

In the Quest of Truth

Nandini Killa



IMMERSED in uncertainty and dread intermingled, Luna stepped into the lecture hall with unfamiliar faces welcoming her. Though the background looked blurry, she was resolute in her purpose of avenging the death of her twin brother, for she knew there was more truth to the story than it just being a mere case of cystic fibrosis. From all the biology she understood and was going to commence to comprehend in the duration of the course of pursuing a degree in biomedical sciences, she wanted to unravel the lingering mystery of her life, a mystery whose repercussions had cost her most prized possession, her parents. Even before she could stop mourning the loss of her brother, life decided to orphan her, for her parents succumbed to the remorse and poignance that was persistent right after Joy was taken away from them.

Joy and his magnetic presence imparted her the strength to embark on this daunting journey. Just the mere thought of Joy brought water to her eyes, but she was soon brought back to the present instant by a voice addressing the gathering. She saw her for the first time, Dr Jennifer Stone, the acting head of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Stanford

University and a pioneer in perfecting the technology of gene therapy for several diseases, but instead of being impregnated with reverence and elation as one would expect, Luna burned in the fire of agony and not without a good reason. As the former was extending a pep talk to the group, Luna saw through her superficial sweetness. She was already devising a strategy to materialise her plan, which would draw curtains on a story that had commenced long ago.

The following days were spent analysing the movements and actions of Stone. It did not take long for Luna to come to face with the green doored room harbouring information on all the projects that Stone was involved in till date set in the abandoned corridor equipped with high security where only she and her lab mates were allowed to enter. The entry was only through scanning special ID cards, which was obviously not in the possession of first-year graduate students like Luna.

Of course, approaching Stone was a bad idea, for there was no chance she would let in Luna without an appropriate reason, which, though she had, couldn't risk bringing to light so soon. So, she resorted to the next best option, Ria it was. A new PhD student under the supervision of Stone, old enough