

The Icy Fall

By Lance K.

Charlie woke up early for his ice climb up mount Chillimonjaro. He packed all of his climbing gear, a small flashlight, and a book of the town and neighboring mountains' history. He then started his drive to the base of the mountain to meet up with his guide, Samuel. They soon started the long climb up the mountain, and it seemed that Samuel knew the best way to the top. Suddenly Samuel slipped on an icy patch and fell into a cave. "Help," he yelled, so Charlie put an ice hook into the ice and hooked his harness onto it. He was halfway down into the cave when he heard a crunching sound, he started to descend faster and had barely made it to the cave floor when the chunk of ice with the hook in it hit the cave floor with a crash. He pulled out his flashlight and illuminated a sign that read "X-B15." He then opened his book to the section marked X and read, "X-B15: abandoned mining operation inside of mount Chillimonjaro. Reason of closure: main exit blocked in avalanche." He decided to look for a secondary exit but after hours of searching he only found a medical kit and took bandages to help Samuel. He soon saw his flashlight beam reflect off of something which turned out to be a truck with a large drill on the front of it, but when he tried to start it he found out it was out of fuel. He felt defeated but remembered that he had seen a tank marked "Emergency Fuel Reserve," so he retraced his steps to the reserve and filled some gas tanks that he found nearby. He then ran back to the drill, fueled it up, and drilled through the ice into the crisp cold air with Samuel by his side.