

Chapter 1

The Big Thing: I bet when the *Titanic* hit the iceberg they didn't think anything of it. It's only an itsy-bitsy iceberg, they probably said, nothing to worry about. They thought that it was just a little thing. But they were so wrong! It was a BIG thing.

I didn't think at all about the phone call that I answered on the evening of my tenth birthday. I thought that it was just a wrong number. A little thing. But it wasn't a little thing! It was a BIG thing.

Jo had dropped me home late. Then she drove away. Kalem and David were already waiting impatiently in the hall for me.

“You’re late,” said David. “Let’s go!”

“Go on. Go on,” said Kate (that’s my mum). “Cake and presents later.” She shoved a twenty-pound note into my hand and pushed me towards the door. But then the phone rang and without thinking I picked it up.

“Tao!” shouted David. “We haven’t time!” Kalem just sighed. Kalem doesn’t get ruffled easily, but David is always freaking out about something.

“Hello,” I said.

“Hello,” answered a girl. She sounded nervous.

“Who is it?” whispered Kate loudly.

“I don’t know,” I mouthed. “Who is this?” I said.

“I’m Mimi,” the girl said.

I didn’t know any Mimi.

“Come on! Let’s go!” hissed David. “We’ll miss the whole film.”

“Sorry, but you’ve got the wrong number,” I told her. “Bye.” I put down the phone and ran out the front door with David and Kalem.

“Who was it?” called Kate. “Enjoy yourselves!”

“Someone called Mimi,” I shouted back.

And that was it. I forgot about it straight away. I just thought that it was somebody getting a wrong number, but I was the one who was wrong.