

Chapter 1



Antonio and Lilia were alone. They just got home from school. The phone rang. Antonio ran to get it. But Lilia ran past him. She answered the phone.

“Hey, Dad!” Lilia said.

“Hi, Lilia,” said Rafael. “What’s going on?”

“Not much. Antonio and I just got home,” said Lilia. “When will your

work be done?”

“It’s a big job. I’ll be gone a while,” said Rafael.

Antonio took the phone from Lilia.

“Dad! Wassup?” asked Antonio.

“Hi, Antonio. Remind me. Is school finished next week?” Rafael asked.

“Yes. Six days and counting,” said Antonio.

“Great,” Rafael said. “I want to take you all on a trip.”

“Cool. Where?” Antonio asked.

“We’re going to sail around the Bahamas. I rented a sail boat in Miami,” said Rafael.

Lilia and Antonio were excited. They had all been sailing before. They talked about the plan for a

few more minutes. Rafael had to get back to work.

“Do you think Mom will come?” Lilia asked Antonio.

“Doubt it,” Antonio said. “She doesn’t like to travel.”

“Yeah,” said Lilia. “She stays in the Heights.”

Rafael said that they would leave from Miami. Then sail for two weeks.

That night he booked three plane tickets. Ana was staying in the Heights. But Rafael loved taking his kids on vacation.

Ana Silva drove her kids to the airport. She hugged them good-bye. Then she told them to have a great time.

“And give your dad a big hug from me,” Ana said. “I miss him when he works on these big jobs. Maybe I’ll surprise you at the end of the trip.”

Rafael was in Miami. He met his kids at the airport. The Silva kids got off the plane. They went to get their bags. Rafael waved to them. Lilia saw him first. She ran up to him.

“Hi, Daddy!” Lilia yelled.

Rafael smiled. He gave her a big hug. Antonio and Franco hugged him too.

“This is going to be sweet,” said Antonio.

“Yes, it is,” Rafael said. “We’re sailing all over the Bahamas. We’ll swim, fish, and sail. Franco, I hope you remember how to sail. I’m going