

CAMP

A blue tent is pitched in a forest at night. To the left of the tent, a campfire is burning brightly, casting a warm orange glow. The background is filled with tall, thin trees, and the overall atmosphere is dark and mysterious.

T H E H E I G H T S

A white picket fence runs across the bottom of the image, partially obscuring the tent and the ground. The fence is simple and classic in design.

Chapter 1



Antonio and Franco were in the garage. They were packing supplies. The Silva men were going camping! They would hike. And fish. And camp. It would be great. The boys always wanted to go to Montana.

“Montana has good fishing. There’s a lot of fish,” Antonio said.

“I know. We’ll catch a lot. Then we’ll grill them,” said Franco. “It will

be our dinner every night. I hope you like trout!”

“I love trout! I’m glad Dad is taking us,” Antonio said.

“Me too. I can’t wait to camp,” agreed Franco.

Antonio had a list. He didn’t want to forget anything.

“Two fishing rods,” Franco said.

Antonio checked it off his list.

“Bug spray,” said Franco.

“Check,” Antonio replied.

Rafael loaded the car with their bags. Ana and Lilia helped too. There were a lot of bags. But soon they were off!

Ana and Lilia waved goodbye. They didn’t like fishing. They would stay home in the Heights.

“Bring us back some fish!” Ana said.

“Will do!” Antonio yelled.

“Love you Mom! Lilia!” yelled Franco.

They got to the airport fast. Franco saw their plane.

“I’m glad I have something to read. It’s a long flight,” Franco said.

“Brought my DS,” Antonio grinned.

“I’ve got a couple of movies,” Rafael replied.

Antonio asked his dad about bears. “I hope we see some,” he said.

“There are bears in Montana. There are grizzlies. And there are black bears. We may see some,” Rafael said.

“Great!” said Antonio. “What about deer?”

“Yes, deer, too,” Rafael said.

“Mule deer, right Dad?” Franco asked.

“Yes, they are very big,” said Rafael. “I hope you brought your cameras!”

The boys looked at each other.

“Oops! We forgot,” said Franco.

“That’s okay,” Rafael said. “We can buy one.”

Finally, they arrived. The airport was crowded.

The boys got the bags. Rafael got the rental car. They were on their way.

Rafael stopped at a store. “We’ll get more supplies here,” he said.

“Antonio, look for a camera. Franco, grab some snacks. Meet me at the checkout.”

Antonio got a camera. Franco got snacks. Rafael paid the bill. They all packed the car.

Chapter 2



It was a beautiful day. The air was cool. The sun was bright.

Franco and Antonio were excited. They loved camping. They couldn't wait to see wild animals. Fishing would be fun too!

“There hasn't been rain for weeks. We have to be careful with our campfire. Look how dry everything is!” Rafael said.

They entered the canyon. Rafael slowed down. Big Sky Motel and Restaurant was on the left. The Silvas got out. They looked around. Mountains were behind the motel. A man walked up to them. He wore a cowboy hat and boots.

“Welcome to Big Sky! I’m Nate,” he said.

Rafael said hello. He shook Nate’s hand.

“These are my sons Antonio and Franco,” said Rafael.

“Is this your first trip to Montana?” Nate asked.

“Yes. I can’t wait to see some animals,” said Antonio.

“Is that so? Well, you’ve come to the right place. Let’s get your things

to your room,” Nate said.

The room was small. But it was clean. And it was comfy. The Silvas unpacked. Rafael pulled out a photo of Ana and Lilia. Now the room felt like home.

Then they went to the restaurant. They were hungry. It had been a long day. The food on the plane was bad. Nate’s wife Helen was there. She took their order.

“We’re hungry! Buffalo burgers for us all!” Rafael said.

“And fries,” Franco added.

“And ice cream!” yelled Antonio.

“Coming right up!” Helen laughed.

The buffalo burgers were great. The fries were salty and fresh. The

ice cream was homemade. They ate everything.

Nate came over to their table.

“What animals do you want to see?” asked Nate.

“Grizzly bears,” Antonio replied.

“Talk to Ray Johnson,” Nate said. “He knows all about grizzlies. One even bit part of his leg off!”

Antonio’s mouth dropped open. His eyes were wide.

“No way!” Antonio said. “Where can we find him?”

“You’re in luck,” Nate laughed. “He’s right behind you!”