

The Mystical Jupiter

I stood in front of my desk at headquarters, my chest rising and falling quickly as I breathed. I said the numbers into the microphone as I did the countdown, watching our new rocket, the JU57, take off into the air. Our mission was to take a manned spacecraft around Jupiter once and back at the speed of light, and I was Chief Commander for it. "One, zero... Blast off!" I exclaimed, and off they were, my two best friends, soaring into the sky. I scanned the tracking screen on my left and watched them leave Earth and go beyond. As they left the Exosphere, I spoke into the headset with a calm voice, "You have now fully left earth and are now in space."

"Okay, we can see Jupiter on the radar and are now heading for it." came a voice that I recognised as Charlotte's. After about fifteen minutes of smooth sailing, the headset suddenly went static, and I heard some muffled talking from it. I looked down at the tracker, but it was totally blacked out. I started yelling orders at my colleagues, "Aidan, get me a satellite reading of their position before their blackout, Rose, try Lola's walkie talkie, Jonathan, get Charlotte's, Olivia, get me a reading of the asteroid belt." I tried to get my screens on again, plugging, and unplugging chords and wires, but on hearing Olivia call me over, I rushed to her computer. I was stunned to see that there was a meteor advancing on Earth. I put the pieces together: Charlotte and Lola had been hit by the meteor on their way between Mars and Jupiter, and now it was going to crash into Earth. I took a moment to process the information and decided to let someone else handle to meteor situation. I sent Rose, the fastest person on the floor to go and notify the meteorite department, and focused on finding out if my friend were alive- I could barely think, the atmosphere was so tense. Right now, the priority was to save my friends, no matter what lengths I would have to go to. I put my headphones back on and listened to calm myself down; for about two minutes, all I could hear was static, but then flickering voices caught my attention. I tried to speak into the headset, they couldn't hear me. By now, I could make out some words. The sounds slowly faded though. Just as I had lost hope, a voice broke through. "Jacinta, mission accomplished!" came Lola's relieved voice, "An asteroid from the belt brushed past us and destroyed the radars, but it didn't do any severe damage. It was heading toward Earth though, that's what I'm concerned about."

"It's been taken care of." I reassured her. Suddenly, my screens started flashing and large, close-up photos of Jupiter appeared. It was supernatural from that close. "Wow!" I breathed.

"It is," Lola continued. She explained that they had to swerve off course but were now heading back. There was no one happier than me when the craft touched down. I nagged my friends to tell me all about the experience, and from how they described it, Jupiter climbed from the bottom of my favourite planet list to the very top. It truly was a magical place.