

"Facing Fear"

By *Deja Kotchman and Sara Winkelvoss*

In late December the snow was rapidly falling in the hills of northern Colorado. Susie looked out the window in despair because she hated snow and everything that had to deal with snow.

She slowly walked back to her bed to lie down, dreading the coldness outside. As she climbed into bed again, the phone rang. It was Justin, a friend from school.

"Susie, hey it's me Justin."

"Oh hey, What's up?"

"Well a whole bunch of us decided we are going to take a little trip for the weekend. We're leaving after school tomorrow. Wanna go?"

"Where are you going?"

"Up to the cabin," Justin quickly answered.

"Oh no, I hope it's not for what I think it is.

"Yep Susie, that's right. We're going skiing!"

"But Justin," Susie replied with sadness in her voice.

"Oh Sus, we all know you don't like snow, but you've never been to the cabin with us. Come on it'll be fun. Besides, it's our senior year you know. Live a little."

"Alright, but only this once."

"Sweet!" Justin shouted with happiness. "See ya tomorrow."

After hanging up the phone, Susie stayed in bed thinking about all the reasons she didn't really want to go to the cabin. She hated snow, she'd never been skiing before, and she was very scared of getting hurt, yet she didn't want to let her friends down, again.

The next day after school Susie and Justin walked out to her car. While walking, they talked about the upcoming weekend. She started to feel better until she got into her car and began to drive home.

"Weather Alert! A severe winter storm warning is in effect for all Northern parts of the state. Stay indoors and don't drive unless it is an emergency."

"Oh Great," Susie said. "Just what we need. I have to tell everyone before we leave."

Susie went home and called Justin to tell him about what she heard on the radio. Justin didn't believe her and said that she was only saying it because she wanted to get out of going skiing.

Susie swore up and down that there was going to be a blizzard, but it was no use, Justin didn't believe her. The next thing she knew they were on their way to the cabin.

They were almost there when Susie realized that the long car ride had gone pretty fast and the roads were clear. They were clear, that is until they began to reach the peak of the mountain.

"Be careful, Justin," Susie said with anticipation as she watched the snow lay thicker over the roads.

All of the sudden smoke started pouring out of the engine of the car.

"Oh my gosh," Susie yelled. "Justin, what's wrong?"

"Susie chill out. We probably just over heated," Justin replied.

After looking underneath the hood, Justin realized that the water hose had burst, and they were stranded.

"Great Justin. This is just what we need. Now we have to walk the rest of

the way," Susie said, very upset.

They started their journey up the huge mountain.

Along the way the air began to get colder. Everyone was complaining about

how they weren't feeling well and needed to sit down, but the group kept right on going.

Finally, after about a four hour walk, they reached the cabin.

They went up to the front desk and asked the manager for the key to their

room. After they got situated, they looked for the thermostat to turn up the heat because it was really cold in the room. No such luck, there wasn't a thermostat to be found in the whole place. And just their luck, they only brought one blanket a piece.

"It looks like it is going to be a cold weekend," Justin said.

"Great," Susie replied. "What else could go wrong?"

"Don't worry about it, Sus. Let's just go skiing," said Justin.

Everyone started to get dressed in their ski suits, and Susie was procrastinating and trying to figure out a way to get out of going.

As Justin turned around, he noticed that Susie still wasn't getting dressed. With much anger in his voice, he yelled "Susie! You came with us to

go skiing. Now get dressed, and let's go!"

Susie looked at Justin in awe, wondering if he was serious. Not wanting to make him or the rest of their friends angry, she just decided to get dressed.

They made their way out to the top of the first slope.

"See Susie. Does that look so bad?" Justin asked as he watched her slowly creep up to the peak of the hill.

She took her poles in hand and just decided to go for it. It wasn't that bad of a first run for them, and she decided to loosen up.

Then the rest of the group decided to go down the most challenging slope in the resort.

Susie was scared, but she was doing so well she decided to take the plunge down the monstrous slope.

On their ride up the snow began to fall harder and harder. It was almost like sleet. This scared some of them, but there was no turning back because they

were already on their way up. The wind began to blow faster as they got off the

ski lift, and enormous chunks of snow rolled down the hill.

One by one each of them carefully made their long journey down the death

defying hill. Susie was the last to go.

When it was Susie's turn she turned around and saw nothing but thick sheets of snow. She couldn't even see her friends who had already plunged

down

the hill.

Although she was afraid, she closed her eyes and just went for it. All was good until her feet tangled, and she rolled over a small bank. She hit her head and became unconscious.

Finally awaking, she noticed a huge avalanche of snow coming right toward her. This was it. The end was near. There was no way Susie could get out of this one.



"Facing Fear" was written by **Deja Kotchman** and **Sara Winkelvoss**. **Deja** is a 17 year old student in Mrs. Gurdish's Honors English 11 class. She is involved in cheerleading, the band, the high school musical, FBLA and she is the secretary of the Leo Club. **Deja** plans to attend Duquesne University to major in

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