

CHAPTER 1

A Shocking Interruption

In Stockholm, Sweden, the world's top scientists came together for a meeting. They sat in a magnificent hall facing the stage. Everybody was excited about the presentation of Dr. Erik Carlsson. Here was the world's leading environmental scientist who had helped to develop many important projects. His company had built wind farms for renewable* energy, and while he was still a student at university, he had developed a system to check exactly when earthquakes would occur. He was excited about protecting the planet and was often invited to meet with world leaders to discuss the dangers of climate change. He had written many books about the subject.

Today, Dr. Carlsson would discuss his latest discovery. He began to speak to the audience in a powerful voice.

"Good evening, respected guests," Dr. Carlsson said. "It's no secret that our planet is becoming too hot. Transport, industry and agriculture have all contributed to this problem. As the temperature of the planet rises, there are more natural disasters than there used to be – more droughts and floods*. Many people, plants and animals have died."

The audience listened in silence. They already knew these things. They waited impatiently for him to reveal his latest discovery.

"The biggest problem, of course, is that much of our planet is covered in ice," Dr. Carlsson continued. "If the Earth gets too hot and the ice melts, the sea will rise and flood the land. Millions of people could die. Global warming* is too dangerous to ignore."

The scientists clapped in agreement.

"Well, my friends, I tell you – no more! I have found a way to slow down global warming!"

The audience was impressed. Could this really be true? It would be the most important discovery of all time! Could Dr. Carlsson have a solution* to save the environment?

"Let me tell you how it can be done," Dr. Carlsson said, but an unexpected sound from above caused him to stop. A loud explosion* shook the room, and the lights in the hall turned on and off. The scientists jumped out of their seats and ran toward the exits. Everybody was running and screaming. They were confused and afraid. Dr. Carlsson fell to the ground.

As a series of holes appeared in the ceiling, sunlight lit the hall below. Long, black ropes were dropped from the holes until they touched the carpet. Then, some figures began to climb down the ropes into the room. They were dressed in black, and masks covered their faces. Within seconds, a large group of them had invaded* the hall. Were they soldiers? Terrorists? Why would they attack a scientific convention*?

Some figures began to climb down the ropes into the room.



renewable
מתחדשת / متجددة

droughts and floods
בצורות ושיטפונות / أمحال وفيضانات

global warming
התחממות עולמית / الاحتراز العالمي

solution
פתרון / حلّ

explosion
פיצוץ / انفجار

invaded
פלשו / غزوا

convention
ועידה / مؤتمر