

Dante's Peak

'Listen, Paul,' Harry said. 'We have a problem. That volcano's getting ready to explode.'

Dreyfus stopped smiling. 'I know it was hard for you up there, Harry,' he said, 'but you mustn't get excited. Nothing much happened.'

'Nothing much happened?' said Harry. 'Paul, I was there. That was a big earthquake.'

Harry Dalton is a scientist. He knows a lot about volcanoes. His boss, Paul Dreyfus, sends him to the small town of Dante's Peak on a mountain in the north of the USA. Harry thinks the town has problems; he thinks the volcano above the town is going to explode. Paul thinks Harry is wrong. But is he wrong? Is the mountain going to explode? How many people must die before Paul Dreyfus knows that Harry is right?

In the exciting film of *Dante's Peak* Pierce Brosnan is Harry Dalton and Linda Hamilton is Rachel Wando. Perhaps you know Pierce Brosnan from *Goldeneye*? In that film he was James Bond, 007. In *Terminator* and *Terminator 2* Linda Hamilton was Sarah Conner. *Dante's Peak* came to the cinemas first in America in February 1997. Millions of people there and all over the world liked it. But not many films were more expensive. How much do you think the film-makers wanted? \$100,000! It isn't cheap to show volcanoes, accidents, explosions and earthquakes!

Dictionary words:

Some words in this book are darker black than others. Look them up in your dictionary or try to understand them without a dictionary first, and then look them up later.

Dante's Peak

a novelization by

DEWEY GRAM

based on the motion picture written by
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Level 2

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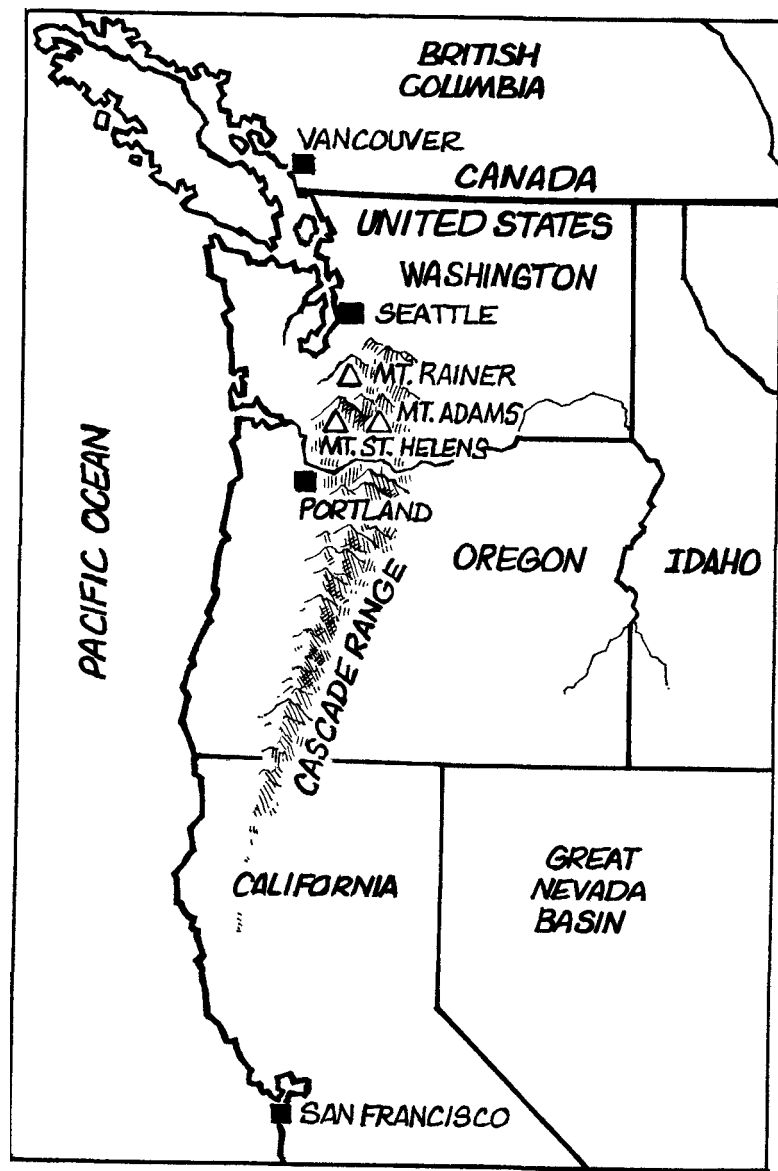
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Before you read:

- 1 Look at the front of this book. What does it tell you about the story? Perhaps you know the film *Dante's Peak*. Talk to friends about it. If you do not know the film, what do you think it is about?
- 2 Look at the pictures in this book:
Do you think the story happened now or fifty years ago?
When you read the story, do you think you will laugh or cry?
Do you think you will be excited?
- 3 Which of these words do you think are in the story?
mountain garage dog hospital moustache radio bike
airport gun cup smoke danger climb cinema autumn



The west United States.

CHAPTER 1

Harry Dalton loved **volcanoes**. He had the most dangerous and exciting job in the world. He was a **scientist**, and he wanted to understand volcanoes. 'Volcanoes kill people,' he said. 'When we understand volcanoes, we can tell people: "This mountain is going to **explode**", and then they can move away.' He flew round the world. Was a volcano ready to explode? Harry Dalton was there.

His girlfriend Marianne loved volcanoes too. Then one day in South America they stayed too long near an exploding volcano. The mountain sent **rock** and **ash** up into the sky. A small rock came down on to their car, hit Marianne, and she died.

Harry was never the same again. He worked harder — too hard. He wanted to understand everything about volcanoes before a volcano killed anybody again. Marianne was dead: no others must die.

Some months later, his boss, Paul Dreyfus, called him into his office. 'Harry,' he said, 'you must take a holiday. You're tired. You're not twenty now, you're thirty-six. I'm sorry about Marianne, but volcanoes are going to explode. You can't stop them.'

Harry took a holiday. He went round the world — but there are volcanoes all round the world. So he always found work. After a year, he came back to the office. His friends - Terry Furlong, Stan Tzima, Nancy Field and Greg Esmail - all smiled when Harry came back. 'We knew it,' they said. 'You love your work. "Harry will come back soon", we said. And here you are.'

'Harry,' said Paul Dreyfus two or three days later, 'something is happening up in the Cascades. Our **equipment** shows that one of the mountains there is moving, but not much. Nobody there knows it, but our equipment is good.'

'In the Cascades?' Harry said. 'Here in the United States ... in Washington?'

'That's right. Dante's Peak, near Mount Washington. We all remember 1980 when Mount St Helen's exploded. Can you go?'

'I'm leaving now,' said Harry.

He put some equipment in the back of his off-road car, and drove to Washington. There were tall trees thick on the mountains. 'It's very beautiful here,' Harry thought. He saw the morning sun on mountain **lakes** to the left of the road.

The mountain stood tall over the small town of Dante's Peak. Only seven thousand people lived there. It was quiet

Harry drove to the centre of the town and found the hotel. Mr Cluster showed him to his room. Then Harry asked, 'Where's **Mayor** Wando? Do you know?'

'Yeah,' said Cluster. 'She's speaking to the people of the town today at the school. A newspaper called Dante's Peak "The Second Best Town in America" and they're giving the newspaper photograph of the town to the people.'

CHAPTER 2

'I'm going to be late,' Rachel Wando said. She ran round her room at home. 'Where's my other shoe?' she said.

'You're always late, Mom,' said Lauren, Rachel's ten-year-old daughter. Rachel was thirty-five. 'And your shoe is under the bed.'

'What am I going to say?' Rachel said. 'I want to say thank you to Karen from the newspaper. She came here ...' Rachel stopped. 'Is it Karen or Kathy from the newspaper?' she asked.

'For the tenth time, Mom,' said Lauren, 'she's Karen.'

'Where's my good jacket.'

'You don't have a good jacket.'

'The blue jacket.'



'I'm going to be late,' Rachel Wando said.

'It's on the back of the chair down in the kitchen.'

Rachel ran down to the kitchen. She put on her jacket and then called through the door of her son's bedroom: 'Graham, let's go!'

'He's not in,' said Lauren. 'He'll meet us there. He told me. Come on!'

•

Harry stood quietly in a corner of the room. Most of the people from the town were there. Les Worrell, the most important **businessman** in the town, sat with Karen Narlington from the newspaper. He looked at the chair next to him. Where was that woman?

Rachel ran into the room and then slowed to a walk. Les stood up and said, 'And here's the mayor, Rachel Wando.'

Harry watched Rachel. 'Wow!' he thought. 'The mayor is a woman ... and she's beautiful!'

Rachel came up to the front of the room, smiled at Les and Karen, and sat down in her chair. First Karen spoke. Then Rachel stood up, and said: 'I want to say thank you to Kathy from the newspaper ...'

'It's Karen,' Lauren called from the back of the room. Everybody laughed.

Rachel smiled. 'We like our town. Now Karen's newspaper likes it too. And people read her newspaper all round America. This is important for the town of Dante's Peak. So we thank you, Karen. She thinks that Dante's Peak is the second best town in America. We know better. It's *the first*, the best place to live. And next year, with the help of Elliot Blair, we'll show America. Karen's newspaper will say: "Dante's Peak - the best town in all America."'

She stopped talking and sat down. The people in the room jumped to their feet, with smiles on their faces. Harry turned to the man next to him. 'Who's Elliot Blair?' he asked.

'He's a big businessman,' the man said. 'He wants to bring a lot of money to Dante's Peak. He wants to make the town a centre for people's winter holidays. There'll be a lot of work for people here.'

CHAPTER 3

Behind the town, up in the mountain, was a famous warm lake. Swimmers often went there. That day, two visitors, a young man and a young woman, walked up to the lake for a swim. The trees were green, the sun was in the sky. It was quiet and beautiful.

The woman put her foot in the water. 'Ow!' she said. 'It's hot!'

'Yes,' said her friend, 'I know. The lake is famous.'

They laughed, and walked into the water. They played and swam. 'This is good,' said the young woman. 'Do you want to come and live here?'

'No, it's too quiet,' said the man. 'Nothing exciting happens.'

Suddenly birds flew up from the trees, and they heard the sound of animals. 'Why are the animals running away?' she asked.

'I don't know,' he answered. He pulled her under the water, and she laughed.

Suddenly, there was a small **earthquake**. Now the woman was afraid. She swam over to the man. Under the lake rocks moved and the **ground** opened. Hot gas exploded into the lake. She **screamed**. 'The water!' she cried. 'It's too hot! It's ...' They were her last words.

Soon the lake was quiet again.

•

From the school, Rachel went to find her daughter. A tall, dark-eyed man walked up to her and said, 'Hi! I'm Harry Dalton, from the United States Volcano Office, and ...'

But Les Worrell and Elliot Blair came up to Rachel with smiles on their faces. 'Well done, Rachel!' Les said, before Harry could say anything more.

'You're a good speaker,' Blair said.

'Thank you,' Rachel said. But she didn't want Dalton and Blair to meet. Blair wanted to make Dante's Peak a holiday town, Dalton was from the Volcano Office. No, she didn't want them to meet.

Harry tried again. 'I'm Harry Dalton, from ...'

'From Portland,' Rachel said quickly. 'Yes, your boss spoke to me on the phone. He asked me to show you round. Let's go.'

She took him by the arm and moved him away from Worrell and Blair. Lauren came up to them. 'Where's your brother?' Rachel asked.

'I don't know,' Lauren said.

'I think I do,' Rachel said. They went over to her car. 'Get in,' Rachel said to Harry. 'I must find my thirteen-year-old son first.'

They took the road up the mountain. Rachel told Harry about Blair. 'He's going to be very good for the town,' she said.

'Where are we going?' Harry asked. He wanted to start work.

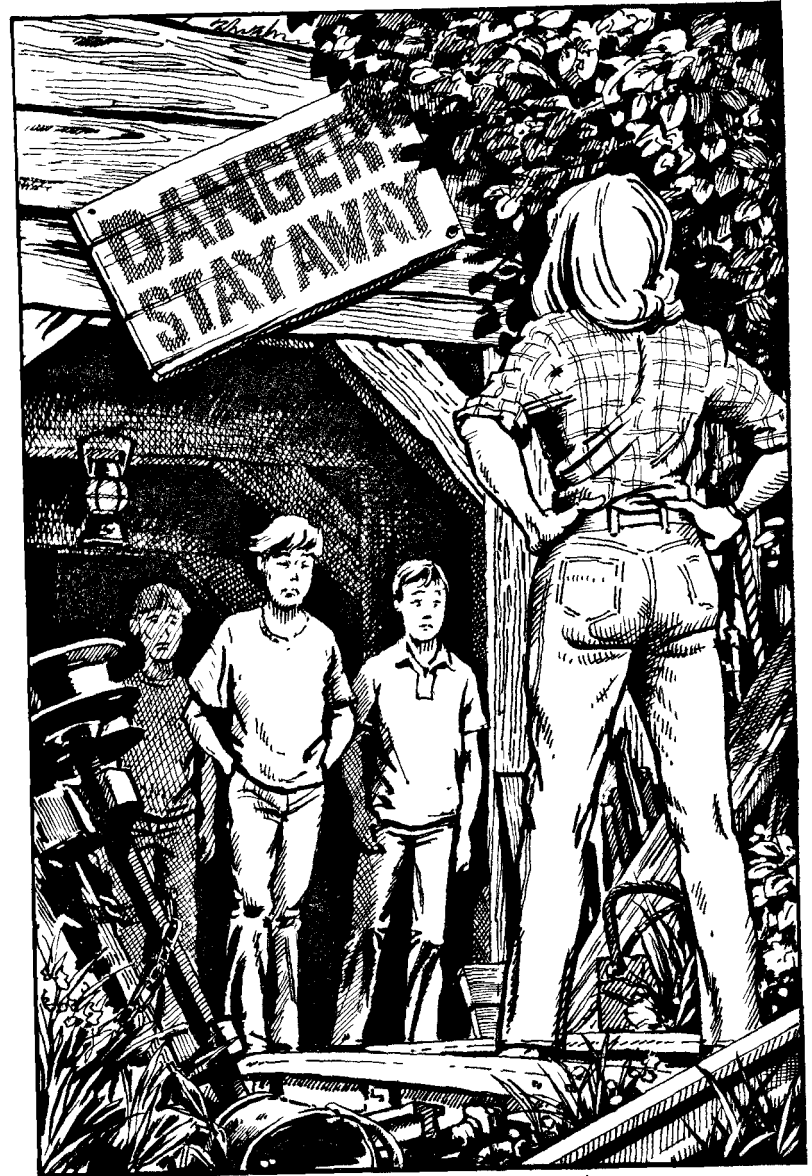
Rachel stopped the car outside an old **mine**. She got out of the car and went over to it. 'Graham!' she called. 'Graham, are you in there?'

A minute later, three boys came out of the mine. They were dirty. 'You two go home,' Rachel said angrily to the other two boys. 'And you — get in the car!'

Graham looked at Harry. 'Who are you?' he asked.

'I'm ...' Harry began, but Rachel said: 'That mine is dangerous. Rocks can fall. You mustn't go in there. How many times do I have to tell you?'

'Mom, not now, OK?' Graham said. He looked at Harry. Harry smiled at him.



A minute later, three boys came out of the mine.

CHAPTER 4

They drove up the mountain. 'Hey, Mom,' said Graham. 'Why don't you leave me at Ruth's?'

'Yeah, me too,' said Lauren.

'There's no time,' Rachel said. 'Mr Dalton wants to start working now.'

'Oh, please, Mom,' said the children.

'It's OK with me,' said Harry.

'Ruth is my husband's mother,' Rachel said, 'but my husband left me.'

Ruth lived by a cold, clean mountain lake. They drove up to her small house. A dog ran out of the house and jumped up at the car.

'Hi, Roughy!' Lauren said through the window.

They all got out of the car. Graham took an old shoe and threw it for Roughy. The dog ran into the trees after it.

Lauren ran over to the house. 'Hello, where are you?' she called.

An older woman came out of the house with a big smile on her face. She wore a shirt and jeans. 'Hi!' she said. The children ran over to her, but Rachel walked slowly. 'Hello, Ruth,' she said.

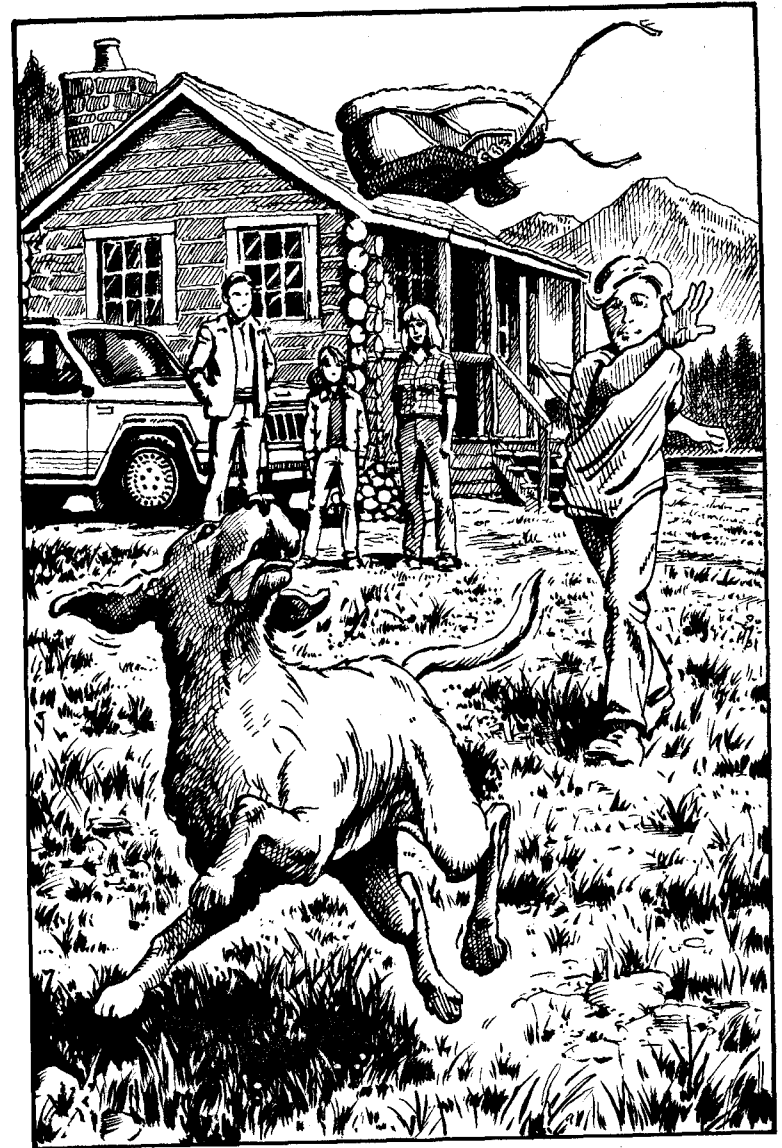
Ruth looked at Harry. 'Is this your boyfriend?' she asked.

Harry answered. 'No,' he said. 'I'm from the United States Volcano Office. I want to look at your mountain.'

'Yeah, people came here in 1980, after Mount St Helen's,' said Ruth. 'There wasn't a problem with this mountain then, and there isn't now.'

Harry looked round at the lake. There were brown, dead trees by the water. 'When did those trees die?' he asked.

'Trees are always dying,' Ruth said. 'Then new trees come. We had a bad winter.'



They all got out of the car. Graham took an old shoe and threw it for Roughy.

Harry took some equipment out of his bag and went over to the lake. Graham followed him. 'What are you doing?' he asked.

Harry said: 'This equipment will answer the question: How much **acid** is there in the lake?' He looked at the equipment. There was too much acid. He put his finger into the water. Not good. He went back to the car.

'I'm going to take Mr Dalton up to the warm lake,' Rachel said to Ruth. 'Can the children stay here?'

'Yes, but why don't we all go?' said Ruth.

'Yeah,' said Graham. 'We can go for a swim.'

The children ran over to the car. Rachel looked angrily at Ruth. Harry smiled. 'These two women don't like being together,' he thought.

•

In the car, Rachel asked about the acid in the water. 'It's not good,' Harry said.

'Do we have a problem?' she asked. 'Will the mountain explode?'

'I don't know,' he answered. 'Often nothing happens. People hear sounds under the ground, there are earthquakes, trees die, there's acid in the water — and then nothing happens.'

Rachel stopped the car near the warm lake. The children jumped out of the car. 'Come on!' they cried. 'Let's go!'

'Wait for me!' Rachel called.

'Oh, they'll be OK,' Ruth said. She followed the children.

Harry started getting equipment out of the car. Suddenly Lauren screamed. Rachel ran through the trees. Harry followed.

'Look!' Lauren cried. On the ground at her feet were two dead animals.

'There are a lot of those round here this year,' Ruth said. 'Do you think they're ill?'

The children went over to the lake. Graham stood on a rock.

He wanted to jump in. Suddenly Harry called, 'Stop'. 'There was a lot of gas.' 'There are some dead fish on the water,' he said, 'and there's something bigger too. What is it?'

Children can see things better. Lauren screamed again. 'A man and a woman. There, face down, in the water!'

CHAPTER 5

Some men from the hospital carried the swimmers away. Harry was on the phone to Paul Dreyfus. 'Yes, there *is* a problem here,' he said. 'Send everyone — and the **robot**.'

He listened to Paul's answer. 'Yes, I know about the money,' he said, 'but we're talking about people here. Two people are dead.' He put his phone away.

'Are you OK?' he asked the children.

'Yes,' they said.

'Who were those swimmers?' Harry asked. 'Do you know?'

'They weren't from the town,' Rachel said. 'I think they were visitors. Do we have a big problem here, Harry?'

'I don't know. I must talk to the most important people in the town.'

'OK,' Rachel said. 'I'm the mayor. I'll tell them you want to meet them.'

They met that evening. Eight people were in the room — Harry, Rachel, Les Worrell, and five other men and women from the town. Harry and Rachel told the others about the swimmers and the acid in the lake.

'But this volcano is dead,' said Sheriff Turner. 'The last **explosion** was seven thousand years ago.'

'No, it's sleeping, not dead,' Harry said. 'And I think it's starting to be dangerous again now.'

'Mr Dalton,' Les Worrell said, 'you want to move over seven



Harry was on the phone to Paul Dreyfus. 'Yes, there is a problem here,' he said.

thousand people from their homes. They aren't going to like that.'

'That's right,' said two or three of the others.

'Do you want people to die?' Harry asked.

'Do you *know* that people will die?' Les said.

'No, I don't know. But I want people to be ready to move out.'

'And what about Elliot Blair?' Les said. 'What will we say when he asks, "Why are people leaving? Is there a problem with the town?" Mr Dalton, do you think that he'll put money into the town after that?'

Everybody in the room started talking at the same time. Suddenly, Paul Dreyfus walked into the room.

'Paul!' said Harry. 'You're here. Did you bring ...?'

'Yes,' Paul said, 'I brought everything. We're staying at the hotel and our office will be there. Now, what's happening here?'

'Everybody,' called Harry, 'this is my boss, Paul Dreyfus. Paul, I

want the people in the town to be ready to leave. We're talking about it now.'

Paul looked at the others. He said, 'Harry come with me.'

He took Harry outside. 'This isn't right,' he said. 'You're a scientist. You don't *know* that the volcano will explode.'

'Two people are dead,' Harry said. 'How many more people must die?'

'There's some acid in the water, there are some dead trees and animals. Why do you think "Volcano!"? There are earthquakes, and you get acid in the water. You know that. I think that there was one earthquake, and that's all. I don't think the volcano is going to explode.'

'But, Paul ...'

'No,' Paul said. 'I'm the boss. I think you're wrong.'

He turned and went back into the room. When Harry was there too, Paul said, 'Everybody, Harry Dalton is a good man. He only wanted to help, but I don't think the volcano will explode. Don't say anything to other people in the town. We don't want them to be afraid. The other scientists and I will stay here for a week or two. We'll take our equipment up into the mountain. When we know anything, I'll tell you. But I don't think we'll find any danger.'

The businessmen were very happy. Then they turned angrily to Rachel. 'That was a mistake, Rachel,' they said. 'Why did you get us all in here? We don't want Blair to hear about it.'

Rachel looked at Dreyfus and Harry. Which of them was right?

CHAPTER 6

Dreyfus and Harry walked over to Stein's Bar. 'I want you out of here,' Dreyfus said. 'Take a holiday ... now! Goodbye. I'll see you in two weeks.'

'No,' said Harry. 'I won't go. I'm your best man, and this town has problems.'

'Yes,' said Paul, 'you *are* my best man. But you must understand something. After we go, the people here in Dante's Peak will stay. They have their shops and their businesses. You think only about volcanoes, but this is about money too.'

'OK,' Harry said with a smile. 'I understand.'

'OK,' said Paul. 'Tomorrow we'll get a **helicopter** I want you to fly round the peak with your equipment. What's happening? Why? You find the answers, and then you come and tell me.'

'Right,' Harry said, 'I'll do that.' Then he turned away and had a drink with Terry Furlong and the others.

The next morning Harry went into the Blue Moon Cafe for breakfast. This was Rachel's cafe.

She smiled at him. 'Coffee?' she asked.

'Yes, please,' he said. 'I'm sorry about yesterday I only wanted to help. I'm better with volcanoes than I am with business people.'

'I know you wanted to help,' Rachel put the coffee back on the warmer, turned and said, 'Do you want to come to dinner tonight? I want to say thank you.'

'Thank you? What for?'

'You stopped Graham jumping into that water.'

'OK. Yes, please. I *do* want to have dinner with you.'

Later in the morning, Harry and Terry went out in the helicopter. They took a lot of equipment and flew round the peak. Terry watched the equipment. 'There's some gas,' he said. 'But not a lot.'

They couldn't see under the helicopter, so they didn't see it: the ground suddenly gave a strong push. Big rocks fell down the mountain. Then everything was quiet again. The mountain waited.



Later in the morning, Harry and Terry went out in the helicopter.

After dinner that evening at Rachel's house, Harry and Rachel sat outside. They looked at the lights of the town.

'I know it's a little town,' she said. 'I know it's not important. But I love it here. It's my home.'

'Were you born here?' Harry asked.

'Yes.'

'And ... um ... you lived with your husband here?'

'Yes.' She was quiet for a moment. 'Brian and I were too young when we met. That was the problem. He left about six years ago. He never writes or anything. The children don't remember him. I don't think he writes to Ruth.'

'But you're OK,' he said.

'Yeah, I am ... now. What about you? No wife?'

'No. I move round the world all the time. There was somebody at one time, but ...' He told her about Marianne.

'I'm sorry,' Rachel said.

'Volcanoes are dangerous,' said Harry. 'People must know that.'

'Perhaps you're wrong about our volcano,' said Rachel. 'But I'm happy that you're here to help.'

CHAPTER 7

The next day Harry, Stan and Terry went up the mountain. They left equipment here and there, near the peak. 'Now we'll know when the ground moves,' Stan said. 'We can see it on our equipment in the office at the hotel.'

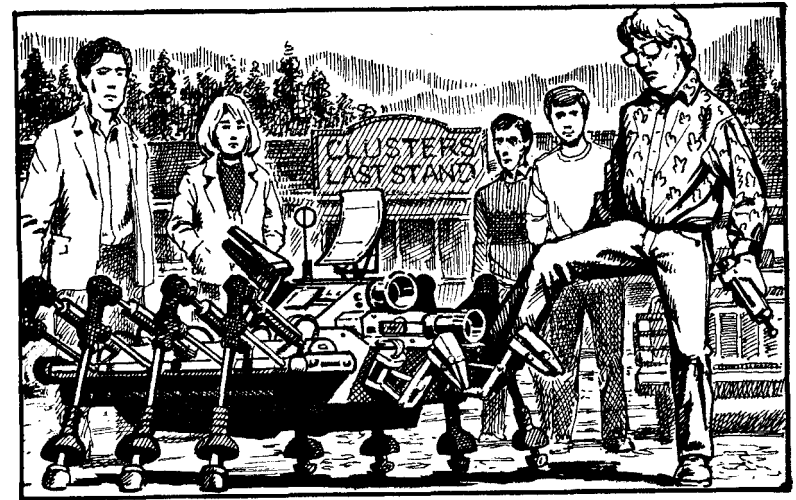
'Yeah,' said Terry, 'when a bird jumps on to the ground, we'll know it. How was dinner last night, Harry?'

Harry didn't say anything.

'For a mayor, she's very beautiful,' said Terry.

Harry didn't say anything. Terry smiled.

Terry Furlong built robots. 'We can't get inside volcanoes,' he



Terry went over to the robot and kicked it. The robot started again.

said, 'but my little robots can. They can see for us, find gases and smoke for us. How hot is it? How dangerous is it? My robots can tell us. We can sit in the office, turn on our equipment, and see with the robot's eyes.'

Two days later, they put Terry's robot in the car park and turned it on. It walked for a few metres. 'Yeah, come on, robot!' called Terry. The robot stopped.

'Is there a problem?' asked Paul.

'No,' said Terry. He went over to the robot and kicked it. The robot started again. 'It will be OK on the peak,' said Terry.

They went to Rachel's cafe for coffee. She knew them all well now. 'One black coffee,' she said, 'two with only milk, and two with sugar too.'

She gave them their coffees. Then she asked, 'What's happening? What are you finding?'

'Our equipment shows that every day there are between twenty-five and seventy-five earthquakes,' Nancy said.



Ten metres above Terry, a large rock broke away and fell on Terry and the robot.

'What?' cried Rachel.

Harry laughed. 'It's OK,' he said. 'Nothing dangerous is happening. There are always small earthquakes. We can see them with our equipment, but they're not dangerous.'

The next day Terry and Harry took the robot to the peak and sent it inside the old volcano. The robot's 'eyes' sent pictures back to their equipment, and back to the equipment in the hotel too.

The robot walked on. Suddenly it stopped. 'Oh, no!' said Terry. He started to go after it.

'Be careful!' Harry said.

Terry climbed down into the old volcano. He put his feet down carefully on the ground. Good! It was hard. He walked on.

Back at the hotel, everybody watched the robot's pictures. They didn't look at their other equipment.

Terry found the robot and kicked it. The robot started moving again. 'OK, Terry, come back now,' Harry said on his radio.

Terry didn't listen. He followed the robot down inside the mountain.

Back in the hotel, Nancy stood up. She turned round. 'Oh, no!' she said. 'Look at this equipment!'

The others turned round. 'A strong earthquake is happening,' she said.

Paul called Harry on the radio. 'Come back now,' he said.

'What did you say?' asked Harry. 'I couldn't hear you.'

'I said, "Come back now,"' Paul said. 'Earthquake!'

But it was too late. Ten metres above Terry, a large rock broke away and fell on Terry and the robot.

Harry screamed into his radio: 'Terry! Terry!' But no answer came.

The rocks broke two of the robots 'eyes'. Back in the hotel they couldn't see very well. Paul said, 'Harry, what's happening?'

'Get that helicopter up here now!' Harry said.

He started to climb down into the volcano. Some more rocks

fell near him. There were rocks all round, but where was Terry? Then he saw the colours of Terry's shirt. He pulled some rocks away. Terry looked up at him and smiled.

'There's something wrong with my leg,' he said.

Harry looked. 'The rocks broke Terry's leg,' he said into the radio. 'Tell the helicopter man, Hutcherson, to bring some help.'

Before long, Harry could hear the helicopter. He spoke to Hutcherson on the radio.

'Nearer! Nearer!' he called.

But now there was smoke coming out of the old volcano. Hutcherson was afraid. 'I'm not coming any nearer than that!' he said.

'You must!' Harry said. 'Only fifteen more metres! Down! Down!'

Slowly the helicopter came nearer. It pulled Terry and Harry inside and flew off down the mountain.

CHAPTER 8

The helicopter came down near the town. 'Look,' Terry said to Harry. 'A lot of people are waiting for us. We're famous!'

Harry smiled but said nothing. Doctors took Terry to hospital. Rachel pushed through the people and came up to Harry. 'Are you OK?' she said.

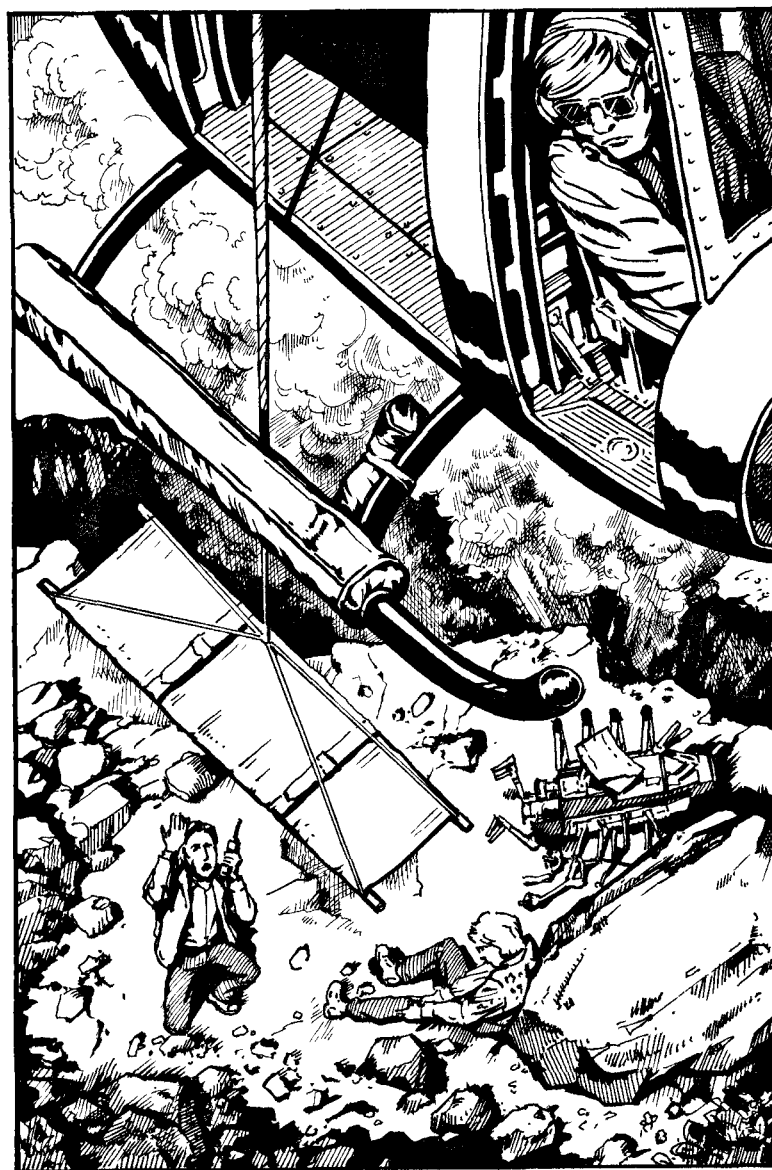
'Yeah, I'm OK,' he said.

Paul Dreyfus drove up in his car. 'I must go and talk to Paul,' Harry said to Rachel.

'How's Terry?' Paul asked.

'He'll be OK,' Harry said. 'But listen, Paul. We have a problem. That volcano's getting ready to explode.'

Dreyfus stopped smiling. 'I know it was hard for you up there,



Hutcherson was afraid. 'I'm not coming any nearer than that!' he said.

Harry,' he said, 'but you mustn't get excited. Not a lot happened.'

'Not a lot happened?' said Harry. 'Paul, I was there. That was a big earthquake.'

'But the mountain didn't explode,' Paul said. 'Terry was unlucky, that's all. Those rocks were weak.'

'No, Paul, listen,' Harry said. 'I think the **lava** is moving up nearer to the ground. The ground is too warm up there.'

'No, you listen, Harry,' said Paul angrily. 'You lost Marianne. Now you're always afraid. Well, I'm sorry about Marianne, but I don't want people in Dante's Peak to be afraid because you lost her.'

The two men started to fight, but Greg pulled Harry away. 'Careful, Harry,' he said.

Dreyfus walked away. 'Two more days,' he told them. 'We'll stay only two more days. There's nothing more for us to do here.'

•

Three days later, they were ready to leave. In the evening, Harry went to Stein's Bar. Terry was back from the hospital. He was in the bar with Nancy, Greg and Stan. Harry met Rachel there, and they went to a quiet table in a corner with their drinks.

'Perhaps you'll come down to Portland one day, and we'll meet again,' he said.

'I usually have a lot of things to do,' said Rachel.

'Don't you take holidays?' he asked.

'Holidays? Oh, yes, I remember holidays. You have holidays when you don't have two children and a cafe, and aren't mayor of a town.'

Paul Dreyfus came over to their table. 'Can I sit down?' he said.

'Yes,' they answered.

'Before we leave,' Paul said to Rachel, 'I want to say thank you, Mayor Wando. You'll be happy to see us go.'

'Yes,' said Harry. He looked at Elliot Blair and Les Worrell. They sat together at a table. 'Our visit here was bad for business, I think.'

Worrell and Blair came over too. Les said, 'I told Mr Blair, "Look, the volcano people are leaving. There can't be any danger here." Am I right?'

Elliot Blair said, 'Yeah. I want to put eighteen million dollars into Dante's Peak, not Pompeii.*'

Paul laughed. 'No, there's no danger.' Then he turned to Harry. 'You're a scientist, Harry. Can you say that it's dangerous here?'

Dreyfus waited. Blair and Worrell looked at Harry. Then Harry said, 'No, I can't.'

Dreyfus smiled. 'Come over to the bar,' he said to Blair and Worrell. 'I'll buy you two a drink.'

A minute later Rachel said, 'It's getting late. I must go home to the children.'

'I'll walk with you,' Harry said. They got up and left.

The lake near Ruth's home was quiet and dark. But under the ground a lot of acid **flowed** into it. Fish died. First one fish, then ten, twenty, a hundred ...

CHAPTER 9

It was a beautiful night. Rachel and Harry walked down the street through the centre of town.

'What time are you going tomorrow?' she asked.

'Six o'clock in the morning,' he said.

'I'm sorry you're leaving,' she said.

'It's OK,' he said. 'Our equipment is here. We can sit in Portland and answer the question: "What's happening in Dante's Peak?" No problem.'

* Pompeii was a town in Italy. In A.D. 79 Mount Vesuvius, a volcano, exploded and the lava and ash finished the town.



He put his arms round her. Then a car drove down the street.

'I know,' she said. 'But I'm sorry *you* have to go.'

Harry turned to Rachel, and she turned to him. He put his arms round her. Then a car drove down the street. The driver slowed the car near them. 'Good evening, Rachel,' a woman said. Then she drove away.

'Jeannie Lane,' Rachel said. 'She'll talk about this for the next two weeks.'

They walked to her house. When they were there she said, 'Do you want to come in for coffee or something?'

'Yes,' he said.

Inside, she fell into his arms, but suddenly Lauren called from her bedroom. 'Mommy, is that you? I'm thirsty.'

'I'll bring you a glass of water,' Rachel said.

She went into the kitchen. 'Oh, look,' she called. 'The water is coming out all brown.'

Harry ran into the kitchen. He looked at the water. 'Where does the town's water come from?' he asked.

'About eight kilometres away, up the mountain,' said Rachel.

'We have to go there, now,' Harry said. 'Get the children.'

•

They drove fast up the mountain road. The sleepy children were in the back of the car. 'Here we are,' said Rachel, and stopped the car.

Harry got out. He and Rachel went over to the water. It was all brown. Harry walked round. 'There's gas all round here,' he said.

They drove quickly back to town. It was midnight. Harry hit the door of Paul's hotel room. When he opened the door, Harry went inside.

'What's happening?' said Paul.

'Look,' said Harry. He turned on the water in Paul's bathroom. An hour later, all the scientists were back in their office hard at work.

'The earthquakes are stronger now,' Harry said early the next morning. '2.3 or 2.4 every time.'

'There's a lot of gas too,' Stan said.

'This mountain is ready to explode,' said Nancy.

Paul Dreyfus put down the phone. 'More police are coming,' he said. 'They'll be here by midnight.'

Stan called over to Harry, 'How much time do you think we've got?'

'I don't know,' Harry said. He looked at Dreyfus.

Dreyfus said, 'Ask Mayor Wando to tell the people of the town to be ready to leave.'

At six in the evening, Rachel, Harry and the two children were in the cafe. Rachel was on the phone. 'Ruth,' she said for the fifth time, 'you must come down to the town now. It's dangerous. We're going to leave. You must come with us.'

'I'm not leaving,' Ruth said. She looked out of the window at the trees and the lake. 'This is my home.' She put down the phone.

Rachel went to the school. The townspeople waited there for her.

'You must leave your homes,' she said. 'Some of you will find it hard, but you must.'

Elliot Blair got up and left the room. Les Worrell watched him go. He could do nothing.

'Must we wait, Rachel?' a young woman asked. 'Can we leave now?'

'Yes,' Rachel said. 'Leave now.'

Ten or twelve other people stood up and left the room.

Harry Dalton got up to speak. 'We're asking you to be ready to leave,' he said, 'because we don't want to see anything bad happen. But we don't want you to be afraid.'

But then the school building moved. People jumped up out of



Out on the street they looked up at the mountain."

their chairs. Somebody screamed. Everybody ran for the doors.

Out on the street they looked up at the mountain. The volcano threw ash and smoke and gases up into the sky. People ran through the town. Children screamed for their mothers and fathers.

At Rachel's house Graham saw the mountain through the window. 'Lauren!' he called. 'Let's go! We're leaving now!'

At the hotel Dreyfus looked at the equipment. 'The lava is starting to move,' he said.

'Don't look at the equipment,' Nancy said. 'Look out of the window.'

The smoke from the peak was dark. It was lava ash. 'Dante's Peak is going to be more dangerous than Mount St Helen's,' Paul said. 'And the explosion will come soon.'

CHAPTER 10

Outside, Rachel and Harry looked at the mountain. 'You were right,' she said.

A building fell on to the school bus. 'I must go home. I must get the children,' Rachel said.

'Let's take my car,' said Harry. They ran over to his off-road car. They had to push through a lot of people.

There were earthquakes all the time now. Buildings fell, windows broke. The road broke open and a car drove into it.

Harry spoke on the radio. 'Paul, are you there?'

'Yes,' said Paul. 'We're at the hotel. We're taking the equipment and leaving. Where are you?'

'I'm with Rachel. We're going to get her children.'

'Harry,' said Paul, 'I'm sorry. You were right and I was wrong.'

'Forget it, Paul,' Harry said. 'See you soon!' He turned off the radio.

But when they came to Rachel's house, she screamed. 'My car!' she said. 'It's not here!'

She ran into the house. 'Here's a letter from Graham,' she cried. 'He says he wants to get Ruth! He's driving up the mountain!'

Harry fought through the other cars. He couldn't drive across the river by the road, because there were too many cars. The water in the river flowed strongly. 'We can do it in this car,' he said. He drove into the river. The water pulled at them, but Harry's car got through. Other cars began to follow, but were not as lucky. The water turned them over.

Behind them, the garage exploded in the town, and fires started.

•

In the hotel Greg looked at his equipment. 'The lava is coming up,' he said. 'It's very near the ground now.'

Some people waited outside the hotel. 'Why are these people here?' asked Nancy.

'The helicopter's coming for them,' Paul said.

Now the people could hear the sound of the helicopter in the night sky. Hutcherson brought the helicopter down by the hotel. He opened the door and looked at all the people. 'Eleven people only,' he said. 'No more than eleven.'

Elliot Blair, Les Worrell and some others took out a lot of money. They paid Hutcherson, and smiled. 'We'll get out of here,' Les said to Blair.

In the hotel, Paul said, 'Why is Hutcherson flying out? It's too dangerous.'

He ran outside, but it was too late. The helicopter left the ground. 'They paid him fifteen thousand dollars each,' somebody said.

'Stop! Stop!' called Paul. 'There's too much ash. You can't fly in all that ash.' But nobody in the helicopter heard him.

He watched the helicopter. It flew over the town. With twelve people in it, it flew slowly. It was heavy. It flew into a lot of ash. The ash got inside the **engine**, and suddenly the engine stopped.

Harry drove the car past the last buildings of the town. Suddenly he stopped the car. The helicopter hit the mountain on their right, fell across the road in front of them, and exploded.

Harry spoke into his radio. 'A helicopter is down on Exeter Street. Send help.'

'OK, Harry,' said Stan. 'What are you doing? Where are you?'

'We're driving up the mountain,' Harry said. 'We must get Rachel's children.' He turned off the radio.

'Harry, listen to me,' Stan said. 'There's no time, Harry. Come back. The lava ...' But there was no answer from the radio.

CHAPTER 11



Harry and Rachel drove up the road. Then the strong earthquake hit them too. Big rocks fell into the road behind them.

The lights were on in Ruth's house. Graham stopped the car in front of it. The children jumped out and ran to the house.

Ruth came out of the front door with Roughy. 'What are *you* doing here?' she asked.

'We came to get you and Roughy out,' they said.

'What?' she said.

'Get in the car,' Graham said. He pulled her hand.

A sudden strong earthquake moved the ground. Roughy ran into the trees. Lauren ran after her. 'Roughy! Roughy!' she called.

•

Harry and Rachel drove up the road. 'Not far now,' Rachel said. Then the strong earthquake hit them too. Big rocks fell into the road behind them. Rachel looked at Harry. 'Now we can't come back down this road,' she said.

•

In the dark trees Ruth and the children called for Roughy. Ruth got tired. She stopped calling. She heard the children. They were young. 'I must get them out of here,' she thought.

'Ruth, can you see Roughy?' said Lauren.

'No, I can't,' Ruth said. 'And it's too late now. We must go. Now.'

'But we can't leave her!'

The children looked at Ruth. She was different, stronger. 'I said now,' she said.

•

Harry stopped the car outside Ruth's house. They saw Rachel's car there. Rachel jumped out and ran into the house. 'Ruth! Graham! Lauren!' she called. There was no answer.

'Where are they?' said Harry. 'The lights are on.'

Then Ruth and the children came out of the trees. Rachel ran over to them. She put her arms round them. 'Where were you?' she said. 'I'm angry and happy at the same time.'

'I'm sorry, Mom,' said Graham. 'We had to get Ruth.'

'There's no time for this now,' said Ruth. 'Get the children into the car and get out of here.'

'We can't do that,' Harry said. 'There are rocks all over the road behind us. And you're coming with us.'

'OK,' said Ruth. 'Give me five minutes. I must get some things.'

•

Harry spoke on the radio to the scientists at the hotel. 'Is anybody there?' he asked.

'Harry, where are you?' said Dreyfus.

'Up at the lake,' Harry said. 'We're OK, but there's no road for us to come back down the mountain.'

'Harry,' Paul said, 'this mountain is going to explode ... and soon. I'll send a helicopter up to get you.'

'No, get out of there,' Harry said, 'before it's too late. Don't wait for us. The radio started to die. Harry, can you hear me?' Paul said. 'Can you hear me?' He looked at the others. 'The radio's dead,' he said.

•

Rachel and Ruth threw things in some bags. Ruth wanted to take everything. 'This is my home,' she said. 'All my things are here.'

Rachel wanted to cry: 'Let's go! Leave all that! Let's go!'

Up on the mountain above Ruth's house a river of red lava began to flow down the mountain. Fire suddenly caught on the trees. The river of lava left everything dead behind it.

The lava came to Ruth's house. It flowed round to the left and to the right. It flowed round to the front of the house. The cars stood there. Fire started to climb up the outside of the house.



Then the lava broke the window and flowed into the house.

Harry looked out of the back window of the house and saw the lava. Then the lava broke the window and flowed into the house. Fire ate chairs, tables, everything. Harry and Rachel pushed the children to the front door. Ruth followed with her bags.

Rachel screamed: 'Look! The cars!'

Red hot lava flowed under the cars. Lava flowed from the left and right into the lake. 'There's only the lake,' Harry said. 'Let's go!'

They ran down to the lake and jumped into Ruth's small boat. 'Now we'll be OK,' Graham said to Lauren.

Then they saw the fish. Hundreds of dead fish on the water.

Harry tried to start the boat's engine. He couldn't do it. Ruth said, 'I know this boat. I'll do it.' She started the boat and they moved out across the water.

They looked back at Ruth's house. There was fire everywhere. 'That was my home,' Ruth said. 'I always lived there.'

Everybody was very quiet. One of the cars exploded. 'Where's Roughy?' the children thought.

'This boat is slow,' Harry said, 'but it'll get us there.'

Then he heard a different noise. 'Where's that noise coming from?' he thought. 'Ah, yes, under the boat ...' He looked down.

'Don't put your hands in the water,' he said.

'Why?' Rachel asked.

'The water's acid.'

Graham said, 'The acid is eating into the boat. Will it get us there?'

Harry didn't answer.

CHAPTER 12

Soon the acid ate through, into the boat. Acid water began to flow into the boat. 'At your feet up, out of the water,' Harry said. 'We only have a hundred metres to go.'

Then he heard a different noise, much worse. 'The engine is stopping,' he said. He tried not to be afraid. 'The acid ate into the engine. There are only thirty or forty metres to go. Perhaps we'll get there.'

The boat moved slowly on. Thirty metres, twenty, ten ... 'Graham, give me your coat,' Harry said.

He put the coat round his hand and used his hand to move the boat in the water. But the acid quickly ate through the coat, and then the boat stopped. 'Only five metres to go,' Harry said. 'That tree is near - perhaps I can get to it and pull us in.' He tried, but he couldn't. He tried again.

'Forget it, Harry,' Ruth said. 'You can't do it.' She looked down at the water. 'I can stand here,' she said.

Harry turned round. 'Ruth, no!' he said.

But Ruth started to get out of the boat. Harry moved to stop

her but she pulled away. She stood in the water and pushed the boat. The acid ate at her legs.

Rachel, Harry and the children jumped out of the boat, on to the ground. Then Ruth screamed. She tried to walk to them, but she fell on the ground. 'Don't come near,' she said. 'The acid ...'

They sat and watched her die. 'Oh, Ruth,' Rachel cried. 'I love you.' Ruth smiled up at her.

'My son didn't know you, Rachel,' she said. 'You're good. I want you to be happy.' She looked at Harry and closed her eyes. She never spoke again. Rachel and the children cried.

•

The sky was thick with ash and gases. Harry, Rachel and the children walked down the mountain. They were tired, and wet with dirty, black rain. Now they could see the town: Suddenly they heard a big noise to their right. 'What's that?' asked Rachel.

'Water, trees, rocks, buildings - all coming fast down the mountain,' Harry said. 'They're going to hit the river - the river through Dante's Peak.'

In Dante's Peak Paul Dreyfus and the other scientists were at the radio. 'Harry, can you hear me?' said Paul. 'Harry, we must leave now. It's too dangerous for us to stay. Sorry.'

They put their equipment in their cars. Dreyfus drove the car with all the equipment, and the others all went in the first car. The first car got across the river. Dreyfus, in the second car, looked up. The river was now much bigger than usual. It was flowing fast, and there were rocks and trees in it. It flowed on to the road and carried his car away. He only had time for one scream before he died.

Harry found an old car. Luckily, the engine started. They got into it and began to drive. Small rocks hit the car; large rocks hit the ground near them. Harry thought of Marianne. 'Not again, please,' he thought.

Round the corner they came to a river of lava. 'Can we drive across that?' Rachel asked.

'I don't know,' Harry said. 'But we must try.' He drove as fast as he could at the lava. A line of fire followed them across the lava.

Suddenly Lauren cried, 'Look! There's Roughy!'

Roughy waited for them across the lava. 'How did she get here?' Harry said.

'Look!' Graham said. 'More lava is coming up behind Roughy.'

'We can't stop,' Harry said. 'Roughy will have one try only.'

They drove along slowly. Roughy ran up to the car. Rachel opened her door. 'Come on, Roughy!' she called. 'Jump!'

The children screamed, 'You can do it, Roughy!'

Roughy jumped. Rachel caught her and pulled her into the car. The children threw their arms round the dog. They laughed. Harry and Rachel laughed too.

CHAPTER 13

They drove into Dante's Peak, but it was not the same town. 'Fire and earthquakes did their worst here,' Rachel said sadly. 'It was a beautiful town. I was happy to be the mayor.'

They came to the river. 'We can't get across that,' Harry said, 'and there's more lava coming.'

'What can we do?' Rachel asked.

'We must get under the ground,' Harry said. 'But how?'

Graham looked at him. 'I know,' he said. 'The mine.'

Nancy, Terry, Stan and Greg climbed out of the car and turned to look back at the mountain. A *big* earthquake hit, and the peak of the volcano exploded. New, red-hot lava flowed down the mountain. 'Goodbye, Harry,' said Terry angrily. Nancy started to cry.



The children screamed, 'You can do it, Roughy!'

In the car Harry, Rachel and the children heard the sounds of the explosion. They were near the mine. They looked up at the mountain. Something dark moved down the mountain very, very fast.

'Hot ash and rocks,' Harry said. 'When it hits us, we're dead. No mistakes, now! I have only one try.'

The car engine screamed. Harry drove fast into the mouth of the mine. Behind them, rocks fell thick and fast. The lava Couldn't get in ... but they couldn't get out.

'Is everybody OK?' asked Harry, when the car stopped. He kicked out the front window of the car and helped the others out.

'Graham,' Harry said, 'can we get out of the mine?'

'No we can't,' Graham said. 'I know these mines. We must wait. But it's OK. My friends and I left some food and drink here. Come with me.'

They followed Graham down into the mine. He showed them the food and drink. There were lights there too. They sat and ate some food.

Earthquakes moved the ground. Rocks fell in the mine. 'We're going to die here,' Lauren cried.

'The radio!' Harry suddenly remembered. 'I left the radio in the car. I must go back and get it.'

'No, I'll go,' Graham said.

'No, you stay,' Harry said.

'We're going to die,' cried Lauren.

'No, we're not,' Harry said. Hey, I know. When we get out, we'll all go to the sea and catch fish. I don't usually take holidays, but with you it will be good. OK? We'll do that?'

Rachel looked at Harry and smiled. 'Yeah,' she said. 'We'll do that together. We'll be a family.'

'OK,' said Harry. 'But now I must go.'

He walked back through the mine. Suddenly he heard a sound above him. He ran for the car. Behind him, rocks fell. He couldn't go

back. More and more rocks fell. He was near the car when a rock hit his left arm and broke it. Other rocks hit his head and *his* legs.

He climbed inside the car, found the radio and turned it on. 'Help,' he said. 'Please send help.'

Two days later, the earthquakes stopped. The volcano went quiet. A big helicopter came down outside the mine. Inside, when they pulled away hundreds of rocks, they found Harry first, with the radio in his hands.

He stood by the helicopter, and a doctor looked at his arm. Then the men brought Rachel and the children out of the mine. Harry walked over to them.

'Wait!' the doctor said. 'Your arm...'

But Harry had his arms round Rachel. The children ran up and he took them in his arms too. Nobody said a word — they were too happy.

EXERCISES

Vocabulary Work

Look back at the 'Dictionary Words' in this book. Do you understand them all?

- 1 A lot of the words are about volcanoes. Write three or four sentences with all these words: *volcano, lava, gas, acid, ash, earthquake, explode, explosion, flow, rock, ground*.
- 2 Put these words into pairs. Then write a sentence with each pair.

lake	engine
scientist	money
businessman	equipment
helicopter	water
- 3 Use the other four Dictionary Words, and finish these three sentences:
 - a) A ... is a noise you make when you are afraid.
 - b) When people cannot or don't want to do a job, they make a ... to do it for them.
 - c) A ... is the boss of a town.
 - d) Men work in a ... under the ground.

Comprehension

Write sentences to answer these questions (e.g. 'Harry Dalton's girlfriend was ...')

Chapters 1-2

- 1 Name Harry Dalton's dead girlfriend and two of the other scientists from his office.

- 2 Where in the United States of America is Dante's Peak?
- 3 What are the names of Rachel's two children? How old are they?

Chapters 3-4

- 4 Why do you think the lake on the mountain was always warm?
- 5 What did Elliot Blair want to do in Dante's Peak?
- 6 What is the name of Ruth's dog? What game did Graham play with her?

Chapters 5-6

- 7 When did the volcano at Dante's Peak last explode?
- 8 Why did Rachel ask Harry to dinner?
- 9 What was the name of Rachel's husband?

Chapters 7-8

- 10 When Terry's robot stopped, how did he start it again?
- 11 Why did Harry think that lava was near the ground?
- 12 Why doesn't Rachel take holidays?

Chapters 9-10

- 13 What happened when Lauren wanted a glass of water?
- 14 Why did Ruth not want to leave her house?
- 15 Why did the helicopter's engine stop?

Chapters 11-13

- 16 What happened to Ruth's house?
- 17 What were the problems with the boat on the lake?
- 18 How did Ruth die?
- 19 How did Dreyfus die?
- 20 In the mine, why did Harry go back to the car?

Discussion

- 1 Paul Dreyfus was Harry's boss. He had other things to think about, not only the volcano. What did he think about? Do you think he was right or wrong? Why?
- 2 Perhaps you live near a volcano. What do you know about volcanoes? Look back at the story. Do you think that volcanoes can do these things?

Writing

- 1 You work for a newspaper. Your boss sends you to Dante's Peak when the volcano is exploding. What do you see? What do you do? Write the story for your newspaper (about 300 words).
- 2 What will happen in the next six months after this book? Write a short story about it (about 200 words). Will Rachel and Harry go on holiday? Will they live together? Where? What will happen to Dante's Peak? Will there be more explosions on the mountain?



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Chapters 1–6

While reading

1 Read the Introduction to the book again and answer these questions.

- a Does Harry think the old volcano is dangerous? Why?
- b What is Harry's problem with his boss?
- c Did the story in *Dante's Peak* really happen? What do you know about this?

2 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Rachel Wando is the mayor of Dante's Peak. ☐
- b Elliot Blair is on holiday in Dante's Peak. ☐
- c Harry's girlfriend died in a volcanic eruption. ☐
- d Graham is Rachel's brother. ☐
- e A journalist writes that Dante's Peak is the best town in America. ☐
- f Sherriff Turner finds the dead animals in the water. ☐

3 Harry's girlfriend died in a volcanic eruption.

How do you think he felt after this? Write down as many words as you can to describe how he felt. Then work with another student and see how many you have altogether. When you have done this, look up each word in a synonym dictionary. Write down words from the dictionary that has a similar meaning to your words.

4 What does Karen Narlington write about Dante's Peak in her newspaper story *The Second Best Town in America*? Write her story.

5 Underline the right words in *italics*.

- a Ruth thinks that Harry is Rachel's *friend* / *boyfriend*.
- b People came to Dante's Peak from the United States Volcano Office in *1990* / *1980*.
- c Ruth thinks the trees are dying because of the *bad winter* / *acid*.
- d Harry thinks Rachel and Ruth *are good friends* / *don't like each other*.
- e *Lauren* / *Ruth* finds two dead animals.
- f Harry sees two *dead trees* / *dead people* in the water.

6 Talk to another student. What do you know about ...

- a Elliot Blair and his plans for Dante's Peak?
- b Terry's robot?

c Paul Dreyfus and what he thinks about the situation?

7 Write down how Rachel feels differently about Harry after their dinner together.

Chapters 7–9

8 Write the words from the box in the right sentence.

dangerous	equipment	helicopter	explode
	hospital	acid	

- a Harry started getting the out of the car.
- b Some men from the carried the swimmers away.
- c Harry and Rachel tell the others about the swimmers and the in the lake.
- d The volcano is starting to be again.
- e Paul doesn't think the volcano is going to
- f Harry and Terry couldn't see under the

9 Who says these things? Who are they talking to?

- a 'Do you want to come to dinner tonight? I want to say thank you.'
..... to
- b 'Volcanoes are very dangerous. People must know that.'
..... to
- c 'We can't get inside volcanoes, but my little robots can.'
..... to
- d 'I know it's a little town. I know it's not important. But I love it here. It's my home.'
..... to
- e 'Our equipment shows that every day there are between twenty-five and seventy-five earthquakes.'
..... to

10 Discuss the following with another student.

Imagine you are Rachel. Think about what you know about the mountain. Do you think it is a good idea to talk to the people of the town about the mountain? Will you tell the businessmen everything you know? You need to think about what is best for the town because you are mayor.

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Chapters 10–13

- 11 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?
- a Graham goes by car to find Ruth. ☐
 - b Paul still doesn't think the mountain is going to explode. ☐
 - c The lava flows into Ruth's house and over some cars. ☐
 - d Graham jumps out of the boat and into the acid water. ☐
 - e Roughy runs and jumps into the car. ☐
- 12 Underline the right word in *italics*.
- a When Harry, Rachel and the children drive into Dante's Peak they are *happy* / *sad*.
 - b Harry knows that they must get into the *ground* / *river*.
 - c They can't get *into* / *out of* the mine.
 - d They are in the mine for two *weeks* / *days*.
 - e The end of the story is *sad* / *happy* for Harry and Rachel
- 13 Put the story in the right order. What happens first? What happens next? Write the numbers 1–6.
- a Rachel, Harry and the children drive into the mine. ☐
 - b Rachel, Harry and the children drive down into Dante's Peak. ☐
 - c Harry goes back for the radio. ☐
 - d Hot ash and rocks start to fall. ☐
 - e Rachel, Harry and the children are rescued. ☐
 - f Harry forgets the radio. ☐
- 14 Write a sentence for each word:
- a mine
 - b lava
 - c scientist
 - d equipment
- 15 Discuss with another student which people in the story lose family or friends. How does that change them, do you think?
- 16 Have the following conversation with another student. Student A is Rachel. Student B is Graham. Student C is Lauren. Harry goes to get his radio and he doesn't come back. Rachel and her children are alone in the mine. They discuss what to do, where Harry is, and what has happened to him. Remember: Graham knows the mine well, but Lauren is scared. Have the conversation.

After reading

- 17 Imagine you are one of the children. Write to a friend telling them about your adventure. Try and make your letter as exciting as possible. Use interesting adjectives if you can.
- 18 Talk with another student about Graham, Rachel, Ruth, Lauren and Harry. Who or what is most important to each of them? What is most important to Blair, Worrell and Hutcherson?
- 19 Imagine you are Rachel. Write a letter to your husband, who left you. Tell him about his mother, Ruth, and what happened on the mountain and in the lake. How does Rachel feel about Ruth?
- 20 Write the correct word from the box.
- | | | | |
|------|---------|--------|--------|
| came | started | stood | looked |
| | broke | flowed | |
- a Then the lava the window and flowed into the house.
 - b The lava to Ruth's house.
 - c It round to the left and to the right.
 - d It flowed round to the front of the house. The cars there.
 - e Fire to climb up the outside of the house.
 - f Harry..... out of the back window of the house and saw the lava.
- 21 Write about Paul Dreyfus and Harry Dalton for the United States Volcano Office. What lessons can the scientists learn from these two men's ideas about the volcano at Dante's Peak. Did Paul make mistakes? Did Harry?
- 22 Do some research on Mount St Helen's and Pompeii and see what you can find out about these places. Can you find any before and after pictures? Do you know how scientists know when a volcano will explode? Do some research and find out how they know.
- 23 Write a conversation between Graham and Lauren the day after they come out of the mountain. What are they sad about and what are they happy about? What are their problems now? What do they think about their future and the future of Dante's Peak?
- 24 Write the next chapter of the book. What will happen? Will everything go well or will something else go wrong in their lives?

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Introduction and Chapter 1

- 1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?
- a Dante's Peak is a story about a volcano. ☐
 - b Harry Dalton is Paul Dreyfus's boss. ☐
 - c The story is similar to a real volcanic eruption that happened in 1980. ☐
 - d In the eruption of Mount St Helen's, 300 people died. ☐
 - e Rachel Wando is a scientist. ☐

Chapters 2–3

- 2 Choose the right word from the box to complete the sentences. There are extra words.
- second mountain exploded lake
equipment mine earthquake erupted tree
- a We all remember 1980 when Mount St Helen's
 - b He put some in the back of his off-road car and drove to Washington.
 - c She thinks that Dante's Peak is the best town in America.
 - d Suddenly there was a small Now the woman was afraid.
 - e Hot gas into the lake.
 - f 'That is dangerous. Rocks can fall. You mustn't go in there. How many times do I have to tell you?'

Chapters 4–5

- 3 Match the questions (a–d) with the answers (1–4).
- a Who is Ruth? ...
 - b What is Harry's equipment for? ...
 - c When was the last time the volcano exploded? ...
 - d Why must the people not tell Elliot Blair about the volcano? ...
- 1 It was 7000 years ago.
 - 2 He won't bring lots of money to Dante's Peak and build a holiday centre.
 - 3 She's my husband's mother.
 - 4 It will answer the question: How much acid is there in the lake?

Chapters 6–7

- 4 Finish the sentences.
- a Paul wants Harry to leave town because
 - b Rachel and her husband are not married now because.....

- c The robot can
- d Terry broke his leg because

Chapters 8–10

- 5 Choose the right word from the box to complete the conversation.
- moving didn't lost don't listen
- a 'But the mountain explode,' Paul said.
 - b 'No Paul,, ' Harry said.
 - c 'I think the lava is up nearer to the ground. The ground is too warm up there.'
 - d 'No, you listen, Harry,' said Paul angrily. You Marianne. Now you're always afraid.'
 - e 'I want people in Dante's Peak to be afraid because you lost her.'
- 6 Underline the right word in *italics*.
- a Nancy is *Harry's girlfriend* / *a scientist* / *the mayor*.
 - b Terry looks after the *money* / *café* / *robot*.
 - c Paul and *Greg* / *Harry* / *Rachel* have a fight.
 - d *Stan* / *Rachel* / *Paul* doesn't often go on holiday.
 - e Elliot Blair wants to put *eleven* / *eighteen* / *sixteen* million dollars into Dante's Peak.

Chapters 11–13

- 7 Match the words in A to their meanings in B by drawing a line.
- | A | B |
|-------------|---|
| a eruption | 1 a very large hill |
| b dangerous | 2 someone who studies nature or things in the world |
| c equipment | 3 to blow up into lots of pieces |
| d mountain | 4 the things you need to do a job |
| e explode | 5 something that can hurt you |
| f scientist | 6 an exploding mountain |
- 8 There is a mistake in each sentence. Correct it.
- a Harry thinks the mountain will not explode.
 - b Roughy cannot jump into the car.
 - c Ruth walks in the lake and lives.
 - d There isn't any food and drink in the mine.
 - e Harry thinks they are all going to die in the mountain.



Dante's Peak

Book key

- 1 a Open answers
b ash, gas, lava, rock
- 2 a Yes
b His boss thinks Harry is wrong about the volcano.
c No
- 3 a in Washington, Oregon, and California, in the north-west of the United States.
b Open answers
c Open answers
- 4 a Harry Dalton
b Rachel Wando
c Les Worrell
d Karen Narlington
e Elliot Blair
f Graham
- 5 a He wants to understand everything about volcanoes so that more people don't die.
b He wants to get there quickly.
c He thinks she is a beautiful woman.
- 6 a People all round America will read this story and will want to go to Dante's Peak for their holidays.
b There will be a lot of work for people in the town and it will bring a lot of money to the town.
c The swimmers die in the lake because hot gas comes up from under the ground.
- 7 Open answers
- 8 a acid
b people
c a robot
d Harry
e Paul
f earthquake
- 9–12 Open answers
- 13 a robot
b equipment
c radio
d helicopter
e lava
f ash
- 14 a Terry says this to Stan about their equipment because it can feel the smallest changes.
b Paul says this to Harry over the radio. Terry is inside the volcano and an earthquake is starting.
c Harry shouts this to Hutcherson, helicopter man, because Hutcherson doesn't want to come near the volcano.

- d Elliot Blair says this to Paul because he wants to know that this town isn't going to be like Pompeii.
A famous volcano killed the people of Pompeii.

15–18 Open answers

19 1 e 2 b 3 g 4 a 5 d 6 h 7 c 8 f

20–23 Open answers

24 a X b ✓ c ✓ d X

25–35 Open answers

Discussion activities key

- 1 a lava b acid c ash d earthquake
- 2 Open answers, but draw attention to the eruption of Mount St Helen's in 1980.
- 3–10 Open answers
- 11 Suggested answers:
Go and find my family/Make sure everyone is there/
Get my pets/Find a car that works/Put on the radio for local news/Take water
- 12 Ruth feels sad, frightened, upset. Students may look up more difficult vocabulary in their own language; devastated, terrified, exhausted, etc.
- 13–14 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

- 1 Suggested answers:
a Yes, because he finds acid in the lake and the trees are dying.
b Harry and Paul don't agree. Paul thinks that the mountain isn't dangerous and Harry thinks it is.
c *Dante's Peak* is based on a true story + open answers
- 2 a ✓ b X c ✓ d X e X f X
- 3 Suggested answers:
sad, unhappy, upset, angry, distressed
- 4 Open answers
- 5 a boyfriend
b 1980
c bad winter
d don't like each other
e Lauren
f dead people
- 6 Suggested answers:
a Elliot wants to develop Dante's Peak and any problems with the volcano would be bad for business.
b Terry's robot can measure an eruption and warn the scientists if one is coming.
c Paul doesn't think there is a problem with Dante's Peak.



Dante's Peak

- 7 Rachel understands that Harry doesn't want anyone else to die like his girlfriend
- 8 a equipment
b hospital
c acid
d dangerous
e explode
f helicopter
- 9 a Rachel to Paul
b Harry to Rachel
c Terry to Harry
d Rachel to Paul
e Nancy to Rachel
- 10 Open answers
- 11 a ✓ b ✗ c ✓ d ✗ e ✗ f ✓
- 12 a sad
b ground
c out
e days
f happy
- 13 1 b 2 d 3 a 4 f 5 c 6 e
- 16–19 Open answers
- 20 a broke
b flowed
c came
d stood
e started
f looked
- 21–24 Open answers

Progress test key

- 1 a ✓ b ✗ c ✓ d ✗ e ✗
- 2 a erupted
b equipment
c second
d earthquake
e exploded
f mine
- 3 a 3 b 4 c 1 d 2
- 4 Open answers
- 5 a didn't
b listen
c moving
d lost
e don't
- 6 a a scientist
b robot
c Harry
d Rachel
e eighteen
- 7 a 6 b 5 c 4 d 1 e 3 f 2
- 8 a Harry thinks the mountain **will** explode.
b Roughly **can** jump into the car.
c Ruth walks in the lake and **dies**.
d There **is** food and drink in the mine.
e Harry thinks they are all going to **live/survive** in the mountain.



Dante's Peak

Dewey Gram



Summary

Dante's Peak was written in 1997 as a novel based on the film of the same name. Dante's Peak is a small town in the north-west of the United States, situated on the side of a volcano that has been inactive for thousands of years. When the mountain starts showing signs of activity, Harry Dalton, an expert on volcanoes, is sent to investigate the movement. Harry finds a volcano which he believes is going to erupt in a very short time, but finds that no-one in the town is willing to listen to him. Even his own boss feels that he is exaggerating the danger, and that Harry is over-reacting because his girlfriend was killed in a volcanic eruption some months previously. Then the volcano starts to erupt, and everyone realises that Harry was right. But has this realisation come too late to save the people of the town?

Introduction and Chapter 1: The story of *Dante's Peak* is similar to the real volcanic eruption of Mount St Helens in 1980 in the United States. Harry Dalton, a scientist, works at the United States Volcano Office. His boss, Paul Dreyfus sends him to Dante's Peak, a small town in the north west of the US, to investigate a mountain that is moving. Harry thinks the volcano will explode. Local businessmen and the mayor don't want to hear this. Harry's girlfriend died in a volcanic explosion and he wants to stop this happening to anyone else.

Chapters 2–3: Harry meets Rachel Wando, the mayor of Dante's Peak when she is thanking the newspaper for calling the town 'the second best town in America'. Elliot Blair, a businessman, wants to put lots of money into Dante's Peak and make it a centre for winter holidays. However, there is a problem. A young couple go for a swim in the lake up on the mountain. There is a small

earthquake and hot gas explodes into the lake. The couple die. Harry also meets Rachel's son Graham who likes playing in a disused mine with his friends.

Chapters 4–5: Rachel drives Harry up the mountain. They meet Ruth. Rachel used to be married to Ruth's son. Harry notices that there are brown, dead trees and says there is acid in the water. Lauren, Rachel's daughter, finds two dead animals. Next they see dead fish and then they find the two dead swimmers, face down, in the water. Harry telephones his boss, Paul, who decides to come to Dante's Peak. However, Paul and Harry don't agree. Harry thinks the volcano will explode and Paul doesn't. They decide to take their equipment up the mountain and agree to tell the businessmen what they find.

Chapters 6–7: Paul and Harry meet in Rachel's café. They decide to take a helicopter up the mountain. Although they go up in the helicopter, they don't see an earthquake that causes rocks to fall down the mountain, because it happens underneath the helicopter. Rachel asks Harry to dinner. That evening when they are at dinner, Rachel talks about herself and her marriage to Brian. Harry tells Rachel what happened to his girlfriend, Marianne. The next day, they take the equipment up the mountain. Terry Furlong takes one of his robots. The robot can find smoke and gas. The following day, Terry is up the mountain and the team is reading the messages from the robot down below. They realise an earthquake is happening but it is too late. A rock falls on Terry and breaks his leg. Harry and Hutcherson go up in the helicopter and rescue him.

Chapters 8–9: The earthquake is bad for business but Paul says that not a lot happened up the mountain and that Terry was unlucky. However, Harry thinks that lava is moving up nearer to ground level. They have a fight. Paul decides they need to leave and both Paul and Harry tell the business people that they don't think Dante's Peak is dangerous. No-one realises that the fish in the lake near Ruth's house are dying. Harry walks Rachel home. He puts his arm around her. When they get to Rachel's house, Lauren wants a drink, but the water is brown. Harry wants to see where the water comes from, so they all go up the mountain. There is gas everywhere. When Harry finds the other scientists, they think the mountain is ready to explode. The people of the town have to leave, but Ruth doesn't want to. Ash and smoke start to come out of the mountain and the school building moves. People start to run and scream.



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Chapters 10–11: A building falls onto the school bus and there are earthquakes all the time. Harry goes in the car with Rachel to get her children and Graham goes to get Ruth. Elliot Blair, Les Worrell and some other businessmen pay a lot of money to escape in the helicopter. However, there is too much ash in the air and it stops the engine. The helicopter crashes. There are rocks falling everywhere. Harry, Rachel and the children meet at Ruth's house and start to drive down the mountain. Lava starts to flow into Ruth's house and it is too dangerous to continue by car. They take Ruth's boat onto the lake. However, the water is acid and starts eating into the boat.

Chapters 12–13: They cannot reach the other side of the lake, so Ruth jumps out. The acid starts to eat into her legs and she dies. Suddenly, water, trees, rocks and buildings start moving down the mountain. Paul tells Harry by radio that the scientists have to leave. The river is very high and it carries Paul's car away. He dies. Harry finds a car that works and they start driving down the mountain again. Roughly jumps in. When they get to Dante's Peak there is a cloud of hot gas and ash (pyroclastic flow) coming towards it. Their only chance of escape is to go underground into the mine. They drive into the mine. Graham and his friends have left food and drink in there. They go to find it, but Harry has forgotten the radio. As he goes back to the car to get it, rocks fall down. He gets separated from the others but sends a message for help. Two days later, when the earthquake stops, people come to rescue them. They all survive.

Background and themes

The placement of the town Dante's Peak in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon and Washington states in the United States was no accident. It was in this area that the United States experienced one of its worst ever volcanic eruptions, in 1980 when Mount St Helen's erupted. The volcano had been dormant for over 120 years when it started showing signs of activity in early 1980. It erupted in May 1980, when the top of the mountain was blown off by the force of the explosion and its height was reduced by about 400 metres. More than sixty people died and an area of 600 square kilometres was devastated. The volcano continues to spit steam and ash today. The book is therefore based on a reality which people in that area of the United States know very well.

Conflict between humans and nature: One of the most important themes of the book is the conflict between humans and nature, and the fact that we should never take nature for granted. Harry is a man with a great affinity and respect for volcanoes and for nature in general. He is therefore willing to take notice of the subtle changes in nature which point to the danger, such as the acidity of the water and the number of dead trees in the area. On the other hand, his boss and his colleagues place their trust in the computers and other man-made machines that monitor the volcano and they are proved wrong in the end. Nature wins and takes her revenge on Paul Dreyfus, Harry's boss, as he loses his life in the eruption. In this way, the story acts as a warning not to place too much trust in modern technology, but to respect the old ways of interpreting nature's signals.

Making decisions: The main character of the book, Harry Dalton, an expert on volcanoes, is trying to rebuild his life after his girlfriend was killed in a volcanic eruption. Although he suspects that the volcano at Dante's Peak is going to erupt, he feels that it is possible that he is now over-anxious about other people being killed in the same way as his girlfriend, and that this anxiety is affecting his judgement. For this reason he is prepared to put aside, for a while, his own suspicions about the volcano at Dante's Peak, and listen to his boss, who believes that there is nothing to worry about. This decision in fact has tragic consequences for the townspeople.

The influence of big business: The other main theme of the book is the influence that big business can have on people's lives and fates. Dante's Peak is about to receive a large investment from a wealthy businessman who wants to build a winter holiday complex there. This would make the town much richer than it is, and the plan is enthusiastically supported by the members of the business community in the town. When Harry Dalton arrives with his predictions of a volcanic eruption, the business people don't want to listen to him, as they know that a volcanic eruption or even rumours of one would ruin their plans. They are happy to support Paul Dreyfus's opinion and to refuse to believe Harry. In doing so, they allow something far worse to happen to the townspeople than the loss of the anticipated holiday complex.



Dante's Peak

Discussion activities

Before reading

- 1 Guess:** Write these words on the board: earthquake, acid, smoke and lava. Have students guess what they mean by giving them a context. **a** This is hot and red and comes out of a volcano. **b** This is a liquid that can burn you. **c** Where there is a fire, you often see this in the air. It's black. **d** This is when the earth moves.
- 2 Research:** Have the students look up the states of Oregon and Washington in books or on the Internet. Ask students to find out as much as they can about these states. Ask them also to locate the Cascade mountains. *What can you find out about the Cascade Mountains? Is there anything unusual about these mountains? Are they safe or dangerous?*

Chapter 1

After reading

- 3 Pair work:** Ask the students to think about how Harry felt when his girlfriend died. *How do you think Harry felt when this happened? Why do you think he continued to work with volcanoes? Did this help him feel better after his girlfriend's death, do you think?*

Chapter 2

- 4 Artwork:** Ask the students to imagine what the winter holiday centre will look like. Ask them to draw a plan of the centre and include everything the town will need.

Chapter 4

Before reading

- 5 Predict:** Have the students work in small groups and talk about the title of Chapter 4. *What do you think 'Dead fish on the water' means? Why do you think the fish are dead? What has killed them? Is this important? Why?* Have the students write down their ideas.

After reading

- 6 Check:** Students see if their predictions for activity 5 are right.

Chapter 5

After reading

- 7 Role play:** Student A is Rachel Wando. Rachel wants to know everything about the mountain and if it is dangerous. Student B is Harry Dalton. Harry thinks there is a problem and that the mountain is dangerous. He wants people to leave the town. Student C is Paul Dreyfus. Paul doesn't agree with Harry and wants Rachel to think everything will be OK. Have the conversation.

Chapter 7

Before reading

- 8 Predict:** Have students work in pairs and discuss the following questions. *What do you think Terry's Robot is? What do you think it will be used for? Why would people use a robot on a mountain? How could the robot help the scientists?* Have the students write down their ideas and predictions.

After reading

- 9 Check:** Students see if their predictions for activity 8 are right.

Chapter 8

After reading

- 10 Role play:** Student A is Elliot Blair. You want to know everything about the mountain and if there are any problems. You ask a lot of questions. Student B is Paul Dreyfus. You don't think there are any problems with the mountain and you don't want Elliot to take away his money or worry about the mountain. Have the conversation.

Chapter 9

After reading

- 11 Pair work:** Ask the students to work in pairs and to imagine they are looking at smoke and ash coming from the top of Dante's Peak. *You need to decide what to do. Write a list of the most important things you need to do. What should you do first? Think about your friends and family? Think about the things you own. What should you take with you?*

Chapters 10–11

After reading

- 12 Pair work:** Ask students to work in pairs and to talk about Ruth. *How does Ruth feel when she sees her house destroyed? See how many describing words you can think of together and write them down. Think of words in your own language and look them up in your dictionary.*

Chapter 12

Before reading

- 13 Discuss:** Ask students to discuss whether they think the boat will get across the lake. *Will everybody on the boat live? What could happen?*

Chapter 13

After reading

- 14 Write:** Ask students to write a paragraph about what they think will happen to the family. *Will Rachel and Harry get married? Where will they live? What will they do? Write down your ideas.*

Vocabulary activities

For the Word List and vocabulary activities, go to www.penguinreaders.com.