



## Welcome to Reunion, I Think...

This story goes back a few years, January 2014 to be exact. A huge **ice storm** had just hit my **hometown** in Toronto. I'm talking fallen trees, **power failures** in -20 degree weather, and sadly, people **freezing to death**. **Meanwhile**, here in Reunion island we were facing some troubles of our own as cyclone Bejisa stormed through, **knocking down** trees and sending huge **waves** through the walls of houses along the coast.

My little sister, eighteen at the time, had planned her first vacation. First long plane ride, first time seeing the ocean, and second real trip away from Canada. She had two planes to catch, one airport transfer by bus, thirty-six hours of travelling and she didn't speak a word of French. She was leaving from a cold, icy, Toronto without electricity and the plane was set to land in Reunion on the third of January 2014. As some of you may remember this was just after Bejisa, so I was **desperately** trying to find a **signal** on my phone to find out if her flight had been **delayed** and for how long, trying to **bail** the **ankle deep** lake out of my car **due to** a broken window, and waiting for the roads to open.

Finally, the radio announced that the mountain road was open, so we put down a **tarp** on the seats, so my sister didn't have to sit in a **puddle**, and **hit the road**. Taking La Montagne to get to the airport right after a cyclone was a challenge to say the least, crossing waterfalls, fallen trees, and electrical lines.

Meanwhile, my sister had been waiting for hours in St Denis, after a very long flight and a lot of misinformation, she had no way of contacting me and no idea what was going on. A look of **relief** swept over her when we finally pulled up in our **soaking** wet car. She kept her eyes open the whole way home, commenting on how beautiful our island is! All I could see was the mess that Bejisa had left.

My sister can now look back with **fond memories** and remember her first day on the island, which she spent helping us collect hundreds of mangoes exploded all over our garden, **sweeping** leaves off the patio, and going to the beach to have a shower since we still didn't have water. And to top it all off, ten days after Bejisa, EDF happily announced on the radio that there were less than five houses still waiting for electricity on the island. Of course, our house happened to be one of those five but like my sister said "At least its not -20°C".





## Vocabulary

ice storm - tempête de glace  
hometown - ville natale  
power failure - coupure de courant  
to freeze to death - mourir de froid  
meanwhile - pendant ce temps

to knock down - faire tomber  
waves - vagues  
desperately - désespérément  
signal - réseau  
delayed - retardé

to bail out - écoper  
ankle deep - arriver jusqu'aux chevilles  
due to - à cause de  
tarp - bâche  
puddle - flaque d'eau

to hit the road - prendre la route  
relief - soulagement  
soaking - trempé  
fond memories - bons souvenirs  
to sweep - balayer