

Dive



T H E H E I G H T S



Chapter 1



Franco read the newspaper. He read it every day. One day he read something exciting.

LEARN TO SCUBA DIVE

Classes Start Next Week

Joe Savage taught the class.

Joe was a former Navy Seal. He had been diving for 25 years. The class was at the Heights YMCA. All students had to be at least 16. The

class cost \$300. They would learn about scuba in a classroom. They would learn to dive in a pool. Then they would dive in the ocean.

Franco always wanted to dive. His dad was a scuba diver. He always wanted to go with his father.

After dinner, Franco helped his mom with the dishes. He told her about the ad in the paper.

“I’ve always wanted to dive,” he said.

“Is this why you’re doing the dishes?” she joked.

“You got me!” Franco laughed.

His mom laughed too.

“Well, your seventeenth birthday is coming up,” she said. “How about we get you the classes as a gift?”

“Really?” Franco asked. “That’s the best gift ever!”

“Promise me you won’t drown!” said Ana.

“You got it, Mom,” Franco said. He gave his mom a hug. “Thanks. You really are a cool mom.”

The class started on Saturday. Franco was excited!

Joe Savage walked into the classroom. He was tall and lean. Franco thought he looked like a scuba diver.

Joe didn’t waste any time. He started talking right away.

“Hello! Welcome to Scuba 101! This class will teach you a lot. I’ll teach you all about the ocean. You’ll

learn the dangers of diving. I'll show you all of the gear. And I'll show you how to use it. By the end, you will all be diving on your own! Now, everyone pick a partner," said Joe.

Franco looked around the room. He looked for a partner. The guy next to him smiled.

"Hi, I'm Ben Lopez. Do you want to be partners?" he asked.

"Sure, I'm Franco Silva. I can't wait to dive!" Franco said.

Joe pointed to the wall. There was a chart. It showed facts about diving. Franco didn't know there would be so much to learn.

"Scuba divers always dive in twos. It's called buddy diving. Divers

do it to be safe. Your buddy is there for you if there is danger,” Joe said.

Franco listened to Joe talk. He took a lot of notes. Franco wanted to do great in class. He wanted to be a good diver.

Chapter 2



The classes were going great. Franco learned a lot. They were in the classroom a lot. And they went in the pool. Franco liked the pool much better.

Joe taught the class a lot. Water safety was important. They learned all about scuba tanks. Joe showed them how to share a tank. Sharing was smart. What if you ran out of

air? Sharing could save your life.
There were a lot of things Franco
didn't know.

“Hey Joe,” Franco asked. “Did you
ever see any sharks?”

“I see sharks all the time,” Joe
replied.

Franco was surprised. And
worried. He didn't want to see any
sharks! “Were you scared?” he asked.

“Only once,” Joe said.

Everyone wanted to hear the
story.

“I was in Hawaii. I was there
with the navy. A plane crashed in
the water. They needed us to find the
plane,” Joe said.

Joe was on a navy boat. They
sailed to the crash site. It was 100

feet down. But the water was clear. Joe could see far. But he could not see the plane. He jumped in the water. He swam down 25 feet. He saw the plane! Joe swam down. He sat on the wing. Then everything went dark.

“I looked up. And I saw three huge sharks!” Joe said.

He thought fast. He wanted to hide from the sharks. He hid under the wing.

“The sharks followed me,” Joe cried. “They swam around the plane.”

Joe hid from the sharks. He was scared. His tank was running out of air. He had to get out of there. He had to get out of there fast!

The sharks got closer. Joe needed

to make a move. He took a deep breath. Then he swam. He swam as fast as he could. Where was his boat? Where were the sharks? Joe looked back.

He looked back again. The sharks were right behind him. They were following him! If a shark bit Joe he would bleed. Then there would be a feeding frenzy. Sharks smelled blood.

“I thought they were going to bite me,” Joe told the class. “I have never been so scared in my life. I thought I was shark bait!”

The sharks followed Joe to the boat. They didn’t get him. Good thing Joe was a great scuba diver. And he was a great swimmer.

“Wow!” said Franco. “I am glad

you didn't tell us that story earlier."

"I know," Joe replied. "That is why I didn't. Most of you would have quit scuba class!"

Everyone agreed.