

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **The Brick Building**

Shane liked his new home. A lot of his stuff was still in boxes. But his computer was not. He put the computer in the kitchen, next to the coffee pot.

Shane's home was next to some trees. There was a big window in the kitchen. When Shane worked on his computer, he liked to look out the window at the trees.

There was a big brick building next to the trees. Shane did not like to look at it. The

building was old and dirty, and there were weeds all around it.

“Who would want to live there?” Shane thought.

It was also a loud place. People shouted late at night. Car doors closed. Trucks parked at the back of the building. Shane saw people getting boxes from the trucks there. They went inside the building and then came out with other boxes. They put the boxes in their trucks and drove away.

“Why are they so loud at night?” Shane thought.

One night, Shane was sitting in the kitchen and drinking some coffee. He saw a thin girl



*“Who would want to live there?” Shane thought.*

looking out a window in the brick building. Then he saw a man grab her. He didn't see the girl again.

“Now I need to know what is in the brick building. Maybe I should call Lena,” Shane thought.

Shane knew Lena because of Officer Lopez. Back in high school, Lena was going to join a gang. But Officer Lopez helped her stay out of the gang. Now she was in college.

Shane had a problem with the police, too. In high school, he had been a computer hacker. He was really good at it, too. He even hacked into the school computer files. Then one day, he got caught hacking. He thought he was going to

jail.

Shane was lucky. Officer Lopez thought Shane could do some good with his computer skills. He got Shane a job at Renco Computers. It was fun to be the best computer person in the office.

Officer Lopez had kept Lena and Shane out of jail. Now he asked them to do good things. He liked to call them “The Fixers” when they fixed bad things in their city.

Shane saw the clock. It was time to get to his job! He grabbed his coffee cup. On his way to the bus he passed the brick building. A big man was sitting on its steps. Shane stopped for a moment.

“Hi,” Shane said to the man. “Do you live here?”

The man got up. He was very big. He had a mean look on his face.

“What are you looking at?” the man said. “Get out of here!”

“Seems like you didn’t have your coffee yet,” Shane joked. That just made the man more angry. He tried to grab Shane, but Shane ran away.

“And don’t come back!” the big man shouted.

Shane saw his bus at the bus stop. “Stop! Wait!” he yelled. He ran as fast as he could and got on the bus. He showed the driver his bus

pass and found a seat. He looked out the window, but he did not see the big man.

“Wow,” Shane said. “What was that all about?”

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **Lunch with Lena**

Lena's phone rang during class. She hoped the teacher didn't hear it. He hated it when students forgot to turn off their phones.

Lena looked at the phone. "Shane again," she sighed. Did he forget that she was in college now? She had to go to classes all day.

"I'll call him later," she thought. "Much later."

After class, Lena checked her phone. Shane had called her two times. No voice mail, but





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there was a text that said:

***Lunch? Got a big problem.***

“Right,” Lena thought. “When does Shane have a little problem?” She went outside and called his number.

Shane answered his phone on the first ring. “I’ve got a problem for us to fix. Do you want to have lunch and talk about it?” he asked.

Lena said, “OK, I’ve got some time, but you pay for lunch. You have a great job, and I’m still in college, you know. How long will it take you to get here?”

“I’m on the other side of the street. See me at the coffee shop?” Shane said.

Lena looked at the coffee shop on the other

side of the street. She saw Shane sitting at a table.

“I see you,” Lena said. She crossed the street and sat down at the table with Shane. There were lots of college kids eating lunch.

“So I was sitting in my kitchen . . .” Shane said.

“No, no, no,” Lena held up her hand and stopped him. “Food first, talk later.”

They got their lunch. Shane let Lena eat. When she was finished, Lena asked Shane, “So what is this new problem?”

Shane told her about the old brick building that was next to his place. He said there were noises at night. He said he had seen a girl at a

window. Then he told her about the man who had chased him.

“That does sound creepy. What do you think is going on?” asked Lena.

“I think they want to hide what is in that building,” Shane said. “Trucks bring boxes in and take boxes out during the night. There is no name on the place. What do they do in there?” Shane asked.

“Let’s see. You saw trucks, a girl in a window, and a mean man who did not drink his morning coffee,” Lena said.

“Don’t forget the boxes,” said Shane.

Lena thought for a while. “That’s not a lot. I’m going to see Officer Lopez after my next

class. Let's see what he thinks. Do you want to come with me?"

"Maybe," Shane said. "But you know that he hates me. In fact, he can be really mean to me."

"He does not hate you, Shane. He just thinks you are still hacking computers. I think he would like to hear about that place. Meet me at five o'clock at Lopez's office," Lena said.