

The Exam WAR



Anvi Kumar

Author's Note

Being a student, writing this comic for me, has been an experience of telling myself “I would tell this to my younger self” or “I wish someone had said this to me”. This comic is a heartfelt attempt of mine to shed light on the often over looked experiences, emotions, and challenges that a lot of us face during small hurdles that to us look like the end of the world; Exams :).

While I observed in school how many of my friends made common jokes about how the nearing of exams kept them up at night or made them dread the next month I realized we all have similar stories to one another. That is when I decided that I must get this universal experience that every child experiences down on paper.

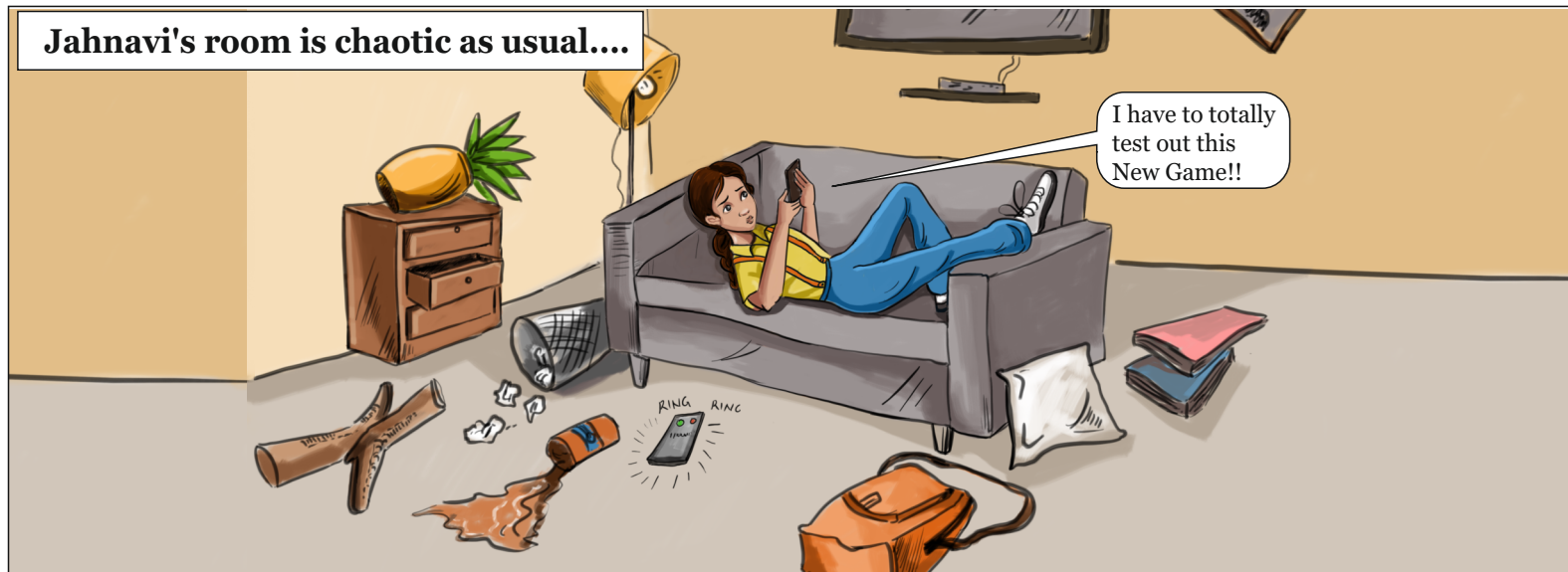
I have written comics before but “The Exam War” just seemed as a story that was not just mine but everyone else's too. Friends, all students, parents of students, teachers and so many more people. As I wrote and illustrated the story I was able to look back and actually recall times I had been in the exact same position as my characters and I hope all you readers can too!

So I invite you to join me on this journey as we navigate the tumultuous sea of childhood, its good and bad together.

Enjoy reading!

...

Jahnavi's room is chaotic as usual....



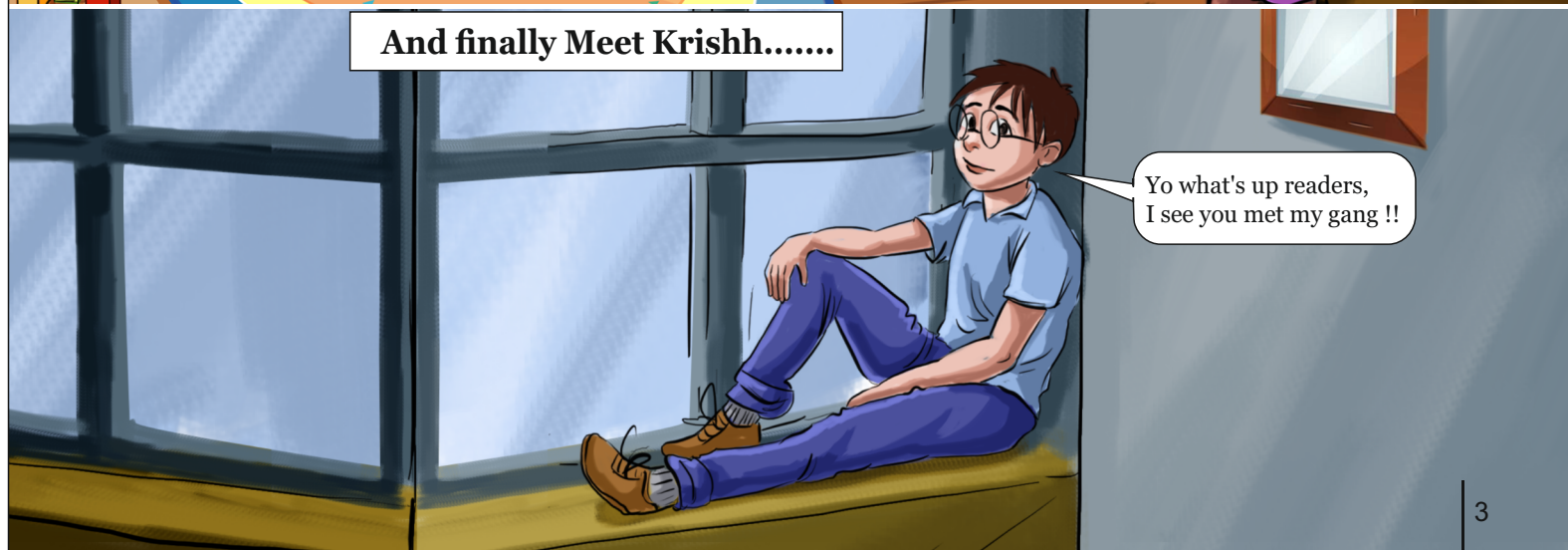
Hunar is on his bed



Zahra, after having organized room



And finally Meet Krishh.....



The Next day in school, we see Jahnvi, Hunar, Krishh, and Zahra chatting in the hall.



Students gasp and start whispering

Students ending the sessions, I wanted to announce how the terms final exams are only 3 weeks away

The lessons are so easy! Why is everyone getting so riled up?

OH!

NO!

GASP-P-P!!!

Oh, it's really deep. I just want to go home and play video games or watch movies. No no, I want to draw or....

Well I mean I kind of agree most concepts are pretty easy lads.

My notes need to be arranged in proper order and I need my three specific lucky pens now!

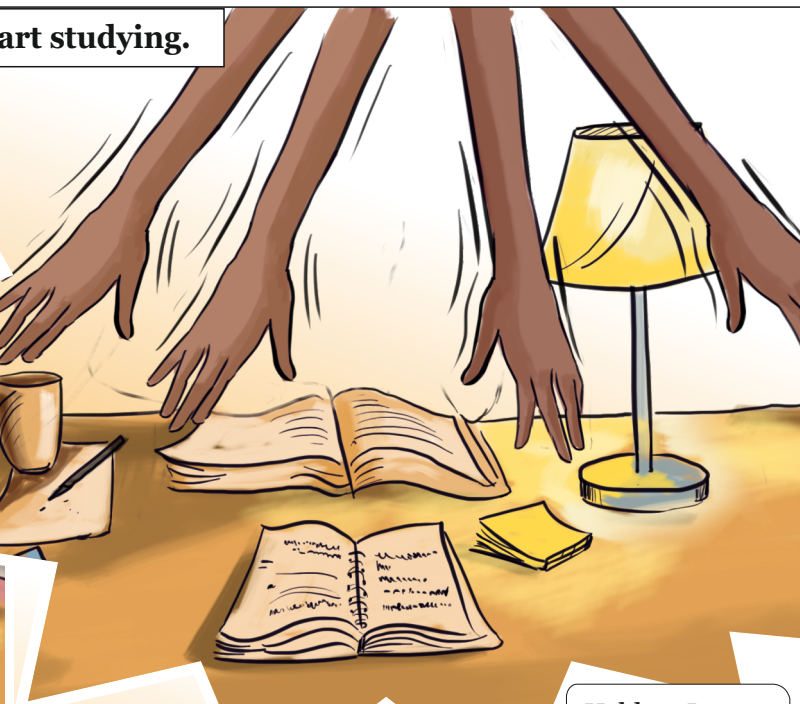
OMG! What if we don't do well? NO. What if we CAN'T do well?



The 4 friends at home and their attempts to start studying.



We see Zahra, in her room, struggling to focus as everything is not in order. She organizes pen orders, stacks of books, and washing her hand 23 times

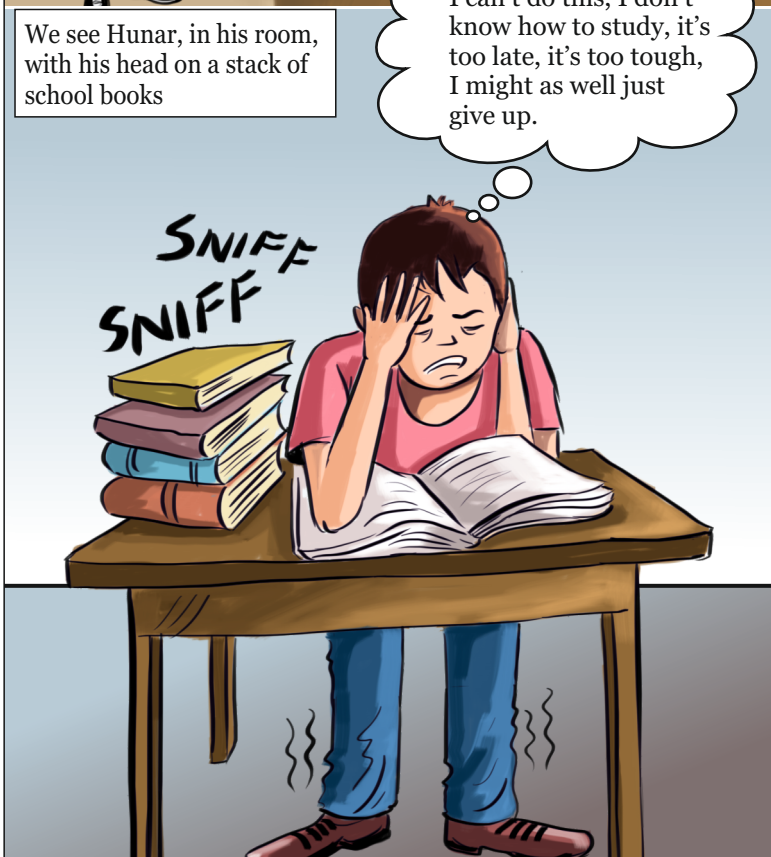


Ughh.....I was supposed to start studying at 8:00 am and NOW it's 10!!



We see Hunar, in his room, with his head on a stack of school books

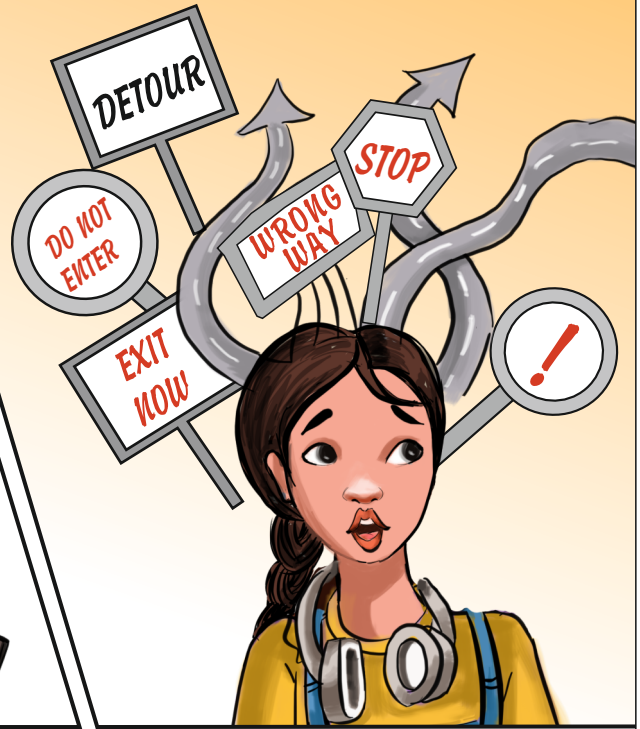
I can't do this, I don't know how to study, it's too late, it's too tough, I might as well just give up.



Owww! My nails are bleeding! Humph!



We see Jahnvi, in her room, struggling to concentrate



7:03 PM

Jahnvi: Studying easy.
Maybe I'll just take a
10-minute break, watch
some reels and get back.

09:00 PM

Anyways it's time
to sleep now I guess
I'll just have to
start tomorrow.

2 hours later

Oh man, I lost track of
time!!! But let me just
clean my room a little
before I sit to study.

?!

OH! NO!

We see Krishh lying on his bed head behind his hands in a pensive state

I would have
honestly preferred
a tougher syllabus.
This one was
too easy.

But the real question
that matters besides
school and all is why
exactly am I doing this?
I wonder what the ultimate
end goal is hmmm

I would talk to similar-aged
people about this but I find
them well below my
level of high intelligence
to converse.

BIG
SIGH!

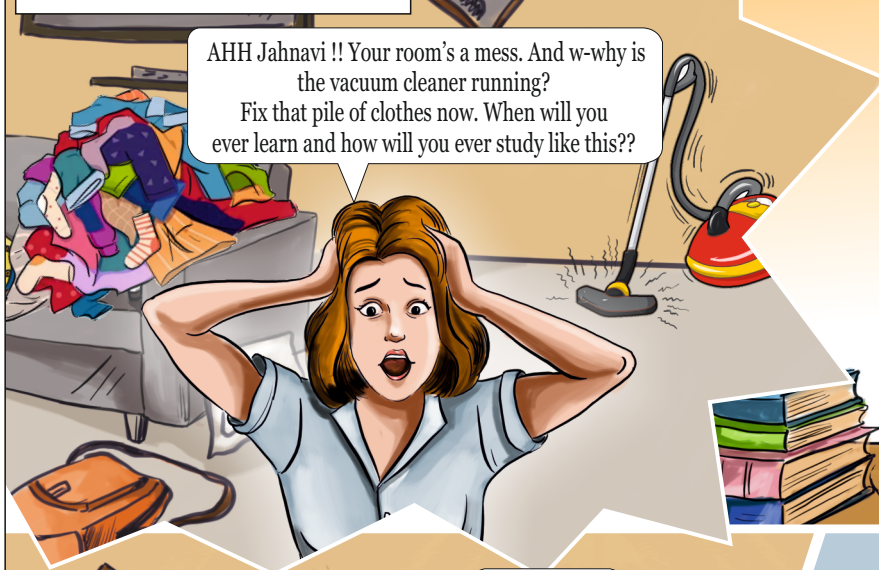
Parents of three different children ask questions about the studies



Zahra's father sees zuris room



Jahnavi mother is concerned



Krishhs mother sees krishhh studying



Zahra decided to call Krishh to bolster her motivation to study.



Hunar on a call with Jahnavi

Sigh...

Hey. How're the studies progressing? I'm so stressed about these exams

Uh well I mean I'm stressed too for sure but have you heard The New Spider-Man Movie...The Into the Spider-Verse movie is LITERALLY COMING OUT TOMORROW.

Jahnavi FOCUS. We're this close to D-DAY

Im only done with 5 chapters. What about you??

Oh yea the exams!! 5!! I haven't even started. I really need to hit the books

GASP

The friends start pushing themselves

Let me attempt some of the last year's questions

I think I need to focus less on studying in depth and more on rememorzing. I got this!

She looks at poster and mimics it

I need my headphones and some study music to concentrate!

ATLEAST I can do 3 more Chapters With that!!





The 4 friends before the first exam



The 4 friends writing their exams



The exam ends

Times up!

And the discussion starts.....

The order of mcq's was B,B,B,C right??

Who cares its done and it went well

I got stuck on only 1 question

Meh! The paper was as easy as I expected

I could have slept at least 3 hours more and gotten a good nights sleep

It wasn't that scary... I could have done it without the extra stress/ anxiety

I could have spent more time revising instead of starting so late

I could have taken a break and gone for a walk

Having conquered the first exam the friends feel more confident

HAHA

We've gotten through worse.... WE CAN GET THROUGH THIS TOO!

I mean its not the end of the world.

Its okay..I know what to do better for the one day after

Yess!! We just have to do our best!!

Yess!! We all got this

HAHA

THE END



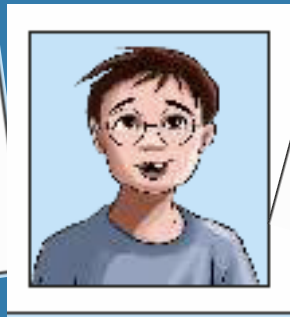
Anvi Kumar, an 11th grader from The Shri Ram School, Aravali, resides in Gurgaon, a suburb of the National Capital Region in India. Her maturity and grasp of human behavior have evolved her into a considerate and observant human being. Through art, storytelling, and several social initiatives, Anvi has been decoding the psycho-social issues of Indian teenagers and working towards the betterment of society. To delve deeper into the subject and aid her community better, she solidified her foregrounding while interning with BrainSight AI, a dynamic company at the forefront of AI-enabled applications for mental health professionals.

Lauded with a fully-funded scholarship from the New York School of Visual Arts, Anvi explored her passion for storytelling on pertinent topics via doodles and comics. Her venture, The Mind Canvas, supports various foundations and has been productized into exciting everyday-use items. A National Winner of the Harmony Art Contest, she is also passionate about street art and debating. A spirited human, Anvi aims to build her own army of teens working towards collective mental wellness!

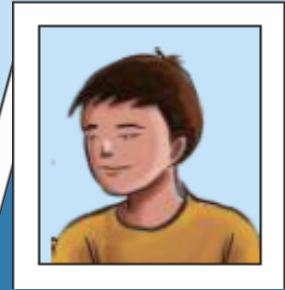
Zahra



Krishh



Hunar



Jahnavi



Life is all fun and silly for four friends - Krishh, Jahnavi, Zahra and Hunar when suddenly on a Monday morning the teacher announces how there's only fews weeks left for the exams to start. Life was going good and now all of a sudden this?! Embark on this journey with the 4 friends to see how many breakdowns, rote learning sessions and of course cups of coffee and alarm they go through to prepare.

We get to see how these four friends figure out their own methods, tips and tricks and of course, funny mnemonics to get all set for the MONTH OF HELL in the way that works best for them!

Anvi's comic is a refreshingly light, but technically accurate take on commonly seen traits in students. While not causing impairment in day-to-day functioning , self identification of these traits can help children feel empowered and self-aware. I believe that content, such as this, that is non-stigmatizing, and created by teenagers themselves can be a very powerful tool in increasing general awareness and increasing psychological literacy. I have enjoyed collaborating, answering relevant questions, and am grateful that she's doing this.

Johns Hopkins trained Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Medical Director at STEPS Center for Mental Health

"This engaging and informative graphic book is a unique initiative that aligns exactly to the mission of mental health and awareness amongst students. It will become a very useful resource for schools and educators across the nation."

Rajnish Kumar, Former Ministry of Education, Director e-Governance



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