



## **The Mountain of Montserrat**

Have you ever seen a mountain grow? Well, listen carefully, because I'm going to tell you about a mountain that wanted to be the tallest in the world. It started out small, like we all do, but it was so determined to touch the sky, that every day, it grew a little more.

“Hey, you, where do you think you're going?” asked the stars when they saw that its spiky peak was getting a little too close for comfort.

But the mountain paid no attention, and carried on without a care in the world... until the moon rose in the sky. Then it got out of the way, just in case.

And so began the story of...

### The Mountain of Montserrat

The stars were not amused that a pile of rocks had dared to get so close to them. They wanted to be rid of it, so they asked their friends the clouds to help.

In no time at all, the clouds had gathered round the summit and released a downpour that was enough to dampen anyone's spirits. But did the mountain back down? Oh no. It was so stubborn that they had to hurl lightning and thunder at it to scare it off.

They made such a hullabaloo that the mountain had no choice but to retreat, // but when the clouds cleared, it summoned up its strength and grew again, until it was taller and more splendid than ever.

“How dare it!” said the stars. “Who ever heard of a mountain in the sky?”

But the mountain liked being up there and looking out on the world. And it didn't even get out of the way when the moon went by.

The next day, the stars were so angry that they asked a comet to tell all the clouds. This time they caused a terrible storm, and made so much lightning and so much rain that the poor old mountain started to crumble and fall to pieces. Rocks and bits of mountain fell down onto fields and houses.

The stars were convinced that the mountain wouldn't bother them again after that. But as soon as darkness fell, it popped up again.

“So, you want more, do you?” they shouted. And the war between the stars and the mountain raged on, destroying towns, crops and livestock. Someone had to put a stop to it, and the Sun decided to intervene.

“If you grow so tall, there won’t be room for the birds. Nobody will be able to navigate by the stars, and you’ll cast such a huge shadow that not even my light will reach the fields. You have to become small again.” ordered the sun.

The mountain had no choice but to obey. But it was sad. It liked being seen from far and wide.

As it shrank back down, it saw a girl come walking by.

“Will you let me sleep in this cave?” asked the girl. “I’ve come a long way and I’m very tired.”

The mountain said yes. What did it care? All it wanted was to grow tall again. And in the twinkling of an eye, the girl fell fast asleep.

Then the mountain decided to disobey the sun’s orders, and began to stretch up higher than ever before. It grew so tall that it shot up past Mars! But it didn’t realize that, as it grew, its stones were cracking and tumbling down to the ground.

Animals scattered in terror, whole towns were crushed, but the mountain grew and grew, showing no sign of stopping.

The little girl heard about all this, and when she saw the damage that had been done, she decided to go and talk to the mountain.

“Hey! Aren’t you ashamed of yourself?” she asked. “Can’t you see you’re going to hurt everyone if you carry on growing?”

The mountain didn’t know what to say. It wanted to be tall, so everyone would know who it was... but what if it was making a terrible mistake?

Then the girl had an idea.

“What if instead of going up all the time, you went up a bit, and then down again? Up, down.. up and down.. up to the sky, then back to earth, up to the sky, then back to earth again.”

Everyone listened to the little girl. Then all of a sudden the mountain saw what she meant.

“Up to the sky, then back to earth... like the edge of a saw,” it said. And while it had its doubts at first, it soon came to like the idea.

The mountain was so pretty that everyone came to look at it. The clouds, the sheep and the moon. The girl was happy too. Gradually, night fell. It was time to go to bed, When she went into the cave she felt that the mountain was moving again. “What’s happening now?” she wondered.

But don’t worry. All the mountain wanted to do was to say thank you, and to give her a name as a present. The little girl, who had come from no-one knew where, would forever after be known as... Montserrat.

Script: Mireia Vidal