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****Narrator:**** Free solo climbing, or free soloing, is when you climb a mountain without using ropes or safety equipment. It's the most dangerous type of climbing. This is Alex Honnold.

****Alex:**** Sure is a beautiful day to go out soloing.

****Narrator:**** Alex is probably the world's most famous free solo climber. Sometimes he climbs with ropes, but he prefers free soloing because he can move more quickly. But with free soloing, one wrong move, and you die!

Alex is driving to Yosemite Park for his next climb. Alex loves Yosemite Park and he climbs there a lot. Alex wants to climb up a vertical wall called Half Dome. Half Dome is over 8,800 feet high and it's a popular place for rock climbing with ropes. It's very challenging, but Alex wants to climb the wall without ropes.

The next day, Alex gets up early. It's about five o'clock in the morning. He needs a good breakfast. He puts on special shoes and starts to climb. It's 5:32 in the morning. After two hours of climbing, he feels very tired, both physically and mentally. He finds a good place to stop and rest for a few minutes. It's a difficult moment and Alex asks himself, "Why am I doing this?"

But Alex sometimes spends 12 months planning a climb like this. He plans every movement on the route. He knows every part of the wall and he continues to climb.

Until finally, he reaches the top of Half Dome at 9:28 in the morning. The climb takes three hours, 56 minutes in total.

****Ruben:**** I love classic movies... Humphrey Bogart, Gregory Peck... All those old-times. In other words, my prime time was the '50s.

My mother used to take us to the shopping malls and the big stores. I saw these old-timers doing the elevators. I observed them, checking on them how they drive it and that's how I learned. I picked up the vibes.

My name is Ruben Pardo and I'm an elevator operator professional. My first day was August 14, 1976; forty years seniority inside this building.

****Ruben:**** Hello!

****Woman:**** Hey, Ruben!

****Ruben:**** Here we go.

****Woman:**** Mhmm.

****Ruben:**** Second floor, Ace Galley. Ace is the place. And you notice how I level it? Straight on the money? Professional!

****Ruben:**** How's your day?

****Man:**** Pretty good. Yours?

****Ruben:**** Eh, up and down. Yeah. I was born to go up and down.

****Ruben:**** I learned the hard punches of life real quickly. I became a paperboy at nine years old. I started with nickels, dimes, and quarters and I worked myself up.

I'm the oldest of the family and I was put on the streets to work. It was something that I had to do because they needed my help. You're not gonna question your parents.

I'm very proud of my brother and my two sisters. They graduated college and now they got the education that I did not have. I did not mind making the sacrifice. When it's your flesh and blood, you do anything.

Sundays I'm off and I take my family to restaurants in a new area. You have to look forward to something! I recommend that. Positive thinking, positive everything... a chance of living a little bit longer.

****Ruben:**** Hi! Ready? Ok, ok.

****Ruben:**** We're so many people. And yet, none of us have the same situation. Isn't that very powerful? I mean, everybody has a story. I'm watching the life, serving the public going up and down.

Oh, I don't feel bored. I'm here because I want to. As long as the elevator runs, I guarantee you that you will have me. I will be your number one to drive it.

I'm right here on the first floor. The doors are open. I'm ready for more!