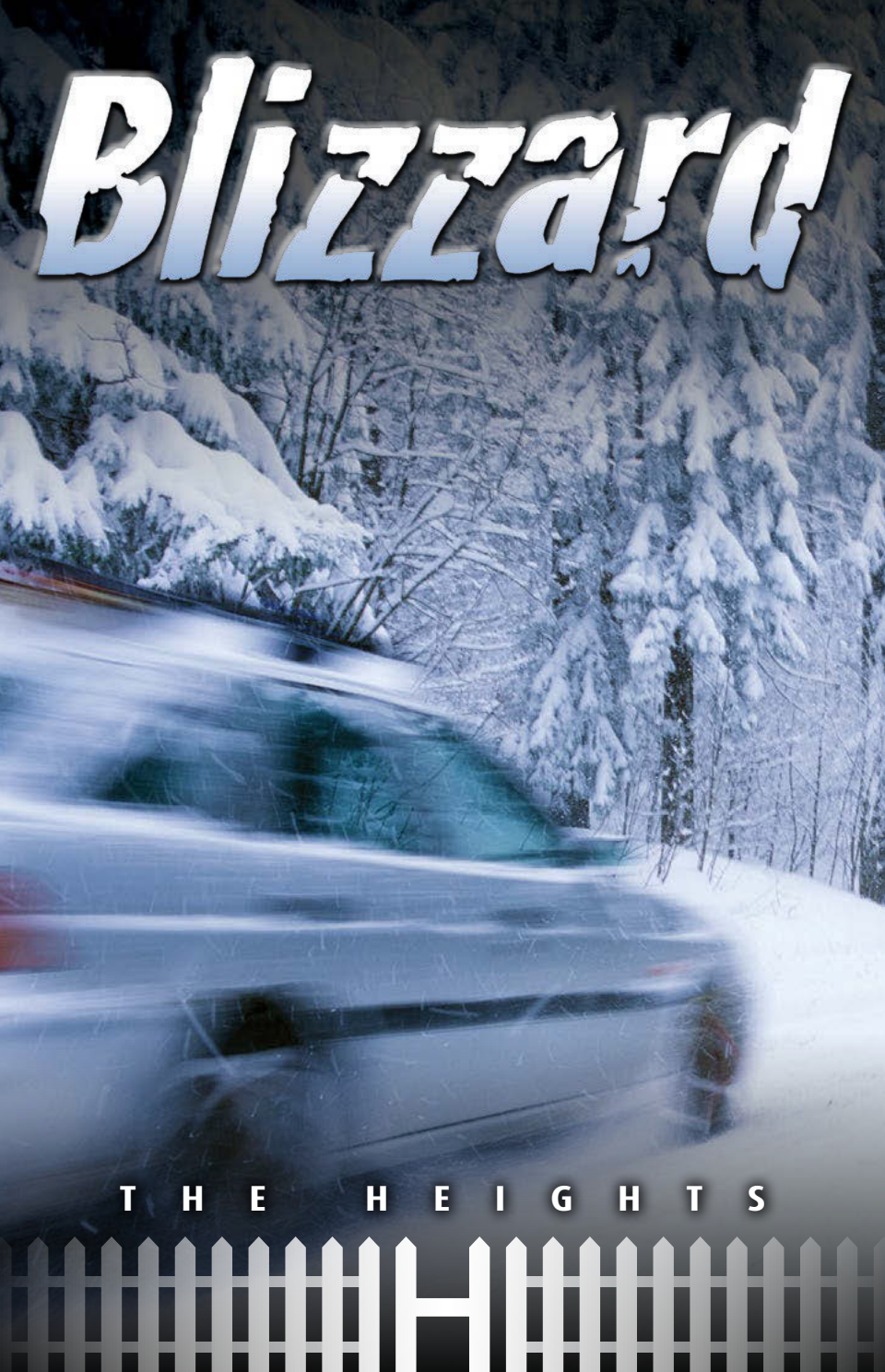
Blizzard
THE HEIGHTS

Chapter 1

Rafael got the call an hour ago. It was his office. They needed his help on a job. He had to get there right away. It was a last-minute trip. And the kids were going too. It was a school holiday. And a great time for some family fun. After Rafael's quick meeting, they were going skiing.

The family got lucky. There were four seats on the next plane. They

had 15 minutes before they had to leave the Heights for the airport. Everyone packed fast. Ana Silva stuffed warm clothes into everyone's bag. She didn't want anyone to freeze!

"Come on, Mom! We aren't going to the North Pole," Antonio said.

"I know. I want to make sure you're warm. It's cold in the mountains," said Ana. "And Antonio, here are some snacks for the plane. It's a long flight."

"Thanks, Mom!" Antonio said.

Ana gave Antonio a bag filled with food. Then she gave him a hug.

Rafael looked at Ana.

"I wish you'd come too," Rafael said.

“Just be safe this time,” said Ana. “Don’t ski in a blizzard.” She winked.

Then he and the kids left. Ana looked out the window. She watched the car drive away. She looked like she might change her mind. Maybe it was time for a little adventure…

Chapter 2

The Silvas ate burgers and fries in the airport. But they had to eat fast. Their flight was going to board.

"Good thing Mom isn't here," Franco said. "She'd make us eat vegetables."

Rafael smiled. "The only vegetable here is your pickle. And I wish your mom was here," said Rafael.

Antonio ordered too much food.

He stuffed fries and a burger in his bag for later.

"*Gross*!" Lilia said.

"What? They taste good cold," said Antonio. He rubbed his stomach.

On the plane, the kids ate snacks. But Rafael wasn't hungry. He gave his pretzels and peanuts to Lilia. She didn't want them. But she saved them for later.

"We fly into Salt Lake City, Utah. Then we'll go to the Grand Teton Mountains in Wyoming. We're skiing in Jackson Hole," Rafael said.

"Hey, Dad, are there any animals in the Grand Tetons?" Antonio asked.

"Yes," said Rafael. "Mountain lions are very dangerous. If a mountain lion attacks… Forget it!

They have huge claws and teeth. And they're very strong. But they don't often attack people."

Antonio looked a little upset. He didn't like scary animals. But he knew that mountain lions didn't usually attack people. It made him feel a little better.

Soon the plane landed. The Silvas were tired after the long flight. Rafael got the rental car. It was dark. They didn't see much of Salt Lake City. Everyone fell asleep when they got to the hotel.

Rafael got up early the next morning. He called Ana. They talked quietly. The kids didn't wake up. He promised to call Ana from Jackson Hole.

The meeting was only two hours. Everyone was ready when it was over. They wanted to get to Jackson Hole.

Rafael pulled out a map. “Look,” he said. “We’ll go north. Then we’ll head into Wyoming. We’ll be skiing this afternoon.”

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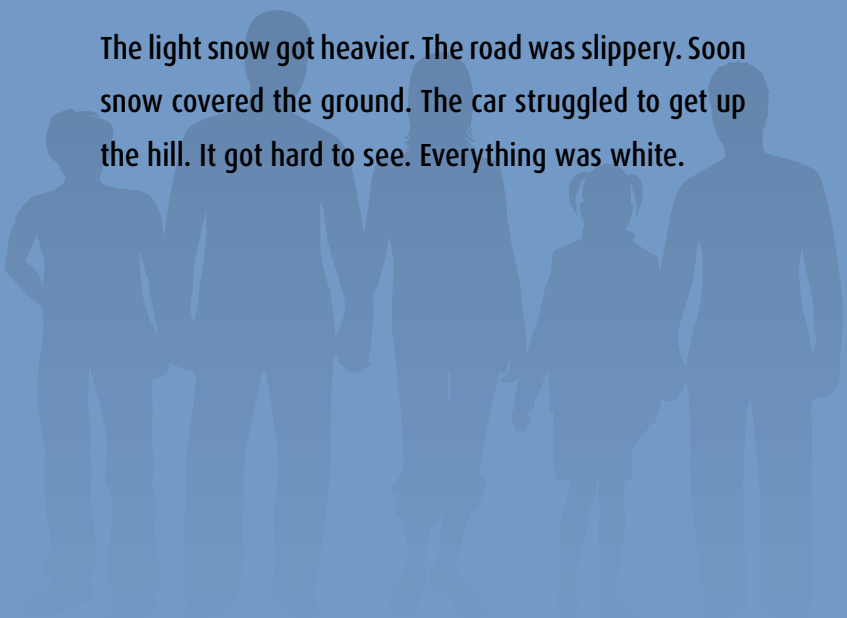
The light snow got heavier. The road was slippery. Soon snow covered the ground. The car struggled to get up the hill. It got hard to see. Everything was white.



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