

BOOK REVIEW

Touching the Void

by Joe Simpson: a true story

The year is 1985 and Joe is a 25-year-old climber. He is fit and strong. With his climbing partner, Simon Yates, he is looking for a new **adventure**. They find it in Peru. They want to climb a mountain called the Siula Grande.

They make a camp at the bottom of the mountain and then they **set off**. Their climb to the top is **successful**, but then there is an accident. Joe falls and he breaks his leg badly. There is a rope between the two climbers. Simon holds on to the rope. It is very cold and the men are tired. Joe is hanging at the end of the rope, over an enormous empty space. Simon is holding onto him. But his hands are freezing. How long can they **survive** like this?

A snowstorm begins. Soon it's snowing hard. Simon has a difficult decision to make. He thinks his partner is dead. He cannot hold the rope, and he doesn't want to die, too. So he cuts the rope. Joe falls into a deep **crevasse** in the ice. The story has a happy ending. Joe survives because he climbs out of the crevasse. He has a broken leg, but he **crawls** slowly across the snow and ice. He gets to their camp and the rescuers find him.

Joe Simpson's true story, Touching the Void, is a great book. It is an international bestseller and it is also an award-winning film. Joe lives in his hometown of Sheffield in the UK. He still climbs and he also writes books, makes films and gives talks.

I. READ THE TEXT AGAIN. CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWERS.

1. Why does Joe decide to climb the mountain?
 - a He lives near it in Peru.
 - b He wants to do something new with his friend.
 - c He wants to climb it before his friend does.
2. When does Joe have an accident?
 - a on the way up the mountain
 - b at the bottom of the mountain
 - c when they start to climb back down
3. Why does Simon cut the rope?
 - a He doesn't like Joe.
 - b He needs to save himself.
 - c Joe tells him to cut it.
4. How does Joe survive?
 - a He climbs back up the mountain.
 - b Rescuers find him in the crevasse.
 - c He manages to get to camp.

II. MATCH THE UNDERLINED WORDS IN THE TEXT WITH THESE DEFINITIONS.

1. an exciting, sometimes dangerous thing _____
2. to move along on your hands and knees _____
3. to start a journey _____
4. you get the result you want _____
5. manage to live _____
6. a very deep hole in snow or ice _____

III. COMPLETE THESE SENTENCES WITH WORDS FROM 2.

1. My dream is to be a _____ skier.
2. The riders _____ at 6.30 am.
3. In the very cold weather sometimes animals don't _____ because they can't find food.
4. My baby brother can't walk, but he _____
5. I'm reading a book about an _____ in Russia.
6. Mount Everest is dangerous to climb because there are many deep _____.