JUMP

THE HEIGHTS™

Chapter 1

Brody Morgan and Jax Pace entered the Parker Building. It was the tallest building in Springfield. There were stores and condos inside.

Brody and Jax had been to the Jewelry Exchange on the fifth floor before. They'd studied the guards. They knew there were security cameras. They knew the alarm system. If the motion detectors went

off, alarms would sound. And the elevators would stop running. And the exit doors would be guarded.

With all the exits blocked, it would be impossible to escape. But only for someone trying to get to the ground floor. Brody and Jax had a different plan.

It was near closing time. They walked around the Jewelry Exchange. Soon Brody made his way to the bathroom. Jax followed him.

In the back of the men's room was a storage closet. Brody and Jax snuck inside. They hid behind boxes for five hours.

Just after midnight, Brody and Jax put on ski masks and gloves. Then they left the closet. As soon

as the bathroom door opened, the alarm sounded.

Brody and Jax figured they had about five minutes before the police arrived. They grabbed the gems fast. In less than four minutes, they had everything they wanted.

The stairwell in the Parker Building connected every floor. Steel doors opened to each landing. But once the doors closed, there was no re-entry.

Brody and Jax knew the police were on their way up to the Jewelry Exchange by now. They ran into the stairwell and heard the door lock behind them. They began their long run up thirty-seven flights of stairs.

Police searched the fifth floor. They found nothing. Guards searched the stairs and elevators. No people or clues were there.

There was only one explanation. The burglars went up. The doors on every floor were locked from the inside. The burglars must have headed to the roof.

Brody and Jax looked down at the city below. They supposed that the police were on their way to the roof. But they weren't worried.

"I think we did it," Jax said.

"You're right about that," answered Brody.

Both men smiled. Then they walked to the edge of the roof and jumped off.

Chapter 2

Brody and Jax wore small backpacks. After they fell a few feet, they each pulled a cord. Two tiny parachutes popped up. They easily flew through the air.

Both parachutes were black. Nobody saw them.

Brody and Jax headed toward an empty park. A tiny red light blinked on the roof of their van.

Jax landed twenty feet from the van. Brody was right behind him. The men quietly gathered their chutes. In less than a minute, they were in the van.

Another man was behind the wheel. He turned off the red light and started the van. Then he drove out of the park.

Back at the Parker Building, the police were confused. The video cameras showed two men on the fifth floor. But no one could find them. They'd disappeared.

"We did it, Hunter!" Brody said to the driver.

"I can't believe it!" Hunter exclaimed. "Great job. How much is this stuff worth?"

"I'm not sure," Brody replied. "But I'd guess twenty million. Maybe a little more."

"Now remember our agreement," Hunter said. "We aren't going to sell these gems for at least six months."

The two other men nodded.

"We won't even touch them. We'll live and work like nothing happened," Jax added.

Chapter 3

"Let's ask Dad first," Lilia said. "It will be easier than asking Mom. I bet we can even talk him into coming with us."

"You're right. Good thinking, Lilia," Antonio said.

Rafael was watching TV in the living room. When Antonio and Lilia walked in, they sat down and smiled.

Right away, Rafael knew something was up.

"Dad," Antonio said. "Lilia and I really want to do something. But we need your help."

"Actually," Lilia added. "We thought you'd want to do this with us."

"Well, what is it?" Rafael asked.

"We want to go skydiving. Some of my friends did it last week. They said it was great," said Antonio.

"It would be really, really awesome, Dad," Lilia said.

Rafael stared at his kids. He didn't say a word.

"So what do you think, Dad?" Antonio asked. "Can we do it?"

"Well, skydiving is something that I've always wanted to do,"