

WRITE  *ON!*
Short Story Contest

Story 5
**Cardboard, Out of
this World**

"Where are we going to find cardboard?" asked Logan. Sriram and Logan were taking a leisurely walk in the park.

"Why do we need cardboard again?" Sriram asked. "AHHHH!" *Thud!* Logan had tripped on an outlying piece of cardboard. "Well, I found some," Logan told Sriram as he got up. "So..... What are we going to do with the cardboard?" Sriram questioned.

"Maybe we could use it for the science project. Remember we have to make a model rocket? The project is due Friday."

"What was our idea for the project again?"

"Building the biggest cardboard rocket," Logan replied.

"All right then, let's get to it," Sriram remarked. They took the cardboard with them to Logan's garage and got to work. Hours of work later they had finished their model rocket.

"Wow! This looks so good," Sriram said.

"The racing stripes were a good touch," Logan said. They took the rocket to Logan's backyard. While Logan set up the rocket, Sriram set up the ignition system.

"Get out of the blast area," Sriram told Logan. Sriram started the countdown, "10, 9, 8, 7, 6, ignition system start, 4,3,2, 1 BLAST OFF!" As the rocket took flight and soared into the sky, Logan collapsed. Sriram ran to his friend, "LOGAN! LOGAN!" but then suddenly his world disappeared into a spiral of darkness.

The boys awoke surrounded by cardboard. "Where are we?" Logan asked as Sriram got to his feet and found his balance. He turned around and saw the big blue and green marble they were from called Earth sitting in lonely space behind them.

"Wait whaaaaaat!" Sriram said.

"Uhh, somehow I think we are in our rocket, and I think the rocket went to space," Logan told Sriram.

"No duh," Sriram replied. Sriram was so uncoordinated that he stumbled around and hit a button. The control panel started flashing and beeping. "Course has been altered," the computer blared through multiple speakers throughout the ship. The next thing both boys remember was their ship crashing into the ground. When they could finally comprehend things, what they saw amazed them. They were on a whole planet made of

cardboard. "This is great," Sriram said, "We can use this cardboard to fix our ship." They heard something behind them and turned quickly.

"What is that?" Logan asked. A cardboard man was walking towards them. The creature was 6 feet tall and was holding what looked to be a cardboard blaster. "Does that blaster work?" Logan whispered to Sriram. The creature pulled the trigger and in the blink of an eye, a bright blue laser flew right past Logan's head and made a hole in the ruins of their cardboard rocket. "I guess it does," Logan said nervously.

"You have breached our planet and you are using our materials, we do not allow this, you will be terminated," the alien replied in a disembodied voice.

"Run!" The boys turned around in unison and ran for their lives. Logan spotted a valley out of the quarter of his eye. "IN THERE!" They booked it to the valley and ran through the middle. More of the cardboard aliens jumped in from the top of the valley and chased the two boys.

"THERE!" Sriram pointed to a cave on the side of the valley. Logan followed him in. An alien shot his blaster and missed, making cardboard fall and cover the entrance.

"Phew," Logan exhaled, "we're safe for now." Sriram took a step back and tripped on something.

"Look who's tripping on cardboard now," Logan said.

"Oh my gosh," Sriram then remarked, "I think I found weapons." Sriram took a closer look and could barely make out the shape of two blaster rifles in the dark.

"Ok, let's use the weapons to defeat the aliens. Then we can get back to our ship." Logan said.

"Copy that," Sriram said back. Just then the wall came down. "FIRE!" Sriram exclaimed. They started shooting the aliens, but they shot back. Sriram and Logan were being overrun, there were too many of them! They started to get backed into a corner.

"I guess this is the end, Logan, it's been a pleasure to be your friend," Sriram said.

"Same here bud," Logan said back. Just then, the ceiling started to shake.

"It's caving in!" Sriram exclaimed. The cardboard above them gave in and it came crashing down to the floor of the cave, burying Sriram and Logan.

DING! Logan awoke to a startle. He rubbed both of his eyes and pinched his arm. Was that real? He looked to his left and saw the sun climbing over the horizon turning the sky a hazy orange through his bedroom blinds. He took a deep breath and got out of his bed. He checked his phone and there was an unread message from Sriram that read "Hey Logan, wanna go take a walk in the park after lunch?"