"Oye! Sheena, come," Neha called her while dancing to the music. Sheena was taking the last sip from the glass of juice. "Umm, coming," she said gulping it down the throat. "What's up?" asked Sheena. "It's getting late. We should be leaving now," Neha told her showing the watch. It was almost 10 pm. "Oh, damn! It's 10 pm. Let's hurry up. I wonder how the time just flies when you are actually enjoying," Sheena said resting her back on the rails of the balcony. "The same way time doesn't pass when you sit to study," Neha replied laughing at Sheena's thought. "Anyways, we will continue the chat on the way back. Let's head towards home," Sheena said. "Yes," Neha nodded and picked up her purse to leave. "Hey! Manisha, we are leaving," Neha said loudly waving towards her. It was Manisha's birthday party. The house was crowded with guests. Some grooving to the music, while others were having a good time in the company of their friends. Manisha came hopping to the music. "What? Are you both leaving so early?" Manisha asked. "Ya, need to go. It's 10 pm," Neha said. "Just give a call to your parents and tell them you'll be late," Manisha said. "My cellphone is switched off, no charge," Neha said. "And mine has 3% charge. It will run down in a few minutes. My parents will be worried as they'll start calling up," Sheena said. "You can charge your phone here," Manisha said. "No, thank you. We should leave," Sheena said. "Okay! Give me a call when you reach," Manisha said. "Sure, Bye!" both Sheena and Neha replied.

The two girls stepped outside on the streets. It was dark with a few streetlights across. "Can you see any vehicle on the road?" Sheena asked. "Nope! Not a single one," Neha replied. "Ahh! Neha exhaled. "What to do now?" she asked. "Um, let's walk a bit. Maybe we will get something on the way," Sheena suggested. "Walking is not a bad idea, until our parents don't start panicking for not reaching home," Neha said winking at Sheena. "There you go! 3% charge has also bid good bye," said Sheena looking at her phone. "Come, let's hurry," Neha said and started walking faster. Her snickers were making the crumbling sound as she kept walking on the stony road. "Ms. Marathon! Please walk a bit slowly. My heart will come out from the mouth," Sheena said catching her breathe. "Oh! You lazy snail. Walk a bit faster," Neha replied making a funny face. They walked for a while. "I think it will take 30 minutes more to reach home if we don't get any source of transportation," Neha said. "Let's keep looking," Sheena said as she knocked a pebble with her shoes. Neha was gazing at the stars as she walked. Suddenly, she tripped over a stone. The road was steep down till the end. She let out a cry. Before Sheena could understand, Neha fell down with a thud and rolled down the steep road as she couldn't keep her balance. "Neha! Sheena cried

out holding out her hands to reach Neha. Neha rolled down crying aloud. The road was steep and slippery because of the evening rain. A car was coming in full speed from the opposite direction. "Neha!" Sheena shouted as she saw the speeding car. Neha was bruised badly but hurriedly tried to get to her feet. She tried to limp but by the time she could cross the road, the car rushed in and hit her. The force was enough to make her fly and fall on the streets. She fell sideways and hit her head on the road and injured her left shoulder. "Neha!!" Sheena carried out as she reached her down the road.

"Neha? Are you ok? Can you hear me" Sheena cried out. "Sh…." Neha tried to speak but then she closed her eyes. Sheena was scared thinking she lost her. "Neha? Neha? Get up," Sheena shook Neha while her tears rolled down her cheeks. She pressed her ears on Neha's chest. Her heart was still beating. "She's there," Sheena mumbled. She pulled out her phone but then she remembered, it's 'switched off.' "Oh! God. Damn it! What should I do now?" Sheena yelled out. She started looking out for help. She stared on the road as far as her eyes could take her. There was no sign of any vehicle. "Damn! Damn! What should I do now?" Sheena kept pacing on the road while she was talking to herself. "I've no other option but to go back to Manisha's place to get some help," she said to herself. She turned to look at Neha who was lying unconscious. "I'll be right back. Hold on to yourself," Sheena told Neha and turned to head back to Manisha's.

Sheena started running back yet hoping for any help she could get on the way. She ran with all the energy she had, thumping hard on the road. She was accompanied by the street lights shimmering in the dark which was leading back to the place of Manisha. The blood stains on her t-shirt reminded her of her friend waiting in between life-and –death. Suddenly, she saw a beam of light approaching her. She ran faster and saw a car coming towards her direction. She started waving towards it as she kept running, "Help! Help!" she yelled at the top of her voice. The car slowed down as it came nearer. A lady on the front passenger seat pulled down the window panes and said, "Hello! What happened to you?" Sheena ran towards the window. "Oh! God. You have blood all over. What happened?" the lady asked. "My-My friend," Sheena started while catching her breathe. "My friend met with an accident. Need your help," Sheena said. "Goodness! Please take a seat," the man on the stirring said. Sheena quickly took the back-seat and they drove. "Where is she exactly?" the man asked. "Right down the steep road," Sheena said anxiously. They reached the spot in no time. The three of them hurried out of the car. Neha was still lying there. The man

went near and held her wrist. "She's still there. But the pulse is weak. We need to hurry," he said. Quickly, the three of them got Neha into the car and drove to the nearby hospital. They reached the hospital in 5 minutes and took Neha to the Emergency Room. The room was filled with patients. Some with head injuries, some crying out of pain. The staffs there were busy handling the patients. "Both of you wait outside. I'll talk with the doctor," the man said. "Come dear, let's wait outside," the lady said holding Sheena's hand and they went out.

Both of them stood outside. "Did you inform anyone?" the lady asked. "No, I couldn't. My cellphone as well as Neha's is switched off. I couldn't contact anyone. That's why I was running back to our friend's place to get some help," Sheena said crying. "Umm, it's- it's OK. Everything will be fine. Take this," the lady said. She pulled out a power bank from her purse. "Charge your phone and inform her parents soon," she said. "By the way, I'm Akanksha and that's my husband, Dhruv. Dhruv came out from the Emergency Room and said, "The authorities have informed the local police station. They might come and interrogate us about the incident, Miss…?" he stopped. "Sheena," Sheena replied. "Well, Sheena, you need to probably describe to the police about the incident and so we do," he continued. "No problem. But I'm wooried about Neha," she said looking at the Emergency room. "Well, please make the call," Akanksha repeated. "Oh! Yes," Sheena said as she took out her phone. It was charged up to 10%. She switched on her phone and dialed up Neha's parents. "They'll be here in a while," she said keeping back her phone. The doctor treating Neha came out. "How's Neha?" Sheena asked as soon as he came out. "There's quite an amount of blood loss and she is still unconscious. But we have started with the priority treatment required. We'll transfer her to the Intensive Care Unit. "Intensive Care Unit!" Sheena was shocked. "Don't worry. It's just for the keen observation. We need to monitor her and transfuse blood. Once she's stable, we'll shift her," the doctor said and went inside.

"Oh!" Sheena let out a sigh of relief. "Thank you, God!" she said looking up at the sky. "Hey, don't mind me asking, but the hospital is just 5 minutes away from the accident spot. Why didn't you call up the ambulance there itself?" Dhruv asked. Sheena felt guilty while replying, "Actually, both of our cell phones ran out of charge. "Oh! That's terrible. Don't you keep a power bank for back-up?" Dhruv asked. Sheena looked at Akanksha. "Don't worry, Dhruv. She has got one now," Akanksha replied rubbing Sheena's shoulder.