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Kvaløya



The people in the story

Anders Olsen, 16

Astrid Olsen, 14

Erik Olsen, their father, owner of Olsen's Arctic Huskies

Jackie Smith, 15

Ben Smith, her father, a climate scientist

Per Berg, 16

Margit Berg, his mother, a computer scientist

Hilde Johansen, Margit's mother

Thomas Andersen, a friend of Erik

Fox

Bear (Fox's boss)

How it began

It was a Thursday morning in February. In Tromsø, in the north of Norway, it was snowing. No one noticed when Hilde Johansen disappeared. The 70-year-old was walking home from the shops. A car stopped next to her and a man got out. The next minute she was pushed into the car and it drove away fast.

That afternoon, Margit Berg was at work in Oslo. Her mobile phone rang.

‘I’m calling about your mother,’ said a strange, deep voice. ‘Listen!’

Margit told the people at work that she was sick, and left early. When she got home, she booked a flight to Tromsø.

Fox marched up and down in the hut on the island of Kvaløya near Tromsø. His head was covered by a black hood. It had holes for his eyes and mouth. He looked at his mobile phone, then threw it onto a table and said, ‘It’s Friday now. Where is she? Why doesn’t she call?’

Hilde Johansen didn’t say anything. She sat in a chair and stared at him with sad eyes. Her hands and feet were tied.

Fox picked up the phone again. ‘She *must* answer this time.’ He listened as the phone rang and rang. He looked down at Hilde. ‘It will be very bad for you if your daughter doesn’t help us. She told me she’d booked the holiday on Kvaløya.’

Hilde said, ‘She’ll help you. She won’t want to help but she’ll want to save me.’

‘Perhaps. But she’s not answering.’ Fox tried again. ‘One last chance.’

The ringing began again, then a quiet voice said, ‘Hello?’

At Thomas's

Astrid sat in the sled as it moved along. She stared at the snow. 'Where can they be?'

'A long way from here now,' replied Erik. 'They can run fast without a sled. Keep looking for new paw prints.'

The dogs were following the trail towards the lake. But then Astrid saw paw prints turning off the trail. 'Dad, the dogs are going towards the village. Maybe they're going to Thomas's place.' All the dogs loved Thomas.

'That's possible,' said Erik.

They moved over the snow quickly. Astrid said, 'I can't understand what happened. How did the dogs get out?'

'It wasn't an accident. Someone untied the dogs and let them loose.'

'Who would do that?'

'I'm not sure,' said Erik, 'but the most important thing now is to find the dogs. I hope they aren't hurt.'

'I hope we find them soon,' Astrid said. 'We're nearly at the village.'

Thomas lived in a red wooden house about ten kilometres from the Olsens'. When Astrid and Erik's sled arrived, all the lights were on in the house. They could hear dogs barking.

'Thomas,' Erik called. 'Are you there?'

Thomas Andersen appeared from the yard and closed the gate behind him. He was about sixty, tall and strong with long grey hair. 'Hi, Erik, Astrid,' he said. 'What happened? Your dogs are here. I've put them in the yard and given them a drink.'

Erik said, 'Yes!' Astrid hugged her father, then Thomas.

Thomas continued, 'Come and see them. Then we'll have coffee. It's cold!'



Activities

Chapters 1, 2 and 3

Before you read

A. *Look at the map on page 4. Circle the correct answers.*

1. Which place is closest to the frozen lake?
a. Thomas's house b. Olsen's Arctic Huskies c. Fox's hut
2. Which village or city is Fox's hut closest to?
a. Kaldfjord b. Grøtfjord c. Tromsø

B. *Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.*
book hurt headache hood

1. The boy wore a _____, so I couldn't see his face.
2. I sat at my computer all day. Now I have a _____!
3. Can I _____ a table for two at your restaurant?
4. When I hit my thumb with a hammer, I _____ it badly.

C. *Listen to Track 3 and answer these questions.*

1. How old was Hilde Johansen?
a. seventeen b. seventy
2. Where was Hilde walking to?
a. the shops b. her home
3. Who got out of the car next to Hilde?
a. a man b. a woman

After you read

COMPREHENSION

A. *Circle the correct answers.*

1. Where was Margit when she got a call on her mobile phone?
a. at home b. at work c. at the shops
2. What did Margit tell people after she got the phone call?
a. She was sick. b. She was scared. c. Her mother was sick.
3. What did Margit book as soon as she got home from work?
a. a flight b. a table at a restaurant c. a doctor's appointment
4. In what part of Norway is Tromsø?
a. the north b. the west c. the south

Chapters 10, 11 and 12

Before you read

A. Look at the picture on page 43 and circle the correct answers.

1. Who do you think the woman in the chair is?
a. Thomas's daughter b. someone who works with Fox
c. Hilde, Per's grandmother
2. How do you think the woman in the chair feels?
a. terrified b. relaxed c. bored

B. Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.

- fork snowmobile proud whisper
1. I'll tell you a secret. Let me _____ it in your ear.
 2. Larry is digging in the garden with a big _____.
 3. Our _____ moves fast across the snow.
 4. Anna's parents are _____ of her because she helped a lot of people in their village.

C. Listen to Track 6 and answer these questions.

1. How did Per and Jackie go the final way to Fox's hut?
a. They went all the way in the sled. b. They walked.
2. What did Per use to tie Jackie's hands?
a. his scarf b. some rope
3. Who did Per say would come to the hut?
a. Ben b. Margit

After you read

COMPREHENSION

A. Circle the correct answers.

1. Who was in the hut with Fox?
a. Hilde, Per's grandmother b. Anders c. Erik
2. What did Jackie see on the table in the hut?
a. a garden fork b. a gun c. some papers
3. Where did Fox tell Per to take his sled?
a. to an old hut near the water b. to the Olsens' c. to Tromsø
4. Who did Fox tell Ben not to bring?
a. Erik b. Thomas c. the police