

1: *Oscar to the Rescue*

Chapter One

Oscar opened the back door and waved goodbye to his mum.

“Whatever you do, make sure you’re back in time for tea!” she called.

“Yes, Mum, I’m just taking the dog for a walk,” he replied.

Closing the door quickly, he traversed the yard and opened the gate. He stood in the passageway and waited for **it** to happen.

He did not know when it would happen. He did not know how it would happen. He did not know why it would happen. He just knew that it **would** happen.

Oscar stood and waited, not knowing exactly what would take place, and then **it** happened.

The sky turned a menacing shade of black and a strong wind gusted down the passageway. Oscar realised that he was not alone. A tall man dressed in black loomed forebodingly over him and put his hand ominously on the boy’s shoulder.

“Come this way. Quickly! There is not a moment to lose!”

Chapter Two

Oscar wasn’t astonished or frightened. This was how **it** always happened. Whenever his mother said, “Whatever you do, make sure you’re back in time for tea!” and Oscar went through the gate, something happened. The weather always changed and there was always someone waiting for him.

Today, it was the tall man in black. The sky transformed into a leaden grey and driving snow began to fall incessantly. Oscar found himself trudging through deeper and deeper snow.



His Labrador dog, Kaiser, leaped and bounded along next to him, delighted to be out. To his right, Oscar saw a mountain that he recognised instantly.

“It’s the Matterhorn!”

“Yes,” said the tall man. “Thank goodness you’re here. There has been a terrible landslide. Two children have been swept away in it. We can’t find them. You are their only chance.”

“Me?”

“Yes. You and the dog. Get on the train. It’s the only way to get further up the mountain.”