

Twelve- year old Crystal Leilani Williams lives with her mom, sister and best friend in Dallas Texas. Crystal and her best friend are inseparable. Crystal's best friend is her dog Chestnut. Crystal and Chestnut are like two peas in a pod. When lounging around the house you won't see one without the other. Wherever Crystal goes Chestnut is sure to follow. Even as Crystal goes to get the mail Chestnut follows her into the cold Dallas breeze. Their lives go on seemingly perfect until a camping trip that changes everything. On a cold Saturday morning Crystal's mom announced that they will be going on a camping trip in two weeks. Crystal was ecstatic but her sister, not so much. Crystal was so happy she talked about the camping trip for hours. She could go on and on about how thrilled she was. Crystal was overjoyed until she asked her mom something that shattered her joy. She asked what she should pack for Chestnut. Her mom gave her a perplexed look and said Chestnut could not come. As soon as she heard her mother's declaration, Crystal began asking her mom why and pleading for her to have a change of heart. A week passed and Crystal's excitement for the trip had dwindled, she now dreaded this trip. Crystal spent all her time with Chestnut after school. She ran to Chestnut attempting to show her mother how much she was going to miss him. It seemed to have worked later that week, on an even colder Tuesday Crystal's mom called her downstairs. Crystal received the best news she had heard since last week. Chestnut could come. Friday seemed to come faster than ever. Crystal had to speed pack Chestnut's essentials. That day Crystal's Mom picked she and her sister early from school. They then went home to grab Chestnut. Chestnut was overjoyed to see Crystal. Crystal's dad was supposed to meet them at the bus that was taking them to the grounds for Thanksgiving break. Crystal's family rented a big cabin for the holiday. When they arrived even Chestnut seemed amazed at how big it was. While everyone was unpacking Crystal couldn't wait. She threw her stuff in her room. She rushed down the stairs with Chestnut at her heels. As Crystal opened the door she was slapped across the face with the even colder Dallas weather. Without hesitation, Chestnut ran outside, jumping into the snow making a loud "CRASH"! Crystal laughed. Crystal chased Chestnut with a blissful feeling. Crystal's dad called out to her and told her not to go too far. A couple days past and Crystal was so happy there is no school this Monday. The whole family was planning on going on the three p.m. "S'mores around the fire". They bundled up and went on the bus. When they got there, there were a lot of people there passing out s'mores. Chestnut and Crystal were both about to run towards the crowd but Crystal's mom grabbed her before she could. Chestnut looked on as Crystal held him on a leash. Crystal watched as the other people got their s'mores while her stomach growled silently. After a little while Crystal's parents let her go get s'mores. Chestnut begged and was shooed away. Later they started singing camp fire songs. Crystal's parents allowed her to play, but her sister Emma didn't want to. Crystal and Chestnut happily played in the snow. They were not supposed to go far, but Chestnut saw a bunny and gave chase. Crystal followed calling Chestnut's name and yelling for him to stop. They finally stopped running when the bunny went into a small hole in the ground. Crystal then realized that they were lost she couldn't see the campfire and didn't know which direction it was in. Crystal was terrified! She didn't know what to do or where to go. Crystal started calling for her dad. Crystal and Chestnut just started walking around, calling out, and waiting on someone to respond. Crystal got tired and she decided to stop to sleep in an old abandoned hut they came across. In the morning Crystal woke up to find Chestnut barking at something. When she went to see what it was she saw a dead bunny on the ground. She looked at Chestnut in confusion. Just then her stomach growled. Crystal began making a fire out of some of her clothes and some sticks on the ground. Her dad taught her how to do it along with a bunch of other things. Crystal started rubbing sticks together. Soon she started a fire. A couple of days later and Crystal and Chestnut were still lost they could not find their way out. Two days had passed, and they were still

lost. Crystal had managed to find some sticks to make a torch. Chestnut found a lot of food, but something in Crystal told her they wouldn't make it. She began to lose hope, but refused to give up. Crystal knew she could use the North Star to find her way back home. Her family was in a cabin somewhere south. They began their walk. A couple of minutes into the trip, Crystal heard something that shook her to her core. She heard a low growl. Chestnut was snarling at something behind the bushes. All of a sudden a towering, humongous, massive, brown bear stepped out from behind the bushes and he growled at Crystal. Crystal knew she couldn't outrun the bear. She started climbing a tree. The bear followed after her. Until then Crystal had not realized bears could climb trees. The bear followed her up. It's long, knife-like claws tearing into the tree like butter. Crystal started to cry. The bear moved closer and closer then she heard a loud bang! Crystal looked down to see the bear falling and a rangers telling her to come down with her family waiting at the bottom. They all hugged including Chestnut.