

Introduction

The story features eight songs by The Rock Island Boys that are free to listen to on [YouTube](#).

Remember The Beach

California

Catchin' The Summer Swell

Walk Along The Beach Tonight

I Wanna Go To The Beach Today

The Best Years Of My Life

God Bless California

I'm Searching For My Surfer Girl

Listen to each song as it appears in the story, as some of the lyrics are included in the storyline. Click on the blue link to each song to listen to it on YouTube. The first song has the same title as the story, Remember The Beach.

By reading this short story, you can experience what summer in Southern California is really like and experience the feeling of summer through the music of The Rock Island Boys. Listen to each song as the music sets the scene for each part of the story. It's a story with music.

REMEMBER THE BEACH

by Bruce Cooke

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Larry moves to California

Larry comes up out of the water in a training session for lifeguards. His best friend says, “Good job.” Lifeguards have to keep training as they never know when they will be called on to save someone’s life. It’s now time to go home as dinner will be ready soon.

Larry lives in an average house with his parents, his sister and younger brother. The front yard is small, but the big backyard with a pool more than makes up for it. Everybody in the neighborhood has a pool. In his town, the backyard pool is the only place to go during the summer to escape the heat and cool off. The guys in the neighborhood are always hanging out over at Larry’s house in the summer. Where else is there to go to enjoy the water? Besides, Larry’s mother always makes a good lunch for them. The pool is where people spend their summer because the beach is so far away.

Later on, his dad comes home from work and tells Larry’s mother he's getting transferred to California. She’s very surprised, to say the least. She thought they would live in their town forever because her family and his family are both from there, and they go back generations. It’s just one of those places where people don’t leave, and people don’t want

you to leave. I guess everyone likes the familiarity and certainty that comes with living there. In a town like the one Larry lives in, you can't go anyplace and not run into someone you know. But maybe it's time for a change. Maybe it's time to try something new and adventurous. After all, the place they'll be moving to, California, is an adventure in itself. But how do they tell everyone? It means leaving lifelong family and friends, and leaving cousins, aunts, and uncles. They're all there and have been for generations. Leaving familiar surroundings for who knows what.

However, it's something they just have to do. The company needs his dad to move to California and take over a very important job that requires all the skills and experience he's gained over the years. It means a good raise with many benefits, but most of all, it means a chance to live in the place many only dream about, California. And not just anywhere in California. They're moving to Southern California. Out of all the different climates in the many regions of California, Southern California has the best weather all year round. No more cold winters and no more snow. Amazingly, it doesn't rain at all there the whole summer. Not one drop.

There's no such thing as an outdoor event or a picnic being canceled because of rain during the summer because there is no rain at all until after summer is over. They'll finally get away from the hot, humid summers and experience very mild winters. In Southern California, its shorts and sandals all year round.

After they tell everyone the news, they decide to visit California to look for a house to move into and learn more about the area. It's exciting because when you live as far away from the beach as Larry's family does, it's a miracle if you'll ever get to the beach because it's just that far away. It's something people always dream about, going to the beach, swimming in the ocean, and few in their town ever experience that reality. But with a trip to California to explore where they'll be moving to, the beach is their number one destination.

The beaches of California. The Pacific Ocean. Larry's seen them on T.V., but never in real life. He's never been there. His dad is flying the whole family to California to see where they'll be moving to. It will be a working vacation for him as he has to meet with

representatives from the company, but it will be a real vacation and totally surreal experience for Larry, not only because no one in his family has ever been to California, but because he's never been on a plane before. And it's not just flying for the first time that will be an experience, but it will be where he's flying to. As Larry thinks about it, he realizes that once the plane takes off, it will land in California.

Going To California

The big day finally arrives, and everyone's all ready. It's now time to leave for the airport. He's never been inside an airplane before, but there he is, on the plane, ready for takeoff. As the plane climbs to a cruising altitude, his excitement builds as he anticipates what's ahead. Looking out the window, he thinks about how everyone on board is headed to California. Some for the first time along with others who have been there before. But his is not the only flight in the air headed there at that time. Thousands of other people at that exact moment in time are also flying to California from all around the world. Some will be traveling 12, 15 hours or more just to get there. Others, only a few hours. But why? What's the big draw? Is it Hollywood? Disneyland or the beaches and other attractions? The weather? Actually it's a combination of things that all add up to the California experience. There's just something about being there. California is where people come to make it. It's the land where dreams come true. It's the promised land. As the plane gets closer, he can see why. It seems like the whole world is there. He can't believe how big and vast it really is. As the plane slows down, Larry can feel the landing gear go down. He's almost there. He can see big highways called freeways all over the place. Cars, endless cars. Buildings, houses, people and cars. More cars, endless cars. As the plane gets closer to the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), off in the distance, he can see the light from the sun reflecting off the Pacific Ocean. The runway is now in sight. In less than a minute, the plane will land in California. His father will be in meetings all day tomorrow, but the rest of the family is going to Huntington Beach. That's where they'll be moving to. After a very long exhausting day, they're now ready for some sleep at the hotel.

The next day is their first time driving on a freeway in California. They've never seen so many lanes for cars. Sometimes five, six, seven or more lanes in each direction. They take the Beach Blvd. exit off the 405 freeway to Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and after a right turn on PCH, Larry can see a pier off in the distance. As they drive closer, he sees something he's never seen before. Surfers! There they are. Riding on their surfboards right next to the Huntington Beach Pier. The whole scene is a totally new experience for him. It's like something out of a movie. He's seen this in movies before, but to see it in real life, well, that's what people come to California for. They park the car and then, for the first time in his life, his feet hit the sand of one of the best beaches in Southern California, Huntington Beach. He made it! Larry's standing around in awe, just taking it all in. He can smell the fresh ocean air, and every once in awhile he can smell that air mixed with suntan lotion. That's the smell of summer, suntan lotion mixed with warm ocean air. Huntington Beach is a beautiful place with palm trees and a long pier that goes from the beach out over the ocean with a restaurant at the end overlooking the Pacific Ocean. You can walk out on the pier and watch the surfers catch the waves. It's a great place for watching the sunset too. This is a whole new scene for Larry. He's never seen real surfers and such big waves.

Larry and his mom are at the beach, and while standing near the shore talking to her, two girls are nearby listening to [Remember The Beach](#) playing on the radio. They look at Larry and talk among themselves about him. Like who is this guy? Can they sense that he's never been to the beach before? Larry's an active teenager who works out and is in great shape. Maybe they've noticed that. Eye contact is made and after glances are exchanged, he comes over to remark about the song. He's heard it before on the radio, but being at the beach itself and hearing it is a whole different experience. It's the total experience to hear a song about the beach while you're actually on the beach, breathing in the ocean air. They ask Larry what school he goes to and he tells them they're just visiting now, but his family is moving to the area, so he will be attending Huntington Beach High School. The girls just laugh and say that's where they go to school too, so maybe they'll see him there. Yeah, maybe so. Larry hopes so. After the family looks at a few different houses, they fly home, pack up and move to California. It's not an easy job to do. Their whole life is in that house. But finally, after endless work, they're ready for the big day. Moving day has arrived, and there's no going back.

On the way to California

On the way to California, Larry is trying to locate a station on the radio. He tunes into Les Perry's Morning Surf Patrol Show out of Los Angeles and hears the song, [California](#) by The Rock Island Boys. They start singing along to the song while they're on the way to California.

As they're moving into the house, different neighbors stop by to introduce themselves. One neighbor is Tony Romano who lives right next door. He walks over with his cordless phone and offers to let Larry's dad use it. He calls the local pizza shop that Tony recommends and orders Tony's favorite kind of pizza, pepperoni and cheese.

Larry waste no time and goes right to Huntington Beach to watch the surfers. At the beach, he meets a lifeguard named Brent and talks with him about his job. Larry says he's a certified lifeguard too, as he just completed the course before moving to California. Brent explains some of the things unique to the waters of Southern California, such as rip currents. It's the first time Larry's heard of this. Brent explains that after a wave comes to shore, it sometimes creates a fast moving river back out called a rip current. This river of water can be up to a hundred feet wide and pull people back out with its strong current. The problem is that they think the current will pull them way out into the ocean, so they panic and try to swim directly back to shore. In trying to swim against it, they get tired as the current is too strong. It's so fast that it can move up to eight feet per second. Larry learns the best way to escape it is to swim parallel to shore as you let it take you out. The current then weakens and you can swim out of it and go back to the beach. The main thing is not to panic. Maybe just float on your back and save your energy. Lifeguards are there if you need to be rescued, but you can swim out of it if you swim parallel to the shore and then swim back in. He thanks Brett for the good advice.

Summer is Over and School Has Started

But now summer's over and school has started. It's a big change for Larry. He's at a new school and has no friends from his past years in school. Larry goes to his first day of school and gets his schedule. Science is his favorite subject and he sees he has Mr. Helyer for science. In science class he sees Karen, one of the girls he met at the beach while visiting California, and they talk for a few minutes before class starts. Larry discovers that she lives on the next street over from him and they are in fact really only just a few houses away from each other, but just one street over.

Later on in the school year, one of Mr. Helyer's science lessons is about frequencies. In explaining how they are transmitted and received, Mr. Helyer gives an example of a radio station and talks about all the different frequencies that are going through the air at any one time. He talks about Police and Fire Department frequencies and how people can monitor them with a scanner. He says, "All you need is a scanner, or receiver tuned into the proper frequency to pick up what's being transmitted." He mentions how cordless phones operate on the same principle, with a transmitter and receiver. The possibility of picking up cordless phone conversations crosses Larry's mind as he daydreams. He talks to Mr. Helyer after class, reaffirming what he learned. There's no hurry to get to the next class because it's lunch time now, so he has a few extra minutes. But Larry is curious about this idea running through his head. The idea of picking up cordless phone conversations with a scanner. It all seems possible from what he learned today. Mr. Helyer said that all you need to know are the frequencies they operate on and a scanner to tune them in. It sounds easy. As he understands it, a cordless phone transmits the signal to a base unit, a receiver. The scanner acts as a receiver, so if he has the right frequency of the phone, he can pick up the conversation. But whose phone conversations would he want to listen to? After thinking about it for a moment, he suddenly realizes, why yes, of course, the conversations of Karen West! She lives very close to his house, but on the next street over. What does she talk about on the phone? What does she think of him? What is she thinking about? The information he could get from this seems mind boggling. All these thoughts and more are running through his head as he realizes he better get to the cafeteria before lunch is over. He thanks Mr. Helyer and goes to lunch. The rest of the day goes by quickly as Larry plans his next step.

After school, he rushes home and goes on the computer to research frequencies and scanners. It all sounds so simple. Buy a scanner, program the frequencies in and then listen.

It's Saturday now, so Larry goes to an electronics store and buys a scanner. He brings the scanner home, goes upstairs to his room, plugs it in, reads the directions, and programs the frequencies into the scanner. All it took was a little research on the computer to discover the frequencies the phones operate on. He finishes and says, "Good, now all I have to do is wait." A few minutes later the scanner buzzes as a call comes in for Larry's neighbor, Mrs. Ryan. It works! It's amazing, Larry says. Her friend Alice wants to know the recipe for her famous baked beans. After giving her a hard time, she reluctantly gives it to her over the phone. She won't give it out to anyone, and many of the neighbors are mad at her for that. But why? Why the secrecy over a recipe? Women like Mrs. Ryan guard their recipes that have been handed down for generations so no one else will produce such great food at gatherings and receive the compliments and credit that should rightly go to her. To Mrs. Ryan, giving out a recipe is like giving out the combination to the vault. But she can trust Alice to give it to no one else. Larry hurries to copy it down, but now he faces the dilemma of how to get it to his mom without her knowing how he got it. The cordless phone downstairs rings with a call coming in for his father. The scanner buzzes in Larry's room as the phone rings. It's his uncle, wanting to know how things are going in California. They've been in California for several months now, so his father fills Uncle John in on all the details and tells him how Larry is trying to land a job as a lifeguard at Huntington Beach. He asks how he's doing in school. "Very good," his dad says, "He really enjoys science class and has made a few new friends."

His mom then gets a call and says she can't talk right now because she's about to serve dinner. The neighbor asks, "What's for dinner?" She says, "Lasagna, Larry's favorite." She hangs up the phone and calls him to come down for dinner. He comes running down the stairs, saying he can't wait to dig into the lasagna. She says, "Larry, how did you know we're having lasagna tonight? It's supposed to be a surprise." He fumbles around and says, "I could smell it cooking upstairs." She says, "Oh, well I know it's your favorite" and continues serving dinner.

Karen Gets A Cordless Phone

In school the next day, he sees Karen West and starts talking about phones to her. He says, "One of the greatest inventions ever, is the phone. And without it, people would not be able to communicate as they do today." It's an awkward conversation, but many conversations between teenagers are awkward anyway because it's an awkward time for them. Karen agrees and says she's always on the phone all the time talking to her friends. Larry asks her if she has a cordless phone. She says she has a phone, but no cordless phone so she has to do all her calling on her landline. She would like a cordless phone so she can sit in her backyard at the pool and talk to her friends, but can't afford one right now.

That night he lies in bed, wondering how he could get Karen a cordless phone without her becoming suspicious and comes up with the idea of having his friend George, the pizza delivery guy, bring her one and tell her she won it from a pizza store contest.

After school, Larry goes to a store and buys a cordless phone for her. He gets all the information so he can put the right frequency into his scanner. He talks with George the next day at school and makes arrangements to have it delivered before her parents get home from work. Larry says he wants to give it to her because he likes her and knows she would really like to have one, but makes the excuse that he's too shy to give it to her himself. He doesn't want her to know that he got it for her, so he made up the story about a pizza store contest and just needs George to deliver it. George doesn't question his motive. He knows Larry likes her, but he doesn't know the real reason Larry wants to give her a cordless phone.

Dressed in his pizza delivery uniform and driving the official car, George makes the delivery during his break. Karen said she never entered the contest, or even knew there was a contest. George says, "Maybe one of your friends entered your name in it. It's only my job to deliver the prize, not to determine how it was won." She thanks him and heads off to her room to try it out. George goes back to the pizza store, calls Larry and tells him it was delivered. Larry asks him what she said, and George tells him the whole story. His boss tells him to get off the phone and make a delivery. His break is over.

After opening the package, Karen reads the directions and sees it needs to be charged up for several hours before use and it's driving Larry nuts. He's thinking, maybe she'll only use it to call from the pool because she already has a landline phone in her room. He scans the frequencies and can't pick her up. All he's picking up is some neighbor with a whining voice talking about a whole bunch of nothing. The lady finally ends her conversation and gets off the phone. "Nothing," says Larry. He's called down for dinner and wonders how he's going to listen in while he's downstairs. What if she makes a phone call while he's eating dinner? So Larry hooks up a voice activated micro-cassette recorder to record anything the scanner picks up. He hurriedly eats as his mom tries to slow him down. After going back upstairs, he reviews the recorder and finds out there were no calls. He's stumped and says, "I know Karen West, and as soon as she gets that phone, I know she'll be on it to her friends to tell them all about it." Larry wonders if George really delivered it. He calls the pizza store. George says he delivered it and wants to know why Larry asked him about it. "What makes you think I didn't deliver it?" "Oh, nothing George" Larry ends the conversation. Still stumped and mystified, he begins his homework but keeps the scanner going. Someone is finally dialing out, so he excitedly turns his attention to it. It's his neighbor, Mrs. Ryan, telling Alice she forgot an ingredient in the baked beans recipe. Larry notes it on the paper he copied it down on before and gets back to his homework.

Larry hears another person dialing out. It's a voice he recognizes. It's Karen West! She's talking to her best friend. "Guess what I'm calling you on?" Her friend replies, "A phone?" "Of course, a phone, but it's a special kind of phone. It's a cordless phone." I got it!, Larry says. Karen tells her friend the story of how she won it in a contest and of George's special delivery. "That goofy pizza guy," she says. Karen tells her she didn't call right after school as usual because the phone had to charge up for several hours. "I wanted to make the call on the new phone and put the old landline in the closet. From now on, I'm using the cordless." They talk about school, teachers, and finally, guys. Karen says the guys are not romantic enough for her, and even though she's really cute, the reason she doesn't have a boyfriend now is because all the guys act like jerks, as if they're trying to impress her or something. Karen mentions a few by name and says, "Now, who's going to be impressed by their stupid jokes? They're so immature. They don't know how to act around a girl and really don't know how to treat them. How a person looks does not mean as much to me as to how a

person acts and treats me. Why, if goofy George delivered flowers to me instead of the phone, I'd go out with him, if only to teach the guys a lesson, that it's not how you look, but how you act and treat a girl." She says red roses are her favorite and that she'd probably fall in love with the guy who brings her red roses. Larry says, "This is a goldmine. This is just like being able to read her mind. I can push all her buttons. I can know exactly what she's thinking!" He talks to himself and reasons that if Karen West would go out with George just because he would bring her flowers, then she certainly would go out with him, if he brings her flowers. Before she gets off the phone, Karen makes plans to meet her friend in front of Lifeguard Tower #1 at 11:00 a.m. She likes Brent, and he'll be working in Tower #1. Larry makes plans to be there too by taking his younger brother to the beach with him.

Surfer Joe

The next day, as the surf is rolling in and surfers are riding the waves, Larry arrives at the beach with his brother. They arrive at the beach ahead of the girls, so it won't look like he's following them. While Brent is standing near the shore, he goes over to talk with him about surfing. Larry says he'd like to learn to surf, and Brent agrees to teach him. A guy comes out of the water with a surfboard and says hello to Brent.

"Hey Joe, how is it out there?"

"Pretty good, the waves are really forming up.
There's some way rad mackers out there today."

"If anyone should know, it's you. You're the champion."

As he leaves, Larry asks, "Champion of what?"

Brent says, "Of surfing, that's Surfer Joe."

Larry's surprised, That's, Surfer Joe? You mean the guy they talk about in the song Surfer Joe, 'When the meet was over, the trophy was Joe's?'"

Brent replies, "Yeah, that's him. No one has ever been able to beat him. He's like a living legend around here. Every year he always wins the annual Huntington Beach Surfing Contest."

Larry says, "No wonder Huntington Beach is called Surf City." He asks Brent to start teaching him tomorrow how to surf and also asks him about the possibility of getting a job as a lifeguard. He's certified and was promised a job at the local pool before moving to California. Brent tells him there's going to be an opening soon that will fit into his schedule for after school and weekends, and he might be able to pull some strings to get him the job because the supervisor who is doing the interviews owes him a favor.

As Larry goes to sit back down, he notices Karen and her friend Wendy. They just put down a blanket on the sand. As he walks by, they say hello, and he says hi. They engage in small talk, and he excuses himself by saying he has to get back to watching his younger brother. He tells Karen that he has a surprise to give her Monday at school. After he leaves, the girls try to guess what the surprise could possibly be. Brent goes into the water on a rescue and brings a girl up on the beach. People gather around and Larry overhears the girls wishing Brent would rescue them. After it's over, Larry plans to go home and tune in. He says goodbye to Brent and makes arrangements to meet him at twelve o'clock the next day for a surfing lesson. Brent has an extra board he can use until he buys one.

Larry says hello to his mother and runs upstairs to tune in his scanner. Later on, Karen calls her friend Lori and tells her all about what went on at the beach and of Brent's rescue. Karen laughs and says she wishes it was her he rescued. She also mentions that Larry said he has a surprise to give her Monday at school. Karen likes surprises. They both wonder what it could be. No guy has ever surprised her with anything before, so she's really curious. Karen says her plans for tomorrow are to stay home, study, and go out to the pool.

At dinner, Larry tells his dad that Brent is going to teach him how to surf, and he's going to try to pull some strings to get him a job as a lifeguard. His little brother tells his mom how Larry was over talking to Karen and Wendy, so he probably likes girls. His mother comments, "Maybe you'll talk to girls someday too." He winces and says, "No way!" Boys his age have not yet discovered girls. But it's obvious that Larry has.

The teenage years are filled with boys finally meeting girls and actually having a conversation with them. As the family talks at the table, Larry excuses himself to go upstairs and do his homework.

He turns the scanner on and after a few minutes, a call comes in on a channel he hasn't received any on yet. He wonders who it could be. A voice says, "Hello." The caller says, I've got it! "How much?" Ten Thousand Dollars. "Any problems?" No, smooth as usual. "Good, that's the way I like it. Bring it over tomorrow, and we'll bury it with the rest of the money." Hey Tony, how are those onions going to grow if you keep digging them up all the time? "Don't worry about it, I want to put a lot of money under there, and then we'll start burying it under the carrots. Be here at 9 a.m. sharp!" Click. Larry realizes that it's his next door neighbor Tony Romano on the phone and wonders aloud about what was said. He realizes they're burying money, but why and where did they get it from? He wants to get up early and investigate by looking through the fence. As he goes to sleep, he thinks about everything, anticipating his busy day tomorrow and wonders how he'll do on a surfboard.

Larry gets up early and makes plans to look through Tony's fence. From his upstairs bedroom window, he sees a car pull up, a man get out and knock at Tony's door. He lets him in while Larry goes around back to look through the fence. They come out of the back door, go to the shed, come out with a shovel and head towards the garden, carefully remove a few onion plants, set them off to the side and start digging a few feet down while putting the dirt on a canvas they brought out. After digging, they lift a wooden box out of the ground, brush the dirt off with a paint brush, open it and put the money in they brought out in a bag. They close the box, rebury it, cover it over with dirt and replant the onions. Larry goes back to his house, up to his room and sits on his bed wondering about what he just saw. He starts to study for a science test this week in Mr. Helyer's class, then looks at the clock and gets ready for the beach.

As he runs to the ocean, Brent is there with a board waiting for him as it's his day off. Larry has to learn the basics of surfing and some surfing lingo.
Shoulder Hoppers - people who cut in on another person's wave.
Washing Machine – the rinse cycle of a wave.

Summer Swell - a swell of the waves generated by storms occurring hundreds of miles away that can take a couple of days for the waves to reach the shore. When the waves from the summer swell hit the beach, surfers drop everything and run to the beach to catch them as those waves are the biggest ones of the summer. Kook. What's a kook? It's a name they call someone who doesn't understand the basic rules of etiquette when surfing. For example, you just don't take someone else's wave. You respect the lineup of other surfers waiting for a wave. There are many unwritten rules of surfing for surfers to follow. It's like a giant highway out there. Accidents and problems are to be avoided by knowing what you're doing and showing respect to fellow surfers. Larry has never been surfing before so it will be a challenge not to make some mistakes. But Brent is well respected on the waves and will help Larry with any problems he may encounter from other surfers. They paddle out, and Larry gets his first surfing lesson. After a few tries, he gets up and rides a wave. As he is paddling back out with his board, Larry meets Surfer Joe. Joe says, "Nice job, kid. You're doing pretty good for your first time out. But remember, no matter how good you get, you'll never be as good as me. I'm the champion! Nobody will ever beat me in the Huntington Beach Surfing Contest. No one," Joe continues to brag. "No one ever will." He laughs as he paddles away. Larry returns the board to Brent.

While the song, [Surfer Joe](#) is playing on someone's radio off in the distance, he tells him of his encounter with Surfer Joe. Brent says, "Yeah, he's the best." He tells Larry about some of the surfing contests and one outstanding contest in particular. The whole story of what happened is fascinating to Larry. He's riveted to all the details. Brent remembers that when Joe accepted the trophy, he took it out into the water, caught a wave and surfed in holding it up shouting, "I'm Surfer Joe. Nobody can beat me. I'm the best."

Many photographers took a picture of him holding up the trophy as he rode the wave in. It made the front page of the local paper. Joe now has a plaque on the sidewalk right in front of Jack's Surfboards, across the street from the Huntington Beach Pier, on the Surfing Walk of Fame. Joe said, "The day anybody beats me, is the day I quit surfing." Do you think I can beat him, Larry asks? Brent laughs.

"Do you think at least I have a chance?" Larry says.

Brent continues, “ Let me tell you this much, somebody's going to beat him, someday. I don't know who, and I don't know when, but someday, somebody is going to beat him. But whoever it is, is going to have to be very good, and very talented, because Joe is simply the best. Whoever it is, is going to have to practice a lot, have some luck and a lot of skill, because let's face it, there's a reason no one is able to beat him, and the reason is because the guy is that good. Whoever it is has to practice harder than he does and be more dedicated than he is. Now you answer your own question. Can you do it?”

“I can, and I will. I'm going to beat Surfer Joe!”

“You have ten weeks to practice before the contest. You better work hard!”

Larry asks Brent if he can use his board for a few days until he buys one. Brent says yes, and leaves. Larry takes a few more waves in and then heads into shore. He sees Karen and is surprised. He walks over with his surfboard, and says to her, “I thought you were going to stay home and study all day?”

“Who said that?” replies Karen.

Larry stumbles, “Oh, um, I thought you'd be studying for the big science test next week. Everybody knows how difficult it's going to be.” Karen laughs and says, “I studied all morning for it. I was studying, but I really had to get to the beach today. When it's so beautiful like it is today, you just have to get out and go to the beach. The problem is, here in California, every day is so nice that I'm always at the beach.” She laughs. Larry says goodbye and Karen says, “Don't forget my surprise.” I won't, he says.

The next day Larry wakes up at 9 a.m., looks at his clock and says he'd better call his friend Don from back home. After he showers, he goes downstairs for breakfast, sees his parents and asks them for money to buy a surfboard. They say they just spent alot of money on him when they bought him a pickup truck. He says he'll pay them back for the board out of the money he'll earn as a lifeguard. They ask him how the prospects are for getting the

job. Larry says, "Really good. I'll be talking further with Brent at the beach Monday about it. I'm sure he can pull some strings for me to get the job." They agree to lend him the money and Larry says, "Thanks, because surfing is my life now." He goes upstairs to call Don and tell him everything that's happened and then drives to the beach in his truck.

After arriving at the beach, he checks with the lifeguards about surf conditions. They say there's a strong rip current pulling people out and to be careful. They've already made many rescues today, and they're spread thin because a couple of guys didn't show up for work yet. He thanks them for the advice and goes surfing. After catching a few waves, he hears a girl cry for help as a rip current pulls her out. Just before that, a few rescues go on, and no one notices her being pulled out to sea except for Larry. He brings his board over and dramatically rescues her. As he brings her out of the water, the supervisor of the lifeguards comes over with Brent. He was called in on his day off because they were short staffed and dangerous conditions exist. The supervisor comments on the good job and judgment he used in bringing her to safety. Brent says that Larry is a certified lifeguard who's going to apply for the opening, and he would highly recommend him. "He's hired. On the basis of your recommendation and the great rescue I saw him perform, he can start this week. We'll get some paperwork filled out, and I'll put him on the schedule." "Great, thanks so much Mr. Jones," says Larry. "You're welcome. We look forward to having you in the tower."

Larry excuses himself to go back out surfing and rides a few more waves. He's then accused of cutting in on somebody's wave, gets into an argument with this guy following him out of the water and challenging him to settle it on the beach. Brent runs up and intervenes. He tells the guy to leave him alone. "He's one of us," Brent says. "What school does he go to?" "Our school," Brent says. "Then how come I haven't seen him at the Surf Club meetings?" Larry says, "Surf Club? I didn't even know there was a Surf Club at the school." "He just recently started surfing," says Brent. "I was going to invite him to join this week." The other guy apologizes, shakes his hand and invites him back out to surf. Larry says he'll be out in a minute. He asks Brent all about the Surf Club and he explains when they meet and tells him they all surf together and go on trips to really cool surfing spots as far away as Mexico. Brent invites him to the next meeting this Tuesday after school.

Larry goes back out and meets up with the guy he had the encounter with. He introduces him to the other members of the Surf Club. Several big waves come and they ride them all in.

Larry leaves and stops by In-N-Out Burger for lunch on the way home. As he places his order he sees Lori working at the drive-thru window. He says hi, and they talk briefly. Before Larry goes, he takes an In-N-Out bumper sticker to put on the back of his truck to go along with all his surfing stickers. He loves In-N-Out. It's the first place anyone visiting California has to go to. You really can't say you've been to California until you've experienced In-N-Out Burger. It's the ultimate California experience. His favorite location is store number 92 because that's the one his family went to right after landing at LAX. Larry now leaves and eats in his truck on the way home.

As he comes into the house, his mother says dinner is almost ready. Larry tells her he just ate at In-N-Out and is going upstairs to study for the science test next week. He turns on the scanner while he's studying, stops for a minute, and wonders what his neighbor, Tony Romano, is up to. After studying for awhile, a call comes in for Karen. It's her friend Mary who excitedly says she has the answers to the science test. She's the assistant to Mr. Helyer, and she was able to take the test from Mr. Helyer's desk and quickly copy the answer key. She also took a copy of the test itself. "We're the only ones who are going to get high scores because the test is super hard. "As she reads off some of the questions, Larry turns on his micro-cassette recorder to catch it all. She then reads all the questions and answers as Larry hurriedly copies it down with the recorder on for backup. As they talk some more, Karen says she still wonders what Larry is going to give her as a surprise. This reminds him, so he quickly runs out to buy some red roses because the store will be closing soon, but he leaves his recorder on to play back later. He has to get to the store before it closes and doesn't want to miss a word of what they're saying. There are so many kinds of flowers to choose from, but Larry knows exactly which flowers will do the trick, red roses. He buys red roses for Karen, goes home, writes out the questions and answers, studies, and then goes to sleep. Before going to sleep, he remembers his scanner is hooked up with the micro-cassette recorder, so he gets it out of his desk to review the end of their conversation.

It was over within a minute after he left, but as soon as it ended, Karen's phone rang. It was Lori. After coming home from work at In-N-Out, Lori called Karen to tell her she likes the Captain of the Surf Club and wants to see what advice Karen might be able to give her because she really wants to go out with him, but doesn't know how to go about letting him know she likes him. As Larry listens to the conversation, he hears them laugh. Karen says, "I'll have to think about that one and see what I come up with, but it's probably just a teenage crush." They laugh again and say goodbye. Larry says good night ladies, shuts the recorder off, turns out the light, and goes to sleep.

The next day he's at his locker and the hall is crowded. As Karen walks by he calls her over, tells her to close her eyes for a big surprise, reaches into the locker, pulls out the roses and gives them to her as he says, "For a fabulous young lady who is very deserving of these in more ways than one." She's almost speechless and says, "Red roses are my favorite. How did you know?" Larry says, "It's just you! I knew without a doubt they were the right choice." She smiles at him, thanks him and says, "See you in science class." He gets some things out of his locker and goes to class. As he walks into the room, Karen's friends are looking at the roses and smelling them. They look admiringly at Larry, and he just smiles back at them. The bell rings and Mr. Helyer closes the door to administer the test. Larry doesn't want to be the first one to hand it in, so he takes his time. Should he at least give one wrong answer on purpose, so that no one will get suspicious? No. Science is his favorite subject and he wants to prove that by getting all the answers right. After completing the test, he hands it in, confident he got one of the highest scores in the class. How could anyone get a higher score? He got them all right, thanks to the information he got from listening in to cordless phone conversations. He sees Karen at lunch and tells her the good news about getting the lifeguard job and working in Tower #1 along with Brent. After the last bell of the day rings, he's out the door headed for home. Larry runs into the house, changes his clothes, loads his board onto the truck to surf after work and is off to the beach. After parking, he takes the board and goes to Tower #1 to relieve Stan, the day lifeguard.

After some instructions, Larry's left alone. He now realizes what an awesome responsibility it is to be the only lifeguard in the tower in charge of people's lives. He watches the waves and sees students from his school arriving. Some are surprised to see him

there and congratulate him. Chris and others arrive from the Surf Club to go surfing together after school.

Later on, Brent shows up to give him a break, so he grabs his board to catch a couple of waves. While sitting on his surfboard out in the ocean waiting for a wave, he sees Chris struggling to stay on his board. Larry doesn't know what happened, but he knows Chris needs help and fast. By the time he reaches him, Chris is face down in the water. Using his water rescue training skills, he gets Chris back on his board. Brent sees what's happening and runs out. Chris is leaning on his board, coughing as Larry and Brent bring him to shore. Between coughs, Chris says to Larry, "I owe you one, you saved my life." Larry goes back out and sees Surfer Joe. He watches what he does and imitates his moves. Joe notices this and makes a comment to the effect that he won't beat him no matter how hard he tries. Larry rides a few more waves and says goodbye to Brent and Chris who are still on the beach talking. They say they'll see him at the Surf Club meeting after school tomorrow.

As he tunes in his scanner that night, he hears Karen make a phone call to her friend to tell her how surprised and happy she was to get the roses from Larry, and how wonderful it made her feel to know that he really cares about her. But after the conversation is over, and just before Larry is about to go to sleep, another call come in. Its Tony talking with his partner about how he's got more money to bury. Tony says, "This will fill up the box and later we'll start burying the money in a new box under the carrots." As the conversation ends, Larry thinks aloud about what was just said and goes to sleep.

The next day at school, he runs into Chris who introduces him to a few friends from the Surf Club and reminds him to be at the meeting after school. He sees Karen and she's still excited about the roses. Larry goes to the Surf Club meeting and sees all the guys there. At the meeting they discuss the problem of rip currents and how to educate the public on the best way to get out of one. They all agree the best way is to just swim parallel to the beach until you're out of its pull while letting the current take you out a little in the process. They discuss plans to educate the public about what to do if they ever get caught in a rip current. It will be a public service project for the Surf Club. Later in the meeting when the question of who's going to sponsor Larry into the club comes up, both Chris and Brent stand up to

recommend that he be admitted into the Surf Club. As part of the initiation rite, they all have to go surfing together, so they arrange to meet in a half hour at Brent and Larry's Tower #1.

Larry goes home and tells his mom that he's now a member of the Surf Club and has to meet the guys at the beach for surfing. Then they're going to In-N-Out Burger to eat together and talk for a while. Part of surfing culture is to go there to eat after surfing.

They go to In-N-Out where they see Lori working, order some food and sit down to eat. Larry tells the guys how he heard Lori likes the Captain of the Surf Club, but she doesn't know how to let him know she likes him. They ask him how he knows that, and he says he overheard it. They laugh at the idea, but Larry says she really likes him. Remembering what Karen said to Lori on the phone, Larry says, "Well, it's probably just a teenage crush." They seem more amazed and ask him again how he knows, and he says he overheard her talking about it, so it's directly from the horse's mouth. Yes, he told them he overheard her talking about it, but he didn't tell them how. He can't reveal his secret of listening in to cordless phone conversations to anyone. And he has to be really careful with the information he gets, so no one even thinks he's doing something like that. It's like working undercover. You don't want to blow your cover. They finish eating and leave In-N-Out.

As Larry enters the house, his parents are talking about how happy they are that everything is working out so well for him. They ask him how things went today and how he thinks he did on the science test on Monday. He tells them he aced it. He's now very tired, so he goes upstairs and collapses on the bed, exhausted from all the activity, and turns on his scanner as he lies there. A call eventually comes in. It's his neighbor, Linda Johnson, complaining about how lonely she is since her husband left her for a younger woman.

Her friend says, "Then get a boyfriend."

She says, "Who?"

"What about that cute lifeguard who lives on your street?"

“You mean...?” He looks up and says, “Me?”

“Yeah him. He’s younger than you. And besides, Scott left you for a younger woman, so why not show him by getting a younger guy as a boyfriend?”

Linda says, “I just might do that.”

"Well, he works in Tower #1 at the beach. I saw him there. Let's go to the beach tomorrow after he gets out of school and see if he's there."

Before he goes to sleep, another call comes in. It's Karen talking to a girlfriend. She says that guys don't notice her clothes even though she works hard to look nice. No one compliments her, so she's going to wear a very pretty new shirt to school tomorrow to see if anyone gives her a compliment. She also complains that guys don't know what to say to a girl and that a compliment would do the trick to having her like them.

The next day at school, Larry sees Karen walking by his locker on the way to science class. He stands back and says,

“Wow! You look beautiful today. Are you a model or something?
What a nice shirt. What modeling agency do you work for?”

She says, "I'm not a model, but thank you."

"Well, you can model for me anytime!"

Karen says, "Thank you, you're so kind." She kisses him on the cheek and says, "I'll see you in class." In science class, he asks if he can meet her at lunch. He sits with her at lunch and tells her all about his plan to beat Surfer Joe. She wishes him the best. Larry invites her down to watch him surf and she says she'll be there later.

He goes home and off to work. Linda Johnson and her friend come by and try to pick up Larry. Karen arrives at the beach and overhears the conversation. She gets jealous, and tells them to find someone their own age. She says, "He's taken."

"By who?"

"By me, so forget about him."

Larry goes out to rescue a girl who's been swept away by a rip current and brings her to shore. She grabs him and wants to kiss him. Karen comes over and tells her to stop it because he's her boyfriend. He finishes his shift and goes out on the waves to practice so he can beat Surfer Joe. Larry sees a few guys from the Surf Club in the water and they kid him about what Karen just said up on the beach about him being her boyfriend. They laugh and say that she can't be serious. "Why would she go out with you over all the other guys?" Larry tells them, "Maybe I know how to push her buttons, and they don't." He finishes surfing, but not before another encounter with Surfer Joe. Larry reminds him the contest is coming up soon.

He goes home and later tunes in the scanner. Karen calls Wendy to tell her what happened at the beach. Wendy asks her what she sees in Larry and she responds, "A caring individual who knows what I like." "How does he know what you like? You've never told him." "I don't know. I guess he just knows. Some guys know those things, and some guys don't. But Larry seems to say just the right things, and he knows what I like. It's like he can read my mind."

Catchin' The Summer Swell

Larry makes plans to go surfing early with the guys from the Surf Club. That night while he's watching the news on T.V. the weather dude comes on and says there's a storm a few hundred miles away that will generate big waves for surfing tomorrow. He says the summer swell is coming in! Larry calls the guys from the Surf Club and tells them what he heard. They say they're stoked, stoked very well, they'll be catchin' the summer swell.

He gets up at 5 a.m. and tunes in to The Morning Surf Patrol Show with Les Perry. The guys come over to his place and after they leave, [Catchin' The Summer Swell](#) comes on the radio while they're driving to the beach.

They jump out of the truck with their surfboards and run into the water. The guys compliment Larry on his surfing skills, and he tells them of his plan to beat Surfer Joe. They say he might have a chance and encourage him to go for it. Surfer Joe overhears them saying, "Go for it," paddles over and says, "Go for what?" They tell him how Larry is planning to beat him in the surfing contest. Joe laughs and says nobody will ever beat him. Again he proclaims, the day he loses the annual Huntington Beach Surfing Contest is the day he'll stop surfing, and no one will ever see Surfer Joe on a wave again. He likes surfing too much to give it up, so he'll make sure no one will ever beat him. Joe says Larry's not good enough yet to beat him. "Yet, Joe. That's the key word, yet. We still have a few weeks until the contest, and I'll be ready by then." "You'll never be ready because you'll never beat me. I won't let you" Joe says.

Larry rides a wave in and asks, "What time is it?" It's 10 o'clock, his friend says. "Yeah, I can kind of tell because then around ten it got so zooed out. Too many kooks. It's getting too crowded here. Let's bail. The shoulder hoppers are doing their thing. They're putting our wild time in the washing machine. We have to bail, they're bummin' the summer swell. Let's go guys.

Hey Chris, do you know what a kook is?" "Yeah, it's a person who thinks they know how to surf, but really doesn't. Like that guy over there. Look at that guy trying to surf and getting in everyone's way." Larry says, "That's a kook alright. The kooks are getting hammered and they're falling all over the place. It's so zooed out. Let's bail. We've already surfed on the best waves of the morning. Let's go to In-N-Out." They stop at In-N-Out Burger on the way home, see Lori working there, and tell her about the great time they had at Huntington Beach this morning, Catchin' The Summer Swell.

Walk Along The Beach Tonight

The next day Larry gets up early and goes to work in Lifeguard Tower #1 alongside Brent. Before leaving, he sets up the scanner and his voice activated micro-cassette recorder. It's a busy day at the beach, and he's involved in plenty of rescues. Karen West stops by and introduces her cousin Barbara Ann to Larry. She goes to Fountain Valley High School, just a few miles away and her boyfriend is Brent's brother, Dennis. Karen asks Larry to go for a walk with her on the beach tonight. He agrees and says he'll pick her up at 9:00 p.m.

He goes home, eats, rests up, and reviews the recorder. He hears a conversation with Karen and Barbara Ann making arrangements to go to the beach tomorrow. The scanner goes off as another call come in a short while later. It's Karen and Barbara Ann again. Karen tells her how she can't wait for Larry to pick her up in an hour and how she plans to get him alone on the beach to give him the biggest kiss he's ever had in his life. Larry gets ready and brushes his teeth, but this time he makes sure to brush them really good.

He picks her up and they drive to the beach. Karen asked him to bring [Walk Along The Beach Tonight](#) with him so they can hear it while they take a walk on the beach. She thinks it's so romantic to hear it while walking on the beach together at night. As the song plays Larry and Karen enjoy their night at the beach and have a long talk about how important it is to be committed to each other to make this work, so they have to be honest with each other. Larry explains how he was hurt by a former girlfriend who went out behind his back, so honesty and fidelity are a top priority for him to have in a relationship. Karen assures him she feels the same way and promises to be honest and loyal. She kisses him like she told Barbara Ann she would on the phone. After going back to the car, he drives her home, then races to his house, runs upstairs and tunes in. Karen calls Barbara Ann to tell her everything that happened, including their talk about being loyal. Larry said he would be loyal, even though he has many girls hitting on him at the beach, and she's very excited about how things went. Karen says she wants to call Larry right now and say goodnight to him. Larry anticipates the phone to ring any second and answers it by saying, "Hello Karen." She says, "How did you know it was me." He responds, "Who else would it be?" She laughs and tells

him what a wonderful time she had and that she'll see him in school. She reminds him the science test grades are due back tomorrow.

The next day they meet in science class. The test papers are passed back and he scores 100. Mr. Helyer remarks about how difficult the test was. When Larry goes to the Surf Club meeting after school, the guys comment on how well his surfing has improved. They say he might have a good chance of beating Surfer Joe. After going home, he says hi to his mom and goes off to the beach to practice some more. He runs into Surfer Joe and tells him he's going to beat him and Joe laughs. Larry says, "Watch this," and rides a wave in. Joe says that's the best he's seen, but he'll never beat him because he won't let him win, as he loves surfing too much to let anyone beat him. Larry reminds Joe the contest is a little over a week away. After taking a few more waves in, he talks with Brent in Tower #1. He then goes home and calls Karen to make plans for the weekend. Larry also makes plans to go surfing early with the guys from the Surf Club.

I Wanna Go To The Beach Today

Karen and Larry go out that night, and Larry says he has to be home early to be up at 5 a.m. for surfing. He gets up and tunes into Les Perry's Morning Surf Patrol Show. As he's driving to the beach, the song [I Wanna Go To The Beach Today](#) comes on the radio. At the beach, the guys encourage him to keep practicing so he can beat Surfer Joe.

At work he sees bleachers being set up for the contest this weekend. Surfer Joe comes by and Larry says, "It's coming down to the wire." Larry rides a few waves after work and calls Karen that night to tell her all about his day of surfing. Larry is at work the next day, and Brent stops by to see how his surfing is going. More bleachers are being set up for the contest. The guys from the Surf Club stop by and encourage him to beat Surfer Joe. They talk about the big crowd expected with live T.V. coverage of the event. Joe comes out of the water and says, "Tomorrow, kid." The guys tell Larry they'll be there to support him and cheer him on. They review the schedule with the times for each event. Larry goes home and sees Karen has called.

He calls her back and she says she'll be there with her cousin Barbara Ann to support him and cheer him on. His family tells him they'll be there too. They have a conversation at the dinner table about school and things in general. He goes to sleep early so he'll be ready for tomorrow.

The Surfing Contest

Larry arrives at the beach for the contest. As he's taking a couple of practice runs on the waves, he meets up with Joe and tells him it's his last day of surfing, so he'd better enjoy it. Joe laughs and says there's no way can he beat him. Larry goes into shore and stands there watching the other surfers take practice runs. Karen walks up behind him and says hi. His family arrives. The whole Surfing Club is there.

The contest starts and Joe's the first one in the water to take a wave. Larry catches up to him but can't position himself fast enough to catch one of the best waves so far. Joe's caught it and is pulling every trick in the book to score points from the judges who are watching everything from the judging booth on top of the bleachers. Looking off into the distance, Larry can see a giant wave rolling in. He plans to take it and show off some moves he learned from watching other surfers. He copied what they did, but then put his spin on it to make it uniquely his own. There's other surfers in the contest too, but Larry and Joe are far in the lead. The time limit for the first round is up. Joe and Larry go back and forth in other rounds and make it to the finals. The finals will determine who will be the winner of the contest. Larry catches a wave and rides it in. It was a really good one and he rode it all the way in and finished it off. The judges will be impressed with Larry's style because he shows he's in control of each wave by finishing them off, riding them to the very end to make the best of it. This is something he notices Joe isn't doing and that might cost him some points with the judges. It's now Joe's turn and he's waiting for the best wave. But in surfing, conditions can change rapidly. And it looks like that's the case for Surfer Joe. The wind has shifted. Time is running out and his chances for a good wave are diminishing with each minute that goes by. The clock is ticking and Joe has to take a wave very soon. He's finally up riding on a wave and trying the ultimate surfing trick, the mother of all maneuvers, riding through the center of a breaking wave. Riding through a churning tunnel of water called

the barrel. If there's anyone who can successfully do this, it's Joe. He's now completely inside the wave, deep in the barrel and has disappeared from sight, hidden by a curtain of water. Everyone is expecting Joe to come out of the other side of the barrel at any moment. But the crowd can't believe their eyes. Something happened and Joe is off his board! What happened? Did he lose his balance? What caused Joe to fall off his board and not complete the ride through the barrel? Was it overconfidence? Nobody really knows except Surfer Joe himself. That might cost him points, but everyone will have to wait and see how the judges score this one to see who the winner will be. Will they give him points for being brave enough to try this maneuver, or take away some points because he didn't complete the ride?

They seem to be taking forever to announce their decision, and that's a good thing because so much is riding on this contest. It's finally time to announce the winner. Joe knows the contest is close, but he's as confident as ever. He's been in close contest before. The judges are now ready to announce their decision. Everyone expects Surfer Joe to win, as he has for many years in a row. But in a dramatic announcement, Larry is declared the winner! He is now the official Surfing Champion of Huntington Beach. Surfer Joe is shocked!

Larry immediately takes the trophy, goes out and rides a wave in while holding it up high. Everyone is cheering for him as Surfer Joe quietly leaves the beach. Photographers take several pictures of Larry riding in. They cheer some more. Larry's father invites all the friends who supported him to his house for a victory celebration of the new Surfing Champion of Surf City. They all drive to his house, talk about the contest and remark about how no one really noticed Surfer Joe leaving the beach. No one saw him leave. They just looked up, and he was gone. The Mayor of Huntington Beach stops by the house on behalf of the city to congratulate Larry.

The Best Years Of My Life

Karen asks him to take her to the beach that night. They go to the beach, right to the spot where the contest took place. All the bleachers are still set up. The song [The Best Years Of My Life](#) plays in the background and during the song he relives the moment when he beats

Surfer Joe. It was such a memorable day for Larry, and Karen West does all she can to make it a very memorable night for him.

At school, Larry is congratulated over the intercom on his championship win. After school, he goes to work at the beach and some of the guys from the Surf Club stop by. They remark about how no one has heard from Surfer Joe. Larry says he doesn't think he will be back surfing because a couple of times Joe said, "The day I lose is the day I stop surfing." They all say they'll miss seeing him on the waves and make many good comments about his contributions to the sport of surfing.

The President of the Surf Club has news for him. He heard from the Huntington Beach Surfing Museum, and they want to put Larry's trophy on display along with the picture from the front page of the newspaper, which Larry saw at breakfast today. He says the trophy is in the trunk of his car, so they make plans to walk over with him to the museum in a few hours after work. Later they meet at the beach and walk a few blocks over to the museum. The trophy Larry brought over is put on display along with other surfing memorabilia.

They spend some time together at the museum looking over everything. The entire history of surfing is on display there, starting with the father of surfing, Duke Kahanamoku. A restaurant next to the Huntington Beach Pier, called Duke's, is named after him. They're so impressed with the place that from now on, a visit to the museum will be a requirement for everyone at school who wants to join the Surf Club.

After he gets home, Barbara Ann calls Karen and Larry picks up the conversation. She invites her to go to the beach tomorrow and hang out near their favorite spot, Tower #1. She says OK and Barbara Ann mentions that Brent asked if she was going to be at the beach tomorrow anyway. He said he went to Tijuana in Mexico recently and picked up a surprise for her but doesn't want Larry to know about it because he might get jealous. They remark about how Brent always has a lot of money to spend on girls. A couple of his former girlfriends have told Karen how he used to buy them tons of stuff all the time. Brent had a rich uncle who left him a lot of money. They don't know how much, but he seems to never be out of cash and they're very

impressed by that. Karen says Larry is saving up for college so he can't spend too much money on her and it bums her out that he's broke all the time, but she doesn't say anything about it. They finalize plans to meet at the beach and figure there is no way Larry will show up because he has a Surf Club meeting after school where they have to discuss the details of a trip to Mexico to go surfing at some really famous surf spots. Brent can't make it to the meeting because he has to work at Tower #1 right after school.

The next day as they meet at the beach, Brent gives Karen a nice looking beach towel. She thanks him for it and flirts with him a bit. Larry goes home to study and is upset that Karen seems to be planning behind his back. After dinner, he tunes the scanner in to find out what she was up to, as she always calls somebody to broadcast her life to. Sure enough, Larry hears her dialing out. Barbara Ann answers and they discuss what happened at the beach. Karen says she really likes the beach towel Brent gave her. But Barbara Ann asks her what she'll say if Larry wonders where she got the towel from. Karen says, "I'll tell him my uncle gave it to me. He just came back from Mexico too." Brent also asked Karen to go to The Rock Island Boys concert at the Pacific Amphitheatre with him and for Barbara Ann to come along too with her boyfriend. Brent has free tickets to the concert. He has a friend connected with the concert who gave him four tickets near the front. He already has the tickets, and they're really good seats because they are in row double B, seats 1-4 on the end. Larry writes down the row and seat numbers. Brent said he will take someone else if they don't go, so they have until tomorrow to let him know if they're going with him. Karen is hesitant to go because if Larry finds out, it might be the end of their relationship. Barbara Ann eggs her on saying he will never find out. She tells her this is her chance to get to know Brent some more and how he has the money, but Larry doesn't. Karen says Brent knows Larry won't find out because he won't be around this weekend. Barbara Ann reasons with her that it's not really a date and says Brent just needs someone to go to the concert with. He's known them for a long time and probably wants some company because his girlfriend Shelly is on a vacation somewhere with her family. "Brent seems to be a very calculating individual," Karen says. Barbara Ann responds, "Yeah, of course he has to be calculating because he's going to be an accountant. He's going to college to study accounting after he graduates high school this year. I guess you could say he's a calculating individual. He has everything pretty much figured out." Larry says, yeah, he has everything figured out except

this, as he points to his scanner. You didn't figure this out Brent! Larry is supposed to go on a trip with the guys from the Surf Club to Mexico for that whole weekend. Karen finally gives in to the pressure. Barbara Ann says she might even hit on Brent. Karen laughs and jokingly says to stay away from him because she has first dibbs on him.

Barbara Ann gets serious, "What will you tell Larry if he asks what you'll be doing this weekend while he's away on the trip?"

"I'll tell him the truth. I'll tell him I'm going to The Rock Island Boys concert with you. I just won't mention who else is going."

"Sounds like a plan," says Barbara Ann.

They talk further and Karen's going to call Brent right now and tell him they'll go to the concert with him. She hangs up, calls Brent and tells him her decision. He says she made the right choice and smooth talks her on as he tells her he would normally be going on the surfing trip with the guys but has to work till 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. He requested to be put on the schedule this weekend so he could go to the concert. Meanwhile, Larry is hearing everything on the scanner. She's going to see Larry at the beach tomorrow and asks Brent not to say a word about this to anyone. Brent says, "I don't want Larry to think I'm trying to go out with you or something. I just need someone to go to the concert with because Shelly's out of town. And don't tell him I gave you that towel. It'll be our little secret." She agrees. "Yes, our little secret."

After she gets off the phone, Larry thinks about how he's going to handle this. She visits Larry at the beach while he's working at Tower #1. He notices her new beach towel and says, "That's a nice towel you have. Where did you get it?" She gets kind of nervous and says, "My uncle. He just came back from Mexico and bought it for me." "Where did your uncle go in Mexico?" "Which uncle?" He then asks if she's telling him the truth. "Where did you really get it?" She insists it's from her uncle. He says, "Tell me the truth Karen." She says she would never lie to him and that her uncle gave it to her. They talk some more, and she says she'll miss him while he's gone on the trip. She wants to know if he's definitely

going so she can be sure nothing will screw up. "Of course, I'm going. What a silly question to ask. Why did you ask that?" He questions her further and asks her what she plans to do while he's gone.

Karen replies, "I'm going to The Rock Island Boys concert with Barbara Ann at The Pacific Amphitheatre."

"Who else is going with you?"

Karen tells him, "Nobody."

"Is Barbara Ann's boyfriend going too?"

Karen says, "No."

He doubts her and asks some more questions. Karen asks, "What's the matter with you? You've never acted like this before."

Larry doesn't want to make her suspicious and wants to let her carry out her plan. "Oh nothing, I'm just not feeling good today. I guess I'm not myself."

"That's not going to stop you from going on the trip, is it?"

"Oh no, I wouldn't miss that for anything. I'm OK, I guess. I'm just in a bad mood or something." Larry doesn't want to see her that night because she's lying to him. "I'm going to stay home and go to sleep early tonight and rest up. We have to leave by 5:00 a.m. I'm feeling kind of tired today."

"OK Larry, I'll see you when you get back from the trip. Call me when you get in."

"I'll do that. Have a nice time at the concert. I wish I could go with you."

The Rock Island Boys are my favorite group. It's just that this is the Surf Club's only trip together for the whole year, and the surfing in Mexico is great."

"I understand Larry. Go and have a good time."

"Bye Karen."

She leaves, and Larry goes home after his shift ends and tries to figure out what to do. He decides he's too upset to go on the trip and plans to stay home, go to the concert and confront Karen and Brent face to face. He tunes in the scanner. Karen calls Barbara Ann and tells her how Larry became suspicious and wonders if she thinks he knows something. Barbara Ann says, "Not a chance. How would he know? I wouldn't tell him, you wouldn't tell him, and Brent certainly wouldn't tell him. So how would he know? There's only three of us that know. I think you worry too much." They talk about what they're going to wear to the concert and how much they really like the group and their music.

Larry gets up early to call the guys and says he's not feeling well, so he won't be able to make the trip. "You know me, I'd be the last one to stay home because of not feeling well. I'm really going to miss being there, but I just can't make it." They talk a little more. Larry goes back to bed and plans his day. He wants Karen to think he's on the trip, so he jumps out of bed and runs downstairs to move his truck from the driveway and into the garage. He plans to stay in his room, read and watch T.V. all day. He reminds himself not to answer the phone and just let the machine pick up any calls. He really feels betrayed, let down, and mad at Karen and Brent. While tuned into the scanner, he hears Tony Romano discussing plans to start burying money under the carrots after they fill up the box up under the onions. Larry wonders and imagines himself digging up the money and spending it. He thinks, "What would I spend it on? What would I do with it?" He imagines the things he could buy with it, but reasons it wouldn't be right to take Tony's money. He doesn't know where Tony got it from, but it's his, and he doesn't want to touch it. Maybe he doesn't believe in banks or something, Larry says.

Larry picks up a few more calls from some neighbors during the day and tells his mom he's not feeling well, so he wants to be left alone and stay in his room all day. Larry plans out how he's going to confront them. He knows where they'll be sitting because he wrote it down when Karen said it over the phone. He tunes in the radio and hears advertisements for the concert and sees interviews with some of the guys from The Rock Island Boys on T.V. He doesn't have a ticket, but figures he can buy one before the concert, so he gets ready to go. As he's listening to the scanner, he hears Karen call Barbara Ann to make sure things are running along smoothly for her. She said she drove by Larry's house just to make sure he left for the trip, and his truck is gone so he must have left. "He's probably in Mexico right now surfing the big waves," Karen says. Karen will pick up Barbara Ann and her boyfriend, and then drive over to Brent's house to leave from there with everyone in his car. They execute their plan.

Larry sees it's time to leave, so he drives to the concert, parks, buys a ticket, and goes inside. The concert starts and he's there for the first number, [California](#). Larry's heard this song many times on the radio before. He even sang along to it on the way to California. But, now he's hearing it at a concert while he's looking for his girlfriend who went there with another guy. A guy he knows she likes, because he picked up that information from one of her phone calls.

As the group plays [God Bless California](#), the words from the song remind Larry of how fortunate he is to be living in California. Hearing it makes him really appreciate everything about California. He looks over at the area where they're sitting and makes plans to move near them. As The Rock Island Boys play more songs, he moves closer. In a stroke of luck, there's an empty seat just behind them. After watching for awhile, he makes his move and sits down right in back of them. As the group plays a slow song, Brent puts his arm around Karen, not knowing that Larry is sitting right behind him. After a minute, he taps her on the shoulder. She turns around, shocked and says, "Larry, I thought you were in Mexico." He says, "I know what you thought! I know exactly what you thought! You thought I'd be in Mexico surfing so you could go sneaking around behind my back, lying to my face. And Brent, some friend you are, you back stabber!" Karen starts crying. She says, "But Larry, you don't understand."

He says, "I understand perfectly. I completely understand that you're a liar and a cheater. It's over Karen West! Give me back my ring!" "No, Larry, please give me another chance." "Another chance for what? To hurt me again? You had your chance. We talked about how important it was to be honest with one another and how that would be the foundation of our relationship. You blew it Karen. It's over." He grabs her hand and takes the ring off. She cries, "No Larry, don't, please!" He takes the ring and leaves. She says to Brent, "I want to go home. I'm too upset to stay here for the rest of the concert."

On the way home she asks, "Who told him?" Everybody denies saying anything. She says, "Somebody is lying. There is no other way he could have known! Somebody said something. Now who was it?" They all again deny saying anything. As they go back to Brent's house, Karen and Barbara Ann say they're sorry things turned out like that. Of course Brent thinks that one of them must have told him. They get in Karen's car and drive over to Barbara Ann's house, wondering how Larry knew. And how did he know exactly where they were sitting? The Pacific Amphitheater is a big place. How did he find them? Somebody must have said something. They figure Brent tipped him off somehow. Maybe by having a friend of his call Larry anonymously and tell him everything. That's why he was questioning her about where she got the towel from and acting like that. Brent must have had someone tip him off, so Karen and Larry would break up, and then he could go out with her. She drops Barbara Ann and her boyfriend off and goes home.

When she gets home, she calls Barbara Ann and tells her she's too upset to go to sleep and needs someone to talk to. Larry is tuned in and hears it all. They talk about how Brent must have had Larry tipped off, so they'd break up and he could go out with her. Karen says, "I'll never be able to trust Brent now for what he did. I wish I did things differently and was honest with Larry."

They talk about Larry and Karen says a lot of nice things about him. Barbara Ann suggests she call him and straighten things out. Karen says, "OK. I'll call you back and let you know how it went." Larry's phone rings and he answers it by saying, "Hi Barbara Ann, are you home already?" She says, "Larry, it's me, Karen!" Acting surprised he says, "Oh...um...Karen, forget about it. It's over!" and hangs up.

Karen calls Barbara Ann, and tells her Larry hung up on her and that he answered the phone by saying "Hi Barbara Ann, are you home already?" Karen asks Barbara Ann, "Now why would he say that? Maybe you told him so we'd break up and you could go out with him." Barbara Ann laughs, "Give me a break, Larry is too broke for me. And besides, I have a boyfriend." Karen replies, "It's still possible you said something. How else would he know all of this?" Larry kicks back and looks admiringly at his scanner. Perplexed and suspicious Karen says, "I don't know who to trust. Somebody said something. Somebody had to have said something! I have to get to sleep now. I'm so tired." As Larry lies bed thinking about what happened that night, he remembers Barbara Ann saying, "He's too broke for me," and as he goes to sleep, he says to himself, "I wish I had money, I wish I had a lot of money."

At breakfast the next day, Larry notices a headline in the newspaper about a local drug bust. As he reads it, his jaw drops in disbelief. It was his next door neighbor Tony Romano and his friend who got busted! The article says that he was selling marijuana from his home and police will be searching his house today for any money he made from selling it. Larry hurries to finish breakfast, so he can go next door to see what's going on because he sees several police cars at Tony's house. He goes over and tells one of the police officers he's a neighbor who lives next door and wants to know if they found any money. He said he just read in the paper that they would be searching for money today. They say no they haven't and believe he probably put the money in an offshore bank. A detective walks up and says to the officer they'll probably be finished searching the house and grounds in about an hour. Someone walks by with a metal detector, and Larry doesn't think anything of it.

He goes home, gets ready for work and dreads having to work with Brent after all the stuff that happened. While arriving at work, Brent walks up, apologizes and says he didn't mean anything by asking her to the concert. Larry, knowing his motive says, "Right, and I'm sure you didn't mean anything by giving her the beach towel too, telling her all this was 'our little secret' to be kept between you and her. Nice try Brent. You can go ahead and have her. I can't trust her anymore. She went around my back and lied to me, so what makes you think she's not going to do the same thing to you? And you went behind Shelly's back so you could arrange this date with Karen so why should she think you won't pull the same thing

and go out behind her back? You and her both deserve each other. You're both liars and cheaters! So go ahead and enjoy each other! You can run around and lie to each other and have a good time not being able to trust each other!" Brent walks away and says he'll be back in a few minutes. The supervisor arrives at the Lifeguard Tower with Brent and tells Larry he is going to transfer him to Tower #7 until things get back to normal between them. Larry agrees, gets his stuff, and moves to Tower #7 to work along with Brian. They work together on weekends because of the amount of people on the beach. However, during the week it's not as crowded, so then they work one lifeguard to a tower. Brian tells him it gets lonely during the week because hardly anyone comes down to Tower #7. Everyone hangs up near Tower #1.

Larry Gets The Money

As Larry lies in bed that night rehashing the day's events, he can't believe what happened to Tony and then remembers talking to the police officer while someone walked by with a metal detector. What was he doing with a metal detector? Wait a minute, he probably was looking for some buried money. Then it hits him. Buried money! So that's where Tony got the money he buried in his backyard, and that's why he put it in a wooden box. So no one would ever find it with a metal detector! It still must be buried under the onions. A box filled with cash! Larry makes plans to dig it up that night because he can't get to sleep while it's on his mind and can't sleep until he finds the money. He grabs his flashlight, sneaks out of the house and goes out to the garage to get a shovel. Slowly moving through the backyard, he climbs the fence into Tony's yard and goes right to the spot where he saw Tony digging. He removes the onions and starts to dig. A foot or so down he hits a solid object and says, "This has to be it." He digs around the box, reaches down and pulls it up, then carefully takes the dirt off and puts it on a towel he brought over, replants the onions, puts the dirt back around them, folds the towel up and takes everything home. He leaves the shovel and towel in his garage and then goes back into the house up to his room. Excitedly, he opens the box and finds it filled with cash. He now has thousands of dollars in his hand. Larry doesn't know if Tony buried more under the carrots, but he's happy with the money he has and doesn't want to risk being caught going back. He only has a few hours before school and tries to go to

sleep. Larry has a dream about spending the money taking Karen to Hawaii and surfing the big waves, only to be brought back to reality by his alarm clock going off.

At school, he runs into Karen West at his locker when she comes up to him to say she's sorry and wants him back. He says there's no excuse for what she did. Larry says he has money too but didn't let her know it because he wanted to make sure she liked him for him, and not for his money. She claims she didn't go out with Brent for his money. "Yeah sure. I heard you were complaining that Larry is broke all the time."

"Who did you hear that from?"

"I'm not going to tell you," Larry says.

"That Barbara Ann! I can't say anything to her without her blabbing it back to someone. I really think she tried to break us up so she could go out with you."

"Well, if she did, it didn't work."

"And why is that?"

As he closes his locker, he says "Because I wouldn't go out with either one of you!"

He leaves as Karen just stands there in disbelief. She can't wait to call Barbara Ann after school and talk with her about this. Larry knows that as soon as school gets out she'll go home and call her, so he rushes home to tune in. He calls in sick today for work because he doesn't need the money now. Sure enough, he hears Karen dialing out. Barbara Ann answers the phone. She confronts her in a heated conversation. Barbara Ann of course flatly denies she said that to Larry or anyone else. Karen says, "How else would he know exactly what I said? You have to have told him. Someone told him. How else would he know these things? I don't know. I'm confused. Everybody is lying to me big time. Maybe I'm getting it back

now. I guess what goes around, comes around. I'm going to the beach to give Brent back the towel he gave to me. I can't keep it. Every time I look at it, it reminds me of losing Larry. And that's too painful for me to handle. I have to go. I'm going down there now."

Barbara Ann wants to go with her, "Can I go with you?"

"No, you've caused enough problems. I'm just going to drop it off and leave. I might go over to Tower #7 and try to talk with Larry while I'm there."

Barbara Ann is surprised, "He's at Tower #7?"

"Yeah, Larry and Brent aren't getting along right now."

"That's too bad. They were such good friends."

"I'll call you tonight and let you know what happened."

"I won't be back till after eight tonight. I'm going shopping with my mom."

"OK, I'll call you at nine then. Bye."

As Karen approaches Brent, Larry's at the beach and walks out on the pier so he can watch them with his binoculars to see what's happening. She sees Brent and says, "I'm sorry Brent, I can't keep this. I can't go out with you." Brent replies, "Karen, let's get something straight here. I wasn't trying to go out with you when I invited you to the concert. I know you're going out with Larry and I wouldn't do that to him. I just happen to have some free tickets a friend gave me and thought you'd like to go to the concert since The Rock Island Boys are your favorite group. Shelly's on vacation with her family, and I just needed an arm piece for the night. This is all a big misunderstanding. Did you tell Larry I gave you that towel?"

Karen says, "No, I didn't." Brent's mad, "You're a liar! You have to have told him!"

You must have told him because he told me he knew I gave it to you and he even said all of this was 'our little secret'. You told him Karen. Don't lie to me. You have to have told him. How else would he have known?"

Karen is furious. "I think you're the liar Brent, because I didn't say anything to him or anyone else. And why would he say those words, 'our little secret'? Tell me Brent, how would he have known those exact words. You must have told him because I certainly didn't. And I remember you saying those words to me on the phone. Are you sure he said it was, 'our little secret'?"

"Yeah, that's exactly what he said. Why on earth are you lying to me Karen? Just admit that you told him, and we'll drop the whole thing!"

"Don't call me a liar Brent Wilson when you're the liar! I didn't say 'it's our little secret' or tell him anything, so you must be the liar. Here, take your towel. I don't want it, and I don't want you. You're a big liar."

"You're a nut case Karen!"

She walks away to Tower #7 and finds out Larry called in sick. Worried about him, she immediately leaves the beach to go home and call him. Larry sees everything that is happening from his binoculars and waits a few minutes before leaving so he won't run into Karen. She goes home, calls him, gets the machine and leaves a message saying she was at the beach looking for him and she misses him.

He goes home, gets the message, grabs a bundle of cash, goes shopping and buys a bunch of clothes at Jack's Surfboards and other shops on Main St. in Huntington Beach. He tunes in at 9 p.m. and hears Karen and Barbara Ann talking. She tells Barbara Ann everything that happened. Larry is listening in, laughing and enjoying every minute of it, especially all the confusion that went on between Brent and Karen at the beach. He says, "Good, she deserves it."

At school the next day, he dresses up in his new clothes, and all the girls notice him. Karen is fuming over the attention he's getting. Larry is showing everyone the high school ring he's wearing, the one he took back from Karen, and advertising the fact that he's now available.

After school, Larry goes to work but finds it's very lonely in Tower #7. He starts thinking about his situation and reasons that girls probably think he's too good for them, or that a good looking popular guy like him definitely must have a girlfriend, so why even bother to flirt with him. They might assume he's probably taken. He further reasons that some girls must have the same problem at school. Everyone thinks they're taken when in fact they're not. They're very lonely with no one asking them out because everyone thinks they must have a boyfriend already, so why bother and have to deal with the rejection. Maybe that's the real reason some girls at his school don't have boyfriends. He asks for the weekend off because he wants to cruise the beach looking for a new girlfriend. Besides, he doesn't need the money anyway.

I'm Searching For My Surfer Girl

The weekend comes up and he's walking on the beach, checking out all the girls while carrying a radio that's playing [I'm Searching For My Surfer Girl](#). He's searching for his Surfer Girl, the one who'll make his dreams come true. As he's talking with a couple of girls, he notices someone having difficulty making it back to shore due to a strong rip current and runs into the water on a rescue to bring her back to shore. Meanwhile, a crowd has gathered around. Her friend rushes over, thanks Larry for saving her friend's life and says, "How can we ever repay you?" He says, "Let me take you and your friend out to dinner tonight." They agree to go. One of Karen's friends is watching and listening the whole thing and hears what was said. She calls Karen later on and Larry picks up the conversation while he's getting ready to take them out. Karen can't believe he's taking two girls out, and to a very expensive place on top of that. She knows he must really have a lot of money all of sudden because he recently bought all the new clothes and other things. Karen tells her friend, "I love him with or without money and proved it when I went out with him when he was broke."

He can't be so sure the girls won't go after him now just because he has money to spend on them. I wonder where he got it from. I don't care where he got it or even if he has any. I love him whether he's rich or not." Larry hears all of this and is very impressed.

He goes on the date and spends a lot of money but finds out a few things about them he doesn't like. Larry meets more girls but always comes up with a reason why he doesn't want to go past the first date with them. As he is lying in bed, he says to himself, "Maybe the grass isn't so green on the other side after all." He thinks about how Karen is compared to all the other girls and reasons that she's very sorry for the mistake she made. From all the conversations he's picked up, he knows she really loves him for what he is and not for his money, and that she's not faking it. Larry contemplates going back with her and thinks about how to ask her back out.

The next day he makes sure she's not home and calls to leave a message for her to meet him at Duke's, next to the Huntington Beach Pier at 8:00 p.m. because he wants to talk with her over dinner. He knows she got the message because while he's listening in on the scanner, she calls Barbara Ann to tell her all about it, and how she's been trying to call Larry back but only gets the answering machine. She says she'll definitely be there and is starting to get dressed already.

Karen meets him, and they sit down for dinner. Larry explains how he went out with all these other girls but didn't find anyone he liked more than her. He doesn't think he'll ever find someone he wants more than her. Larry tells her what he likes about her and gives her a lot of compliments. He then takes his ring off and slips it back on her finger. Karen is speechless! She doesn't know what to say. They're going back out again!

Yes, they're going back out again, but summer is almost over and the cool weather will be coming in. They go for a walk on the beach after dinner. As they're standing on the beach, right at the spot where they first met, Larry tells Karen, it's just like the song says, "Suntans are gonna fade, but not the memories we made. We'll keep them all year, to get us through school." They laugh and recall the many summer fun times they had.

They'll always remember their time together. But, there's one thing they'll always remember about this past summer. They'll always [Remember The Beach](#).

The End

Thank you for reading Remember The Beach and listening to all the music from The Rock Island Boys. Read the story again and listen to the songs to get the feeling of summer through the music. The music was recorded in several studios over different time periods with various artist in the role of The Rock Island Boys.

When you visit Huntington Beach, California, go over to Jack's Surfboards and see the Surfing Walk of Fame on the sidewalk in front of the store. Visit the Surfing Museum just a few blocks away from the beach. Take a walk out on the Huntington Beach Pier and watch the surfers ride the waves. Be sure to listen to the music of The Rock Island Boys while you're at the beach. "It's the total experience to hear a song about the beach while you're actually on the beach, breathing in the ocean air."

Would you like to see Remember The Beach made into a movie and possible T.V. series? Then please help get the word out to make that happen. The Rock Island Boys will then be re-formulated into the next Boy Band sensation and go on tour in support of any movie or T.V. series. So right now, at this very moment, please share a link to rememberthebeach.com on all of your social media platforms and invite your family and friends to **Remember The Beach**. It's a nice gift to give to people.

A PayPal link is provided on rememberthebeach.com for those who would like to donate to help with the cost of the project. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

If you are an Agent, Movie Producer or a representative of a major movie studio or outlet such as Netflix, Amazon or YouTube, etc. looking for original content and are interested in making this story into a movie, or have any questions or comments about the project, please contact Bruce Cooke by sending an email to rememberthebeach@yahoo.com