

Prose Narrative Sample of Pawan Kamlesh's Epic Novel:

Love Under the Spell of Tsunami

Just after lunch, Ken and other faculty members arrived at the conference room for a meeting. As they went halfway through the session, around 2.46 in the afternoon, a loud beep occurred in the conference room, scaring the souls of dozen faculty members. The red alarm was the earthquake early warning system indicating a large earthquake was about to come. There was a scream to get down. Within seconds the earth started to shake with thunder & shivering noises. The peaceful day at the University has turned into mayhem & terrifying screams from thousands of inhabitants. Most went under the large conference room table. As Ken was about to take shelter, the more significant earthquake struck with full force. The bookshelves that surrounded the room were shaking like playing cards. The sound was extraordinarily violent & horrifying, as if it was the arrival of a death song, sending shivers down their bodies.

Ken realized the sheer power & magnitude of the quake as the bookshelves fell to the ground one by one. The coffee table on the side of the room rattled, and the cups & green tea pitcher flew off the table & broke as soon as they hit the ground. Ken worried that the ceiling fan above might fall any minute. One professor tried to stand up, but the earth would not allow it. He was thrown from next to the conference table to the corner of the room. He had hurt his back. Everything was moving from one corner to another corner. Laptops fell one by one, and the loud siren kept reminding the professors & students that it was just the beginning and no one was out of the scary dark tunnel. The clock on the ground with broken pieces reminded Japan & the world that at 2.46 PM on March 11th, 2011, it had changed & scarred Japan forever. The second felt like minutes & minutes as if hours had gone by. The fury lasted for six full long terrifying minutes. Millions of souls would experience this life-altering moment.

The shaking had subsided a bit; Ken stood up and tried to run towards the University's large soccer stadium. Outside the window, the electric poles were shaking right to the left. To Ken, Large open ground was the safest place. He mustered enough courage & strength to run toward the empty ground. Ken balanced both of his feet, leaned towards the wall in an upright position, and slowly walked halfway through the corridor as another strong jolt of shake flew him to the other side. He was fighting against gravity. He finally made it to the open space. The buildings were waving right & left but miraculously did not fall. Loud scary, hunting voices from all the floors rang in his tiny ears. He wanted to help but was unable to at that moment. One thing was clear; the buildings would not fall as most felt they would.

If it were not for Japan's stringent government mandate on earthquake-proof buildings, homes, or other properties, millions of buildings would have fallen or been destroyed, leading to millions of deaths & severe injuries. Nonetheless, by 2018, 121,778 buildings collapsed, with another 980,106 buildings half or partially damaged due to over fourteen thousand aftershocks. It took the life of 19,747 people. Meanwhile, 2,556 were still missing, and thousands were

severely injured. The mental, emotional, and physical trauma was paramount and will last for years, if not generations.

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