

DAM

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a massive concrete dam. The dam's surface is a light tan color, showing various textures and some staining. A prominent blue metal walkway with railings runs along the top edge of the dam, curving away from the viewer. On the left side, a small, grey, rectangular building with two windows is attached to the dam's structure. The right side of the dam meets a body of dark water. The overall scene is industrial and imposing.

T H E H E I G H T S

H

A white picket fence graphic that spans the width of the page at the bottom. The fence consists of vertical slats of varying heights, creating a rhythmic pattern. The word 'H' is integrated into the fence, with its top bar and vertical strokes forming the structure of the letter.

Chapter 1



Henry Black was old. He didn't have long to live. And he was troubled. But it wasn't because he was dying. Henry had lived a full and happy life. He wasn't afraid to die. Something else was upsetting him.

He called his old friend Lee Briggs. He asked Lee to visit the next day. Henry asked him to bring a flash drive.

Lee was shocked at how bad Henry looked. He'd lost a lot of weight. And his face was very pale. It looked like the end was near. But Henry's mind was still sharp.

"Thanks for coming," Henry said. "It's great to see you."

"No problem, Henry," said Lee. "I was planning on stopping by later this week."

"Did you bring the flash drive?" asked Henry.

"Yes, I did," Lee replied.

"I have a big favor to ask you, Lee. It's very important," Henry said.

"I'll do anything you ask," Lee replied.

"Thanks, old friend. I'm going to make a video," Henry said. "I'll put it

on this flash drive. Then I'm giving it to my lawyer.

“When I die, my lawyer will give you a package. The flash drive and an address will be inside. I need you to deliver it to the person at that address. He's the only one I want to see my video.

“There will be an envelope for you too. It will have ten thousand dollars in cash for you. You are to keep the money that is left over for yourself.”

“Oh please, Henry! You don't have to pay me—”

Henry put up his hand. Lee stopped speaking.

“This is very important to me. It's worth ten thousand dollars,” Henry said.

Five days later, Henry Black died in his sleep.

A few days after the funeral, Lee received a call.

“Mr. Briggs, I’m Justin Wyatt. I’m Henry Black’s lawyer. I have a package here for you,” the man said.

“Yes, I know,” said Lee.

“Good,” Mr. Wyatt replied. “When can you come and pick it up?”

“I’ll be there this afternoon,” Lee said.

Lee picked up the package from Justin Wyatt. There was ten thousand dollars for him. And there was an envelope. It was addressed to Rafael Silva.

Chapter 2



Who was Rafael Silva? Lee had no idea. He'd never heard his name before. The address was in Rockdale Heights. Lee took the next flight to Boston. Then he rented a car and drove to the Heights.

An hour later, Lee arrived at the Silva's house. He rang the doorbell. Rafael answered.

"Are you Rafael Silva?" Lee asked.

“Yes, I am,” said Rafael.

“My name is Lee Briggs. I have something for you. Right before he died, Henry Black made a video. He asked me to deliver it to you,” Lee said.

“Henry Black,” Rafael said. “I don’t know the name.”

“I guess you’ll find out when you watch the video. It’s on this flash drive,” said Lee. “You must have met Mr. Black. He never forgot you. Getting you this video was his dying wish. No one, including me, has ever seen it.”

“It sounds so mysterious,” said Rafael.

“I guess it is,” Lee said. Then he left.

Rafael told Ana about the video.

“Wow!” Ana exclaimed. “A stranger shows up. He has a mysterious flash drive. On it is a video of a dying man’s last wish. And it’s for your eyes only. What’s going on? Do you have a secret life?” Ana joked.

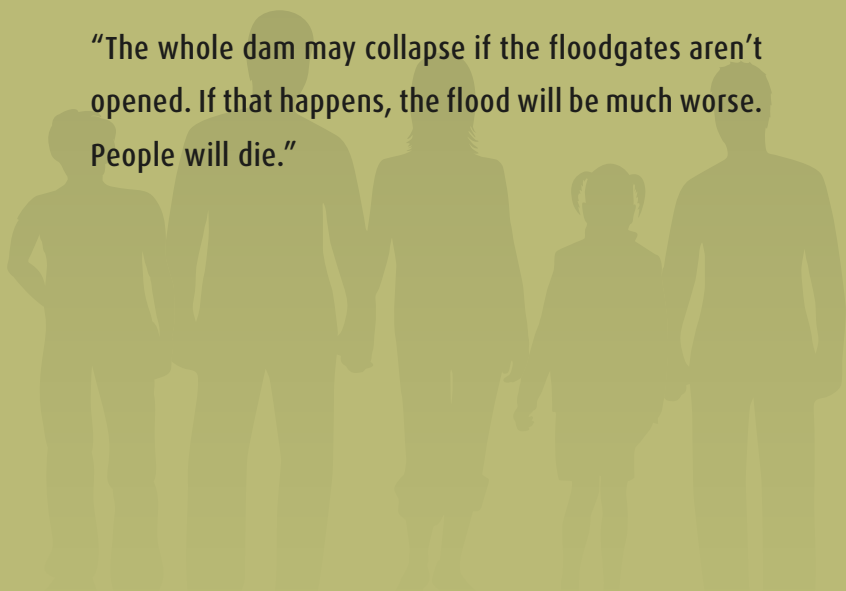
“Well, there’s only one way to find out,” said Rafael. “Let’s watch the video.”

T H E H E I G H T S



DAM

"The whole dam may collapse if the floodgates aren't opened. If that happens, the flood will be much worse. People will die."



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