

CHAPTER ONE

“Icicle! Icicle!” Lizzie pointed out the car window.
“See it? It’s *huge!*”

Her best friend, Maria, pretended to yawn.
“We’ve already seen about forty thousand icicles.”

“I know,” said Lizzie. “But come on, that gigantic one was special.”

Maria shrugged. She did not look impressed.
“I’ll give you half a point.”

“Fine,” said Lizzie. “But then you only get half a point for that leftover Christmas wreath. We’ve seen a billion of them, too.”

The girls were in the backseat of the Santiagos’ car, heading north. Maria’s parents had invited



Lizzie along on their annual winter-break trip to Bear Valley, a ski area in Maine. The trip was long, much longer than the ride to the Santiagos' cabin, where Lizzie had spent some time. Lizzie and Maria had already played Twenty Questions and I Spy. Now they were playing Winter Bingo, spotting special things they could see only because it was cold and snowy. They got a point for each item they claimed — but since they were making the rules up as they went along, the girls were doing more arguing than spotting.

Lizzie was used to arguing with her two brothers, but Charles and the Bean usually gave in to her at some point, since she was the oldest. Maria was tougher. Lizzie had to admire the way her friend held her ground.

“Snowman! Snow-woman! A whole snow family!”

