



**October 2018: Head off to Texas to visit my sister --
but first, we have to fly over an alien(?) artifact in the Nevada desert.**



Houston's "Museum District"
My sister Margaret lives in the high-rise, center-left.



A "posh" condo, with a concierge on duty, 24/7.



Simone comes to help Margaret several times a week.



The view from Margaret's condo: "Medical Center" at night.



... and also a view of the Arts Center complex, under construction.



The Arts Complex by day:



... a very "Escher-esque" building.



Chicago is famous for "the Bean",
but Houston has the original prototype, ...



... and it hasn't fallen over like some deflated balloon.



(Houston has a very, um, "distorted" view on reality.)

Royals

Tudors to Windsors

British Royal Portraits from Holbein to Warhol

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Cross the street to the Houston Museum of Fine Art, ...



... to view portraits
of King Henry the 8th ...

VICTORIA: QUEEN AND EMPRESS



Small informational card or label next to the painting.

... and Queen Victoria.



(It looks like they had a wonderful time at the Brighton Pavilion ...)



... we could really get into
the spirit of it all!)



Head out to Lake Livingston. (16 lanes of traffic and it's still crowded!)



Now we're out in the -real- Texas!!



Margaret's lakeside retreat (and former home), ...



... complete with a "guest cottage"!



Hey! I'm on vacation! -- I get to sit back and read a book!



... and bird-watch: this is an osprey,



...heron, ...



...and egret.



Fly away, little(?) bird!



Margaret's neighbors, Barbara and Phil, stop by for a visit, ...



... and we hijack them for a day of viewing a former rental property, ...



... visiting a crazy friend, Sabine, ...



... and more bird-watching.



(-Lots- of bird-watching!)



Go back to Houston and visit nephew Ben & family, ...



... have a last BBQ meal, ...



... and then leave Texas for sunny (and all-too-dry) California!