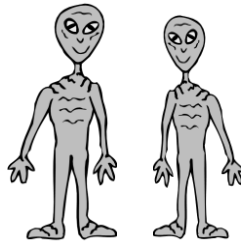


EUGENE AND THE TWO ALIENS

Based on a story by Maksim Nasurdinov
adapted by
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Eugene was thirteen on the day his life changed. He was an average kid with the same problems faced by most teenagers. He did not like school very much. He had a few friends, but he was not involved in activities outside of school.

Mostly he liked to listen to his music. He had a lot of music on his player he had downloaded from the internet. He always walked around with his earphones in his ears, and he had a bounce to his step as he walked.

Eugene was a daydreamer. He always dreamed of being a superhero. He loved to read comic books and watch movies about his favorite characters. He had superhero costumes in his closet that his mother had gotten for him over the years for Halloween. He did not let his friends know that he had kept them. It would be too embarrassing.

One Friday evening, while he was lying on his bed listening to his music, he heard a strange voice.

“Good evening Eugene, how are your today?” the voice said.

Eugene sat up quickly and looked around the room. No one was there. He took out his earphones and listened for the voice again. No one was there.

After sitting up for a few minutes, trying to figure out where the voice was coming from, he lay back down on his bed and thought to himself, “I must’ve imagined it.”

He put his earphones back in and began to listen to his music again. A few minutes later, the voice returned.

“Hi Eugene, why didn’t you answer me?” the voice said.

Eugene sat up on his bed again and looked around the room. Still there was no one there.

“Who are you?” Eugene asked.

“We’re your friends,” the voice said.

Suddenly in front of him were two teenage boys. One had red hair and freckles. He had a big smile on his face. The other one had black hair, and he looked very serious.

“Who are you guys?” Eugene asked. “What’re you doing in my room?”

The boy with the black hair said, “I’m Romdo and this is Terius. We are here to help you.”

“Help me?” Eugene asked. “Why do I need help?”

“We’ve been watching you for a long time.” Terius explained, smiling at Eugene. “We’ve been sent here to help you with all of your problems.”

“What kind of problems?” Eugene asked. “I didn’t know that I had any problems.”

“You’ve always wanted to be a superhero,” Romdo said.

“How’d you know that I wanted to be a superhero?” Eugene asked.

“We’re here to make that happen,” Terius spoke up.

“How are you gonna do that?” Eugene responded very surprised at what he was hearing. “I don’t believe you.”

“OK, Eugene, watch,” said Romdo.

Just then, the boys disappeared and in their place were two black ravens. Just as quickly, the boys returned to normal.

“How’d you do that?” Eugene exclaimed.

“Here’s our story. We’re from the planet Kurios of the Frongorian system on the far side of the Milky Way. We’ve been sent here to help you realize your full potential,” Terius explained.

“Many years ago you were sent here to Earth to learn the language and the culture of these humans. Your memory was blocked so you couldn’t remember your life before. Now that you are old enough to understand, we were sent to teach you how to use the inner talents that you were born with. We’ll help you to remember who you really are,” Terius continued.

“You mean I’m really like you?” Eugene asked very surprised.

“Yes, and we’re here to teach you all you need to know. With the powers you have inside you, you’ll be able to become a superhero in no time at all!” Romdo replied.

“Where do we start?” Eugene asked excitedly.

“The first thing you need to learn is how to improve your life. We’ll teach you how to do the things you need to do to become a better person. We’ll show you exercises to prepare you for your next steps. Then we’ll train you to fly and to move things with your mind. After that you’ll be able to teleport to any place on Earth in a matter of seconds,” Romdo said.

“Wow, I can’t believe it! Am I dreaming?” Eugene said as he rubbed his eyes.

“We’ll start tomorrow. Get a good night’s sleep, and in the morning we’ll return,” Terius said, and then suddenly they were gone.

“That’s so cool. You mean I’m going to be able to do all of those things? I only dreamed about this” Eugene exclaimed to himself.

Eugene did not sleep at all that night. He was thinking about all of the things he would be able to do, if he had the powers. He was ready to begin his training. He did not want to wait.

The next day was Saturday so he had all day to work with the two aliens.

In the morning, Romdo and Terius returned.

“Are you ready to start?” they asked Eugene.

“You bet I am!” Eugene answered. “Where do we begin?”

“The first thing you need to do is become active in your school. You have to develop your leadership skills and improve your relationships with the people you live

with,” Terius explained.

“How do I do that?” Eugene asked.

“We’ll help you. You’ll be the only one who will be able to hear us. When you need help, we’ll give you the words to speak. Soon you’ll be able to do this on your own,” Terius answered.

During the weekend, the boys talked and practiced the things Eugene needed to learn to be a better person. He learned the exercises and did them over and over.

On Monday, when he returned to school, Terius and Romdo gave Eugene things to say that impressed the people around him.

After a few days, Eugene became a very popular person. The kids at school liked talking to him because he was so smart and funny.

Terius and Romdo helped Eugene with his homework, reminded him of his chores, and gave him things to say which transformed him into a very responsible person. Even his parents noticed the change.

Over time, Romdo and Terius helped Eugene less and less. He was doing it all on his own. People liked him and respected him.

A couple of months later Terius and Romdo told Eugene it was time to learn the next lesson. They were going to teach him to fly.

Eugene got very excited. This was what he had been waiting for. Eugene had been doing the exercises every day. He was preparing himself the way that Terius and Romdo had taught him.

“OK, so what do I do?” Eugene asked.

“We’ll start small. Stand on your bed, and then just lean forward. Look straight ahead and let your body do the rest.

Eugene had a big smile on his face. He put his arms out and leaned forward.

Thunk.

“Ouch, that hurt!” Eugene said as he hit the floor. “What happened?”

Romdo and Terius looked at each other in surprise.

“That should’ve worked,” Terius said. “Try it again.”

Eugene rubbed his shoulder and climbed back onto his bed. He put his arms out, looked straight ahead, and leaned forward.

Thunk.

The same thing happened.

“Ouch! That really hurts! Are you sure this is how it’s supposed to work?” Eugene asked in obvious pain.

Terius and Romdo whispered to each other.

Then they said to Eugene, “We need to go now. We’ll be back soon. Try not to hurt yourself, OK?”

“OK, but what’s wrong?” Eugene asked.

“We’re not sure. We’ll tell you when we come back,” Romdo said, and then they both disappeared.

Eugene looked around, but they were gone. He sat down on his bed. He was sore from falling onto the floor.

“Why can’t I fly?” Eugene thought to himself, feeling very sad. “I’ve done everything they asked me to do. I’m doing my best in everything. I don’t understand.”

A week went by. Eugene had tried a few more times to fly, but each time he just fell to the ground and hurt himself.

Then one evening, while Eugene was doing his homework, Romdo and Terius appeared in his room.

“Hi Eugene,” Terius said.

“Hi, where have you been?” Eugene asked.

“Well, we’ve been researching your problem. We’ve been trying to figure out why you can’t fly,” Romdo answered.

“What’s the problem?” Eugene asked.

“It seems that you aren’t one of us after all. We made a big mistake. You really are a human and you are the child of your parents. There’s another boy we were supposed to

see, but we got mixed up on our directions,” Terius explained. “You won’t be a superhero after all.”

Eugene was sad. He wanted so badly to be a superhero.

“The good news is that you did everything we asked you to do, and now you are doing much better in school, you have many friends, and you are succeeding very nicely in your life. If you continue to do what we taught you, you’ll have a very good life,” Romdo said trying to make Eugene feel better.

“I guess you’re right,” Eugene agreed. “Will you ever come to see me again?” Eugene asked.

“Perhaps, but you won’t see us. We’ll watch to see how you are doing in your life. We are very proud of you, and we are so sorry that we made such a big mistake,” Terius said.

Then Romdo and Terius disappeared.

Eugene sat on his bed feeling very sad, but he knew that he would have a better life because of what he had learned from the two aliens.



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VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. download _____ | a. ability |
| 2. superhero _____ | b. move to another place |
| 3. culture _____ | c. guides people, leader |
| 4. teleport _____ | d. has special powers |
| 5. exercise _____ | e. get from the internet |
| 6. potential _____ | f. amaze, astound |
| 7. leadership _____ | g. well liked |
| 8. impress _____ | h. traditions |
| 9. popular _____ | i. workout, keep fit |
| 10. alien _____ | j. from another planet |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Eugene liked to listen to music. | T / F |
| 2. Eugene had many superhero costumes. | T / F |
| 3. The aliens were from Mars. | T / F |
| 4. Eugene was 10 years old. | T / F |
| 5. Terius had black hair. | T / F |
| 6. Eugene learned to fly. | T / F |
| 7. Eugene worked hard to learn everything. | T / F |
| 8. Eugene went to Kurios. | T / F |
| 9. Eugene was an alien. | T / F |
| 10. Eugene wanted to be a superhero. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. Who came to visit Eugene? ____
 - a) Tom and Jim
 - b) His parents
 - c) Terius and Romdo
 - d) Simon and Theodore

2. What did Eugene want to be? ____
 - a) superhero
 - b) police officer
 - c) teacher
 - d) teenage boy

3. What did Eugene improve after his training? ____
 - a) his homework
 - b) his muscles
 - c) his reputation
 - d) all the above

4. What happened when Eugene tried to fly? ____
 - a) he fell on his face
 - b) he flew to the moon
 - c) he floated in his room
 - d) he disappeared

COMPREHENSION: (*Write a complete sentence to answer the question.*)

1. How old was Eugene?

2. What did Terius and Romdo teach Eugene to do?

3. What did Eugene have in his closet?

4. What was Eugene doing when the two aliens came to his room?

5. Where did Eugene get his music?

6. Who could see the two aliens?

7. What happened when Eugene tried to fly?

8. What did Eugene want to be?

9. Did Eugene become popular at school?

10. Where did the two aliens come from?
