

## Seven Red Houses

"I can see you." The little, blond haired girl, named Lila, was playing hide-and-seek in her sister's room. "How? I was definitely hidden that time, Mia," said Lila.

Lila and Mia lived on the side of a volcano, in a forest. They lived in one of seven red houses. All of the houses looked identical from the outside but on the inside they are all very different. Mia and Lila's house was filled with drawings, paintings and sketches. Everyone in their family loved doing art. Mia wanted to be an artist when she grew up.

Suddenly the ground began to shake. Lila and Mia ran out to the garden. "Grab your stuff," their mother said trembling. Mia and Lila ran to their rooms. Mia grabbed her drawing pad, pencils and her mother's old necklace. Mia took her favourite paperback book, a photograph of her and her family and her grandmother's wedding earrings. "Mia run round to help people, but be quick!"

He was awakened by a loud knocking on the door. The old, tired looking man got up and hastily walked to the door. "Mia, what is this all about?"

"Mr Rodgers, the volcano is about to erupt!" Mia went round and warned everyone. Very quickly everyone was outside and rushing down the slope.

Lila, Mia and their parents started running down the side of the rumbling volcano. Suddenly a huge rock came out of nowhere and blocked the way. Everyone scrambled over the top of the rock as quickly as they could. Mia was at the top of the rock when she heard someone shout. "Help, I can't climb over!" The voice sounded very familiar. As Mia peered over the edge she saw a pair of bright blue eyes staring back at her. Lila! Mia put out her arm and helped Lila climb up and over.

When they were at the bottom of the volcano, one by one, they went quickly down into their secret bunker.

Mia looked behind her and saw red, hot, molten lava spitting out of the big volcano. Then she jumped down into the bunker.

Their ancestors built it, along with tunnels four miles long, in case the volcano ever erupted.

Everyone stayed in the tunnel, hoping for the lava to quickly dry into a rock. Then they would go to a neighbouring town and live there safe and sound.