

Chapter 1

“Hey, Adam!”
called Mel Harper.
“It’s 5:00!
Time to call it a day!”

“I’ll be right there,”
Adam Pratt called back.
“I want to take
another look
at these sidewalk plans.”

“What’s wrong with you?”
asked Mel.
“It’s Friday, man!
Let’s get
out of here!
Why are you
always finding
something else to do?”

“I’ll tell you
all about it
at the pub,”
said Adam.
“Just wait five minutes.
That’s all, okay?”

Adam and Mel
were concrete workers
for a building company.
But they were
old buddies.
They had even gone
to school together.

Adam looked over
the sidewalk plans.
The housing project
they were working on
was big.
The prints showed
a lot of sidewalk—
more than Adam
first knew about.

When he was finished
looking over the plans,
he and Mel
headed for the pub.
Then Adam
started to tell Mel
what was up.

“It’s like this,”
Adam began.
“The company wants me
to be foreman
on a little concrete job
over at that new store.
You know me, Mel.
I really want
to be a foreman.
I always have.
The company
is giving me
a break here.
So I need to get ready
for my first try at it.
I don’t want

to mess up.
That's why
I'm taking a hard look
at everything we do.
It takes a little time."

"I never did understand
why you want
to be a foreman, buddy,"
said Mel.

"I wouldn't
touch that job
with a ten-foot pole.
Being the one
between the workers
and the job super?
You can have it.
You like the idea
of more money, right?"

"The money
would be nice,"
said Adam.

"But the main thing is,