

THE TECHNOPHILES

Naheda Itani



'This is unbelievable, you guys took my seat' said Jad while adjusting his green-colored jacket and bright rainbow headset that he wears all day. *Seriously, he never takes them off! *

'Well first come first serve, we don't make the rules' said Riwa and Celine while bursting out laughing after jumping on the bean bags.

I was sitting on the orange gaming chair overhearing their conversation while looking at Sami who was fixing my laptop. I was playing a game online but my laptop suddenly crashed and Sami is known to be the technician of our group

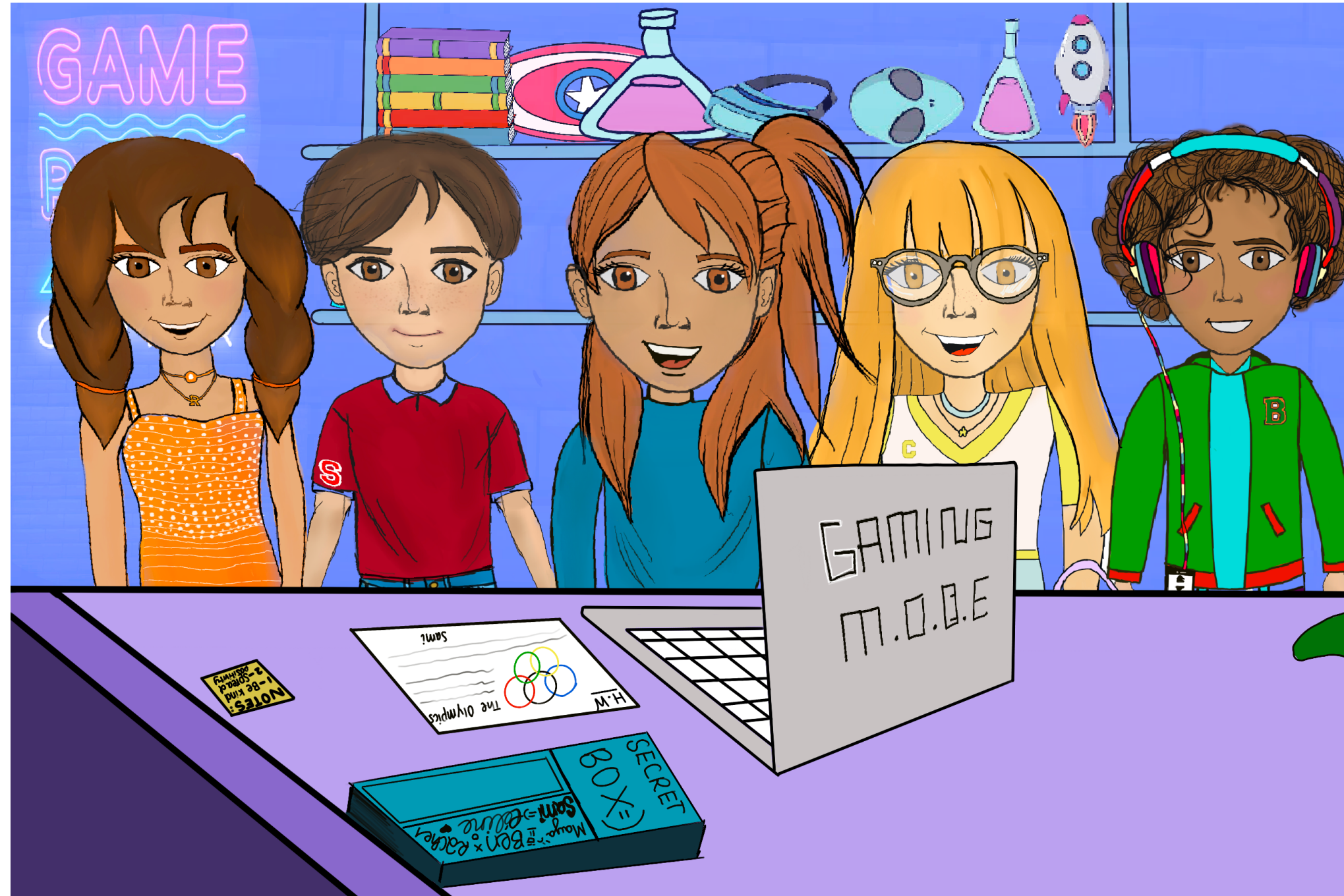
Jad shouts 'Fine but I call dibs on the bean bags next time we come to the gaming room'.

Oh, I forgot to introduce you to my friends, my dear reader, where do I start? Well, the boy in the green jacket is Jad, he loves music. The girl in the orange dress is Riwa, and yes before you say anything she is super funny. Celine is the fashionable one as per usual and Sami is the one into technology and video games. So that's 1,2,3,4 who did I forget to mention.



I forgot to introduce myself... *chuckle* this usually happens. Well, my name is Maya and I'm the one with the ginger hair. I like to spend my free time on technology. My mom says it's bad for my eyes but that's okay because according to my calculations, I won't be blind until I am 150 years old.

While my friends and I were chilling in the gaming room I suddenly screamed 'Emergency Meeting Everyone'



'Maya you always call for emergency meetings but you always have nothing to say, do have something to tell us or is it a prank' said Jad

'Well guys, I do have something important to show you' I said. 'Look at this' while opening my fixed screen.

My friends and I were shocked by what we saw on my laptop screen. We couldn't believe that this was happening to us.

I sighed deeply and said 'Really from all seven billion people in the world and they choose us.'

The entire room raced towards where I was sitting, waiting for me to tell them what this emergency meeting is about.

'What is it Maya?' said Sami

'Is something going on?' said Celine

'You know what this is right' said Celine while looking at us

'Yes, I mean parents and teachers always talk about this stuff but I usually never believe them' said Jad

'So, what are you going to do Maya' asked Riwa

They were all looking at me as if I was responsible for all of this which I kind of am but never intended to be.

I sensed that Sami was lost and before I could say anything he jumped and said 'Guys, am I the only one who doesn't understand what's going on? Can someone fill me in I kind of forgot?'

Riwa started laughing. I think I saw tears in her eyes. She looked at Sami and said "Of course, you don't understand what's happening, you barely remember what activities you did yesterday or what you ate for breakfast. Your memory Sami is in serious trouble and needs resetting'

The entire group laughed at Sami's short-term memory because we love it, he is always the last to understand anything but because of this he is super unique and actually one of the smartest people in the group.

I looked at Sami and began to explain, "I started playing an online game with people when I realized I got a lot of friend requests. I started accepting them even though I didn't know them but as soon as I did some started to ask personal questions like how old I am or where do I live. I got scared and blocked them. I got a friend request now and I am pretty sure this person is a hacker because my computer sent me a message telling me that they are. This hacker wants to steal my information so they can kidnap me or worse, steal something from me"

'You need to set your priorities straight Maya, I seriously think kidnapping is worse than stealing' said Celine

The whole group started to burst out laughing but after that, we decided that we needed to do something.

We all sat and decided to plan.

“This person is very dangerous and wants to hack me. Do you have any ideas on what we should do?” I asked the group in a very serious manner

Jad chuckled and said “I do, let him hack you what’s the worse than can happen”

Celine was furious! She went off on how this person can get my personal information, my passwords, the numbers of other people I know, and how they can know my location if they know where my computer is located.

I was so glad that my friends wanted to help me but we needed a plan fast so I shouted “Here’s the plan. Jad and Riwa try to contact the police from the kitchen’s phone. Sami and I will try to understand what this hacker wants from me. Celine, you will pass the information that I will tell you in the gaming room to the kitchen where they will call the police, and hopefully, we will be able to track this hacker down.” I started to delegate tasks and they all zoomed off to their positions

I started my contact with the hacker after they asked me “How was I?”. How sweet of them to ask me! Of course, I am not fine. My secret diary is on this laptop *don’t tell anyone*.

I replied, but as soon as the hacker saw me cooperating they started to ask all kinds of weird questions like where do I live, how old I am, and if they wanted to meet me at a park

I directly agreed and told Celine to run to Jad and Riwa so that they can contact the police and tell them where this hacker is going to be.



Jad holds the kitchen phone in his hands while the rest of us try to hear what he is saying.

The phone call to the police sounded like this:

“112 what is your emergency”



“Hello there police station! We are a group of friends who were playing online games and suddenly a hacker asked us if we could meet at the park. We are unsure if this person is safe or dangerous but we would like to ask if you could help us be safe”

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The officer replied “It is good that you called the police station for this, it is a serious issue and I am proud that you informed us because we will keep you safe. Please give us the time and location of the park so we meet you there, we will have cops around so don’t worry”

“Ok thank you, officer, we are glad to be of help, and thank you for providing us safety”

Ben hung up the phone and we all went back to the gaming room to plan our next move!



“Well, let’s first block and report the user’ I said

“No but then the hacker will know we are on to him” said Celine

“Let’s just send the hacker a message that Maya will see him at the park in an hour” said Riwa

“So, we’re leaving her to be dead meat” said Sam

Jad rolled his eyes and smacked Sam on his head in a funny way and said “no dummy, we will be with her and the police as well but the hacker won’t know”

After multiple arguments and decisions, we had to take our plan was final.

We divided this plan into three steps.

Step 1: I will go to the park and sit on the bench while the rest of the group will hide in the bushes. I will carry my safety equipment to make sure to alert others if I am in danger.

Step 2: Once I spot the hacker, I will directly signal the police officers that will also be hiding with the group to come and help me

Step 3: We catch the hacker and call it a day!

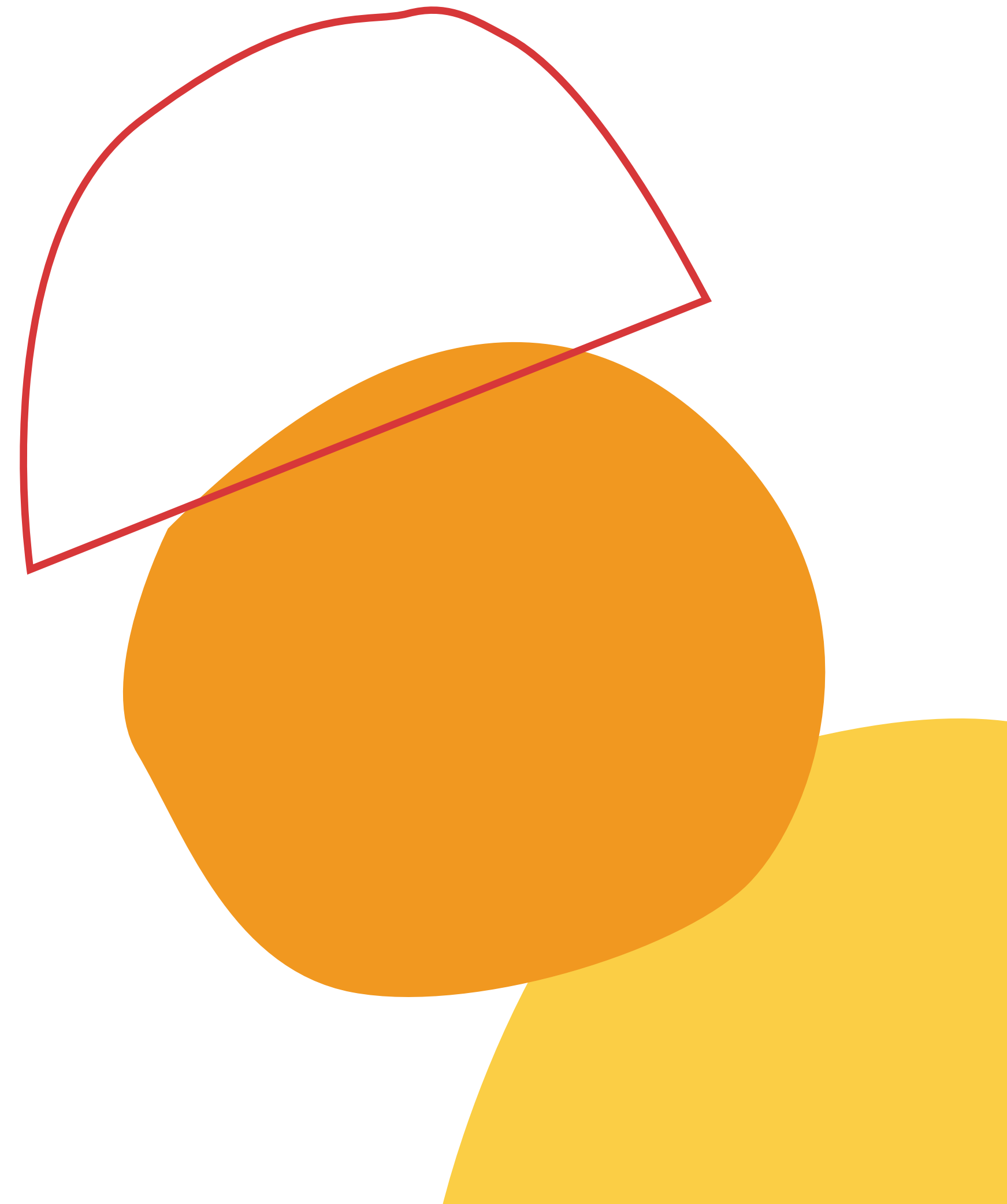


I arrived at the park which the hacker sent the location of and told me that he will meet me in 10 minutes.



I sat on the bench waiting for the hacker while the others waited for my signal but during that time I reflected on how this originally started. I decided to only accept friend requests of people that I know and trust. However, I am so proud that I alerted the police but I should also be safe next time when I play games.

Ten minutes passed and to my surprise, no one showed up, I turn to my right and couldn't believe what I saw. I was in danger.



There was a huge tall black car that had painted windows so I couldn't see who was inside next to me. I knew that this was the hacker because no one around this area had this type of car.

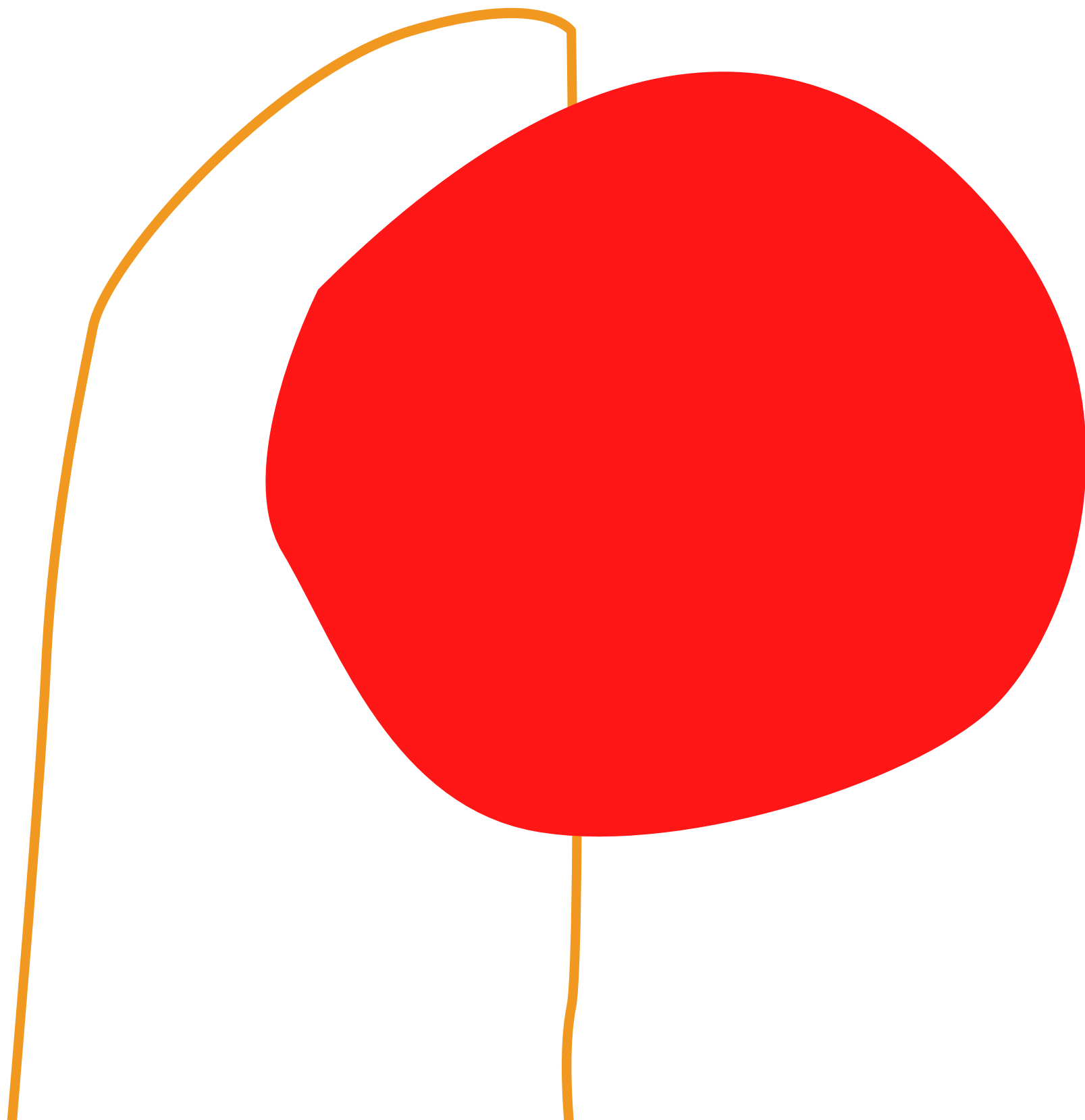


I immediately signaled the police and my friends who directly started stage two of the plan. The hacker opened the car and ran in front but I knew that he couldn't hurt me because I was safe with the people I alerted so I started laughing.

The hacker was so surprised because he thought that I should be afraid of him. He looked at me and said "turn around and walk into the car without screaming, I have a weapon"

I started laughing and said 'no you turn around and catch the surprise behind you'

The hacker turned around and was upset with the number of police officers and police cars that were around him



The police handcuffed the hacker and made sure that the police car that was going to jail. Imagine that my friends and I caught someone who is going to jail.

While the police officers were handcuffing the hacker, the chief talked to us and said “This was one of the most wanted hackers in the world. We have been trying to catch him for years but he always got away, if you haven’t called us we might’ve never been able to catch him. I’m glad that you are all safe. I hope you learned your lesson and never talk to random strangers online”

Sami replied “aye aye captain”

We all looked at him and started to laugh

“You know Sami, he is a cop, not a pirate” said Jad.

We all had another round of laughs and said our goodbyes to the police department.



Coming back to the gaming room, we all sat down from exhaustion. We did go through an adventure today.

I looked over to my friends and said “You know guys, I think I did learn a lot from this experience and I will always be careful on who to add to my friend's list next time”

“I agree, I think I will too” said Riwa

“Yeah me too” said Céline

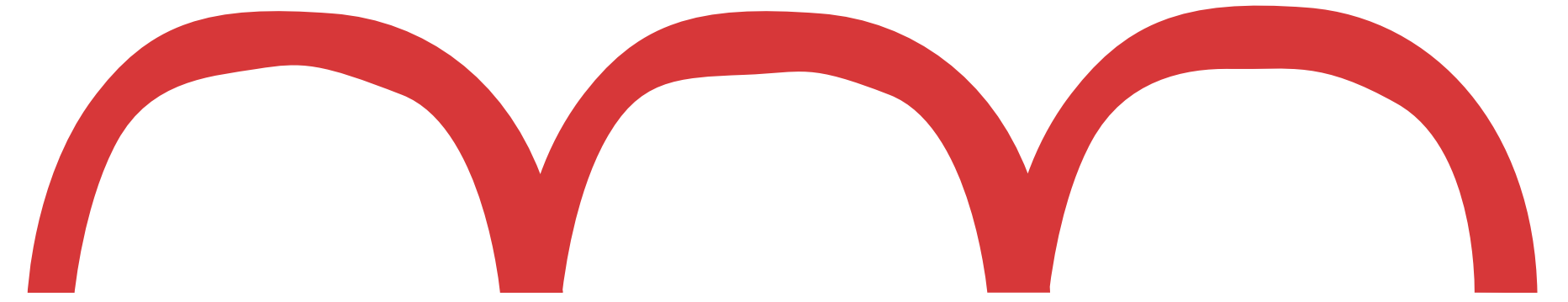
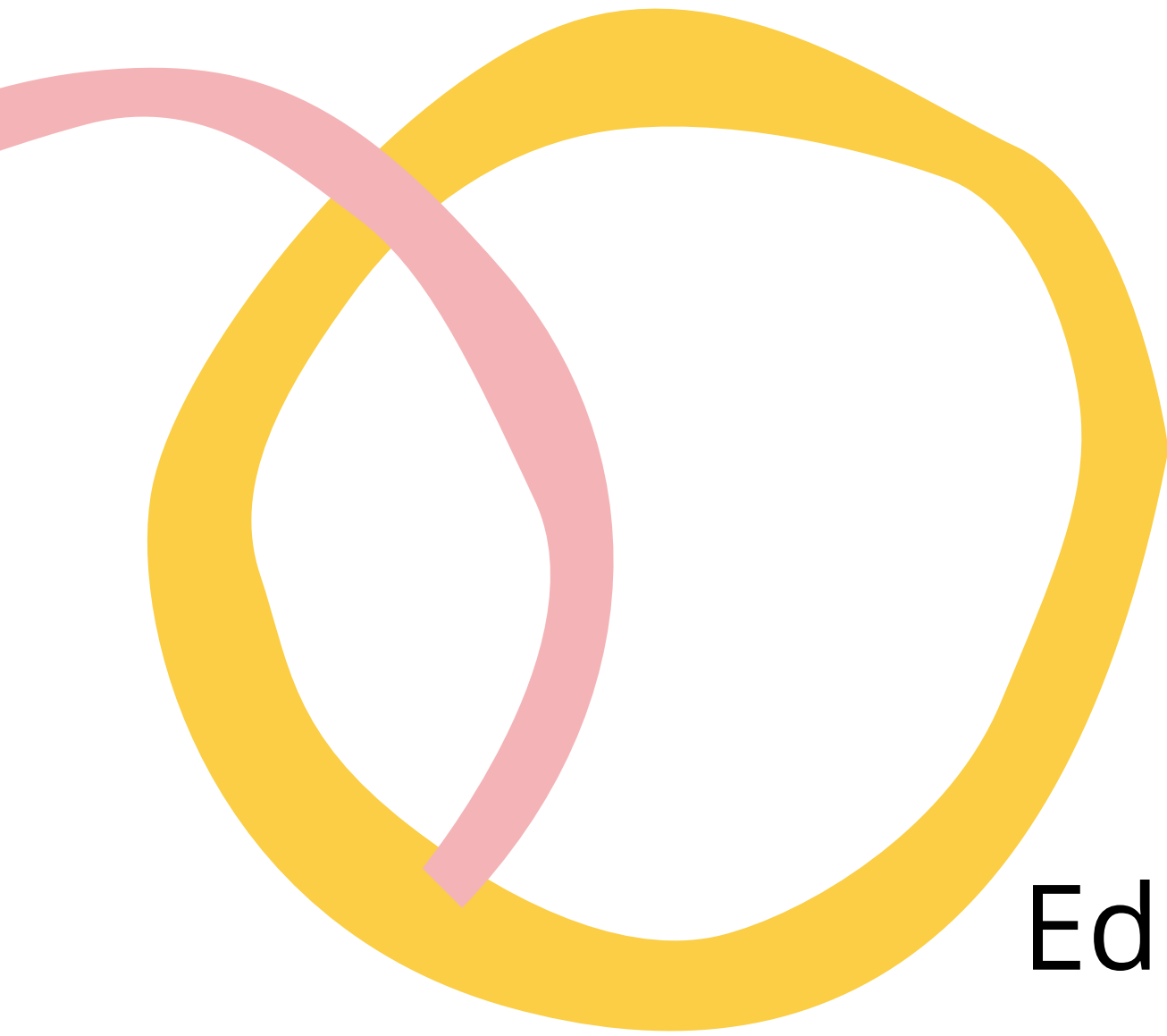
“What are you talking about” said Sami

“Sami, your turtle brain really does need a restart” said Jad

The group all laughed and enjoyed the rest of the day. I think we all learned our lesson.



My dear reader, you went through a wild journey with us and I hope to tell you more next time I see you in another book. Till then, stay safe! Do not plan alone. Always have a trusted adult and the police with you to catch the villains.



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Softwares used:
Adobe Illustrator
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