The Earthquake

Chapter 3 - Silvia's story

Complete with the correct form of the verb be in the past.

[...]

'I'll have to walk,' she thought. 'It's a long way, but I can do it. I have to go home and help my mother. I have to!'

Silvia began to run. It **(1)** _____ (be not) easy. There **(2)** _____ (be) rubble across the road. A roof fell to the ground behind her. A wall suddenly fell in front of her. She climbed over it and started to run again.

It **(3)** _____ (be not) dark now. The sky **(4)** _____ (be) red and black with fires and thick, black smoke.

Silvia had only one idea in her head. There **(5)** _____ (be) nobody with her mother. She **(6)** _____ (be) ill in her bed. She couldn't move easily. Perhaps she **(7)** _____ (be) hurt. Perhaps she **(8)** _____ (be) ...

'No!' thought Silvia. 'She's not dead! Oh, please, no, please! She's all right. I know she is! Mother! Mother!'

She **(9)** _____ (be) in the centre of town now. She looked round the square. There **(10)** _____ (be) some houses, and the big church clock showed the right time. But the hotel next to it **(11)** _____ (be) only a ruin.

The Plaza **(12)** _____ (be) in the same square. For the first time, Silvia stopped and watched. Firemen and policemen carried people out of the cinema.

'What happened?' she asked a girl.

'The roof fell,' the girl said. 'Hundreds of people are dead.'

'Perhaps Gabriel didn't go,' thought Silvia. 'Or perhaps he came too late, or ...' She didn't want to think about Gabriel now. The idea **(13)** _____ (be) too terrible.

The Delgados' building **(14)** _____ (be) near the town centre, at the end of a street. Silvia began to run again. She could see a big fire. She could hear people screaming.

The building next to the Delgados' home **(15)** _____ (be) a ruin. Men and women pulled at the rubble. Silvia knew them. They **(16)** _____ (be) her neighbours. They wanted to find their families and friends. But the Delgados' building **(17)** _____ (be) there. There **(18)** _____ (be) a big crack in the front wall, and some windows **(19)** _____ (be) broken. But the building looked safe.

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‘Hey, don’t go in there!’ a man called to Silvia. ‘It’s too dangerous!’

But Silvia didn’t stop. She pushed open the door and went in.

Inside, it **(20)** _____ (be) dark. She tried the lights, but they didn’t work. Quickly, she ran up the stairs to the flat.

The front door **(21)** _____ (be) open.

‘Mother!’ she called. ‘Are you all right? It’s me! Mother, where are you?’

She went to her mother’s bedroom. The door **(22)** _____ (be) open, but there **(23)** _____ (be) nobody in the bed. Mrs Delgado **(24)** _____ (be not) there.

[...]

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