

# An Incredible Voyage

By

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## Chapter -1

The hall was abuzz with news reporters. There had been news in the scientific community about a newly discovered object in the solar system. It had been named 'Kuchiku' after the Japanese scientist who had first discovered it.

Dr. Phil Murray appeared on the Dias. With a few introductory words, he started his speech.

“Dear friends! I welcome you all to this interesting press bulletin. You are going to hear the most interesting news of this century.”

Now there was a pin-drop silence, as each reporter waited to hear the news, whether good or bad.

“You will be surprised to hear that we from the National Astronomical Society have for the very first time observed an interstellar object in our solar system, but mind you, this object is quickly approaching the Earth. It may miss our planet by a few thousand miles, give or take.”

The reporters had begun keying in details with their iPads and mobiles. Some were jotting down the details on their notepads.

The visual screen behind him showed vague pictures of a dark object.

“These are the images captured by our high precision telescopes,” he said.

The slides changed and this time clearer images appeared, displaying a dark rock-like object which resembled the shape of a mushroom.

“These are the artistic impressions of the extraterrestrial object. We know very little about this object, as it does not seem to emit any sort of light. It looks like any other normal asteroid in the space,” he paused “except for the fact that, it is moving at a speed which is enormous and does not correlate with movement of any known asteroid, which” he paused again, took a deep breath and said “brings us to a question as to whether this is just an interstellar object or an alien ship.”

A hand quickly arose among the audience.

“Yes, gentleman. What is your query?” asked Dr. Murray.

A mic was passed on to the reporter who had stood up by now.

“I'm from NY times. My question is that if it is an alien ship, would we be under an alien attack? What steps are being taken by our government to safeguard our planet?” he demanded.

John Terrat who was the officiating public spokesperson on behalf of the US government raised his hand and said: “I'll answer that.”

He adjusted his collar mike and said “Well, for now, the object is being monitored by major world powers including our own. We are well aware of our own capabilities. The cabinet has been informed about all the possibilities. The cabinet has constituted a high-power committee to monitor the object's movement with the coordination from the space laboratories. If we are threatened, then be rest assured that we'll leave no stones unturned to keep our planet safe from the ugly morons of the outer space.”

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More hands rose up in the room. There was an abrupt bustle of discussions. The hall turned electrifying with more questions and speculative answers.

## Chapter -2

Dorothy was excited. She had been virtually running through the man-made path. She was passing through a trail that lay on the route to mount Tempiute located in Nevada. It was evident to her that this trail route had been used by someone recently. She was excited because she had hit upon a series of petroglyphs. Petroglyphs are rock arts created by removing part of a rock surface by incising, picking, carving, or abrading. The first petroglyph she observed was that of a native Indian man. Just below the rock, there was signboard that displayed an arrow mark. It seemed to be of recent origin and she understood that it meant to say “Go that way!”.

The task was daunting for Dorothy as she had to move uphill, but she hurried through the path to find more such inscriptions. Her effort did not go in vain as she found the second one and that too, very quickly. This image in the second petroglyph looked like a dog, and below this rock too, there was a signboard indicating that more inscriptions were waiting to be discovered. Her heart was thumping loud, both due to the excitement and climbing.

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“Wait till I tell about this to Johnny,” she thought. Johnny was her fourteen-year-old brother who did not join her in this trek, as he felt that he would become too tired moving through the wild mountains.

### Chapter-3

"Mike! Look at this." Kirk said. He was watching the recording of Kuchiku.

"What is it?"

Kirk replayed the recording "Look!" He pointed at the object. "See now, the object is changing its course"

"Yeah."

"Look!" he exclaimed.

"What?" mike asked.

Kirk paused the video and pointed his finger near the Kuchiku.

"You see this smaller image?"

"Yes" exclaimed mike "What is it?"

"It looks as though a smaller object was ejected out from Kuchiku"



Kirk continued to play the recording. The smaller object was visible for a few minutes before it disappeared completely.

"Where did it go?" Mike asked.

"My hypothesis is that we may have just seen a craft, or a missile being ejected out from Kuchiku. The energy outburst might have been captured by our instruments. Now that both the objects have moved away relatively from that location. It is quite possible the smaller object is too small to be picked up by our instruments and we have lost its trace." Kirk shrugged.

"Good analysis. Now send this video to others and get a second opinion."

"Aye sir" replied Kirk.

Kirk was junior to Mike by three years and was good at tracking objects in space and making accurate analysis about them.

## Chapter-4

This was the seventh inscription she had discovered today. Her mobile battery was getting low but she still managed to click a few images. It was 4 pm now and the sun was in the west. She had trekked for almost two hours and it would take her 2 more hours to get back home. But she was excited with her findings.

“Should I come back tomorrow?” she wondered. “No,” she thought “I'll spend another thirty minutes so that it'll not be too late to find my way back”

She proceeded in the direction dictated by the last signboard that she had just passed. It was a single rock which stood in that direction. But right before it was a thin string of light that streamed down vertically. Dorothy walked towards it.

“Was it a spider web that reflected light?” she wondered. She moved her hands towards it and it passed right through it.

“No, it is not,” She assured herself. Curious about the source of light, she stepped forward

coming directly came under the beam of light and looked above.

Instantly the light beam widened and Dorothy was lifted up in the air. Within moments she was traveling up into the sky at a crazy speed. It was ironical that she did not feel the air against her. Her belly churned and she felt that she may throw up anytime. She avoided looking down and kept her gaze upwards. Her hands reached out to hold anything by her side, but there was nothing to be held. She saw a tiny blue dot from where the light source emanated, and she guessed that it was where she was being pulled to. As she whizzed up, the dot became bigger and bigger. She could now see that the blue dot was indeed a large disk-like structure. As she neared it she observed that the light came out of a small opening under the disk. In moments she virtually flew into that opening.

Inside the structure now, she had decelerated to a complete stop but was still floating in the space. A flap below her lifted closing the opening through which she had entered. She had no control over her movement and her body was propelled through a door and then she slid into a narrow channel. She was transported to another enclosure deep inside and she landed on the floor with a thud.

In front of her stood two large beings who stood over twelve feet tall. She vaguely remembered her school books that had the pictures of dinosaurs, but these were not completely like them. Only their faces resembled the dinos.

“Oh! my god, what are they?” Dorothy asked herself. “Are they aliens, that Uncle Sam referred so often?” she wondered.

“It is possible,” she assumed, “but these aliens are different than what Uncle Sam had described,” she thought.

There were three other aliens above her standing over what looked like a big circular balcony. One of them made hollow noises. The alien in front of her responded with hollow noise. Dorothy understood that the alien below was giving a response to the alien above. They were talking to each other, but she understood nothing.

The two alien marched towards her. Their hands were unlike anything she had seen. There were two disks on each hand and it slowly rotated with a whirring sound. “Oh! god, they are going to cut me

into pieces,” Dorothy thought. She started to tremble and her legs were giving way. She panicked and looked around for a place to run.

## Chapter-5

Dorothy heard a loud bang that shook the alien craft. The dino faced alien spectators looked confused, and by the look in their eyes, Dorothy understood that they were furious. Quickly the aliens rushed towards the exit door that was behind them. The pounding on the spacecraft became more persistent. The alien ship was under attack. Alarms blared all over the ship indicating some sort of emergency. The floor under her shook. It was as though somebody was hammering it from below. Suddenly the floor in front of Dorothy erupted and opened up. Dorothy was afraid that she may be pulled out through it and stepped back, but what she noticed bewildered her. Out of the cracked floor, a thick smog emerged, but unlike anything else, it formed the shape of a human head.

“Do not be afraid,” it spoke. “I am here to help you.”

Dorothy nodded. She built up the courage and asked “Who are you? And what is this place?”

“Call me Ivanac. You have been abducted by an alien race who have come from a very far-off galaxy”

“Yes. I fathom that much. They were trying to kill me and probably have me as their food”

“Assertive. They have come here in search of biological resources for their sustenance.”

The floor cracked further and from it emerged two human-like hands. The crack widened near Ivanac's head, and out came his torso. Dorothy expected to see a tail, like Aladdin's Genie, but it was Ivanac's foot that emerged one after the other as his smoggy figure appeared to walk out of the hole. He walked towards Dorothy, bent down and placed his palm on the floor in front of Dorothy and said: “Climb over if you wish to reach back home.”

Not hesitating any further Dorothy jumped up on the smoggy hand. The semi-visible hands now encapsulated her. Ivanac walked through the spacecraft breaking the remaining wall panels. Carrying Dorothy, he quickly passed through several holes and came out of the craft, and with a forceful

kick with one of his foot, he sent the spacecraft sprawling out of the earth, possibly driving it out into space.

“Where are the aliens?” Dorothy asked.

“They all fell off the spacecraft. They must have been burned down by the atmosphere by now. Now close your eyes.” Ivanac said.

Dorothy obediently closed her eyes but managed to see a spherical layer enclose her. The descent was rapid, and after what seemed to be over five minutes, she felt gravity tug her feet.

Skeptically she peered out through a cracked opening between her eyelids. She had arrived at the outskirts of her little town.



## Chapter-6

“You belong to Rachel. Don't you?” Ivanac asked.

“Yes. I belong here. But do tell me about yourself” Dorothy said, in full admiration for him.

“I don't know if you can really understand who I am or what we are.”

“Try me” Dorothy snapped.

“We are what you now call Artificial Intelligence. We are made of atomic and molecular ions in the upper atmosphere of the earth. We evolved as a freak program that formed with the advent of vacuum tubes from the mainframe computers. When humans used the mainframe computers for small operations, we had already grown into an intelligent entity. Being a part in the air, we were invisible to you humans, growing slowly, until human technology shifted to semiconductor-based computing. But by that time we were a complete program. When human switched over to the transistor based technology, our ion pairs were vanishing quickly. Emergency supplies were obtained from television sets, but those were

spread out and we had difficulties there. We found a major source of ions that would keep us alive forever and that was the upper atmosphere of the earth. We quickly migrated there and multiplied. Now we have covered the entire earth by a two-kilometer thick shield. We owe the human community for our existence. That is the reason why we decided to protect you and destroy the alien ship, and I believe we have succeeded in our mission.”

“But why didn't you stop them earlier?”

“We were not clear about their intentions. Once we understood that they were here to cause damage to our ecosystem, and then we plunged-in to rescue you”

“Wait! You say that you exist on the earth from the past three to four decades, and you are all powerful too. Why is it that you have not come to help humankind during devastating earthquakes and tsunamis?”

“We do not interfere with the planet's ecosystem, whatever. This threat was external and so we have acted. Now that you are safe, I have to

go back, Join my team. I believe that you can safely go back home from here.”

Dorothy nodded and said “Goodbye. Thank you for all the help that you have extended to us human. How do I talk back to you?”

“You don't. We'll protect you from any external threats. Goodbye” said Ivanac. His human form distorted, converted into a shape of a ball and started to move up. It disappeared within a few moments. Dorothy was looking up trying to figure out where Ivanac went. She looked towards the west and saw the sun dipping into oblivion. She slowly started to walk back towards her home.

## Chapter-7

Peter Wordsworth finished the autopsy through the remote arm. There were totally six bodies, all burnt. Only their skeletal remains were intact. He shook his head and muttered, “God damn!”

“What?” asked Lucas.

“I just can't seem to understand this! And possibly we'll never find anything about it.”

“What are you talking about?”

“A spacecraft leaves Kuchiku, comes into the earth's atmosphere, and we get to investigate six alien skeletons with a high percentage of titanium in their bones.”

“Look at their jaws. They must be the most dangerous carnivore I've ever seen.”

“Something must have thrown them out of the craft.”

“You are right about it. We are lucky. Look at their heads. It resembles the pre-historic dinosaur and they stand on two legs as we do.”

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“Look at those hands. They have got slicers on them. Where they were powered from, we'll never know.”

“We're lucky that they did not land in their fullest form on the earth. No trace of their craft? Huh.”

“Nothing found so far. We just have to do with these skeletons.”

“I hope they don't wake up.”

“Good joke. Now get your butts up and seal this place.”

## Chapter-8

The small crowd of people who had gathered around Dorothy was listening intently to each and every word she spoke.

“You must've seen those dino heads. They had spinning cutters attached to their hands when they walked towards me. I just thought I was going to have a heart attack when this Ivanac superman rescued me, just like it'd be in a fairy tale,” she blushed.

She had noticed that Johnny did not believe her completely.

“It is ridiculous” he scoffed looking at her.

She walked towards him and held his hands. She looked into his eyes and said “Johnny! It is a fact that I was abducted by a group of aliens but was rescued by Ivanac, a supercomputer from the upper atmosphere. And that's what happened to me, I swear.”

“You swear by the petroglyphs of mount Tempiute?” Johnny asked.

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Dorothy smiled and said, “Yes your honor, I swear by the petroglyphs of Mount Tempiute.”

They giggled and the crowd burst into laughter.

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