## **CHAPTER 1**

## No Meat

It was a cold autumn afternoon in the small Inuit\* village of Akulivik in Quebec, Canada. Maggie, a 14-year-old Inuit girl, was outside playing with her dog, Akiak.

"Catch, Akiak!" Maggie shouted, and threw a ball. It landed on the roof of her house. Maggie quickly climbed onto the roof to get the ball.



Just then, Maggie's father came. "Maggie! Get down from there immediately!" he shouted.

Maggie jumped down from the roof and went to her father.

"Why do you always do dangerous things?" he asked her. "I have enough problems. We don't have any meat. Please go to the Kuakuvik and get some."

"Again, Father?" Maggie said.

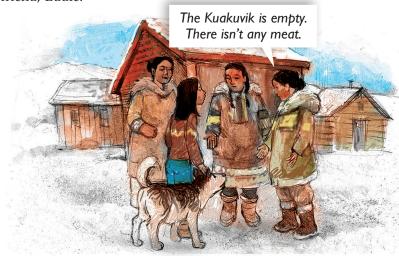
Her father looked at her angrily.

"OK, I'm going," Maggie said. "Come on, Akiak."

The Kuakuvik was a community freezer\*. Every Inuit village had one. The Inuit men hunted\* caribou\*, rabbits, foxes and other animals. They put meat from the animals they hunted into the community freezer, and the people in the village took it when they needed it.

The Kuakuvik in Maggie's village was in a red building, similar to the village houses. A group of women stood in front of the building. They all looked worried.

"What's the problem, Anne?" Maggie asked a short woman with a round face. Anne was the mother of Maggie's best friend, Eddie.



"It's because of the changing weather," Anne explained. "The animals are disappearing and this is a big problem for us."