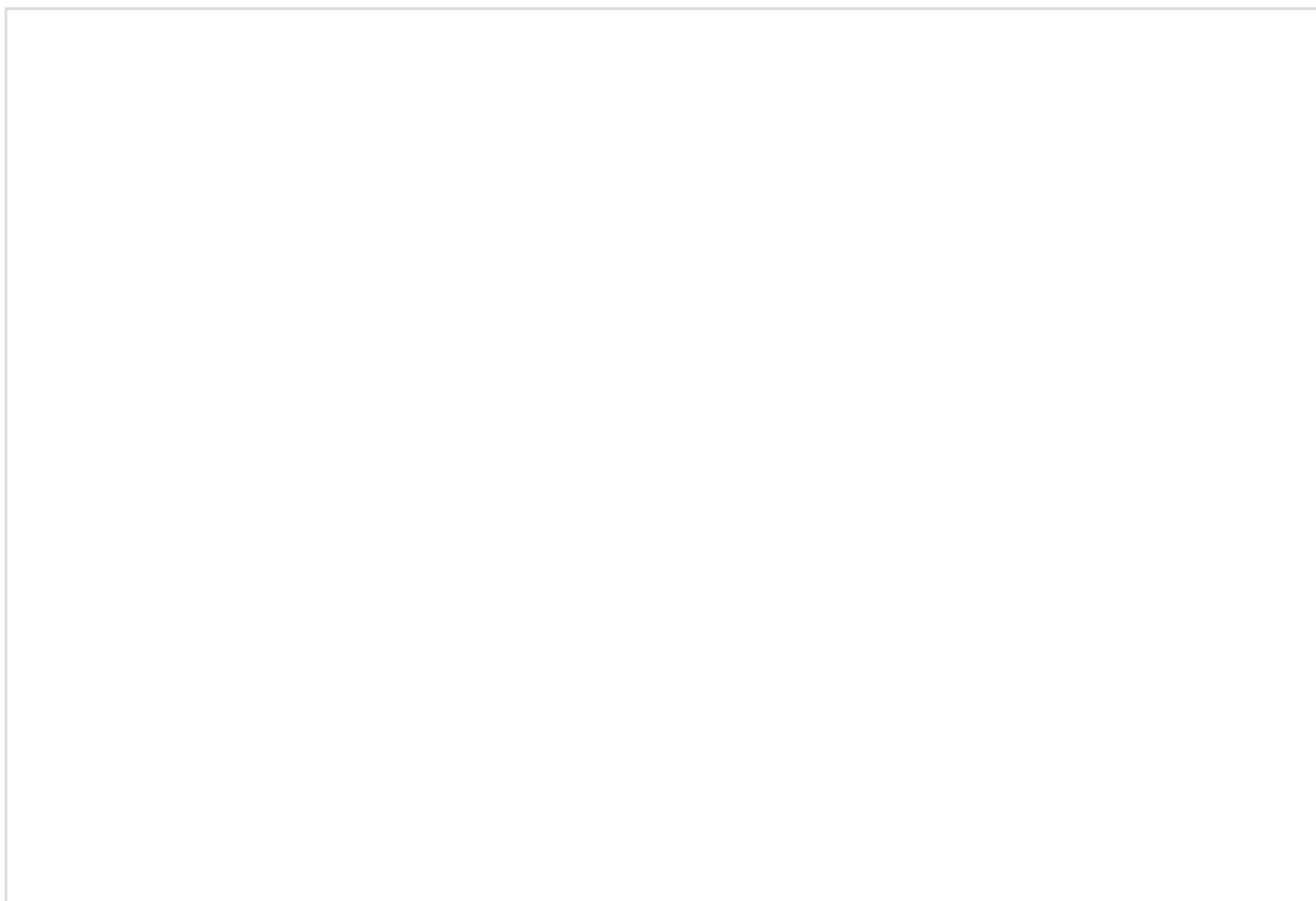


Alex and Ralph's Summer 2018



Chapter 1
The Summer

Alex and I are sitting on the front steps of my house. This is the first day of summer vacation. The sky is blue, sun is bright and here we are, sitting on the front steps.

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Alex was my best friend. I am not sure what that really means, but we are always together, on the school bus, in the same class, eating lunch and the ride home. Once we get home, change clothes, have a snack, say good bye to our moms and were doing stuff, together.

Alex lives in a one-story house and I live in a two-story house. This seems weird, each of the houses have another story, the basement. Alex's house has the main floor and basement, which equals two. Mine has the main and second floor plus a basement, equals three floors when I do the math.

There are times when she would sleep at my house or I would sleep at hers. We sleep on the living room floor in our sleeping bags. We stay up all night talking and laughing, even though our moms say we were sleeping by 9:30.

I said "Alex what do you think we ought to do this summer? We have to do something, because summer vacation lasts forever." Alex looked up in the sky and made that weird face with her lips and nose.

Alex said "Let's do something really big. Write a play, a story, build a boat, build a house, make a game or take a big trip."

Chapter 1
The Summer

I replied” We cannot go on a big trip, we are too young and do not have much money. Writing something would be fun, but too much like school.”

Alex replied “Ralph that leaves, make something. How can we make something without money? Let’s go to the park.”

Chapter 2 The Park

Alex went home to get her bike and helmet, while I went to our garage to get my bike and helmet. As I moved my bike out of the garage, my front tire was low on air, again! My dad has an air compressor and he showed me how to safely use it. This is the first time I'm going to use the air compressor alone and I was a little nervous. Talking to myself helps; "First connect the tire valve thing onto the air hose by pulling back the connector, which is really hard, and slide the tire valve thing into the connector. There was a little pop and the air hose was ready to go and I was celebrating.

"Ready" Alex said in her normal voice, but to me she screamed "READY" I jumped and said "I have to pump up my front tire."

Flipping the switch, the compressor came to life and Alex jumped. I felt a little better seeing she jumped. Put the tire valve thing onto my bike tire stem. The tire became round and hard. Not too much air, otherwise the tire blows up! Trust me, I know. With my tire filled, I turned off the compressor, put everything away and walked out of the garage feeling pretty good about myself.

With our helmets on, we took off on our bikes for the park. Alex and I never talk about the trip to the park, but it always becomes a race. Truth is, Alex has won more races to the park than I have, but she never brags. This time I am actually ahead and will win the bike park race! As I got to the play area, I stopped quickly, let go of my bike and ran to the big green slide. The last part of the race is up the slide and touch the steering wheel on the bridge. I scrambled up the slide, slipping many times, but made it and touched the steering wheel. I won! When I looked down, Alex was climbing the slide and was sitting next to me in seconds.

Chapter 2
The Park

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Our legs were between the bridge's hand rail bars and we were looking all around. Kids were playing and of course some parents were watching their kids, but most were staring at their phone. Grandparents were there watching their grandchildren and yelling things. You could see everything from up here. Alex pointed to a teenage boy and girl sitting on a bench talking. Their talk did not look like a good talk, because the boy seemed like he was going to cry.

I broke our silence and said

“Let's think of what we can do this summer. We have a long time because school does not start until the leaves start turning brown.”

We both sat there, deep in thought.

The silence was broken by Alex yelling “Let's build a treehouse in your back yard, beyond the fence, in the forest! We both like sitting up here, looking over everything and we could have our own house. No one could come in unless we let them.”

After my startle and I could hear again, I thought, yeah, our own house in the air.

I said “Alex that is a great idea! How hard can that be? Maybe 100 or 200 feet in the air. Let's go and find the tree we want to use”.

Alex and I got up and headed to my house on our bikes. We rode so fast that it seemed like my house was closer! As we rode our bikes over the

Chapter 2
The Park

grass toward the fence, the trees kept getting bigger and bigger and bigger! It was tough peddling through the grass to the fence, but finally we put our bikes up on their kick stands and took off our helmets. Both of us just stared over the fence and slowly tilted our heads back, looking up the trees that reached the sky. I started to think, maybe a house on the ground would be better.

Chapter 2
The Park

Chapter 3
The Plan

Alex pointed and said “That tree looks perfect!”

As I looked at the tree, it was one of those that touched the clouds! I looked at her and said

“Sure. That should be tall enough.”

What was I saying? Why didn't I say, “Let's build a house on the ground and forget the scary very tall tree.” Alex climbed over the fence and ran to the tree. She looked like an ant next to that very big tree. She went around the back and I could not see her!

I climbed the fence and walked to her. I could not let her know I was concerned about the size of the tree. Concerned, I was scared. But in my usual voice I said

” That first limb should be a good height.” The limb was the size of a tree!

Alex replied “Yes and there are limbs all around the tree that create a row. We could put a floor, walls, a roof and rope ladder to get up into our treehouse.”

Floor, walls, a roof, what is she thinking, those limbs are at least 100 feet up!

I said “Alex, we have to figure out how to get the wood, bring it here and put it up there. That will take most of the summer and we can build it next summer. Let's get paper and start on the plans but lets' eat lunch first?”

I was kind of hungry. Alex enthusiastically agreed.

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Chapter 3 The Plan

“Ralph, we can eat and draw out the plans during lunch. That way we are ready to start. This is going to be the best summer ever!”

I thought best summer ever if we survive the treehouse build. What is wrong with video games or Monopoly for the summer, like we did last year?

My mom had a couple of sandwiches on a plate, two with toppers and two without toppers. Grapes, cheese and Doritos were also on the plate. Cool water to drink and two chocolate chip cookies, each one on a napkin. Alex always eats the sandwich without the topper and I always eat mine with a topper. A pencil in one hand and sandwich in her other, Alex was drawing on scrap paper. My mom asked what we were drawing and we both answered

“Top secret.”

My mom did not ask any more questions and left us alone. Alex drew the tree, well kind of, her tree was small and short. The tree I remember can hold our house. She drew this huge floor, walls and a big roof.

I said” Alex, the tree you drew is really small and short, while the house is really big.”

She shot back “This is just a plan, not the actual tree and house. Let’s go out and put some sizes to our plan.”

We had already eaten all our lunch, except the cookies.

We put our empty plates on the kitchen counter, took our cookies and went out to my Dad’s garage to get my tools. Tools are always good to take even if all we needed was a “tape measure” or as my Grandpa calls it sometimes a “Yoyo” not sure why. I had my tools and Alex had her drawing. As we walked, we ate the cookies and were soon at the tree. I took my “tape” and slowly raised the ruler part up, up, up and crash, it bent back. Again, I tried and finally on the fourth attempt, the end touched the limb that we want for our floor. The number on the ruler was 125! The limb is 125 feet off the ground? This is too high! Alex wrote the number on her drawing and then wanted to measure out the size of our tree house on the ground. She moved a rock, moved another rock, and she placed two more rocks to create a rectangle.

Chapter 3 The Plan

Last year in school I studied rectangles. I learned a rectangle has a total of four sides, two opposite sides that are the same size and two other sides that are the same length, but are longer or shorter than the other two. We walked around inside the rocks as if there were walls to hold us in. Seemed good size. Then we measured between the rocks to give the length and width of our house. The house measured 98 by 104. Alex wrote those numbers on her drawing. Now how tall is the house? I measured her and she was about 45 and she tried to measure me, but I was too tall. We figured that I will lay down and she measured me at 51.

Alex said “Let’s make the house 65 tall. The size of the house will be 98 by 104 and 65 tall and up 125 in the tree.”

When I looked at her drawing, it was pretty good, but the tree was way too skinny, so Alex and I measured the tree trunk, 38. We had a good plan and the alarm on Alex’s watch sounded, meaning, go home. We said good bye and we each went home.

Early the next morning, Alex knocked on the door and came in as she usually does. I do the same at her house.

I said “Alex, I talked to my Dad and he thinks it’s a good idea to build a nice treehouse this summer. I told him about our plans and he said it will take a lot of wood to build as well as a lot of work. I told him we were committed to build our treehouse.”

Alex pulling out a bunch of papers said. “Ralph, here are the plans drawn on graph paper.”

When I looked, the paper had light blue lines creating small boxes all over and Alex’s drawing was drawn in a black marker over the light blue lines. Numbers and words were everywhere.

I said “Alex these are really nice drawings. What is this?” pointing to a long “x” on a wall.

Alex stated “Those are windows and the angled line is a door.”

I looked over the drawings in detail, seems like we are ready to go.

I said, “Let’s get started.”

Chapter 3
The Plan

Chapter 4
Getting the Wood

We both grabbed an apple and went to the tree and sat down on the ground.

Alex said “Where can we get wood?”

I said “My Grandpa has some wood that we can have. Whenever I go to my Grandpa’s workshop, there is a barrel of wood that I can have. He has a lot of wood and maybe he will give us some.”

Alex looked at me and said “Let’s go take a look.”

We went over to my Grandpa’s house. Grandpa was not home, but I know the code for the workshop and I always follow the shop rules. If the rules are not followed, Grandpa lets you know. There was the wood barrel and a pile of “used” wood in the back of the shop. There were maybe ten to twenty pieces of wood and some of it was thick and long.

Alex pointed and said “Maybe we can have that wood, but we’ll need a lot more.”

Grandma came out and asked how we are and if we wanted a snack. We never turn down a snack, so in grandma’s house we went and sat down at the table. Grandma gave us some fruit, a drink and a couple of her special cookies. We told her about the treehouse and she said Grandpa will love to help.

Before we knew it, the two of us were sitting on our thinking bridge at the park in silence. We were both looking around.

I suddenly blurted out “Alex, let’s go to the lumber yard and look in their wood box.”

Alex and I rode to the lumber yard in no time. Looking in the box, there were only a couple of good pieces, but laying near a fence were lots of pallets. We asked the lumber yard people if we could have all of the pallets. They asked for what and we showed them our drawings and explained what we are going to build. They gave us some big wood, the pallets and boxes of nails. We said thank you and we will come back after supper to get the materials.

Chapter 4
Getting the Wood

After supper, Alex and I went back to the lumber yard with my Dad and his truck. We started to put the wood in the truck and my Dad used the term lumber, so we did also. Alex and I both had to pick up some of the pieces because they were so heavy.

The truck was full with all the lumber and pallets. My Dad said we did great. My Dad backed the truck to our tree area and we unloaded. We put some of the big and thick lumber in a separate pile to use for the floor. Alex and I decided our homework tonight, figure out how we can get the big heavy lumber up in the tree. As I fell asleep, my thoughts were how to get the lumber up in the tree.

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Chapter 4
Getting the Wood

The next morning, Mom told me Grandpa was back in town and was excited about our project

I said “Mom, would you text Grandpa and ask him to come over right away. We want him to help on the treehouse.”

A few minutes later my Mom’s phone dinged indicating a text was received.

Mom said “He is on his way over.”

Grandpa was coming and Alex was walking through the door. She and I grabbed three bottles of water and ran out to the tree. Grandpa’s truck pulled up and he came walking up the driveway with a box of donuts. I yelled to him to come back here, quickly! He came as fast as Grandpa does.

Grandpa said “Hi Alex. Ralph. Ralph where is your brother?”

I told him “He is visiting my Aunt Tish. Aunt Tish owns a store that sells flowers and Lenard loves working with flowers.”

Grandpa asked “So what are you doing?”

Alex and I both spoke at the same time and quickly.

Grandpa said “Whoa. Let’s eat a donut and you can tell me, slowly.”

When I opened the donut box, each of our favorite donuts laid in the box. Lenard’s, was also even though he wasn’t, but I will eat Lenard’s later. Alex showed Grandpa the drawings and we both explained the plans. Grandpa listened intently and said he’s in. Alex and I both were glad and we had a water toast to close the deal.

Grandpa said “We will need some pulleys and rope to get the lumber up in the tree. Whoever goes up in the tree to build the floor, will have one end of a rope clipped to their belt loops. The end of the rope will be tied to a sturdy limb, to prevent falling to the ground.”

I yelled “My Dad has ropes and pulleys in the garage.”

We all went in the garage and I showed them.

Grandpa said “We have to ask your Dad before we take the stuff”

Chapter 4
Getting the Wood

Grandpa texted my Dad and we decided to go to my Grandpa's workshop. Grandpa drove his truck and we rode our bikes. Grandpa had backed the truck up to the big open shop door. We loaded the lumber that Alex and I saw earlier and Grandpa added a bunch more. Grandma came out and helped Alex and I load up the truck with even more stuff. As grandpa was grabbing some chains, pieces of rope and a big pulley, Grandma kept throwing stuff in the truck. She signaled to us not to say anything, just take what we needed. Just then Grandpa's phone made a sound like a typewriter. Not sure what a typewriter is, but he told me the sound is a typewriter.

Grandpa read the text "Yes you can use the ropes and pulleys in the garage." It was from my Dad.

We texted back "Thank you" Grandpa closed the truck's tail gate and kissed grandma good bye as I entered the code to lower the big door. Alex and I put our helmets on and Grandma gave us one of her cookies. We started riding back to the treehouse with Grandpa driving the truck of our supplies.

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Chapter 5
Building the Floor

At the tree, we unloaded our supplies and Grandpa explained.

“A pulley system lets people lift heavy things into the air. The more pulleys, the heavier things people can lift.”

I said “Let’s build the floor on the ground and with pulleys we can lift the floor up into the tree. Seems the easiest way.”

Grandpa said “The tree limbs are not flat and we have to make sure the boards are securely nailed to the tree trunk and limbs. We need to build the floor in the tree.”

Grandpa said “Here is a problem, one end of this rope has to go over a limb of the tree.” Alex tried to climb the tree, but could not, I could not and grandpa definitely could not.

Grandpa said “We could throw one end of the rope up over the low limb and one of you could climb the rope.”

Well it took a few throws, but an end of the rope went over the limb and the end hit the ground. Now we can climb the rope to get up. I tied the rope onto a sturdy tree and started to climb. After a long time, I was at the limb and pulled myself up onto the limb. I was so high up.

Alex said “In order to get the lumber to those limbs the pulley has to be on the limb above.”

Grandpa agreed. I have to go higher, that is not something I wanted to do, but they were right. Up I climbed to the next set of limbs. I had tied the end of the rope to a belt loop to carry the rope without using my hands. I put it over this limb and lowered the end of the rope back down to the ground.

Chapter 5
Building the Floor

I told Alex “Tie the pulley onto the end of the rope. Make sure it is tight.”
She did and I pulled the rope up and untied the pulley. Not sure the

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purpose of the chain on the pulley hook. Grandpa instructed me to wrap the chain around the big limb and hook the pulley to each end of the chain. The pulley is secure. Now I passed the rope through the pulley and sent the rope down to the ground. Alex tied the rope to another pulley and I pulled up the rope and pulley. I put the rope through the pulley and dropped the pulley to the ground. I tied the end of the rope securely to the limb using a special Ralph knot. Ralph knots have lots of loops and cross overs. Grandpa attached a chain to the pulley and wrapped the chain around a big piece of lumber.

Grandpa yelled “Okay Alex, grab the rope and pull.”

Alex pulled and the big piece of lumber started to lift into the air! Alex was pulling up a great big piece of lumber.

I yelled down” Is it hard Alex?”

Alex yelled back “No, it is easy.”

In a few seconds the piece of lumber was at the pulley and had to put it on top of the limbs. I took the chain off the wood and sent the pulley back down for another piece. Alex and Grandpa was standing far from the rope, in case something falls. As I set the piece of lumber on the limbs, the wood was slanted and not safe to walk on. Mom blew the whistle, which means, get home. Must be lunch. They sent the rope pulley up, I put my foot on the

Chapter 5
Building the Floor

pulley hook, hung on and they let me down. Sure, beat climbing. We all ate lunch and talked about the floor. We decided to put some 2 by 6 floor holders. Grandpa called the 2 by 6 floor joists and they need to be slightly loose, so when the tree moves, the boards do not break. Grandpa went back to his shop and soon returned with his battery saw, drill, drill bit, some really big screws and a ratchet tool.

Off to the treehouse. What a project; ropes, pulleys, lumber all over and one piece up in the tree. We are really doing great and the house will be so cool. I got my tool belt on, stepped on the pulley and was pulled up to the limb. Grandpa told me how to use my tape measure to measure for the board needed to support the floor. I yelled the number 63. Grandpa measured out 73. 10 is added to the length of the board for fastening to the tree. Grandpa cut the board and made two oval holes at each end. Alex put

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the ratchet, washer head lag screws in the bucket. Then Grandpa and Alex wrapped the board and level with the pulley chain. Up came the materials and I put all the stuff on the slanted board already up there.

I grabbed my hammer from the tool belt and put a lag screw in a hole. Alex and Grandpa directed me where to put the board on the tree trunk and limb. Once in the correct location, I hammered the lag screw a couple of times and used the ratchet to secure it. I put a lag screw in a hole at the other end of the board.

Grandpa yelled "Put the level on the top of the board and level the board" I put it on the board and looked at the center window of the level. I could not

Chapter 5
Building the Floor

see the bubble. I lifted one end of the level and the bubble flew by. I set the level on the board, slowly lifted the end of the board until the bubble was between the two lines. I hit the screw hard and tighten with the ratchet. After all four lag screws were in but not too tight, I was done.

Alex yelled "One floor support done."

Grandpa said "Yes the first-floor joist is in. About six more to go."

We repeated the process over and over.

Alex yelled up "Let me do the last couple joists. You come down and I'll go up."

I left my tool belt and came down on the rope. We pulled her up using the rope and pulley. She put the tool belt on, but she didn't look as cool as I do. She did really great and the last joists got installed. Time for a break. Alex came down, I ran to my house and grabbed three bottles of cold water and a bag of celery that my Mom washed and cut. Alex and I love celery, it has that crunch and stringy parts that are really tough. We all sat on the pile of lumber eating, drinking and laughing.

Mom came walking up with a box that she set down on the wood pile. Inside were sandwiches, fruit, veggies and lemon aide.

As Mom sat down on the wood pile she said "Eat up folks".

Moms always know what is needed. We all ate and talked. Dessert was cupcakes! We each had two cupcakes. We were all ready to get started on putting the floor boards onto the joists. Grandpa told Alex and I to go up in the tree and he would send the floor boards up. Alex and I rode the pulley up, one at a time. Grandpa is really old, but he's still pretty strong. Alex looked at all the floor joists and suggested we each take the board already up there and fasten it to the joists. Carefully we put the board onto the joists and using our hammers and nails, nailed the board. I measured for boards, Grandpa cut and hoisted them up. Alex and I would put the board in place and measure for the next. This process kept up all afternoon and soon the floor was done.

I saw my Dad come home from work and I yelled. He did not even go in the house, but came right to the treehouse.

Chapter 5
Building the Floor

My Dad yelled “Hey you guys have a floor built. I am going to come up, ok?”

We said yes and sure enough, my Dad figured out how to use the rope pulley system to pull himself up. My Dad walked around and finally sat down on the floor.

My Dad said with a grin “This is really nice, Ralph, Alex. What is the next step, walls?”

Alex without waiting, blurted out “Yes with windows and then the roof.”

“What about a door?” my Dad asked

I said “Dad we are putting in a floor hatch.”

From my Dad’s look, I knew he did not like the idea.

Grandpa said “No, we are putting in a door with a ladder on the side of the deck.”

My Dad stated “Yes that sounds much safer. Floor hatch open, someone trips or doesn’t see it open and they fall to the ground.”

Alex and I decided not to argue, but a floor hatch is going in.

Grandpa picked up his tools, Dad got down and we decided to try to use the rope/pulley system the way my Dad does. We did it. Everybody grabbed stuff and all headed home. Tomorrow we start the walls. My Dad talked with my Grandpa, his Dad, about the roof. They talked all the way back to my house and Grandpa walked to his truck. He told my Dad he had a great idea. My Dad has good ideas, but sometimes they were not good for me and my brother.

That night my brother Lenard called. When I got on the phone, all we talked about was the treehouse. Lenard was coming home tomorrow and wants to work on the tree house. When I laid in bed, I fell asleep thinking about all the help Lenard will be.

Chapter 5
Building the Floor

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Chapter 6
Building the Walls

Usual morning routine, breakfast, Alex comes in, we get the stuff, Grandpa arrives and out to the treehouse. Grandpa drew a sketch of the walls including the windows and that door that we will not use. The decision is to make each wall on the ground and hoist them up to the floor and nail them. Cutting, hammering, repeat, all day and by evening the four walls were built. One wall was really tall and one wall was short. Two walls were at an angle. One end was as tall as the tall wall and the other end was as short as the short wall. Grandpa explained my Dad said an easy roof would be a “shed” roof. This is a house not a shed, I thought to myself. The pulley chain was attached to the big wall and we all pulled. The wall did not move. Maybe the wall was stuck, and after carefully looking, it was not. Grandpa said we needed more help. Let’s think about this tonight and tomorrow we will get the walls up, so we cleaned up and headed home.

Just as we got to my house Lenard and my Dad pulled up. Lenard leapt out and ran toward the treehouse with Alex and me trailing. Lenard stopped and stared, all the time smiling as big as his face would allow.

Lenard asked? “Can we go up? How do you get up there? Is it safe? What’s next?”

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Alex and I unhooked the pulley chain from the wall and Alex went up using the rope/pulley system. Lenard went next and I came up last. I think Lenard’s smile was stuck. He walked around, looked and acted like this was the best thing ever. My Dad came up carrying a box. We all sat down and he opened the box, pulling out a set of chains and metal bars.

Chapter 6
Building the Walls

My Dad said "This is a chain ladder"

Holding it up, the ladder unrolled. The chains held the metal rods that created the rungs. He threw the ladder over the side. I wanted to try it, but could not because it was not secured to the house.

My Dad said "I bought this today so you can climb up to the house and pull the ladder up. This is a safe ladder. It is sold as a second story fire escape."

My Dad always gets neat stuff!

That night Lenard and I spent our time talking about the treehouse. We both agreed, we will need more help to get the walls up.

Lenard said "Get Mom. Alex's Mom, Grandpa, Grandma and I will pulley the wall up while you and Alex nail."

Seems to make sense as I drifted off to sleep.

Chapter 7
Putting up the Walls

As we finished breakfast, we all went out to the treehouse. Alex and I went pulled ourselves up to the treehouse floor. Grandpa had us screw two 20 inch boards to the outside of the floor on each side. He said that will keep the wall from going over the edge. The parents, grandparents and Lenard using the rope and pulleys, pulled the tallest wall up so we could put it on the floor. Alex and I slid the wall to the back side of the house. Now with Alex and I holding the wall, we could not nail it. Lenard saw the problem and came up to nail the wall to the floor. He did a great job! The back wall was up. Next the end wall, put into place and nailed down. This wall also was nailed to the back wall. Next the other side wall. Now the front wall and we are done with walls. This will be tricky, the front wall has to be lifted up, put into place, nailed to the floor and the two end walls, all from the inside. The front short wall was easily lifted to us. The three of us pulled, lifted, yelled, and hung on to the wall for dear life. Finally, the wall was in place. Lenard nailed quickly and the tree house floor and four walls were done!

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Both moms suggested we order pizza and have a pizza party at the treehouse. All eyes from everyone. As the call was made, our Dads showed up. Both were excited and wanted to come up. Alex and Lenard yelled for everyone to come up. I was not too sure that was a good idea. Too much weight and the floor might break or the tree tip over. Grandpa said he would stay down in case we needed to be identified to the EMS. That was not funny. Up came Alex's Dad, then my Dad and the Moms and grandma said they will wait till the ladder is in place. I was relieved, the floor was already moving a little or the tree was! The pizza and drinks came, which created silence as we ate. It started to get dark and we all

Chapter 7
Putting up the Walls

came down on the “pulley lift”. Tomorrow was my dad’s company picnic, so I asked Alex not to work on the treehouse, which she agreed. My Dad’s company picnic is fun, swimming, cooking out, water gun fights and of course “Hide and Go Seek”.

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Chapter 8
My Dad's Company Picnic

The day was perfect, sunny, 83 degrees and no rain. My Dad's company party is great and this year I am going to win the Hide N Go Seek trophy. All of us went swimming, jumping off the big raft and shooting the most powerful water guns in the world. Then at noon we ate all we wanted, hotdogs, pizza, chips and watermelon.

With lunch complete, the game I have been waiting for, Hide N Go Seek. There are always a couple of practice plays and I made the final trophy game. Only ten players and the seeker. Trophy here I come.

I ran to the bushes and then snuck to hide on the back of the pontoon boat behind the railing. 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, here I come. When the seeker came around the beach area, he looked all around and on the pontoon. He never came to the back area where the engine and gas was, so he did not see me. It was great. I could see through the split in the railing. When the seeker left the front yard, I got out and ran to goal. I never told anyone where I hid, so I can do the same next year. I brought home the Hide and

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Seek trophy along with 20 dollars. The trophy was a block that had some hide glued to it with a person standing that had their hand to their brow. The seeker on the trophy could be turned and when release played a little song, "Hide and Seek". Each winners name and year is on the trophy and mine was last. Great to have my name on a trophy.

Chapter 8
My Dad's Company Picnic

Chapter 9
Putting the Roof On

Now we had to put the roof on and I was not looking forward to that project. To high and scary. Out of nowhere came Alex's and my dad saying they will put the roof on, with grandpa's help. Alex and Lenard looked a little disappointed, so I put on my disappointed look. Inside, I was really glad.

I said "come on guys, the dads want to be part of the best treehouse ever."

Grandpa came with some plastic like stuff that looked all wavy.

My dad said it was" clear corrugated Polycarbonate. Strong stuff."

I thought the name was neat and the two Dads climbed ladders and grandpa passed the roof panels up to them. The roof was all done before I was even able to get nervous. The three of us kids took the pulley/rope up and the roof was awesome! You could see through it. Rain, snow and at night this roof will be the best. Our treehouse was so great!

"Let's sleep out here tonight." I blurted out.

All of us were jumping around and singing songs. The adults were picking up the stuff on the ground and my dad came up with two big eye screws. He announced before anyone sleeps up here, the chain ladder has to be installed. We were fine with the chain ladder, hanging near that door we did not want, but found handy. We could sleep in OUR tree house.

Chapter 9
Putting the Roof On

Chapter 10
Sleeping and the End of Summer

During the night we discovered a few problems. The windows needed to have screens, there were 10 million bugs, the house needed some lights, beds or sleeping bags would be good. Paint inside and out and the trip to the house at night was scary.

Time had gone by fast and school was starting soon. We went to the school to see if Alex and I were in the same class and find out who our teacher was. I was with a teacher who none of us heard of and Alex was in Mr. E's class. He was fun, but hard. One more week and school starts and our tree house still needs more things done.

We had all of our friends come over for an end of summer party and to show everybody what we did over the summer. There were so many people in the tree house, I was again afraid the tree was going to tip over. Tonight Alex, Lenard and I spent our second night out in the treehouse. Little spooky, but no bugs, just cold temperature.

This was the end of summer vacation 2018.

Drawn by

Date