Dylan peered outside the window, sweat trickling down his spine. “It’s no use,” he muttered, hopeless. “The gravity simulators are showing it clearly.” The ominous abyss of space shrouded the Stargazer in jet black, illuminated by the distant stars’ luminescent glow. Even still, the vacuum of space overwhelmed the faded power of the remote stars.

The Stargazer was hurling itself into the Gaia BH1, the closest black hole to Earth. Jane winced at the thought of being sucked into a black hole, never to be heard from again as she checked on the AI servants. Ben typed through commands on the control panel anxiously, his hands shaking and dripping with sweat. Angela, the youngest of the group, mustered up the strength to check outside of the Stargazer for abnormal behaviour with a geiger counter.

Ben tousled his own hair, cupping his face in his hands. “This is never going to work!” he thundered, banging his fist on the keyboard. “Yes it is Mr Pessimism,” Jane replied, rolling her eyes. “Well how much do you know about the state we’re in? Or are you too busy in the hydroponics watching the crops grow? How about you do some real work here?” Ben snapped back, anger pulsing in every word. “Can you two relax for once?” Angela said, annoyance bubbling up in her like a volcano about to erupt. “How is anyone supposed to relax when our ship is headed straight for a black hole with no way to stop it?” Ben had already erupted.

“Please relax! Someone is trying to do work and all you three are doing is making an unnecessary commotion! The ship is cruising at the black hole at approximately 25 kilometers per minute with all of the efforts we’ve done.” shouted Dylan as he stared intensely at the radar, an uncontrollable amount of radiation pulsating just a centimetre from the ship. “You aren’t any better either smart alec!” Ben yelled.

“Does anyone here want to be sucked up by a black hole for the rest of eternity?” Angela screamed. Three head shakes replied, followed by an eerie silence. Angela broke the silence with, “Then maybe try working together? It might help.”

Everyone was speechless. Everyone was wondering how the youngest cousin had dumbfounded the others. Not a single question was asked, and the four cousins did something they had never done before; collaborate.

Ben’s fingers glided across the control panel, as Dylan hastily calculated the trajectory of the ship. Jane watched the radiation sensors as Angela commanded the plan. Never before did any on them think that she would be the leader of the group. Until now.

“We’ve done it!” Dylan exclaimed, pointing outside of the reinforced window. The four cousins leaped for joy as they peered into space, watching the black hole become smaller and smaller until it was nothing but a speck in the distance. The cousins had evaded trouble this time, but another issue may spark up and threaten the entire universe itself.