become part of the past—just another chapter closed. He understood that she had to live with her decisions, just as he had lived with his own. And with that, he moved forward, leaving behind yet another episode where he applied his

"factory mode" to reset, allowing himself to continue on his path without dwelling on what was behind him.

The chapter with Hiba brought Sajeen to a profound realization, a truth that had eluded him through his earlier encounters with love and relationships. As he reflected on the experiences with Hiba, Maya, and even Ghaim, Sajeen uncovered a harsh, hidden truth about love stories. There was always a third person—the one who suffers silently, out of sight, whose pain is never acknowledged. He called this figure "*the third unknown*."

Sajeen recognized that in every romance, while two people basked in love and joy, celebrating their bond and looking forward to a future together, there was always someone left behind. This third person, the one who wasn't seen or heard, paid the price for the happiness of the two. While people watched the unfolding of love, rooting for the couple to overcome obstacles, to unite in marriage, to create that picture-perfect ending, they forgot the cost.

For every wedding where two lovers exchanged vows, there was always a forgotten soul—the *third unknown*—who bore the weight of loss. His suffering was invisible to others, his heartache drowned out by the music of celebration. He wasn't part of the love story's happy ending, and yet, without him, the story might not have even existed. The love stories people cherished were built on the foundation of someone's silent sacrifice.

Sajeen now understood that in this cycle of love, there's always someone left in the dark, their story erased. The world only sees the couple who find each other, but it's blind to the one left behind. The one whose only

role was to endure, to suffer, and to walk away from the love that was never meant for them.

Hiba's decision, though wrapped in material desires, had placed Sajeen in this unseen position. Just as she had left him, she had now turned her back on the man she had chosen to marry. Her husband may have had his role, but it was Sajeen who now carried the burden of being *the third unknown*, suffering without anyone truly knowing the depth of his pain.

Sajeen came to terms with this cycle, knowing that no matter what he did or how hard he tried, there would always be a "third unknown" in every love story. Someone had to play that role, and it wasn't about fairness. It was just how life worked. While two people celebrated their romance, someone else—forgotten and unnamed—would quietly bear the sorrow. Sajeen had been *the third unknown* before, and now he had seen it happen to others. This realization solidified in his mind the complexities and harsh realities of love—far beyond the fantasies of happy endings.

As Sajeen reflected on his past, the realization began to dawn on him that both Ghaim and Maya had likely chosen paths that did not include him, seeking lives they believed would be better, more secure, or more fulfilling without him. The signs were there, even if he hadn't seen them clearly at the time. Ghaim's abrupt and unexplained message all those years ago had left him bewildered, but now it made sense. She hadn't given him a reason because she didn't need to; perhaps she had already chosen someone else, someone who promised a future Sajeen couldn't offer.

Maya, too, had her subtle signals. Her sudden neglect of the planned meeting and the way she closed off all possibility of reconciliation—without explanation or discussion—seemed like the actions of someone who had already made up her mind. It wasn't just the missed meeting that hurt Sajeen; it was the way she had used it, knowingly or unknowingly, as an excuse to end everything between them. He realized now that perhaps Maya had been waiting for a reason to leave, seeking an out from their relationship long before that first argument.

The Hiba chapter was the final piece of the puzzle that completed Sajeen's understanding of his place in these stories. Hiba's pursuit of wealth and material comfort, her decision to marry a man who could provide what she thought she wanted, echoed the choices he now believed Ghaim and Maya had made. It became clearer than ever that in each of these stories, he had always been the *third unknown*—the one left behind, the one whose role was to quietly accept the decisions of others without ever truly understanding why.

Hiba's actions illuminated this truth for him, but it was a truth that had been present all along. Sajeen saw now that from the very beginning, he had been playing a role in these relationships that was never fully his to control. Ghaim and Maya had both made their choices, and neither had felt the need to offer him explanations or closure. They had sought better lives, leaving him to bear the weight of their decisions. For the first time, Sajeen could see the pattern clearly, and it brought a strange sense of closure. He had always been the *third unknown*—the one left to watch, suffer, and accept his place in the shadows of others' lives.

Chapter “8”

The perpetuation

Sajeen, after much reflection, found himself at peace with the role he had unknowingly been assigned in the story of his life—the *third unknown*. He had resisted the idea at first, thinking that perhaps love and relationships would work out differently for him, that the bond he shared with Ghaim, Maya, or even Hiba was something deeper, something special. But now, with the clarity that time and distance brought, he could see the truth of it all.

The realization didn't come with anger or regret, but with acceptance. Sajeen had always been the one on the sidelines, watching as others moved on, choosing different paths. He had been left without answers, without explanations, as they sought something he couldn't give, something they thought they needed more than him. Whether it was Ghaim disappearing without a word or Maya cutting off all contact after one disagreement, their actions now seemed perfectly aligned with the choices that came naturally to them.

Sajeen understood that being the *third unknown* wasn't about being the one who was wronged or the one who didn't deserve love. It was simply his place in their stories—a role he had come to accept with a calm understanding. He was the one who stayed behind while others pursued what they believed was a better future, a role defined by his willingness to let go without closure, to suffer quietly while life went on around him.

It wasn't that Sajeen had failed. He knew that now. He hadn't failed to love or to give his best; he had simply been someone whose path in life meant being the silent figure in other people's stories. The *third unknown* didn't get the love, the explanation, or the recognition. But Sajeen realized he didn't need those things to be whole.

There was a certain strength in accepting this truth, a resilience that came from understanding his place. He no longer sought answers from Ghaim or Maya, and he had no ill feelings toward Hiba. Their choices were their own, and his role was to move forward, wiser and more aware. The world continued to spin, and Sajeen's story would continue too. He embraced his identity as the *third unknown*, not as a victim but as someone who had seen love, pain, and loss from a distance, understanding that some roles in life are meant to remain in the shadows.

In this quiet acceptance, Sajeen found freedom. He no longer needed to prove anything, no longer waited for explanations that would never come. He had learned, he had lived, and now he was ready to move forward on his own terms, no longer burdened by the past. The *third unknown* wasn't a place of weakness, but one of profound understanding, a role he accepted with grace.

After coming to terms with his place as the *third unknown*, Sajeen found a new sense of focus and direction. His emotional life, which had once been consumed by the unanswered questions of love and relationships, now shifted entirely toward his work. Teaching, which had always been a passion for him, became his purpose—a place where he could direct all his energy, intellect, and creativity. Sajeen became relentless in his pursuit of excellence as a teacher, pouring himself into every lesson, every student, and every challenge.

At the English Discussion Center (EDC), Sajeen's reputation grew rapidly. His students admired him not only for his deep knowledge of the English language but also for his unique approach to teaching. He had the ability to connect with his students on a personal level, even though he kept himself emotionally distant. His sharp observations of human behavior allowed him to understand what each student needed to improve, how to motivate them, and how to push them beyond their limits.

Sajeen's methods were innovative. He used debates, discussions, and creative writing exercises that brought out the best in his students. He wasn't just a teacher; he was a mentor, someone who guided his students to think critically, to express themselves clearly, and to face challenges head-on. This dedication did not go unnoticed. Soon, his classes became the most sought after at EDC, with students competing for a spot in his lessons.

Over time, Sajeen's influence expanded beyond EDC. He started receiving invitations from other educational institutions to give lectures, lead workshops, and share his teaching philosophy. His ability to break down complex topics, combined with his calm and detached demeanor, made him an admired figure in the academic community. His colleagues

respected him, and his students looked up to him as more than just a teacher—he had become a role model.

Word spread quickly about the talented young teacher who could turn even the weakest students into confident English speakers. His name started appearing in academic circles, and his work was being discussed at various language conferences in Sudan. What had started as a small teaching position at EDC had now transformed into a full-fledged career. Sajeen had become a known figure in the field of education, particularly in English language instruction.

Despite his growing fame, Sajeen remained grounded. He never sought attention for himself and remained focused on his mission to help his students. He continued his own studies at the university, maintaining his top-ranking academic performance while juggling his responsibilities as a teacher. The more he achieved, the more he realized that his personal fulfillment came not from external validation but from the quiet satisfaction of knowing he had made a difference in his students' lives.

Sajeen's detachment, once a shield against emotional pain, had now become his strength. It allowed him to navigate his career without being distracted by personal relationships or unnecessary drama. He maintained professional boundaries with his students, especially the female ones, who often found themselves drawn to his intelligence and quiet confidence. But Sajeen never allowed anything to interfere with his work. He had learned from the past and applied his *factory mode* technique, keeping everything under control and focused on his long-term goals.

As his reputation grew, so did his opportunities. Sajeen was now receiving requests to collaborate on projects, and even to teach at schools. He had become a respected figure, not only for his teaching abilities but for the way he had transformed his life through discipline, hard work, and an unwavering commitment to his craft.

Sajeen had finally found peace, not through love or relationships, but through his work. He had built a name for himself, not by seeking recognition, but by staying true to his purpose. He had become the person he always wanted to be—a man defined not by the people who left him behind, but by the impact he made on the world around him.

As Sajeen approached the end of his university journey, the culmination of years of hard work and dedication came into sharp focus. His academic life had been a testament to his relentless pursuit of excellence, a pursuit that saw him consistently at the top of his class. His focus on his studies, coupled with his knack for navigating the complexities of his chosen field, led him to a position of distinction among his peers.

Graduation day arrived with all its pomp and circumstance. The university hall was filled with the buzz of anticipation and pride. Students in their cap and gowns, family members beaming with pride, and professors who had witnessed the students' journeys all gathered to celebrate the achievements of the graduating class. For many, this day marked the end of a significant chapter and the beginning of a new adventure.

Sajeen's name was called among the top graduates, and he was awarded an honor certificate in recognition of his outstanding academic achievements. The audience applauded as he walked across the stage to

receive his certificate, the symbolic acknowledgment of his years of hard work. The honor was a fitting end to his university career—a testament to his dedication and intellectual prowess.

Yet, for Sajeen, the moment was subdued. As he held his certificate and looked out at the sea of faces, he felt a profound sense of detachment. The accolades, the applause, the recognition—all of it felt like a mere formality. To him, it was simply what was expected, nothing more, nothing less. He had never sought the spotlight, and while the honor was a validation of his efforts, it did little to stir the emotions that many might have felt on such a significant day.

Sajeen’s view of the graduation ceremony was pragmatic. He had always approached his academic life with a sense of duty and discipline. To him, graduating with honors was not a victory to be celebrated but rather an expected outcome of his commitment to his studies. He had set his sights on achieving the best possible results, and he had met that goal. There was no room for extravagance in his mind; it was simply the completion of a task he had undertaken with seriousness and resolve.

As he returned to his seat among his classmates, Sajeen’s demeanor remained composed and understated. He appreciated the recognition but did not dwell on it. His focus was already shifting to the next phase of his life—continuing his work as a teacher, contributing to the field of education, and maintaining his path of personal growth.

In the days that followed, Sajeen’s graduation became a fleeting memory. The real measure of his success, he felt, was not in the accolades but in the impact he made through his work and his unwavering commitment to his goals. The honor certificate was a

reflection of what he had always known to be his responsibility and nothing more.

After years of dedication to his academic and teaching careers, Sajeen reached a significant turning point in his life. Reflecting deeply on his journey, he realized that his path had led him to a profound understanding of his true self and his evolving aspirations. The time he had spent both as a student and as a teacher had profoundly shaped his perspective and ambitions.

As Sajeen reviewed his accomplishments, he couldn't help but marvel at the effort he had poured into teaching. From the early days at the English Discussion Center (EDC) to his later roles, teaching had become more than just a job for him; it was a calling. He had invested countless hours into developing his teaching methods, refining his skills, and building a reputation for excellence. The relationships he had fostered with his students and the impact he had made on their educational journeys were a testament to his commitment.

Sajeen's transition from engineering to teaching had been a deliberate choice driven by his evolving interests and abilities. He had come to appreciate the profound connection between teaching and his unique skills. His "factory mode" technique, which allowed him to reset his emotional state and approach challenges with a fresh perspective, had proven invaluable in his role as an educator. This technique, coupled with his acceptance of his role as the "third unknown," had given him a distinctive edge in understanding and guiding his students.

The realization that returning to engineering was not aligned with his current identity was a pivotal moment for Sajeen. The dream of

becoming an engineer, which had once driven him, now felt like a relic of his past. His experiences in teaching had transformed his aspirations, and he found that the satisfaction and fulfillment he derived from guiding others outweighed the allure of engineering. The prospect of starting anew in a field he had moved away from seemed less compelling compared to the meaningful work he was already doing in education.

Sajeen's decision to transition to international teaching was driven by his desire to explore new horizons and embrace fresh challenges. He saw this as an opportunity to apply his teaching skills on a global stage, reaching a diverse range of students and expanding his impact beyond local boundaries. The thought of teaching in international schools offered him a new sense of purpose and excitement.

Additionally, Sajeen's decision to shift from teaching English to mathematics and chemistry was a strategic one. These subjects were foundational to the field of mining engineering, and his proficiency in them during his university studies gave him confidence in his ability to teach them effectively. Mathematics and chemistry, with their rigorous demands and critical importance in engineering, represented a new frontier for Sajeen. He knew that his strong academic background in these subjects would enable him to excel in teaching them, providing him with a fresh challenge and a new area to master.

Leaving EDC was a decision fraught with mixed emotions. The institution had been a significant part of his life, a place where he had not only taught but also learned and grown. The connections he had made and the contributions he had made to the institution were meaningful and profound. However, Sajeen understood that personal and professional growth often required embracing new opportunities and facing new

challenges. His decision to move forward was a reflection of his commitment to his own development and his desire to make a broader impact in the field of education.

As he prepared to embark on this new chapter, Sajeen felt a sense of anticipation and excitement. He was ready to apply his skills in mathematics and chemistry, confident in his ability to teach these subjects effectively. The prospect of teaching internationally was both exhilarating and humbling. Sajeen approached this new phase of his career with the same dedication and passion that had characterized his previous roles.

In his new role, Sajeen was determined to continue making a positive impact on his students' lives. He carried with him the lessons and experiences of his past, ready to apply them in new and innovative ways. His journey from engineering to teaching had been one of growth, discovery, and transformation. As he set his sights on international teaching, Sajeen embraced the opportunity to shape the future of education and make a difference in the lives of students around his country.

As Sajeen transitioned into his new role as an international educator, he continued to nurture a passion that had always been a significant part of his life: writing. His reflections on life, people's behavior, and his personal experiences became a central theme in his writings. Sajeen was driven by a deep curiosity about human nature and the complexities of interpersonal relationships, which he explored through his essays, articles, and books.

His writing gained considerable attention and acclaim. Sajeen's unique perspective, shaped by his experiences and insights, resonated with many readers. His work offered profound observations on societal dynamics, the intricacies of human behavior, and the nature of relationships. His ability to analyze and articulate these concepts in a compelling manner made his writings popular among a diverse audience. He became known not only for his academic expertise but also for his thoughtful and introspective writing.

Despite the growing recognition and fame that his writing brought him, Sajeen remained a figure of mystery in his personal life. He continued to be highly reserved and detached from his society. His fame did not translate into a more sociable or interactive lifestyle. While his ideas and writings were widely discussed and appreciated, Sajeen maintained a deliberate distance from the social circles and public events that often accompanied his success.

Sajeen's preference for solitude and his focus on his work meant that he rarely engaged in social interactions beyond what was necessary for his professional responsibilities. He valued his privacy and continued to live a life marked by introspection and careful observation rather than active social engagement. His interactions were often limited to professional settings and his writing, allowing him to remain connected to his audience on his terms.

In his new environment, Sajeen observed and analyzed the world around him with the same detachment and keen insight that had characterized his earlier experiences. His writings continued to reflect his deep understanding of human nature, but his personal life remained largely insulated from the societal dynamics he so often explored in his work.

Sajeen's choice to stay detached and focused on his writing, despite his fame, was a testament to his commitment to his craft and his personal philosophy. He found fulfillment in his work and the impact it had on others, while choosing to remain removed from the social and public aspects of his success. His journey was marked by a balance between professional achievement and personal introspection, a combination that defined his unique path and continued to shape his legacy.

As Sajeen settled into his new career and life as an international educator, his writings continued to attract a significant following. His ideas, reflections, and analyses on life and human behavior resonated with many, drawing readers from various corners of the world. His social media accounts, website, and dedicated app became platforms where people eagerly consumed his content, eagerly awaiting each new update.

However, a notable shift occurred in the interaction between Sajeen and his audience. While his readership remained robust, the dynamic of their engagement changed. Followers and readers increasingly chose to observe rather than participate. Comments, likes, and interactions dwindled over time, leaving Sajeen's online presence marked by a quiet, almost reverent readership.

Sajeen, consistent with his detached and introspective nature, did not engage with his followers. He maintained a clear boundary between his work and his personal interactions. He was content to focus solely on sharing his thoughts and insights, without concerning himself with the feedback or reactions from his audience. For him, the act of writing and sharing his observations was an end in itself, not necessarily requiring reciprocal interaction.

Despite this lack of engagement, Sajeen was aware of the continued interest in his work. He meticulously tracked the statistics of his social media accounts, website, and app. The data confirmed that while direct interaction had diminished, the number of readers remained significant. People continued to read his posts and articles, drawn by the content he provided, even if they chose not to engage directly with him.

This phenomenon was a reflection of Sajeen's broader approach to his work and life. His focus was on the intellectual and philosophical aspects of his writing rather than the interpersonal elements of his audience's responses. He understood that his ideas were reaching people, that they were valued and read, even if the feedback was minimal.

Sajeen's approach to his work, characterized by a clear separation between creation and interaction, reinforced his identity as a writer and thinker rather than a social figure. He valued the process of articulating his thoughts and insights more than the validation or interaction that typically accompanies public engagement. His followers' passive consumption of his work was a testament to his impact and the continued relevance of his ideas, even if it came without the traditional markers of engagement and response.

In this way, Sajeen navigated his success with the same detachment and focus that had defined his journey. His writing continued to influence and reach people, while he remained true to his own principles and preferences, ensuring that his engagement with the world was always on his own terms.

When Sajeen decided to leave EDC and embark on his new career path, he found himself maintaining only one real connection from his time

there. This connection was with a girl who stood out to him amidst the sea of familiar behavioral patterns he had come to understand through his extensive observations and analyses.

Unlike the typical patterns he had meticulously studied and become accustomed to, this girl intrigued Sajeen with her distinctiveness. Her demeanor and personality seemed to defy the usual expectations and behaviors that had been his reference points. She presented herself as a mystery, a puzzle that Sajeen felt compelled to explore.

His interest in her was not merely a fleeting curiosity but a genuine desire to understand and uncover what set her apart. While he had grown accustomed to the predictable cycles of relationships and behaviors, this girl represented something unknown and intriguing. She had a way of engaging with him that was unlike anyone he had encountered before, and it was this uniqueness that drew him to her.

Sajeen's decision to keep in touch with her was driven by his need to unravel this enigma. He wanted to explore and discover what lay beneath the surface of her interactions and personality. Unlike his previous relationships and encounters, where he had already mapped out the behavioral norms and expectations, this girl presented a fresh challenge and an opportunity for deeper understanding.

In essence, she became the focal point of his curiosity and interest as he navigated his transition away from EDC. While his interactions with others were typically characterized by detachment and a lack of personal engagement, his connection with her was marked by a genuine desire to explore something different. She symbolized an opportunity to engage with the unknown, to challenge his own understanding of people, and to

possibly discover a new dimension to human behavior that had eluded him in the past.

As Sajeen continued his journey in the international education sphere, this relationship stood out as a reminder of his ongoing quest for deeper connections and understanding, offering a glimpse into a realm that transcended the familiar patterns he had so thoroughly analyzed and mastered.

As Sajeen transitioned from his life at EDC to a new chapter, he found himself in touch with only one person, a girl named Lilyan. Unlike others he had encountered, Lilyan was not part of the predictable cycle of behaviors and reactions he had meticulously studied and analyzed over the years. She represented an anomaly in his well-ordered world.

Lilyan was a simple girl whose desires and needs seemed to revolve solely around the quest for genuine love. Unlike many others who sought material wealth or social status, Lilyan's ambitions were profoundly rooted in emotional connection. Her demeanor was characterized by an endearing shyness; she often watched people from a distance, observing their interactions and reactions without engaging directly. This distance was not out of disinterest but rather a natural inclination to keep her emotions and desires shielded from the world's more judgmental eyes.

To Sajeen, Lilyan's behavior was both intriguing and perplexing. She always conveyed an aura of wanting something that eluded clear definition. It wasn't that she was seeking something materialistic or extraordinary; rather, there was an unspoken, almost ethereal quality about her desire for love and connection. This made her an enigma to

Sajeen, who had become accustomed to decoding people's motives and behaviors with clinical precision.

Their interactions were minimal yet impactful. Lilyan would often send brief, contemplative messages that hinted at her deep yearning for something beyond the ordinary. Her words, though few, carried a weight of sincerity that Sajeen found refreshing. She did not demand anything from him nor did she try to fit into the mold of the people he had encountered before. Instead, she seemed to quietly exist, leaving an impression on Sajeen that she was searching for a kind of connection that went beyond superficial engagements.

Lilyan's presence in Sajeen's life was like a quiet whisper in the midst of a cacophony. Unlike the other girls he had encountered, who often pursued him with overt enthusiasm and eagerness, Lilyan was a paragon of subtlety and restraint. She was not someone who would engage in overt displays of affection or attention; instead, she maintained a quiet, almost ethereal presence that was both captivating and elusive.

At EDC, Lilyan's demeanor was markedly different from that of the other students. While many were vocal and actively sought the spotlight, Lilyan was content to observe from the sidelines. Her shyness was not a barrier but rather a natural extension of her introspective nature. She preferred to stay in the background, quietly absorbing the world around her. Her calm, collected presence was a stark contrast to the more boisterous and attention-seeking personalities that filled the space.

Despite her reserved nature, Lilyan was the object of admiration for many. Her unique blend of grace and quiet strength drew people to her, but she remained detached, never actively engaging in the social

maneuvers that typically characterized her peers. This detachment only added to her mystique, making her all the more intriguing to Sajeen.

For Sajeen, who had long mastered the art of emotional detachment and analysis, Lilyan represented a rare anomaly. The more he observed her, the more he found himself grappling with feelings he had not anticipated. There was something about her that stirred a deep, almost primal sense of possession within him. It was not merely about wanting to understand her; there was an underlying desire to own a piece of her essence, to have her as a part of his world in a way that transcended the usual interactions.

Driven by this newfound and enigmatic fascination, Sajeen began to channel his emotions into creative expressions. He took to his writing and drawing as a means to grapple with the strange and profound feelings Lilyan evoked in him. His works began to focus on her, capturing her essence through detailed sketches and evocative prose. He drew her many times, each portrait a reflection of his growing obsession and admiration.

In addition to his drawings, Sajeen wrote a short book dedicated to Lilyan. This book was not just a collection of thoughts and observations but a deep exploration of the feelings she had stirred within him. It was an attempt to make sense of the inexplicable desire to possess and understand her. The book delved into the nature of his emotions, the complexity of his feelings, and the paradox of wanting something that seemed so unobtainable.

Sajeen's writings and artworks became a testament to his struggle with these intense emotions. He described Lilyan's personality with a mixture

of admiration and melancholy, capturing the essence of her enigmatic presence. The process of creating these works was both cathartic and consuming. It allowed Sajeen to express his longing and confusion in a tangible form, even as he continued to navigate the distance between them.

Despite the intensity of his feelings and the creative outpouring they inspired, Sajeen maintained his characteristic distance. He never approached Lilyan directly about his emotions or the work he had created. His interactions with her remained as restrained as ever, a silent acknowledgment of his internal struggle. His focus remained on his academic and professional pursuits, even as he wrestled with the complexities of his feelings for Lilyan.

In the end, Lilyan's impact on Sajeen was profound but subtle. She was a reminder that even within the confines of his meticulously ordered world, there were still elements of unpredictability and mystery. Her presence had ignited a part of him that longed for connection and understanding, challenging him to confront and articulate emotions he had long kept at bay.

When Lilyan first encountered the book Sajeen had written about her, it was as if she had been handed a key to a hidden part of her own heart. The book was more than just a collection of words; it was an ode to her essence, a meticulously crafted portrayal of her personality and presence. As she read through its pages, she was struck by the depth of Sajeen's observations and the intensity of his feelings.

The way Sajeen had written about Lilyan was nothing short of poetic. He had captured her essence with a precision that went beyond mere

physical description. The book delved into the subtle intricacies of her character—the quiet strength, the serene confidence, and the enigmatic allure that set her apart from others. Sajeen's words were imbued with a sense of reverence and admiration that made Lilyan feel as though she had been elevated to a place of extraordinary significance.

As Lilyan read, she found herself deeply moved by the way Sajeen had idealized her. He had painted a portrait of her that was both ideal and profound, revealing how he saw her not just as a person but as an embodiment of qualities and emotions that he cherished. This idealization resonated with Lilyan, who had always longed to be seen in a light that highlighted her true self—the parts of her that she often kept hidden from the world.

Sajeen's writing did more than simply describe Lilyan; it offered her a mirror through which she could see herself in a new light. His attention to detail and the emotional depth of his prose allowed Lilyan to experience a profound sense of validation. She felt as though Sajeen's gaze had uncovered something special about her, something she had always sensed but never fully understood.

The way Sajeen had conveyed his desire and admiration in his writing created a unique tension that Lilyan found both exhilarating and comforting. It was a tension that spoke of a man's longing, his appreciation, and his recognition of her value. This emotional undercurrent made Lilyan feel desired in a way that was both intense and respectful, allowing her to experience the kind of attention that she had always yearned for.

Reading Sajeen's book also brought Lilyan a sense of self-love and self-worth. The way he had focused on her, the way he had described her with such admiration, allowed her to see herself through the eyes of someone who genuinely cared. This experience was transformative for Lilyan, helping her to appreciate and love herself more deeply. It was as though Sajeen's words had illuminated parts of her that she had overlooked, giving her a renewed sense of confidence and self-acceptance.

For Lilyan, Sajeen's book was a profound gift. It had given her something she had always wanted—a reflection of her own value through the eyes of someone who saw her as special and unique. His writing had managed to touch her in a way that few had before, revealing the depth of his feelings and offering her a glimpse into a world where she was cherished and adored.

As Lilyan immersed herself in the depth of Sajeen's admiration, she could not escape the underlying truth that lingered in the shadows of their dynamic. Despite her growing affection for Sajeen and the way he had idealized her, there remained a poignant reality that she struggled to confront: the possibility that Sajeen might still end up as the “third unknown” in her life, just as he had been in the narratives of his past relationships.

Sajeen had poured his heart into writing about Lilyan, creating an emotional and intellectual portrait that celebrated her in ways she had never experienced before. His admiration and idealization were unmistakable, and Lilyan was deeply touched by the sincerity of his feelings. However, this profound connection was not enough to bridge

the chasm between them and change the fundamental nature of their relationship.

In their interactions, Lilyan made attempts to offer Sajeen a different experience. She tried to show him that she valued his presence and that she was not like the others who had come before. She wanted him to believe that their relationship could be different, that he was not destined to be the unacknowledged third party in her life. Yet, despite her efforts, the reality of their situation seemed to stubbornly persist.

Lilyan's own struggles with intimacy and vulnerability created barriers that she could not easily overcome. While she deeply appreciated Sajeen's idealization and felt a profound connection through his writings, she found it challenging to fully open up and allow him into her world. Her reserved nature and her reluctance to engage in deeper emotional exchanges with him made it difficult for Sajeen to see any substantial change in their dynamic.

Despite the tenderness and care that Lilyan showed, there was an inescapable pattern that Sajeen recognized. The cycle of being idealized and then left in the margins seemed to repeat itself. As much as Lilyan tried to convince Sajeen that their relationship was different, her actions did not always align with her words. The underlying fears and uncertainties that she carried with her seemed to mirror the same patterns that had plagued his past relationships.

Sajeen observed that Lilyan's attempts to provide a different experience for him were often overshadowed by the same hesitations and reservations that he had encountered before. Her difficulty in fully committing to the relationship and her inability to break away from her

own emotional barriers left Sajeen feeling that, despite the idealization and affection, he was still positioned in the periphery of her life.

In the end, Sajeen was left grappling with the realization that, despite Lilyan's genuine efforts and the depth of his own feelings, the specter of being the "third unknown" was an enduring possibility. The patterns that he had witnessed in previous relationships seemed to persist, and the hope that Lilyan could change this reality proved to be elusive. As much as he wished for a different outcome, the dynamics between them ultimately reflected the same emotional distance and detachment that had characterized his past experiences.

Sajeen's introspection led him to accept that, despite Lilyan's best intentions, he might still find himself occupying the role of the third unknown. This acceptance was not a reflection of a lack of affection or commitment from Lilyan but rather a recognition of the complex interplay of emotions and behaviors that defined their relationship.

Chapter “9”

Always the same shocking ending

The truth, however, was much more complex than what Lilyan initially allowed Sajeen to see. While she genuinely appreciated his writings and the way he idealized her, there was an underlying motive driving her connection to him. Lilyan craved possession over Sajeen's existence in a way she couldn't easily admit, even to herself. She wanted to keep him close, not because of a mutual future, but because of what he represented for her in the present—a mirror that reflected back her own beauty, desirability, and sense of womanhood.

Sajeen's talent for writing made Lilyan feel alive in a way she had never experienced before. The way he captured her in his words—describing her elegance, her shy grace, her complexity—was something no one else had ever given her. It wasn't just about being admired; it was the feeling of being truly seen. Sajeen's perception of her made her feel both sexy and significant, and she became addicted to that feeling. She wanted to hold on to his adoration because it reinforced her identity as a woman who could command attention and admiration.

Yet, beneath this desire to be admired was another more possessive need: Lilyan didn't want to lose what Sajeen gave her. His talent, his support, and his ability to make her feel special were things she craved deeply. She didn't just want his attention; she wanted him to be hers, to remain at her side as the person who could fuel her self-esteem and make her feel valued. Sajeen's words painted her as someone unique, and she feared losing that spotlight. The admiration of other men didn't have the same weight as Sajeen's writing—it was his depth and artistic expression that made her feel truly wanted.

However, there was a limit to Lilyan's intentions. Despite her desire to keep Sajeen close and to bask in the light of his admiration, she knew deep down that he was not a part of her future plans. Sajeen represented something immediate, someone who could meet her emotional needs in the present, but not someone she envisioned as her long-term partner. She couldn't see him fitting into the life she wanted to build, but she still desired the security of his admiration in the now.

Lilyan's desire to possess Sajeen became a silent power play—she wanted to control his attention, to ensure that his creative energy and his support would remain focused on her, even though she had no intention of truly committing to him. She loved the idea of having him near, fueling her sense of self, yet she was unwilling to offer him the emotional depth or long-term commitment he deserved.

This created a profound internal conflict for Sajeen. On the surface, Lilyan appeared different from the other women he had known. She wasn't openly pursuing him with aggressive affection, nor did she play the same emotional games he had become accustomed to. Instead, her quietness, her mystery, and her subtle allure had intrigued him. But as

time passed, Sajeen realized that, despite the differences in her approach, the underlying dynamics remained the same. Lilyan, too, sought to possess him—just as the others had, albeit in a more subdued way.

Her need to own his admiration and to keep his attention fixed on her, without offering him a real future, was not entirely different from the actions of Maya or Ghaim. They, too, had chosen paths that left Sajeen as the third unknown, watching from the sidelines while they moved on with their lives. Lilyan’s behavior, though less overt, pointed to the same conclusion: she was using him to feel validated, while knowing deep down that their futures were not aligned.

Sajeen began to understand that Lilyan’s affection for him was built on the foundation of what he could provide for her, emotionally and creatively, rather than a genuine connection that could lead to something lasting. And while she cherished the attention and admiration he gave her, she also knew he wasn’t part of the future she envisioned.

This realization was sobering for Sajeen. Despite all his attempts to analyze, distance himself, and avoid falling into the same patterns, he once again found himself in the familiar role of the third unknown. He was the one who provided, supported, and admired, while the woman on the other side held onto him for the benefits she reaped from their connection, never truly committing to him or offering him a place in her long-term plans.

For Sajeen, this wasn’t just a repetition of the past—it was a deepening understanding of human behavior. Even someone as quiet and seemingly different as Lilyan could fall into the same patterns of

possession and emotional consumption, taking what she needed from him while keeping him at arm's length when it came to the future. It reinforced his belief in the cycles of relationships, where one person is often left behind as the unknown, paying the emotional price for the desires of others.

When Sajeen was invited to be a guest on Sudania 24, the most watched and admired television channel in Sudan, it marked a significant moment in his life. The live broadcast aimed to highlight his achievements and works, both as a writer and as a teacher. Sajeen, who had gained a reputation for his insightful analysis of human behavior and life's complexities, was prepared to present his journey to the public.

Lilyan, intrigued by the significance of the event, invited her mother to watch the program with her. It was a rare moment for Lilyan to share a piece of Sajeen's life, allowing her family to see the man she had grown close to. As the broadcast unfolded, Lilyan later told Sajeen how much her mother had admired his accomplishments. She spoke highly of him, praising his work, his talent, and the way he carried himself during the interview. However, amidst the compliments, her mother made an offhand remark that struck Sajeen deeply: "I think it was better for him not to shift his career from engineering to teaching."

This seemingly casual comment stirred Sajeen's mind, as he always analyzed the subtleties behind people's words. He understood immediately what the statement revealed about Lilyan's mother. Her comment reflected a materialistic view of life, similar to what Sajeen had encountered with others, such as Hiba. The idea that engineering held more value than teaching in her eyes suggested that her mother prioritized professions that were traditionally seen as more lucrative or

prestigious. It wasn't about who Sajeen was or what he had achieved; it was about the societal status he could offer through his career.

Sajeen knew that Lilyan's mother, like many others, likely wanted her daughters to marry men who could provide them with a comfortable material life—someone who could offer financial stability, perhaps a doctor or an engineer, not a teacher. This understanding hit Sajeen with clarity, and he decided to act on his suspicions. He asked Lilyan to pass along a message to her mother: he would like to marry Lilyan.

This request was not born out of a genuine desire to marry Lilyan, but rather to test the true nature of her family's values. Sajeen knew, with almost complete certainty, that her mother would refuse the idea. He wanted confirmation of the thoughts swirling in his mind. Just as expected, her mother declined the proposal, saying that her daughters would only marry within the family, not to a stranger. The refusal was swift and devoid of emotion, just as Sajeen had predicted.

What struck him the most, however, was Lilyan's reaction—or rather, her lack of one. She did not show any surprise or disappointment in her mother's response. It was as though Lilyan had anticipated this outcome as well, fully aware of her mother's views and values. There was no shock, no attempt to defend her relationship with Sajeen. Instead, Lilyan accepted her mother's decision without protest, as if it had already been woven into the fabric of her life. This response further solidified Sajeen's understanding of Lilyan's true desires. Despite the attention she had enjoyed from him, despite the emotional connection they had built, Lilyan was still bound by the expectations of her family and the societal norms she had grown up with.

Sajeen realized in that moment that Lilyan, like so many others, was influenced by the model of life her mother had established. She sought admiration and attention, but when it came down to choosing between love and material security, she would always follow the path her mother laid out for her. This revelation was disheartening but not entirely unexpected. Sajeen had spent years analyzing people, studying their behaviors, and understanding the unspoken truths behind their actions. Lilyan was no different from the others—her desires, too, were shaped by the materialistic values of her family.

For Sajeen, this was yet another confirmation of the painful reality he had come to understand over time: in many relationships, there is always an unseen force, a third unknown, influencing the course of events. In this case, it was Lilyan's mother and the values she instilled in her daughter that ultimately guided Lilyan's decisions. Sajeen realized that, despite his efforts, he had once again been placed in the role of the third unknown, the one left behind in someone else's life, while they pursued a path dictated by forces beyond his control.

This experience reinforced Sajeen's belief that people are often trapped in cycles shaped by their upbringing, societal norms, and material desires. Lilyan, though she had appeared different at first, had ultimately followed the same pattern he had seen before. The daughter always, consciously or unconsciously, mirrors the expectations and beliefs of her mother, living out the values passed down through generations.

Despite the truth Sajeen had come to understand about Lilyan and her family's materialistic values, he remained in contact with her. Even after she got engaged to someone else, Lilyan continued to reach out to him, trying to explain the engagement as something her family had forced

upon her. She would insist that she never loved or wanted her fiancé and that the arrangement was entirely against her will. However, no matter how much she tried to convince Sajeen of her reluctance in this engagement, her actions spoke louder than her words.

Lilyan, despite her claims, never truly showed Sajeen that she loved him or that she wanted to be with him. Her words were filled with excuses, but her behavior revealed a different truth—one she tried desperately to hide from Sajeen. She never fully committed to the emotional connection they had, and Sajeen could sense the layers of deception in her attempts to maintain their bond. Lilyan was always holding something back, concealing her true intentions and desires.

Sajeen, with his sharpened ability to analyze human behavior, saw through everything. Over the years, he had developed a keen sense of understanding people's actions, often grasping the underlying truths that they themselves were unaware of. He could see the contradictions between Lilyan's words and her actions, the hidden motivations that guided her decisions. It was clear to him that she was torn between the life her family wanted for her and the lingering emotional connection she had with him. Yet, despite his ability to see through her facade, Sajeen never confronted her about it.

Instead, he maintained contact with her, choosing not to act on the knowledge he possessed. Perhaps it was because he knew that, ultimately, nothing would change. Lilyan, like so many others, was bound by the expectations and pressures of her family. Confronting her would not alter the path she was on. Sajeen had learned through his past experiences, especially with Ghaim, Maya, and Hiba, that love and relationships were often shaped by forces beyond the control of the

individuals involved. He had come to accept that people were driven by their own desires and fears, often making choices that aligned with their upbringing or societal pressures, rather than true emotion.

In a way, Sajeen's continued contact with Lilyan was a reflection of his acceptance of this reality. He no longer expected or hoped for things to be different. He knew that Lilyan's engagement, like so many of the relationships he had witnessed or experienced, was shaped by the materialistic values her family upheld. She had, consciously or unconsciously, chosen the path her mother had laid out for her. Sajeen saw this clearly, but rather than distance himself from her, he chose to let things unfold naturally.

The connection he had with Lilyan remained, but it was tainted by the knowledge of what lay beneath the surface. Sajeen didn't push her away, but he also didn't expect anything more from their relationship. He understood that she was playing a role in her own life, one that had been influenced by forces she couldn't fully control. And while Sajeen could have easily severed ties with her, he chose not to, allowing the relationship to exist in its flawed and incomplete state.

This passive acceptance of the situation was in line with Sajeen's broader outlook on life. Over the years, he had learned that people are often driven by self-interest, material desires, and societal expectations. He had come to understand that not every connection would result in a lasting or meaningful relationship. Some people, like Lilyan, would always keep something hidden, always withhold a part of themselves. Sajeen knew this, but he didn't need to force things to change. He had become skilled at navigating the complexities of human relationships, maintaining his distance while still being present when necessary.

For Sajeen, his relationship with Lilyan was just another reflection of the broader truths he had come to accept about life and people. It was a reminder that not all stories have clear resolutions, and sometimes, the best course of action is to let things play out without interference, even when you know the outcome.

Another social experience that Sajeen lived through was unlike anything he had encountered before. It was the strangest, most unpredictable encounter, one that caught him completely off guard. This time, it wasn't the calculated nature of girls like Maya, Hiba, or Lilyan. This girl was wild in her actions, unpredictable, and chaotic in her emotions—an embodiment of untamed feelings that both intrigued and puzzled him. She escaped from her emotions and love, running away from vulnerability in ways that were startlingly different from what Sajeen had known.

Her presence in his life was like a whirlwind. Sajeen, who had become so accustomed to predicting the behaviors of people around him, found her actions and reactions baffling. She didn't fit into the neat patterns he had learned to observe in others. Her name was Leena—a girl whose emotions seemed to run in extremes. One day she would be overjoyed and laughing loudly, the next she would withdraw into herself as if haunted by some deep, unspoken fear. Unlike the other women in his life who often sought control, validation, or material security, Leena seemed to reject any notion of stability. She wasn't interested in possessing Sajeen or controlling the relationship; instead, she fled from the very idea of being tied down by love.

Sajeen was fascinated by this unpredictability. For the first time, he was confronted with someone he couldn't easily understand. Leena's

behavior didn't align with the typical patterns he had come to recognize. One moment, she would be deeply affectionate, only to turn cold and distant the next. She would push him away, only to pull him back with the same intensity. It was as if she was at war with her own emotions—constantly fleeing from them, yet unable to escape.

What made this experience so strange for Sajeen was that he found himself genuinely intrigued by her unpredictability. While he had grown tired of the familiar cycles of relationships and emotional games, Leena offered something completely different. She didn't fit into any category. She wasn't interested in materialistic pursuits like Hiba, nor was she defined by societal pressures like Lilyan. In fact, she seemed to defy every expectation that had once governed his understanding of people, especially women.

Leena's chaotic nature led her to express herself in impulsive ways. She would send Sajeen long, erratic messages late at night, only to delete them before he could respond. She would make grand, spontaneous declarations of love, and then disappear for days without explanation. It was clear that she was running away from her own feelings—perhaps afraid of the intensity of what she felt, or maybe just confused by her own heart. But to Sajeen, this unpredictability was both a challenge and a puzzle. He wanted to understand what drove her actions, why she fled from love rather than embraced it.

At times, Sajeen would wonder if Leena even knew what she wanted. Her mind seemed to be a maze of contradictions, and no matter how much he tried to analyze her, he could never fully map out her emotional landscape. This was both refreshing and frustrating for him. He wasn't used to not having the answers.

But what stood out most to Sajeen was that Leena didn't try to hide from him the way others had. She didn't put up a facade of perfection or try to fit into society's expectations. Her vulnerability, though chaotic, was raw and real. Her pain was visible, her fears unmasked. This rawness was something he hadn't experienced before. There was no manipulation in her actions, no games designed to control him. She was simply a girl at odds with her own emotions, a girl who couldn't figure out how to deal with the intensity of her feelings.

For Sajeen, this was a different kind of social experience altogether. While the previous girls in his life—like Ghaim, Maya, and Lilyan—had fit into the predictable molds shaped by society and their personal desires, Leena was the opposite. Her chaos didn't come from a desire to possess him or from wanting something from him. Rather, it came from a deep sense of confusion, a struggle within herself that manifested in her relationships. It was as though Leena was afraid of love itself, afraid of the commitment and vulnerability that came with it, and instead, she ran in circles, escaping from the very thing she seemed to crave.

Sajeen couldn't help but feel drawn to her, not in the way he had been drawn to others, but in a deeper, more analytical sense. He wanted to understand her chaos, to see if there was something deeper at play that he had yet to grasp. In his mind, Leena was like a living riddle, a puzzle of emotions he had never encountered before.

He wrote about her, trying to make sense of the strange dynamics she brought into his life. Every time he thought he had figured her out, she would do something unexpected, breaking every rule of human behavior he had grown to rely on. And yet, despite her erratic actions, there was something genuine about her that Sajeen appreciated. She wasn't

pretending, wasn't playing a game—she was just a girl lost in her emotions, running from feelings she didn't know how to handle.

For Sajeen, this experience was unlike anything he had known. It taught him that not everyone fits into the neat categories he had come to rely on. People could be messy, unpredictable, and chaotic in ways that defied understanding. And sometimes, the most profound lessons come from those who are the hardest to figure out.

Sajeen first came to know Leena through Facebook at the very beginning of his teaching career at EDC. She had been one of those quiet, hidden voices, struggling to find direction in her life. Leena was lost, uncertain about her future, and unable to complete her studies due to personal challenges and a lack of motivation. Her posts were filled with frustration and confusion, a reflection of her internal struggles and the weight she carried from societal pressures.

Sajeen, ever observant and empathetic, saw something in her—a potential that had been buried under layers of doubt and discouragement. Through their initial conversations online, he understood that she was searching for a way out of her current situation, and he wanted to offer her a path forward. He saw her as more than just another lost soul, recognizing in her the spark of intelligence and determination that could be reignited with the right kind of support.

He reached out to her, offering her a chance to study English at EDC. It was a lifeline for Leena, a new opportunity that she had not expected. Sajeen's message was simple but powerful: a chance to rebuild her life, to start anew. His offer gave her hope, something she hadn't felt in a long

time, and a renewed sense of purpose. This was more than just an academic opportunity for Leena; it was a chance to reshape her future.

Sajeen mentored her closely, guiding her not just through her studies but through life itself. He provided her with constant encouragement, helping her regain her self-confidence, and showing her that she had the ability to achieve more than she thought possible. His unwavering belief in her potential was a source of strength for Leena, and she worked hard, driven by the desire to prove herself worthy of the trust Sajeen had placed in her.

Over time, Leena began to blossom. What had once been uncertainty and self-doubt slowly turned into competence and ambition. She excelled in her English studies, and with Sajeen's mentorship, she started to find her place in the world. His support extended beyond the classroom, as he helped her navigate personal struggles, offering advice and perspective when she felt overwhelmed by life's challenges.

Leena's growth was remarkable. From a girl lost in the fog of uncertainty, she emerged as someone with purpose and direction. Her transformation didn't go unnoticed at EDC. In fact, it wasn't long before she was offered a position as a teacher at the very institution that had once been her refuge. This was a testament to the hard work she had put in and the belief Sajeen had in her abilities.

Becoming a teacher at EDC was a turning point for Leena. She had gone from being a student under Sajeen's guidance to standing on her own, ready to impart knowledge and inspire others in the same way she had been inspired. Her journey from lost student to teacher was a powerful

story of redemption and growth, one that Sajeen had played a pivotal role in shaping.

Throughout it all, their bond remained strong. Sajeen never took credit for Leena's achievements, but she knew deep down that without his intervention, she might have never found her way. The support he gave her, the hope he instilled in her, and the path he opened up for her had all been crucial in transforming her life.

For Sajeen, seeing Leena's success was a quiet but meaningful victory. It reaffirmed his belief in the power of teaching, of mentoring, and of helping others find their own potential. But even as Leena thrived, Sajeen maintained his distance emotionally, observing the dynamic between them. He understood her better than she might have realized, aware of the complexities in her feelings, but always staying just far enough removed to maintain the boundaries he needed to protect himself from being caught in another cycle of unreciprocated affection.

Though Leena had found her path and a new sense of purpose, Sajeen remained the guiding force in the background, quietly proud of the person she had become. Their relationship, though complex, had been transformative for both of them—an experience that highlighted Sajeen's role as a mentor and Leena's journey from darkness into light.

Leena was unlike anyone Sajeen had ever encountered. Her unpredictable, wild nature clashed with everything Sajeen had previously known, yet it intrigued him deeply. She wasn't bound by societal expectations or the rigid structures that had defined much of Sajeen's life. Her chaotic energy was captivating, and as time passed, Sajeen found himself falling in love with her madness.

Leena had this incredible ability to pull Sajeen out of his comfort zone, taking him into experiences that defied his logic, places that didn't match the image of the calculated, serious engineer or disciplined teacher that people knew him to be. It was as if she had opened a door to a parallel world—one where life was lived spontaneously, where plans could be made and forgotten in a heartbeat, and where adventure could be found in the most unexpected places.

At first, Sajeen was hesitant. He had spent years cultivating a life of purpose, grounded in routine and discipline. Yet, with Leena, he slowly began to shed those layers. He let go of his need to control everything and embraced the whirlwind that she was. Leena introduced him to parts of life that were foreign to him: spontaneous road trips to remote villages, unexpected visits to bustling markets, and unpredictable encounters with people from all walks of life. She was a breath of fresh air, unfiltered and unapologetically free.

Sajeen, who had always prided himself on his ability to analyze and predict, found himself, for once, unable to foresee what would happen next—and that was exhilarating. Leena showed him that life didn't have to be methodical or carefully measured; it could be chaotic and still be meaningful. She often told him, "Life is crazy, and we're supposed to live it that way." Her words resonated deeply, pushing him to rethink everything he had held onto for so long.

He loved this new, carefree style of life. It was as if Leena had awakened a part of him that had been buried under years of focus on his career and achievements. With her, he learned to embrace unpredictability, to appreciate the beauty in randomness, and to find joy in living without a strict plan.

There were times when Sajeen would laugh at his own transformation. The man who had once been so dedicated to structure and control was now living in a kind of beautiful chaos. He no longer needed everything to fit perfectly into a logical sequence; he had learned to accept the unpredictability of life.

Leena's spirit was infectious. Even when her actions made no sense, Sajeen found himself wanting to follow her, to see where her unpredictable nature would lead next. She had become the fire to his calm, the storm to his stillness. In that contrast, Sajeen discovered a new way to experience life, one that had always eluded him before.

He never expected to find himself enjoying this world of spontaneity and raw emotion, but it became a part of him. Leena had shown him that there was more to life than just safe, predictable paths. Through her, Sajeen learned that he, too, could be wild and free, that life could be lived fully without needing to always know what lay ahead.

Sajeen's world was turned upside down when he discovered that Leena, the girl who had introduced him to a new and exhilarating way of life, was once a friend of Maya, his second love. The revelation came as a complete shock to Sajeen, who had grown accustomed to Leena's unorthodox, carefree attitude. Leena, too, was stunned when she realized that Maya had been a significant part of Sajeen's past.

The connection between Maya and Leena was a twist of fate neither had anticipated. They had known each other during their secondary school days, but as life progressed, their paths diverged. Maya had advanced in her educational journey, while Leena had faced numerous obstacles that

led her to pause her studies. Their once close friendship had faded over time, a casualty of the different directions their lives had taken.

For Sajeen, the revelation was more than just an unexpected link between two parts of his life. It was a reminder of how interconnected people's lives can be, often in ways that are hidden until revealed by chance. It stirred a deep reflection in him about the complexity of human relationships and the surprising ways in which they can intersect. Despite the shock and the curiosity that followed, Sajeen chose to embrace the moment as another chapter in his ongoing journey of understanding human nature and personal growth.

One day, Leena, true to her unpredictable and vibrant nature, took a bold step that would profoundly affect Sajeen. Her actions were both spontaneous and deeply revealing, marking a significant departure from the controlled, detached life Sajeen had meticulously crafted for himself. In a moment that seemed to defy the very principles he had built his emotional walls around, Leena kissed and cuddled him.

For Sajeen, who had long navigated relationships with a practiced detachment and analytical mindset, this was an unprecedented experience. He had always maintained a clear boundary between himself and others, guarding his emotions with a rigor that had served him well in his professional and personal life. Yet, as Leena's lips met his, those boundaries began to blur. The kiss was tender, yet it carried a depth of emotion that Sajeen was unprepared to process.

The sensation of her touch was a revelation—a startling mix of warmth and intimacy that struck Sajeen with an intensity he hadn't anticipated. It was as if a hidden part of him had been awakened, stirring a wave of

conflicting feelings. The kiss, the feel of her body pressed against his, ignited a physical desire that was both exhilarating and confusing. For Sajeen, who had carefully controlled his emotional responses, this was a new frontier. The physical closeness stirred a primal part of him that was at odds with his intellectual detachment.

Sajeen's mind raced as he grappled with the sudden rush of emotions. On one hand, he felt an undeniable attraction and a compelling urge to deepen the connection. The touch of Leena's body was intoxicating, a physical manifestation of feelings he had long suppressed. On the other hand, his analytical mind fought to maintain control, to rationalize and compartmentalize these new sensations. He had always relied on his intellectual faculties to navigate relationships, but now he found himself caught in a turmoil of desire and reason.

Leena, too, was navigating a complex array of emotions. Her actions, though seemingly spontaneous, were driven by a deep-seated affection and a desire to connect with Sajeen on a more intimate level. As she held him, kissed him, and felt his response, she experienced a blend of exhilaration and vulnerability. The physical closeness with Sajeen was both thrilling and daunting, revealing a side of her emotions that she had perhaps kept hidden. The intimacy of the moment was a powerful force, drawing them closer and challenging both of their perceptions of each other.

For Sajeen, this experience was a turning point. It forced him to confront aspects of himself that he had meticulously kept at bay. The conflict between his physical desires and his intellectual restraint created a profound internal struggle. He was faced with a choice: to embrace these

new feelings and let them guide him, or to maintain his usual emotional detachment and continue to guard against vulnerability.

As the moment passed, Sajeen found himself deeply introspective. He began to question the role of physical intimacy in his life, considering how it fit into his carefully constructed worldview. The encounter with Leena had shattered some of the barriers he had built, leaving him to reflect on what he truly wanted and how he wanted to connect with others.

The emotional and physical turmoil left Sajeen both fascinated and perplexed. He had encountered something entirely new—a challenge to his understanding of relationships and intimacy. The experience with Leena had revealed a side of himself that he had previously managed to avoid, forcing him to reconsider his approach to connections and the role of desire in his life.

As time passed, the bond between Sajeen and Leena grew remarkably strong and fast. Their initial, intense connection evolved into something deeper and more profound, transcending the physical into an emotional partnership that neither had anticipated.

Leena, who had initially seemed so unpredictable and vibrant, found a stable, grounding presence in Sajeen. He became her rock, supporting her in ways she had never experienced before. Financially, Sajeen stepped in to help her through tough times. He took on the role of a benefactor and protector, ensuring that her basic needs were met and that she had the resources to pursue her ambitions. This was more than mere financial aid; it was a testament to his commitment and his desire to be there for her in every possible way.

In addition to solving her financial problems, Sajeen was a constant source of emotional support. Leena's family had not been as present or supportive as she had hoped. Their relationship had been strained, and their support was often lacking when she needed it most. Sajeen, recognizing the void left by her family, filled it with his unwavering support. Whether it was through encouraging words, practical advice, or simply being there when she needed someone to talk to, Sajeen provided a sense of stability and hope that had been missing from Leena's life.

Leena continued to act with the same spontaneity and unpredictability that had originally drawn Sajeen to her. Despite the changes and the growing seriousness of their relationship, she retained her vibrant personality, her unpredictable adventures, and her unique way of engaging with life. This was a crucial part of what Sajeen had come to cherish about her—her ability to infuse their life together with excitement and passion, even as their relationship deepened and became more serious.

Sajeen, in turn, began to see Leena as more than just a fleeting connection or a passing infatuation. Her presence in his life was transformative. He started to view her as a potential lifelong partner, someone who complemented his own personality and life goals in ways he had not imagined. The depth of their connection and the strength of their mutual support made Sajeen envision a future together.

Their relationship grew in complexity and depth. What began as a surprising and intense connection evolved into a partnership marked by mutual respect, support, and a shared vision for the future. Sajeen's

commitment to Leena and her unwavering support in return cemented their bond, making it clear that they were building something enduring.

In this evolving partnership, Sajeen found himself embracing a new chapter in his life. The initial attraction and fascination had matured into a profound relationship, one in which he saw Leena as a true partner. Their connection was no longer just about the excitement of new experiences but about building a life together, supporting each other through challenges, and sharing in each other's successes and dreams.

Sajeen's support and Leena's continued unpredictability created a dynamic and vibrant relationship. Despite the challenges and uncertainties that came with their unique partnership, Sajeen felt that he had found something rare and valuable in Leena. He began to imagine a future where they could continue to grow together, facing life's ups and downs as a team.

Sajeen's life had taken a profound turn with his relationship with Leena, whose vibrant, unpredictable nature had drawn him out of his meticulous, controlled existence. Leena's spontaneous approach to life introduced Sajeen to experiences he had never anticipated, and he found himself deeply invested in her well-being. He became her financial supporter, offering stability where she had previously faced instability and lack of support from her family.

Their bond grew stronger, and Sajeen began to envision a future with Leena, seeing her as a potential lifelong partner. The connection they shared seemed promising, and he hoped that his support and their shared experiences would lead to a lasting relationship. He admired her

ability to embrace the chaos of life and appreciated the balance she brought to his otherwise orderly world.

However, life had a cruel twist in store. Leena's decision to marry someone else was a devastating blow to Sajeen. This man, whom Sajeen knew well, was notorious for his problematic behavior, including excessive drinking and a lack of responsibility. Sajeen's analytical skills and deep understanding of human nature told him that this man was not just unsuitable but would likely bring chaos and instability into Leena's life. The man's lifestyle was a stark contrast to the stability and support Sajeen had offered.

Sajeen's pain was not just from being replaced but from witnessing Leena's choice of a partner who would surely lead her into a destructive and unstable life. The man's reputation for drinking and reckless behavior was a clear indication that he would not provide the care and stability that Sajeen had so diligently offered. The contrast between what Sajeen had provided and what Leena chose was heart-wrenching. It was a painful reminder of Sajeen's recurring role as the "third unknown"—the person who is left behind while others pursue their chosen paths.

The emotional anguish Sajeen felt was compounded by the fact that Leena's decision was driven by a misguided belief in her ability to change her future husband. This decision seemed illogical and self-destructive, especially given the stability and support Sajeen had provided. Despite all he had done for her—financial support, emotional stability, and a vision of a shared future—Leena opted for a path that was clearly detrimental to her well-being. Sajeen's pain was intensified by the knowledge that her choice would likely lead her into a harmful situation, far removed from the promising future he had envisioned for them.

Sajeen's analysis of human nature and relationships was confirmed once again by this experience. Unlike the materialistic motivations of Hiba and Lilyan, Leena's choice was driven by an emotional gamble, a belief that she could change her partner's fundamental nature. This decision highlighted the often irrational and emotionally driven nature of human choices, contrasting sharply with the practical and logical approaches Sajeen had observed in his previous relationships.

Despite the deep heartache of being replaced once again, Sajeen remained resilient. He had grown accustomed to navigating the complexities of human relationships with a blend of detachment and insight. The cycle of being the "third unknown" was a painful reality, but one he had learned to endure with stoic acceptance.

The pain of seeing Leena choose a man who would likely destroy her future was a stark reminder of the emotional toll of being left behind. Sajeen's understanding of relationships and human nature became even more nuanced through this experience. He saw how people's decisions, driven by a mix of hopes and emotional impulses, could lead to outcomes that were detrimental to their well-being.

Sajeen's desperation to protect Leena from the man she intended to marry was palpable. He tried tirelessly to convince her that this decision was a grave mistake, not just for their relationship, but for her future. His concern extended beyond personal feelings; it was rooted in a profound desire to shield her from the dark future he foresaw.

In their conversations, Sajeen expressed his concerns with unwavering sincerity. He tried to paint a picture of the life Leena would face if she proceeded with this marriage, emphasizing the potential for emotional

turmoil and instability. His pleas were not only about their relationship but also about her well-being. He wanted her to understand the gravity of the situation, to see beyond the romanticized notion of changing someone, and to recognize the reality of the path she was choosing.

Despite his efforts, Leena remained resolute. She had her reasons, tangled in a mix of hope, love, and perhaps a touch of stubbornness. Her conviction that she could change the man she was marrying was deeply ingrained, and no amount of reasoning from Sajeen seemed to sway her. It was as though she was blinded by her own desires and aspirations, unable or unwilling to see the truth of the situation.

As their discussions grew more intense, Leena's own insecurities surfaced. She began to express doubts about herself, revealing that she felt unworthy of Sajeen. She confessed that she saw him as someone too good for her, someone who deserved a partner better suited to his qualities and aspirations. This self-doubt was intertwined with her decision to marry the other man; she believed that she was not good enough for Sajeen and that being with her would somehow be an injustice to him.

Leena's perception of Sajeen as a "better" person—a man deserving of someone who could match his virtues—led her to believe that her shortcomings were a disqualifier. She saw her decision to marry the other man as a way to step aside, to allow someone more fitting to enter Sajeen's life. This belief was rooted in her insecurities and her perception of her own inadequacies.

Sajeen, on the other hand, struggled to reconcile this with his own feelings. His attempts to protect Leena were born out of a deep sense of

responsibility and care. He wanted her to be safe, happy, and fulfilled, and he was willing to go to great lengths to ensure that she did not face a future fraught with hardship and regret. His frustration was compounded by the realization that his efforts seemed to be in vain, that his warnings were not heeded, and that Leena was determined to follow a path he knew was fraught with danger.

The emotional toll on Sajeen was immense. It was not just about losing Leena, but about witnessing her make a choice that he believed would lead to her suffering. His pain was not only from personal loss but from the knowledge that he had been unable to protect someone he cared about from a painful reality.

Despite his heartbreak, Sajeen's resolve to help Leena did not waver. He continued to be a supportive figure, hoping that somehow, his words might eventually make a difference. He cared deeply for her and wanted nothing more than for her to find happiness and avoid the pitfalls he had foreseen.

Ultimately, Sajeen's struggle to convince Leena was a poignant chapter in his life, marked by a deep sense of empathy and an enduring commitment to her well-being. It was a reflection of his character—someone who cared deeply for others, even when his own heart was breaking. His efforts, though ultimately unsuccessful, showcased his dedication and his desire to make a positive impact in the lives of those he cared about.

As time passed, the situation with Leena's intended marriage took a harrowing turn. The man she had decided to marry did not follow through with their relationship in the way she had hoped. His promises

of change and a better future proved to be empty, and his behavior soon revealed its true, darker nature.

One of the most devastating moments came when the man attempted to rape Leena. It was a brutal act that shook her to her core and left her emotionally shattered. The promise of a happy future with him quickly disintegrated into a nightmare. The betrayal and violence inflicted upon her were far beyond what she had ever imagined or prepared for. The man's actions not only violated her physically but also took an immense toll on her mental and emotional well-being.

Leena found herself grappling with the trauma and heartbreak of this experience. The man's true nature, which Sajeen had predicted, became painfully clear. Leena was left to deal with the aftermath alone, feeling the weight of her decisions and the pain of her violated trust.

During this tumultuous period, Sajeen stepped in as a pillar of support for Leena. Despite his own personal pain and the emotional strain of seeing her in such distress, he offered unwavering assistance and compassion. He helped her navigate the aftermath of the assault, providing emotional support, practical help, and a safe space for her to heal. Sajeen's empathy and dedication were evident in his every action, as he stood by her side through the dark days.

However, the intensity of the situation and the strain it placed on Sajeen's own emotions forced him to confront his own coping mechanisms. In the midst of supporting Leena, he applied his factory mode technique to manage his own feelings. This approach, which had previously been a tool for emotional detachment and self-preservation,

was now employed to shield himself from the overwhelming emotions that arose from his close involvement with Leena's trauma.

The factory mode allowed Sajeen to compartmentalize his feelings and maintain a level of emotional distance. It was a method of protecting himself from the profound sadness and frustration he felt while still being there for Leena. By closing off his emotional responses, Sajeen aimed to maintain his composure and focus on helping Leena without becoming overwhelmed by his own pain.

Leena's experience changed her fundamentally. The trauma she endured altered her perception of herself and her trust in others. The once vibrant and carefree woman was now marked by the scars of her ordeal. Her relationship with Sajeen became more complicated as he balanced his role as a supporter with his own emotional boundaries.

Sajeen's use of the factory mode was both a shield and a means of ensuring that he could continue to provide the necessary support to Leena. It was a protective measure that allowed him to stay engaged in her recovery while keeping his own emotions in check. His ability to analyze and manage his feelings helped him to remain a steadfast presence in her life, even as he navigated the complexities of his own heartache.

As time moved forward, the impact of Leena's tumultuous experience and her eventual choices gradually transformed Sajeen's feelings. The factory mode, which had been a crucial tool for managing his emotional landscape, worked to erase much of the intensity of his previous attachment to her. It had allowed him to compartmentalize his emotions

and continue supporting Leena through her crisis while shielding himself from the full weight of his own pain.

Over time, Sajeen's emotional detachment deepened. The factory mode effectively erased the idea of Leena as a potential life partner from his mind. He could no longer see her in the same light he once did. Her choice to marry a man whom Sajeen perceived as unworthy—a man who had attempted to assault her—had left a lasting mark on his perception. The emotional residue of seeing Leena with such a person, someone he believed would only bring her further pain, contributed to his shifting feelings.

Despite this, Sajeen made a conscious decision not to apply the factory mode to the memory of their brief, intimate moments together—the kiss and cuddle they had shared. Those moments held a unique place in his heart, representing a connection that had been genuine and untainted by the subsequent chaos. Unlike his past relationships, where the memories had been expunged entirely, Sajeen chose to preserve these specific recollections.

The touch of Leena's body, the warmth of her embrace, and the fleeting sense of intimacy they shared were significant to him. They represented a pure, unblemished connection that he wanted to keep separate from the hurt and disappointment that had followed. For Sajeen, these memories were a tangible link to a version of his relationship with Leena that had once held promise and affection. They were something that tied him to her in a way that was distinct from the pain of her ultimate choices.

In this way, Sajeen maintained a space in his heart for the memories of their shared moments. He did not want to block her entirely from his life as he had with Maya, Ghaim, and Hiba. Leena had never used him or manipulated him for her gain; instead, their connection had been marked by genuine feelings and mutual support. The kiss and cuddle were reminders of a time when their relationship had been sincere and filled with potential.

Even though Leena's actions and her choice to marry someone else had profoundly altered their dynamic, Sajeen's decision to hold onto those specific memories reflected his desire to honor the positive aspects of their connection. He wanted to preserve the feeling of closeness and intimacy that had existed between them, even if the broader context of their relationship had changed.

This selective preservation of memories was a testament to Sajeen's complex emotional state. It showed how he managed to navigate his feelings with a nuanced approach, using the factory mode to protect himself from pain while allowing certain cherished memories to remain intact. His approach reflected his understanding that some aspects of a relationship, particularly those that had been meaningful and pure, were worth preserving despite the eventual shifts in reality.

Chapter “10”

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As the years passed and the echoes of his relationships with Ghaim, Maya, Hiba, and Leena faded into the background of Sajeen's life, he came to a profound acceptance of his role as the "third unknown." This realization was not born out of bitterness but from a deep, almost philosophical understanding of his place in the narratives of others' lives. He accepted that, no matter how people changed or how his own circumstances evolved, the reality of being the third unknown was a constant that would remain.

Sajeen's encounters with different women had cemented this acceptance. His experience with Leena, in particular, underscored the enduring nature of his role. Despite his genuine efforts to offer support, love, and even financial help to Leena, her decision to marry someone else, someone he saw as a negative influence on her life, reaffirmed his understanding that he would often be an overlooked, peripheral figure in the grander schemes of others' lives.

This acceptance did not lead Sajeen to despair but rather to a deeper mastery of his emotional management techniques. His factory mode had become a finely honed skill, a means of navigating the complexities of human relationships while shielding himself from unnecessary pain. He applied this technique diligently, managing his interactions and emotions with others in a way that minimized the impact of their decisions and behaviors on his well-being. The factory mode allowed him to compartmentalize his feelings, keeping his emotional responses in check and preventing them from affecting his overall peace of mind.

However, there was one significant exception to this emotional detachment: his family. For Sajeen, his family represented a different realm altogether. The love, support, and bond he shared with them were unlike any he had experienced with others. It was a love that was genuine, unwavering, and deeply fulfilling. His family had always been a source of unconditional support, and he cherished this aspect of his life more than anything.

Despite his emotional strategies for managing relationships with others, Sajeen's commitment to his family remained unshakable. He would go to great lengths for them, driven by a profound sense of duty and love that transcended any feelings of being the third unknown in the broader social context. His family was his anchor, and the affection he had for them was a powerful force that grounded him and provided him with a sense of purpose and belonging.

Sajeen's mastery of the factory mode allowed him to maintain his emotional stability and protect himself from the pitfalls of unfulfilled relationships, while his love for his family served as a counterbalance, ensuring that his emotional world remained rich and meaningful. He

understood that his role as the third unknown was a part of his journey, but it did not diminish the value of the connections he cherished most deeply.

In embracing this reality, Sajeen found a measure of peace. He continued to live his life with the knowledge that while he might often be an overlooked figure in others' stories, he was cherished and deeply valued within the intimate circle of his family. This duality—managing his emotional responses through his factory mode while holding steadfast to his familial bonds—became the cornerstone of his existence. It was a balanced approach that allowed him to navigate his life with resilience and grace, honoring both the reality of his role and the exceptional love he held for his family.

As Sajeen moved forward in his life, his journey of self-discovery and professional development painted a portrait of remarkable success and growth. His expertise, honed over years of diligent effort and introspection, began to flourish in ways he had once only dreamed of.

In his career as an educator, Sajeen's influence expanded significantly. He became a celebrated figure not only for his mastery in mathematics and chemistry but also for his innovative teaching methodologies. His unique approach to connecting complex concepts with real-world applications captivated students and colleagues alike. As a result, he earned a reputation that reached beyond the confines of traditional classrooms, leading him to new opportunities on an international scale.

His diverse skill set and adaptability played a crucial role in his professional achievements. Sajeen's experience with the factory mode technique allowed him to develop a wide array of competencies. From

mastering curriculum design and integrating educational technology to devising effective teaching strategies, he became a highly sought-after consultant and trainer. His insights into educational needs and his ability to adapt to various cultural contexts made him an invaluable asset to schools and educational organizations around the world.

Sajeen's writing, another facet of his expertise, garnered significant attention. He authored several acclaimed books and articles on education, personal development, and the psychology of learning. His publications provided valuable perspectives to educators and academics, further cementing his status as a thought leader. The depth of his reflections and the clarity of his writing resonated with a broad audience, enhancing his influence in the field of education.

Embracing technological advancements, Sajeen pioneered the development of educational software and digital tools. His innovative approach to integrating technology into teaching created interactive learning experiences that engaged students and improved educational outcomes. His contributions to educational technology earned him recognition and accolades, showcasing his ability to merge tradition with modernity.

His decision to work internationally opened doors to diverse educational environments and practices. This global exposure enriched his understanding and allowed him to contribute to international educational dialogues. Collaborating on projects with institutions worldwide, Sajeen expanded his network and solidified his presence in the global educational community.

On a personal level, Sajeen's growth was equally profound. His mastery of the factory mode technique enabled him to maintain emotional resilience and focus, even when faced with personal challenges. By compartmentalizing his emotions and managing his responses, he navigated life's complexities with a steady hand. His commitment to continuous learning ensured he remained at the forefront of his profession, pursuing advanced courses and certifications in areas related to education and personal development.

Despite his professional success, Sajeen stayed deeply connected with his community. His involvement in local initiatives and educational programs reflected his belief in giving back and supporting the growth of future generations. He actively participated in community projects, using his expertise to benefit others and reinforce his commitment to making a positive impact.

Mentorship became a significant aspect of Sajeen's life. Recognizing the importance of nurturing talent, he guided young professionals and students, offering invaluable support as they embarked on their careers. His experience and wisdom helped others navigate their own challenges and achieve their goals, reflecting his dedication to fostering growth in those around him.

Throughout his journey, Sajeen maintained a balanced life, cherishing moments with his family and engaging in activities that brought him joy. His ability to harmonize work, personal growth, and relationships contributed to a profound sense of well-being and satisfaction. Sajeen's success was not defined solely by his achievements but by his continuous pursuit of growth, resilience, and meaningful contributions.

Despite Sajeen's remarkable achievements across various facets of his life, one area remained a profound challenge: his emotional well-being. His success in his career, coupled with his extensive contributions to education and technology, masked a deep-seated struggle with his emotional and personal life.

In his professional realm, Sajeen thrived. He was a celebrated educator, a renowned writer, and an influential consultant. His innovative approaches and global engagements were testaments to his dedication and expertise. Yet, beneath this veneer of success lay a stark reality—Sajeen had become emotionally detached, a stoic figure who seemed impervious to the complexities of personal connections and feelings.

Sajeen's encounters with people, including the women who had come and gone in his life, reinforced a recurring pattern. His interactions with individuals often followed a predictable trajectory: he would analyze their behaviors, understand their desires, and predict the eventual outcomes of their actions. While this analytical prowess served him well professionally, it also isolated him emotionally. He saw through the façades people wore, often recognizing their motives and true natures, but this clarity did not bring him comfort or connection. Instead, it deepened his sense of detachment.

His relationships with women, including those he had once cherished or cared for, highlighted his emotional stasis. With Hiba, Lilyan, and Leena, Sajeen's responses to their needs and desires were marked by a clinical detachment. He observed their actions, understood their motivations, and provided support, but he remained emotionally distant. Even when faced with the pain of being replaced or the disappointment of unmet expectations, Sajeen's reactions were subdued, almost mechanical. His

ability to compartmentalize his emotions through the factory mode technique, while beneficial for his professional life, rendered his personal experiences devoid of genuine emotional engagement.

For Sajeen, the emotional aspect of life had become a complex puzzle that he could analyze but not fully experience. His capacity to understand the nature of people and predict their behavior had stripped him of the ability to connect on a deeper, emotional level. The joy, sadness, love, and vulnerability that characterized human relationships were elements he observed but seldom felt.

His stoicism extended beyond personal relationships into his interactions with broader communities. Sajeen's engagement with social causes and community initiatives was driven by a sense of duty rather than genuine emotional investment. He contributed and supported but did so with a calculated approach that kept his feelings at bay. His interactions with others were marked by a professional distance, a remnant of his factory mode technique that had become a shield against the messiness of human emotions.

Even as Sajeen became a well-regarded figure in his field, the emotional void remained palpable. His inability to share his feelings, to connect on a personal level, or to embrace the emotional highs and lows of life left him with a sense of emptiness. His achievements, while impressive, could not compensate for the lack of emotional fulfillment that accompanied his journey.

In essence, Sajeen's story was one of exceptional success tempered by a profound emotional shortfall. His mastery in various domains did not extend to his emotional life, where he remained a distant observer,

unable to fully participate in the richness of human connection. His life, marked by achievements and analytical prowess, was overshadowed by an enduring sense of emotional detachment, a testament to the complex interplay between success and personal fulfillment.

Sajeen's journey through life had been a testament to his remarkable achievements and unyielding perseverance. He had excelled in his career, made significant contributions to his field, and earned the respect and admiration of many. However, as he reflected on his life's path, he came to a profound realization about the nature of existence and the inherent balance that life demands.

He understood that life operated on a set of unspoken rules, a balance between success and failure, joy and sorrow. This balance was not merely a philosophical concept but a fundamental principle that governed his own experiences. For every success he achieved, it seemed that life countered with a corresponding challenge, a failure in another aspect of his existence.

Sajeen's professional life had been a resounding success. His innovative ideas, groundbreaking work, and contributions to education and technology had set him apart as a leader in his field. Yet, this success had come at a price. The emotional aspect of his life, where he sought connection and fulfillment, remained starkly unfulfilled. The victories in his career were overshadowed by an emotional void that no amount of professional acclaim could fill.

As he navigated through his personal relationships, Sajeen encountered a recurring theme: the emotional detachment that marked his interactions. His experiences with Hiba, Lilyan, and Leena had taught him

that, despite his ability to understand and predict human behavior, he struggled to connect on a deeper emotional level. His analytical prowess, while a strength in his professional domain, became a barrier to experiencing the full spectrum of human emotions.

Sajeen's acceptance of this reality came with a deep understanding of life's intrinsic balance. He recognized that the success he enjoyed in his career was counterbalanced by the emotional shortcomings he faced. This realization was not one of resignation but of profound acceptance. Life, in its complexity, had given him exceptional achievements but had also handed him a significant emotional challenge.

He saw this balance as a natural and inescapable part of existence. The more he succeeded in one domain, the more he experienced setbacks in another. This duality was a reflection of the broader rules governing life. For every peak, there was a valley; for every triumph, there was a trial. Sajeen came to understand that this was not an unfair distribution but a fundamental aspect of the human condition.

His acceptance of this reality did not diminish the pain of his emotional struggles but allowed him to view them through a lens of clarity. He recognized that his emotional side, marked by a sense of detachment and a lack of fulfillment, was the price he paid for his professional success. This acceptance was not about giving up but about acknowledging the reality of life's rules and finding peace with them.

In essence, Sajeen's journey was a poignant illustration of life's intricate balance. His successes and failures were intertwined in a complex dance that defined his existence. By accepting the nature of this balance, he found a sense of understanding and tranquility, even if it did not erase

the emotional void he experienced. Life had given him much, but it had also taught him that for every gift, there was a corresponding challenge, and embracing this truth was a crucial part of his journey.

As Sajeen continued to navigate the intricacies of his life, he remained steadfast in his commitment to his work. With his exceptional skills and unwavering dedication, he decided it was time to broaden his horizons and take his career to an international stage. Dubai, a city known for its vibrant mix of cultures and diverse population, beckoned him with the promise of new opportunities.

The decision to relocate to Dubai was both strategic and personal. Sajeen sought a fresh environment where his talents and experience could be leveraged in new and exciting ways. Dubai, with its bustling economy and cosmopolitan atmosphere, offered him the perfect platform to expand his professional and personal experiences.

Upon arriving in Dubai, Sajeen quickly found that his reputation as a skilled and innovative professional preceded him. The city's dynamic job market, which was always on the lookout for top talent, presented him with numerous opportunities. His background in education and his ability to adapt to various fields made him a sought-after candidate. Within a short period, he secured a position that matched his expertise and aspirations, allowing him to continue his work with renewed vigor.

But Sajeen's ambitions did not stop at merely securing a job. He was driven by a desire to explore and engage in a variety of professional activities. Dubai's diverse landscape provided him with the ideal setting to practice and hone his skills in multiple domains. Whether it was continuing his role in education, consulting on educational projects, or

exploring new ventures, Sajeen immersed himself in the multifaceted opportunities the city offered.

He took on roles that allowed him to teach at prestigious institutions, contribute to innovative educational projects, and collaborate with professionals from around the world. This exposure to different cultures and work environments enriched his understanding and broadened his expertise. Sajeen thrived in this melting pot of ideas and perspectives, finding that his adaptability and skill set were well-suited to the international stage.

Despite the demands of his new roles, Sajeen continued to engage in various professional activities, seamlessly integrating his diverse interests into his career. The challenges and opportunities presented by Dubai's fast-paced environment were invigorating, and he relished the chance to push the boundaries of his abilities.

His time in Dubai also offered him the chance to reflect on his past experiences and their impact on his life. The city's blend of cultures and the interactions with people from different backgrounds provided him with fresh perspectives and insights. Sajeen's ability to navigate this complex web of influences highlighted his growth and adaptability, underscoring his success in managing both his career and personal development.

As Sajeen settled into his new life in Dubai, it became evident that his decision to move internationally was a pivotal step in his journey. The city not only provided him with ample professional opportunities but also allowed him to continue exploring his passions and talents. Through hard work, determination, and an openness to new experiences, Sajeen

embraced the challenges and rewards of his international career, further solidifying his place in the global landscape of his field.

Even as Sajeen immersed himself in the vibrant life of Dubai, a city renowned for its alluring mix of cultures, social dynamism, and opportunities for personal connections, he remained steadfastly detached and emotionally stoic. The city's allure, with its beautiful people, easy social interactions, and the promise of romantic possibilities, seemed to beckon many towards a life of engagement and connection. However, Sajeen viewed it all from a distance, remaining unmoved by the city's magnetic charm.

Dubai's streets were bustling with energy, filled with people from all walks of life. The city's dynamic social scene, with its array of events, gatherings, and opportunities for romantic encounters, was designed to draw individuals into its embrace. Yet, as Sajeen walked through the lively avenues and witnessed the vibrant interactions around him, he remained impervious to the social currents that seemed to captivate others.

The allure of Dubai, with its promise of easy social contacts and potential romantic liaisons, held no appeal for him. Sajeen could have easily attracted attention, and given his charisma and skills, many would have willingly fallen for him. But he had no interest in engaging with this aspect of life. He had long accepted that his role was to be the third unknown, and nothing in Dubai's seductive environment was going to alter that reality for him.

Despite the city's apparent opportunities for love and social connection, Sajeen's mindset remained resolutely unchanged. He had come to terms

with the fact that, regardless of where he was, the fundamental truth of being the third unknown persisted. Dubai's atmosphere, brimming with emotional and social possibilities, seemed almost surreal to him. He observed how people effortlessly connected, how romantic possibilities seemed readily available, and yet he remained detached, untouched by the emotional undercurrents that flowed so freely around him.

Sajeen's ability to remain emotionally detached was a testament to his disciplined mindset and the efficacy of his factory mode technique. The city's environment, with its easy access to romantic encounters and social interactions, did not sway him. He had cultivated a profound understanding of his own place in the grander scheme of things, and this realization allowed him to navigate Dubai's vibrant scene without being drawn into its emotional vortex.

His indifference to the romantic and social allure of Dubai was not born out of a lack of desire but from a deep-seated acknowledgment of his reality. Sajeen knew that engaging in these social or emotional pursuits would not change the fact that he was often an outsider in the grand narrative of relationships and connections. The ease with which others formed bonds and the apparent availability of love in the city did nothing to alter his perspective.

In essence, Sajeen's experience in Dubai reinforced his understanding of himself. He observed the city's alluring possibilities with a detached gaze, firmly anchored in his acceptance of being the third unknown. The emotional and social freedom that Dubai offered remained untouched by him, as he continued to focus on his professional endeavors and personal growth, steadfast in his resolve to maintain his emotional distance.

In Dubai, a city known for its dazzling diversity and cultural richness, Sajeen found an expansive new arena to apply his unique skills. Instead of being drawn into the social and romantic currents that flowed through the city's vibrant streets, he continued his long-established habit of observing people from a distance and analyzing their behaviors. The city's multicultural environment provided him with a broader and more varied pool of subjects to study, enhancing his ability to understand and interpret human nature.

Dubai's streets, filled with individuals from around the globe, presented a fascinating tapestry of human interaction. Sajeen took in the myriad of cultural expressions and social dynamics with keen interest. The diverse backgrounds of the people he observed—each bringing their own customs, values, and behaviors—allowed him to refine his analytical skills and deepen his understanding of human nature.

From the bustling markets and luxurious malls to the serene parks and lively social gatherings, Sajeen meticulously studied how people from different cultures interacted, responded to various stimuli, and navigated their social environments. He marveled at how individuals from disparate backgrounds adapted to the city's fast-paced lifestyle while maintaining their unique cultural identities.

The variety of experiences and perspectives available in Dubai offered Sajeen a richer field for observation. He noted how people's behaviors were shaped by their cultural contexts, how social norms differed from one group to another, and how individuals managed to blend or clash in the multicultural melting pot of the city. This diversity provided him with fresh insights into the nature of human interactions and the ways in which people adapted to and influenced their environments.

Sajeen's analytical mind thrived on this influx of new data. He meticulously cataloged his observations, drawing comparisons and contrasts between the behaviors he witnessed in Dubai and those he had previously studied. The city's dynamic social landscape offered him a continuous stream of new material to explore, allowing him to expand his understanding of human psychology and social behavior.

While others around him might have been captivated by Dubai's social and romantic possibilities, Sajeen remained focused on his passion for observation and analysis. His engagement with the city was intellectual rather than emotional. He found satisfaction in unraveling the complexities of human behavior and understanding the subtle nuances that influenced interactions in such a diverse setting.

Indeed, Sajeen's story reflects a common narrative in the human experience—a journey marked by ambition, love, and the inevitable struggle with the complexities of personal relationships. His life, while uniquely his own, mirrors the broader truths that many face: the pursuit of dreams, the search for meaningful connections, and the acceptance of life's inherent disappointments.

From his humble beginnings in Khartoum, Sajeen navigated a path filled with both triumphs and trials. His early efforts to support himself and his academic achievements laid a foundation for a successful career, yet his personal life was often overshadowed by the roles he found himself in—the third unknown in the stories of others' loves and lives.

His relationships with Hiba, Maya, Lilyan, and Leena showcased the intricacies of human emotions and the often painful realization that one's desires and efforts do not always align with outcomes. Despite his

successes and the respect he garnered in his professional sphere, Sajeen grappled with the realization that his emotional life did not follow the same trajectory of fulfillment.

The shift to Dubai and his continued work internationally underscored his adaptability and resilience. Even as he found professional success and engaged with a diverse array of people, his emotional detachment remained a defining aspect of his life. He became adept at analyzing human behavior from a distance, a skill honed through years of personal experience and introspection.

Sajeen's story, while deeply personal, resonates with the universal themes of perseverance and acceptance. It serves as a reminder that life's journey is often marked by a blend of achievements and setbacks, and that understanding one's place in the grand tapestry of existence can provide a sense of clarity amidst the chaos. His narrative, like many others, is a testament to the ongoing, ever-evolving dance between dreams and reality, success and sacrifice.

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