

# ESCAPING THE TERMINAL MISSILE

Written by Adith Kadiyala

Under the direction of Alladia Patterson  
and Written Out Loud Studios

Cover design by Naomi Giddings



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## DEDICATIONS

**Adith Kadiyala would first of all like to dedicate this book to his Mom, Dad, Brother and Uncle who all give him inspiration and ideas on how to move the book forward. Next, he would like to thank his friends for also helping him on the way. He would also like to thank WOL Studios Teacher, Alladia Patterson, for all her help along the way. In addition, he would like to thank his high school 9th Grade Honors English Teacher for inspiring him to become a better teacher. He dedicates this book to all of these individuals because he knows that without their help, he may not have been able to complete the book.**



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# Pilot

Sterling Swanson is a 18 year old highschooler at Westside Academy, which is a prestigious academic and athletic academy in Los Angeles. He and his close knit group of three friends, Jacob, Tatum and Teddie are the most popular students at Westside and have had a very successful high school career so far. They are all high school seniors and all have different life trajectories after high school, due to this they all set out to make senior year the most memorable year of their lives.

After high school, Sterling is bound to play football at UCLA where he will also study business. Jacob is set out to commit to Harvard where he will study law, Tatum is moving out to San Francisco where he will start his standup comedy career and Teddie is a D1 basketball commit to Duke University. They are all set out to be very successful, however, this does not mean that they do not have their naive and stupid high schooler moments as they are all very new adults.

Their first naive mistake appears when they decide to go to a Halloween house party at one of their classmates' houses. The party was all going

well until the cops showed up for a noise complaint made by one of the neighbors.

As Tatum is the comic of the group, he decides to try to talk to the cops and crack a joke that they did not find funny at all.

When the policeman asks, “Hey, y'all need to turn down that music”.

Tatum replies “Or what man??”.

The frustrated policeman angrily says, “Or I'll have to put you in handcuffs and take you back to the sheriff's office”.

Tatum naively says, “Nah, you won't”.

Everyone else at the party watches in shock and growing fear as the policeman handcuffs Tatum and takes him in his car. The party got instantly quiet.

Luckily, Sterling's foster dad is very connected with a large portion of the city and most of the LAPD and was able to get Tatum off with a warning. However, this is just the beginning of Sterling and his friends' crazy journey.

To provide some context, Sterling's parents along with all of his friend's parents sadly passed



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away in a large car crash a couple of years ago while they were driving to Sacramento for a large fashion show.

Sterling is still very close with his foster family who adopted him from a foster home when he was 13, however, he still deeply misses his true family which is why he pushes himself so hard every day and is determined to be successful after college.

# Family Ties

Sterling is one of the most popular kids at his school, which comes with its own pros and cons, however, he mostly uses it to his advantage to build up his ego that has been growing ever since he was named “Most Likely to be a Billionaire” at the start of his junior year. Now, Sterling walks through the school halls every day talking to his friends without a care in the world, knowing his future is set up perfectly for him.

Along with his friends and his foster family, Sterling has a great relationship with his Uncle Korbin who is a rocket scientist who works for NASA, and previously he got his PhD from Princeton University. Uncle Korbin is the smartest person who Sterling knows, and he always confers with him when he needs advice. Along with being tremendously knowledgeable, Korbin started to act like a second dad to Sterling after his biological dad and mom passed away in a car crash.

It is about Christmas Break at Sterling’s high school, and he finally convinces his parents to take the trip down to Uncle Korbin’s house in San Diego.

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Sterling asks his parents “Hey can Tatum, Teddie and Jacob come too, I know we have the space in the car”

His parents both agree “Fine, but tell them to pack quickly, it's a week long trip and we leave tomorrow”

Sterling excitedly calls his friends and tells them “Yo, we are going to Uncle Korbin’s house for a week, who wants to come?”

Sterling’s parents are very trusted among his friends as they hold high status in Los Angeles so all of his friends' parents agree to the trip and the next day they make the trip to San Diego.

It was a peaceful 3 hour car drive as everyone talked about their futures collectively and everyone got along.

Finally, they reached San Diego, as no one could wait to get into Uncle Korbin’s 6,000 square foot 2.1 million dollar waterfront house in San Diego.

Uncle Korbin was not told about the visit, as this was supposed to be a surprise trip so Sterling and all of his friends run up to Uncle Korbin and surprise him on the porch.

They quickly unpack all their clothes in the spare room, and quickly are excited to get into the water. Later, Korbin asks Sterling and his friends about their futures as he is very knowledgeable and they are all grateful and eager to learn from someone who has plenty of experience in life and himself is very successful.

After a fun-filled week of excitement, Sterling's family and his friends make the trip back to LA when it's time for school.

This was one of the last "normal" experiences Sterling and his friends had before their journey of wild twists and turns begins...

# Terminal Time

Fast forward 4 months....

It was the warm, sunny and overall joyful day of April, 1st 2041. Sterling thinks it is a normal day at school as he is walking to his Financial Literacy 101 class with his friends, when all of a sudden, all of the sirens in school go absurd, every fire alarm and emergency signal goes off, and all of the students start to panic while the teachers are stuck in confusion. This is where Sterling's crazy story starts.

Sterling and his friends look at each other and they are all hesitant about what to do while almost all of the other students have run out of school in fright.

Sterling asks his teacher "What's going on?".

His teacher responds "Honestly, I have no idea, nobody knows anything".

Sterling then goes to check his phone, and then he sees his notifications start to blow up, and then he receives an unusual message from TNN News, which is the local news station for his area.

The message reads “EVACUATE, EVACUATE, EVACUATE, DOOMSDAY MISSILE IS HEADED TOWARDS THE WEST COAST IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS”.

Everyone who is still in the school, has now seen this message as it was a mass overall message to everyone in the West Coast of the United States.

Now Sterling says to his friends “Oh no, okay so this is not good at all, what do we do”.

Sterling and his friends are now at a fork in the road, where they can either evacuate, or stay in school and try to understand the actual situation that is happening. As they are naive high school students, they make a quick and decisive decision in which they decide to flee the school and run back to their neighborhood.

Sterling says to his friends “Okay you know what, we are getting out of here, let's go”.

His friends respond in unison “You don't gotta tell me twice”.

They all run back to their neighborhood and quickly decide what to do.

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Jacob Marks, who is the brains of the friend group suggests “Hey Sterling, why don’t we catch an Uber and get to your Uncle Korbin’s Lab, in San Diego. I know he is very knowledgeable so maybe he knows what we can do”.

Sterling replies “Yeah, Yeah good idea but let's first go back to our houses and get some resources we are going to need, then we can make our way over to San Diego.”

Everyone agrees.

To provide some context, Sterling still lives with his foster family, however, all of his friends moved out of their parent’s places the second they turned 18, because they did not have a great relationship with their new families. This has caused all of Sterling’s friends to become very independent and able to live by themselves.

Sterling’s main priorities and love stand with his friends more than his foster family, as he and his friends all went through the same pain and mourning 5 years ago after the accident which built an unbreakable bond between the group.

This means that if he has to betray his parents' trust by not telling them where he is going or if he escapes to San Diego without telling them, he will go with his friends.

At this point, Sterling and his friends have just escaped their school and are making the journey back home. However, this may be harder than they think because they go to an academic and athletic academy, which is about a 20 minute car ride from their house, and this will be an even harder walk.



# The Trekking Journey

The walk from Westside High School, back to their houses in rural Los Angeles requires journeys throughout forests, a valley side and throughout a river. Even though everyone has a car, by this time the roads are already packed, and frankly not safe to drive through. So, due to this Sterling and his friends start to take the long walk.

Sterling exclaims “Alright guys, let’s first walk through the Southside woods, it doesn’t seem too bad if we run we should be out of there in like 10 minutes.”

Jacob has doubts and says “Sterling, you do know that the Southside woods are very deep, and full of brush and it is very hard to navigate throughout to find an exit right...?”

Sterling confidently replies “Yeah...I know, but have some belief in us, we can definitely get out of here quickly if we try”

Jacob and the others questionably agree. Everyone takes off their backpacks and leaves them outside of the woods to make their journey easier. They enter one side of the woods, and all decide to

stay together. After walking for about 2 minutes, Sterling is starting to lose confidence in his ability to get out of the woods properly. They have only been walking for barely any time, and already seem consumed in the woods and its thick brush. Every direction they look is neverending woods.

Jacob egotistically says “Yeah, Sterling I told you that we should have better planned this, we are already lost”.

The comic of the group, Tatum, tries to make a joke at Sterling and exclaims “Hey Jacob, at least we still have some hope, unlike your last relationship”.

Sterling does not think the joke is funny at all, and almost snaps at Tatum, but tries to stay calm. Finally, after waiting some time, they decide to continue on their move into the deep depths of the woods, however, they are trying to be as subtle as possible, as they know these woods are known for a possibility of bear sightings.

Jacob finds a stick and says “Hey guys look, there’s a big stick here maybe we can use it if we find a bear”

Sterling annoyingly says “Jacob, I told you not to touch anything, put the stick down”.

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Jacob puts it down, and they keep moving. Their next challenge that the group faces is a river that they need to cross.

This is where Teddie, an eventual Division 1 athlete, comes in and says “Guys do you think I can get across that river”.

Everyone says in unison “No way, that river’s water is moving way too fast”.

This athletic challenge is exactly what Teddie wanted, and he is now facing the hard trek against the rough river waters.

Teddie takes a step into the water and he realizes it is deeper than he thought. His first step takes him almost knee deep into the water and he also feels algae and slimy like substances at the bottom of the river. However, in the aim of proving everyone wrong, he continues to walk and takes powerful steps that eventually take him to about half way throughout the river until he sees a large tree branch rushing towards his way.

Teddie yells “AHHH, IT’S COMING TOWARDS ME”.

Everyone else shrieks in fright as they watch from the river bed.

BOOM. The branch hits Teddie right in the side of his upper leg, and he folds in half as if he were a closing book.

Tatum yells “Yo Teddie, you good??”

Teddie replies “SHUT UP TATUM, CAN YOU NOT SEE I AM IN PAIN”.

Sterling and Jacob both slap Tatum on the arm and tell him to be quiet.

Somehow, Teddie is still standing straight up even though he has a large gash on his leg. The rest of the way looks clear, so he continues his walk until he reaches the river bed on the other side. After about 10 more rough, difficult and seemingly treacherous steps Teddie finally reaches the other side of the river.

Teddie, while wincing in pain, yells “I told you guys I could get across”.

Everyone claps in unison, but now they are facing the problem about how they are going to get across the river, because no one wants to take the same journey that Teddie just did.

Teddie tells everyone else “Hey stay over there just keep walking on that side and I will keep walking on this side, eventually there has to be a

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way back across this way that is safe for you guys to cross”

Everyone agrees, and they continue to walk.

While they keep walking back to their home, they try to figure out what they are going to do after they get back to their homes.

Simultaneously to this time, Sterling gets a text from his parents saying “HEY WHERE ARE YOU COME HOME COME HOME”.

Sterling replies “Yeah, I am safe don’t worry I will be home soon”

Sterling doesn’t tell anyone about this text message as he knows that if his parents see him at home then they will not want him to go anywhere, which will betray his friends, and that is the last thing he wants to do.

Sterling keeps walking, but he keeps in the back of his mind the thought of what he is going to tell his parents when they see him eventually walk back home.

After walking for about 15 minutes longer, Teddie is still wincing in pain, however, everyone else finally finds a walkway that crosses the river which they can join Teddie in.

After they cross, everyone looks at Teddie's leg which is starting to swell up, and honestly not looking good at all, however, they all know that they have no time to waste.

They have been walking for about a half hour now and they know that they are coming to the end of the woods, and will soon be entering their neighborhood.

Finally, after a much harder than anticipated journey, they see the end of the woods and can finally sit and have a second to breathe.

Tatum, Teddie and Jacob are all ready to go into their houses and get all of the supplies they need to make the trip down to San Diego, however, Sterling needs to find a way to sneak past his parents without them finding out about him ever coming home.

# Sneaking Past Authority

After sitting and pondering for about 15 more minutes, everyone realizes that they have no time to waste and they get up and start walking to their homes.

Everyone decides to meet back up in 30 minutes at the entrance of their neighborhood, so then they can formulate a plan to get to San Diego.

Sterling starts to walk towards his house, but instead of taking the main entrance and walking through the front door, he takes the deck door and walks through the back basement door.

Sterling fetches the spare key he always keeps with him in his back pocket and shimmies the lock until it carefully opens. He silently opens the door, and now he's in his basement without his parents knowing anything. He turned off his phone so he would not get any notifications, and he started to make the journey up the stairs into his bedroom which is on the main floor.

Every step Sterling takes creaks the floor as he tries to tip-toe his way across the living room

floor and into his bedroom. His parents are currently in the dining room which gives Sterling the perfect opportunity to run into his room without getting caught.

When he sees his parents' backs turn he knows that it is now or never for him to make a quick move to his room.

Sterling finally reaches his room, and slowly pushes the door closed, so no one hears a thing.

He does not have much time until his parents might get suspicious of where he is and at this point he only has around 15 minutes to get ready and pack for his unknown journey to San Diego.

Sterling grabs a backpack that he usually uses for football practice and goes around his room shoving into his bag whatever he thinks he may need. He takes spare shoes, shirts, pants, a hat, and any other essentials for his trip.

To stray away from the danger of going back through the basement door. Sterling this time escapes through his window, and because his room is on the first floor, this will be easy.

He creaks open the window, punches the mesh through, and then throws his backpack out



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first before slowly, limb by limb, getting through the window.

Finally, Sterling is free and as he sees his friends make a run towards the entrance of the neighborhood where everyone said they would meet up, a smile starts to form.

# Naive Problems

After everyone rallies back at the meeting place, they start to formulate a plan on how they are going to get to San Diego.

Sterling exclaims “We can try and catch an Uber, I have \$100 in my wallet that should be good for all of us”.

Jacob replies “Yeah, yeah good idea let’s see if we can get one”.

As everyone opens up their phones and goes on the Uber app, they quickly realize that they are not the only ones trying to escape Los Angeles, and that almost every single Uber is booked and it will be almost impossible to have an Uber come out all the way to their neighborhood.

Now, the only way that they have a chance to get to San Diego is if they can catch the public underground train that is in the heart of LA. This means that everyone will have to make the 45 minute walk to central LA.

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Because this is their only option, and they have less than 22 hours until the doomsday missile launches, they have no other choice.

So now, before they start just randomly walking, in order to avoid any mishaps such as the incident that happened at the Westside River, everyone needs to come up with a plan.

# Sprinting to LA

Sterling leads the way, and Jacob, Tatum and Teddie follow quickly behind. Teddie is still in pain, but as he was home he wrapped his leg in plaster to make his pain and gash more bearable.

Although the walk to LA is far, it is not near as dangerous as crossing the Westside River, it is mostly straight roads and simple cross walks, however, if they want to catch the train in an hour, everyone needs to hurry.

Now, with only their backpacks, everyone starts to hit a light jog on the sidewalk which will take them to the start of the city.

After 20 or so minutes pass, everyone is starting to get exhausted after their incredibly long day, but they know if they stop now, they are screwed.

So they keep walking and jogging until their legs fall off, finally after a lot of work, they are in central LA, where they see the train terminal on 52nd street and they make a run for it.

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Teddie says “Holy, there’s a lot of people in that train station, and do we even have the money to pay for a ticket”

Sterling tells Teddie, “Shut up, we are going to go to the teller, order 4 tickets and get out of here as fast as possible, don’t worry”.

Everyone agrees and they make a run for the teller’s booth where they can buy their ticket.

Jacob tells the teller “Hey, can we please have 4 tickets for the train that’s going to San Diego in about 10 minutes please”.

The teller takes Sterling’s money and hands them the tickets. Finally, things are starting to look up for everyone, until everyone realizes they may have a problem.

In the hurries of the entire day, no one remembered to charge their phones, which was their only form of transportation and communication.

Everyone's phones have now died, and are completely useless as no one has a charger. So from now on, they have no form of electronic map and have to rely on themselves or other people to get to Uncle Korbin’s house in San Diego.

After 8 more minutes of anxiously waiting, Sterling, Jacob, Tatum, and Teddie aggressively push their way onto the train, making sure they all get in and no one gets left behind.

Everyone gets on the train, and they start to make their journey to San Diego, which is about a 2 hour train ride.

# Planning for San Diego

Jacob questions “Hey Sterling, without our phones did you ever wonder how we are going to get to your Uncle Korbin’s house after we get off this train, San Diego is massive and we almost got lost in the car when we went in the winter”

Sterling replies “Yeah, yeah we will figure it out, for now let's just get some rest, it has been a long day”.

-----2 hours pass on the train -----

Ding! Ding! Ding! The train sounds as they arrive at the terminal in San Diego. At this point in time, technology has become so far advanced that trains are fully automated by themselves, and no longer need conductors to drive them.

As everyone walks up the steps of the terminal, they realize that San Diego is much larger than they thought, and they will have some trouble finding Uncle Korbin, if he is even still in San Diego in the first place.

Sterling excitedly says “Hey guys, follow me I have an idea.”

He turns and starts sprinting toward the local convenience store and everyone follows.

He asks the clerk as he is packing up and getting ready to flee the West Coast “Hey, hey, hey man do you have any paper maps of San Diego we can use”.

The clerk says “Yeah, 2 dollars”.

Sterling gives the man 2 dollars and runs back out of the store to try and find his way.

Jacob, as he is the smartest in the group, gets the duty of leading the way with this map.



# Getting to the House

The first thing that Jacob notices about this map is that it seems very outdated and old, for a 2041 map. He does not expect this, and expects something that is better labeled, however, this is better than nothing and will have to suffice until they find Uncle Korbin.

Jacob starts walking, and everyone follows him as he has his head in the map trying to find his way.

Jacob mumbles “101st street, okay, left, go straight, okay, yeah”.

Everyone else talks under their breath as it looks like Jacob is on the right track to be able to find Uncle Korbin’s House.

The only information that is known about Uncle Korbin’s house is the neighborhood that he lives in, because it is very well-known. Other than that, it might be a struggle.

On the back of the map, Jacob writes out directions on where the group has to go if they want to get to Uncle Korbin’s house successfully.

Sterling then takes the map back as Tatum yells “Yay, we are on our way !!!”

Everyone looks at him weirdly as they all know they are far from safe.

At this point, there is only 19 hours left until the doomsday missile hits.

# Making the Journey

After taking about a 30 minute long walk, following the map and the directions written by Jacob, it looks like they are making progress, and will finally be out of the city.

As another hour passes, they only have 18 hours left to evacuate the West Coast, and they know they don't have much time.

Teddie brings up the point "Hey guys, what if Uncle Korbin already left the West Coast and isn't even at his house anymore"

Sterling replies "Well, I guess we will find out soon enough, as it seems like they are only around 5 minutes away from the house now"

Everyone starts to pick up the pace, as time is ticking and they still need time to formulate a plan to evacuate the west coast.

Finally, after another 15 minutes of walking, they see the neighborhood that Uncle Korbin lives in, and they quickly run up to the house.

Tatum says "Oh no guys, where is his car"

Sterling looks very frightened as he sprints to the garage and puts in the code.

Sterling yells “No,No, NO, NO, NO, NO”.

As the garage opens, everyone sees the car parked in there, and everyone is relieved.

# Breaking and Entering

Everyone goes to the front door, and rings the loud doorbell twice. The first time they rang it, there was no answer. They hit the doorbell twice more and Teddie knocked on the doorbell, until finally they heard urgent footsteps coming from inside.

They see Uncle Korbin run towards the door in a panicked manner, as he opens the door and says “Hey guys what are you doing here, you heard about the missile right”.

Jacob says “Yeah, about that, that’s the reason we are here, I thought you would have better ideas to escape than us”.

Uncle Korbin replies “Uhm, okay, okay we will think of something just come inside for now, I am happy you guys are all safe”.

Everyone takes a seat in his living room, as the teenagers explain how they got to San Diego without a car.

Uncle Korbin is mesmerized at the dedication of their work, and is surprised they even made it.

Then, the inevitable question pops up, and Uncle Korbin asks “Hey Sterling, do your parents know about this”.

He quietly replies “Uh...no”.

Korbin asks him to repeat himself, he says “No, no Uncle Korbin they don’t know, I snuck into the house to get my things then left through the window, and my phone has been dead so I haven’t received any calls”.

Korbin says “Oh, oh wow, okay, you know what that's fine for now, let's just figure out how to get out of here, so we can all be safe”.

# Preparing to Leave

Uncle Korbin tells everyone that there is food in the fridge, and to make themselves at home until he is ready to leave.

Uncle Korbin has a lab in his basement where he does all of his work for his rocket scientist job, so he needs to pack up all of his belongings quickly before time runs out.

At this point, only around 17 hours remain until the missile hits.

In the meantime, while everyone is waiting for Uncle Korbin to get ready, they find a phone charger and everyone one by one charges their phone and walks around his house mesmerized at all the new technology and gadgets Uncle Korbin has before anyone else in the world.

They take the elevator in his house, and ride down to the basement, where Uncle Korbin's lab is where he works on all his projects. There is at least 10 million dollars worth of equipment in this basement, and some of it is even classified as priceless.

Everyone sees Uncle Korbin frantically packing up all of his supplies into one large duffle bag before he turns and asks

“So what’s y’all’s plan anyways to try and get out of here anyway, every single flight is already booked within the United States, so we will have to go somewhere international”

Jacob starts off by saying “Why don’t we go to Egypt”

Everyone turns at him in disgust as no one wants to make the 18-hour-long trip all the way to Egypt.

Everyone else also throws in some ideas while Uncle Korbin finishes up his packing and no one’s ideas are really clicking with the rest of the group.

Finally, when Sterling says “Well, why don’t we go to Tokyo, Japan I bet no one else on the West Coast has thought of going there and it would be pretty cool”

After some questioning from the rest of the group, they finally agree.



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Sterling is excited as he runs to take the elevator back upstairs to get his phone so he can find plane tickets.

Uncle Korbin tells him to hurry as he realizes time is ticking down and there is less than 12 hours until the terminal missile hits the West Coast.

# Booking the Plane

Sterling rushes back downstairs and everyone huddles around him looking at his phone as he opens Google looking for the next flight leaving from San Diego going to Tokyo, Japan.

The current time is 10:00 PM on April 1st, 2041, and the missile is set to land at 10:00 AM on April 2nd, 2041 which means they need to find a flight leaving within the next few hours.

Sterling yells as he shakes his phone as the plane app loads, and he eagerly waits for available flights to pop up. Finally, the app loads and he inputs Tokyo, Japan into the search and flight times load.

Sterling reads “April 3rd, April 5th, April 10th, NOTHING FOR TOMORROW”

He reloads his phone one more time, and then, with almost no hope left he sees 5 seats available on a flight going to Tokyo Japan leaving at 3:00 AM on April 2nd.

Sterling clicks the buy tickets button multiple times as fast as possible as he does not

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want to miss this flight, he then needs to input credit card information to buy the tickets before time runs out.

He rushes to get his Uncle Korbin's card, with almost no hope just a couple seconds ago, Sterling, Jacob, Teddie, Tatum and Uncle Korbin all seem to be saved.

# Leaving San Diego

Uncle Korbin has finally finished packing, and everyone else gets all of their belongings and they start to head to Korbin's car that is parked outside.

While Sterling was booking the flights, his phone was on Do Not Disturb, and the one thing that he missed was the hundreds of texts from his parents asking where he was. Still, to this point he has not realized those texts, and frankly he has forgotten about his parents completely in the first place.

As Uncle Korbin grabs the keys, he tells everyone to throw their stuff in the car and get in. He puts in the navigation to San Diego International Airport, and he sees 2 hours worth of constant traffic. This starts to worry him a little bit, as it is already creeping up at 11:00 PM, and they only have a few more hours until the flight time, but he tries to stay calm and not worry the others.

They start their journey, and not even 15 minutes into the drive, they are already sitting in traffic. Everyone tries to cut jokes and be funny to

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try and pass the time, however, it is just not working.

11:00 PM turns into midnight and midnight turns into 1:00 AM, which is finally when they reach the airport. At this point, Uncle Korbin is starting to get a little worried, but he is still staying calm.

The really worrisome feelings come when he sees the massive never-ending line the second he enters the airport.

Everyone else is in awe, as they have never seen this many people in one spot before, and everyone was so panicked trying to get away from the missile, and there was barely any security or workers even in the airport, due to everyone fleeing because of the missile.

Uncle Korbin, and everyone else knows that they cannot afford to miss this flight, as if they do, it is the end of their lives. As this realization kicks in, they start to push and budge through large groups of people trying to get to their terminal.

Tatum then asks “Hey guys, I really need to go use the bathroom, don’t wait for me, I’ll catch up”

Everyone is hesitant to leave Tatum by himself, as there are hundreds of thousands of

people in this airport, but they know if they wait, they may miss their plane.

Tatum tries to go to the bathroom as quickly as possible, but in the bathroom, there is a line and he starts to quickly get stressed.

Meanwhile, everyone else has kept on their pushing journey to eventually get up the escalator, and get closer to their terminal.

## Oh no, Where's Tatum?

Tatum finally gets out of the bathroom, and he starts to look if he can possibly find any of his friend's or Uncle Korbin, and unfortunately all he sees are random people.

He starts to make his way towards the escalators, however, it is much harder to move as one single person rather than a group of five. At this point, time is really ticking down and the time is 2:00 AM, and the flight leaves in an hour.

Tatum is really stressed now, and is almost in a state of complete panic and fear.

He starts to really push his way through the lines, looking for any signs of hope.

On the other hand, Sterling and everyone else is still worried as they have no service currently in the airport, and there is less than 40 minutes until takeoff.

They finally get to their terminal, and are about to check in, however, they decide to wait until Tatum finally gets to the terminal.

They wait...5 minutes pass...10 minutes pass...15 minutes pass...20 minutes pass and there is only 10 minutes left until takeoff, they start to call the boarding passes by area and when Sterling's section is called, they have no choice but to go onto the plane, and sadly leave Tatum at the airport.

Tatum is still stuck in the traffic of people, and is starting to get lost in the huge San Diego International Airport.

Sterling, Teddie and Jacob all start to shed a tear as that may have been the last time they ever saw their best friend.

Everyone finds their way to their seats, and sits down, and as the plane takes off, there is still no sign of Tatum anywhere...

This was the end of a great core friendship that has lasted for 10+ years. It brought everyone to tears that it had to end like this, but at least Uncle Korbin and the rest of the group survived.



# New Beginnings

After a long, silent, 12 hour flight all the way to Tokyo, Japan everyone is still in shock that they had to leave their best friend and make a tough decision to save themselves.

Entering Tokyo, Japan the boys and Uncle Korbin do not plan to stay long, only for a couple weeks until they decide where on the east coast they want to move to, but it haunts Sterling and the rest of the boys for the rest of their lives how they had to leave their best friend stranded to his ultimate death.

When everyone gets off the plane, everyone's phones start to blow up with information about what happened to the people that didn't evacuate, and this only makes everyone's situation worse knowing that one of their best friends was involved in this accident.

Maybe, only if they decided to wait for Tatum in front of the bathroom, they would be celebrating their life with their best friend right now.

Another thought that crosses Sterling's mind is how he also stranded his parents without any word about his life or where he is now.

Sterling has now lost his best friend, and 2 sets of parents. He is in a state of constant mourning for the next 2 weeks while everyone ponders about their future lives after they move back to the US, however, that is the last thing on Sterling's mind.

**THE END**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Adith Kadiyala** is a 16 year old boy who lives in Royersford, PA and goes to Spring-Ford Area High School. He loves to play basketball and has been playing for more than 8 years. He also loves to hang out with his friends and always be outside. His favorite season is summer and he loves to go to the beach, or go on vacation to lake houses whenever he is off school. His favorite vacation destination is Cancun, Mexico and he would love to always go back. Adith has always been interested in animals ever since he was a kid, and loves to see different types of animals at all different types of zoos. In school, Adith is interested in Business Analytics and would love to major in that during college. Adith has a very tight relationship with his family and loves to hang out with them in his spare time. He had a very enjoyable time writing this book and hopes you love it as much as he did.

