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Idaho Wild

By Jerry Davies

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A dramatic landscape featuring a two-lane highway that curves through a valley. The sky is dark and cloudy, with a bright sunburst effect emanating from behind the title, casting rays of light across the scene. The hillsides are covered in green grass. Several vehicles, including cars and trucks, are visible on the road.

IDAHO WILD

JERRY DAVIES

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Chapter 1

Monday, June 15, 2015

John Pough, owner of Pough Construction Company, got up at 5:00 a.m. on a mid-June day predicted to hit 85 degrees. He will drive approximately 400 miles to a company road and bridge construction site on Highway 84, just across the Oregon border. He wants to be on the road by six in order to meet his construction site manager Upton Johnson at the Oregon site by noon. Pough's home and company are located in Huxley, 30 miles southwest of Pocatello.

He pulled his blue cotton long-sleeve Pough Construction shirt over his tee shirt, picked up his briefcase and two rolls of schematic drawings, tapped on his son Tim's door and went downstairs to the kitchen.

Sarah Pough always got up with John whenever he had a long business trip, or when he went on a weekend fishing trip to his favorite lake in the Sawtooth mountains northwest of their home. She made him breakfast and while he ate, she packed two sandwiches with a thermos of coffee into his backpack.

"I'm glad you're getting an early start, John," Sarah said as John ate. "Weatherman says rain north tonight, so you will beat the rain. Bartley has eaten and he's outside doing his job. I swear he knows he's going with you today."

Bartley, a five-year-old black Labrador was John's constant companion. John's dad, Elder Pough, founder of the construction company, had three black Labs in his life. Bartley was the newest to join the Pough family.

“Ha, he told me last night he couldn’t wait to go,” John said. “Two woofs and one loud bark. That means ‘I’m going dad, and no one can stop me’. Honey, I’ll call you tonight. I’m due at the site at noon and Upton is anxious to show me the work on the two overpasses we have under construction and the median blocks we set this week.”

“Morning Mom, Dad,” Tim said as he came from his bedroom into the kitchen.

“Morning Tim,” Sarah said as she hugged him.

“Morning Tim. I’m off. Hope to be back by tomorrow night.”

Tim nodded. “Okay Dad, have a safe trip.”

“John, be very careful driving,” Sarah said. “Remember, Tim will be working at the office this week with Mr. Monico. He’s really learning a lot. He wants to work with you every day after you get back until he starts football practice.”

“Absolutely,” John said, pointing to Tim.

“When I get back Tim, I will spend as much time as I can with you and definitely take you out to the construction sites to get a real feel for what we do,” John said as he hugged Tim and picked up his briefcase and papers. He put his right arm around Sarah and kissed her. “I love you, honey,” he said as he went to the door from the kitchen to outside.

“Here Bartley! Let’s go boy.”

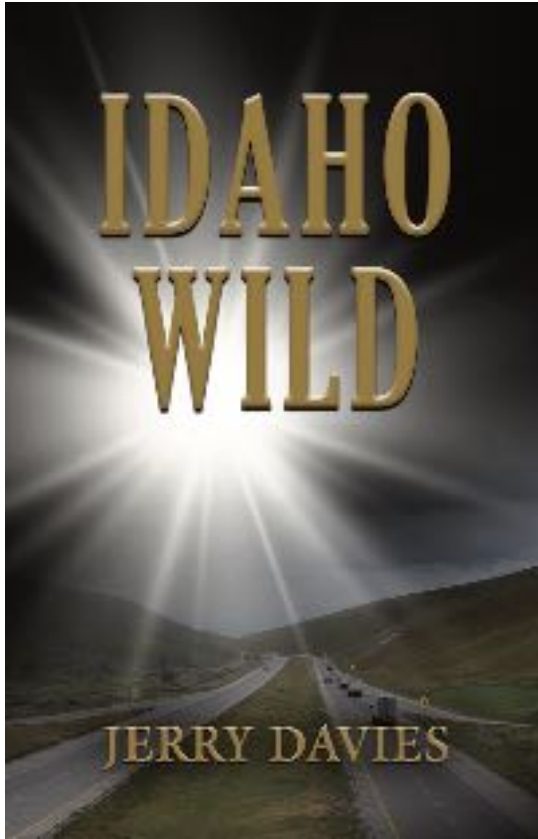
Bartley came from behind the house, barking. He ran to the pickup. John opened the door and Bartley quickly jumped up onto the seat. John got into the pickup, turned and waved to Sarah and Tim.

He rolled the passenger side window down. "I'll call tonight. Have fun at the office today, Tim. We'll get to the job sites when I get back."

"Thanks Dad. I like Mr. Monico. He's a good man. See you tomorrow night," Tim said.

"Tim, tell Mr. Monico I will call him tomorrow from the site and update him on our supplies and what more we may need."

"OK Dad, see you. Have a good trip."



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