

DIGGER DAN  
and the  
Heavy Haulers

Written by  
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"I Think I Can!"

Pilot\_v03

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EXT. TOP OF COFFER DAM - MORNING

A large JAY BIRD SCRATCHES at the dirt on the dam's surface then FLIES away.

At the naughty bird's departure, a bit of rock and dirt cascade down the slope and a tiny stream of water begins to flow over the top of the full, earthen coffer dam.

MUSIC CUE - A threatening BOM! BOM! BOM!

EXT. HEAVY HAULERS YARD - MORNING

DIGGER DAN the track hoe, LITTLE(LB) the young female backhoe, BIG D the massive D10 bulldozer, and old RUSTY the dump truck, snore in unison as the sun rises. They are startled awake by MARGE the front loader.

MARGE

Wake up team! There is a parade today and we have work to do.

The sleeping vehicles yawn and stretch as they come to life.

DAN

I'm so excited to lead the parade this year!

LB

I can't wait!

BIG D

I hear ya LB. Too bad my tracks would destroy the street. I'll just watch you from the sidelines and enjoy myself.

MARGE

We each have our strengths and we must support each other to do and be our best. Dan, you and LB need to get your chores done before the parade. We don't want to make the whole town wait for us. That would be poor integrity.

DAN

What's that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGE

Integrity means that you are honest and fair. And that you consider others by making good choices. Being on time is also good integrity. So is telling the truth.

BIG D

Good integrity also means solid and stable. Like my steel frame and blade.

Big D raises and drops his massive front blade with a THUD.

Dan and LB giggle.

A VOICE suddenly booms over the yard megaphone.

YARD BOSS (V.O.)

Good morning everyone! Today is a big day and we have a lot to do. Remember that hard work can be fun work!

The Heavy Haulers hail in unison "WE LOVE TO WORK HARD!"

DAN

Sounds good Boss!

YARD BOSS (V.O.)

One more thing team. We just got a report that last night a big rain storm in the mountains may have pushed the water to the top of the dam, making it very dangerous. If that dam ever breaks, it would wash our little town right down the river. We need to check it out ASAP!

RUSTY

I can't do it! I'm too afraid to cross that old dam. It's really high!

BIG D

I'm too heavy to drive on it. I would make it crumble like a cookie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAN

I love cookies!

LB

My engine isn't strong enough to go all the way up there and back before the parade, with a bad cylinder and all.

MARGE

Don't worry team. This sounds like a job for a lightweight construction vehicle.

DAN

Hey! I'm light. I'm the lightest one here. And I'm fast. Right Marge? I could do it!

Dan zips around the yard, demonstrating his agility.

BIG D

That is true. That boy is 'bout as fast as grease lighting!

DAN

See?!? Let me go Marge. Let me go! Please!

Marge considers the option.

MARGE

Now Dan. This is very serious and there is no room to mess around. If you go up there and find anything wrong with that dam, anything at all, you come right back here and tell us so we can work together to shore it up.

DAN

Okay Marge! I'm on it!

MARGE

Promise me Dan. Your word is important. That is your integrity.

DAN

I promise!

Marge takes a deep breath.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MARGE

Okay. Now come right back when you find...

DAN (O.S.)

See you guys!

Dan is already out of the yard on his way.

RUSTY

I sure wish I had that kid's energy. I get tired wiping my windows!

MARGE

I sure hope he keeps his word.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - MORNING

Dan zips up the road that follows the narrow river.

DAN

I can't wait to see the dam and give Marge the news!

EXT. BASE OF COFFER DAM - MORNING

Dan arrives at the base of the 50ft tall earthen coffer dam. He looks up to see a tiny dribble of water coming down the face.

DAN

Wow! That's a lot of dirt. Sweet!

He whirls around and heads up the narrow road that leads to the top of the dam.

EXT. TOP OF COFFER DAM - MORNING

The reservoir water level is even with the top of the dirt road that crosses the dam.

DAN

Uhoh! That's a lot of water.

Dan carefully rolls out onto the wide dam to inspect the leak.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAN

I better be really careful,  
because my tracks could damage the  
dam and that would be really bad!

Dan approaches the narrow leak, which has grown.

Dan inspects the leak up-close.

DAN

It doesn't look too bad. I can fix  
that! Why race all the way back to  
town and tell Marge when I can  
just drop in a few scoops of dirt  
and plug the leak. Done!

Dan reaches his bucket across the dam and scrapes some dirt from a clear area then pours it into the leak. He packs it down and stops the water flow. Dan seems very satisfied with himself.

DAN

Tada! That wasn't so hard.

Dan is unaware that the dirt he scooped up behind him has created another leak across the top of the dam, which is quickly forming into a small creek.

Satisfied, Dan turns to head home and finds himself confronted by this new emergency.

DAN

Oh no! Another leak. I better fix  
it fast!

This time Dan grabs a larger scoop of dirt from behind him and fills the new leak. He quickly packs it down and feels satisfied once again.

DAN

Piece of cake!

Behind him, the fresh scoop he just took has created a third leak that's larger than the first.

DAN

Oh no! Not again!

Suddenly, the second leak breaks loose and Dan finds himself stuck between two streams of water with nowhere to go, and no more dirt to plug the leaks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAN

Uhoh! What have I done? I'm in big trouble now! Marge is going to be so upset with me. Oh man...

Dan HONKS his horn and panic sets in.

DAN

(yells)  
Help! Someone help!

EXT. HEAVY HAULERS YARD - MORNING

Marge, Big D and LB work together cleaning up the yard. Rusty naps.

LB

I'm excited to see the floats!

BIG D

Me too! I love parades. And laughter and dogs...and peaches...and old tires...

LB

Peaches? And old tires?

Big D stares into the distance, frozen.

MARGE

Looks like Big D has wandered off again. I got this!

Marge rolls over to Big D and gently nudges his tracks with her bucket. He doesn't budge.

She tries again with a firmer bump, but nothing.

Finally, Marge bumps Big D hard enough to make a loud CLANK!

MARGE

Big D!

Suddenly, Big D jumps to life, blasts a puff of smoke from his stack.

BIG D

What.. What.. Where was I?

MARGE

You wandered off buddy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BIG D

Oh dear. I haven't done that in awhile. That old logging injury...

LB

When the tree fell on our hood and knocked you silly?

BIG D

That's the one LB.

LB

Can I see your dent?

MARGE

LB!

BIG D

No worries Marge. I'm proud of my dent, because I survived in one piece.

Big D lifts his massive front blade as high as he can to reveal a big dent in his hood and grill.

LB

Wohhh!

BIG D

Not bad huh? Just shows that this big guy can take a knockin and keep on a rockin!

Rusty, Big D and LB laugh.

MARGE

Let's be thankful you were safe in the yard and not on top of that coffer dam when you wandered off.

BIG D

No kidding! Thank you for bringing me back Marge. I owe you one!

MARGE

No worries D. I got you! We are a team!

Marge WINKS at Big D.

LB

And a family!

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

BIG D

That we are LB!

MARGE

Speaking of wandering off, Dan should have been back 5 minutes ago. I sure hope that boy hasn't got himself into trouble.

EXT. TOP OF COFFER DAM - CONTINUED

Dan shivers with fear as the escaping water flows on either side of him and continues to widen the leaks. Dan and the dam are now in a dire situation.

DAN

(out loud to self)  
I promise I will never break a promise again and I will go right home to get help instead of trying to do it myself!

MARGE (V.O.)

You promised me Dan. How do I know you won't break your promise again?

Dan spins to find Marge with Rusty behind her at the edge of the dam. Rusty hauls a full load of dirt.

DAN

I swear Marge! I'll never break a promise again! I want to have good integrity.

MARGE

Are you sure?

DAN

Yes! I'm sure. And I apologize for not listening to you and getting myself into trouble and for threatening the town's safety.

MARGE

I accept your apology Dan. Now lets get you to safety and fix this dam!

RUSTY

It's soo tall! You know I'm terrified of heights Marge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGE

I'm asking you to be brave right now Russ and focus on getting that dirt poured evenly across the top of the dam. I will follow you and pack it down.

RUSTY

I don't think I can do it...

MARGE

Do it for the town and for your friends Russ. We all need your help and bravery right now. You can do this!

DAN

You can do it Rusty!

RUSS

Well okay... I guess I can try.

MARGE

Yes you can!

DAN

Thank you Rusty!

RUSTY

I'm coming to help you boy. Hang on!

Rusty backs himself onto the dam.

RUSTY

I think I can! I think I can!

MARGE

Yes you can Russ! Just stay focused on the road.

The further Russ gets, the higher his confidence grows.

RUSTY

I think I can. I know I can. I'm doing it! I'm doing it Marge!

Russ looks down and suddenly he's frightened.

RUSTY

I don't think I can!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAN

Keep going Russ. You're almost there! I believe in you!

MARGE

I believe in you too Russ! We love you and we know you can do this!

Russ grows a smile on his face and bites his lip, determined.

DAN

Just a little closer Russ...and stop!

MARGE

Now let her go and drive forward while you dump the dirt Russ. Nice and easy.

Russ raises his dump truck bed and the dirt begins to flow out the back gate.

He rolls forward and distributes the material across the top of the dam until he's empty and stops beside Marge.

DAN

You did it Russ! Good job!

RUSTY

I did do it huh! Yippee!

MARGE

Now carefully drive over here to us Dan.

Dan cautiously rolls over the fresh dirt to safety beside Russ and Marge.

DAN

I'm sorry Marge.

MARGE

I know you are Dan. Thank you for the apology. Now roll aside and let me take care of this old dam!

Marge goes to work with her huge front bucket and distributes the dirt across the top of the dam, increasing the height by a few feet, safely above the water level.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MARGE

Boss called the water department  
and they're opening the valve to  
let some water out of the dam.  
This should take care of it!

Russ and Dan let out a "HOORAY".

MARGE

There's no time to celebrate.  
Let's get to town and get ready  
for that parade.

DAN

I'm going to be a dragon!

RUSTY

I need another nap.

Marge and Dan laugh at Russ.

RUSTY

What? I'm old!

MARGE

You are only as old as you think  
you are Russ.

DAN

That's right!

RUSTY

Trust me! I THINK I'm old.

Again, they laugh at Russ's words.

MARGE

Let's go!

The vehicles race toward town as the same naughty JAY  
BIRD lands on the dam and pecks away at the dirt.

EXT. MAIN STREET - TOWN

Dan is dressed from bucket to bucket in the dragon  
costume, leading the parade.

LB follows close behind pulling a beautiful float.

Behind her, Russ carries a load of waving townspeople in  
his truck bed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

On the roadside, Big D and Marge watch and CHEER with excitement.

Everyone in town is happy to be safe and the parade is a huge success!

THE END