

**TEXT:** Touching the Void

**AUTHOR/ DIRECTOR:** Joe Simpson

**1) THE SITUATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TEXT:**

**Who are the central characters?**

**Where are they?**

**What is their central situation?**

CENTRAL CHARACTERS	QUOTES/DIALOGUE TO SUPPORT THIS IDEA
<b>Joe Simpson</b> Joe describes himself and mountaineering men and women like himself who defy boundaries of safety and venture into dangerous activities that most people do not try.	"The dreamers of the day are dangerous are dangerous men, for they may act their dreams with open eyes, to make it possible." T.H Lawrence: <i>The Seven Pillars of Wisdom</i> Opening Prologue
Joe enjoys his own solitude- <b>foreshadows that he can survive in his own company.</b>	" I relished the moment when I could be entirely alone." p.16 "It feels menacingly remote and exhilarating at the same time." p.18 Joe's climbing log: 19 May, 1985
<b>Simon Yates</b> Calculated but unfazed about difficult situations: calm and reasoned.	"I don't think it's (the weather) anything like as bad as it seems." "I envied Simon, his carefree take it as it comes attitude." p.19
Can make difficult decisions when he needs to, <b>foreshadowing his ability to put his life's survival before others if necessary.</b>	"He had the force to take what was his for the taking, and the freedom of spirit to enjoy it without grumbling worries and doubts." p.19
Joe trusts Simon. Joe has chosen Simon specifically because he is an experienced mountaineer who matches his own climbing ability but also because he is so good to get along with.	"He was an easy friend: dependable, sincere, ready to see life as a joke...a touch of madness that makes which makes just a few people so special." p.19 "There were few other people I could have coed with for so long." "Simon was keeping to steady pace that matched mine." p.20 "If a climber has to slow his natural pace to that of his companion, the unfit climber will soon find himself struggling to keep up." p.20
<b>Richard Hawking</b> Richard is an adventurer in his own way: going to new, foreign countries, travelling on his own, experiencing cultures in dangerous circumstances; <b>at times ignorantly expecting that he (and others) will survive each situation</b>	Simon and I had found Richard resting in a sleazy hotel in Lima, halfway through his six-month exploration of South America." p.17 "He had lived off grubs and berries with pygmies wile dug-out canoeing through the rain forests of Zaire." p.17 "His travelling companion was shot dead by trigger-happy soldiers in Uganda." p.17 "Usually he travelled alone to see where chance encounters in alien countries would take him." p.17
Acts as a "watchman" over the camp and gear while Joe and Simon are climbing.	"an entertaining watchman in camp to keep an eye on the gear." p.17
	"He then remembered a second lake on the map...he managed to get a place in the adjoining pigsty...the high altitude lice enjoyed their best feed in a long time." p.18

THE SETTING (WHERE CHARCTERS ARE: TIME AND PLACE)	QUOTES/DIALOGUE TO SUPPORT THIS IDEA INFORMATION
<p>The text begins on May, 19<sup>th</sup>, 1985 in the Cordillera (a mountain range) in the Peruvian Andes.</p>	<p>"We were in the middle of the Cordillera Huayhuash, in the Peruvian Andes, separated from the nearest village by twenty-eight miles of rough walking." p.15</p>
<p>Joe Simpson and Simon Yates are intending to climb, the so far "unconquered" West Face 21,000-foot, Siula Grande. - The fact that the mountain had not been climbed successfully since 1936, indicates that <b>it is a technically difficult climb.</b></p>	<p>The majestic 21,000-foot Siula Grande lay behind Sarapo (Cerro Sarapo: visible mountain in front of base camp) and was not visible." "It had been climbed for the first time in 1936 by two bold Germans via the North Ridge. There had been few ascents since then, and the <b>true prize</b>, the daunting 4,500-foot West Face had so far defeated all attempts." p.16</p>
<p>There is a huge avalanche risk evident in this area, even from base camp.</p>	<p>"Just being cautious about avalanches." (Joe) p.19</p>
<p>Joe and Simon conduct practice climbs to acclimatize to the altitude: Rosaio Norte, unclimbed South Ridge of Cerro Yantauri and South Ridge of Seria Norte- although both men never summit these practice mountains, <b>indicating that they will choose life and safety over potential injury and death when climbing.</b></p>	<p>"Tomorrow we would start an acclimatization climb up Rosario Norte. If fir enough at the end of ten days, we would attempt the unclimbed West Face of Siula Grande." p.18 <b>Rosario Norte:</b> "It was an unspoken understanding that the summit would be left out this time." p.23 "The sky in the east persuaded us to leave the South Ridge of Yantauri for another day." p.23 "We managed to laugh at the waste of effort and wondered what Richard would think of our third failure to reach the summit." p.25 "But we were fit, acclimatized and ready now for our main objective- the West Face of Siula Grande." p.25</p>
<p>The men <b>keep their objectives clear:</b> make decisions to stay <b>focused on the main goal.</b></p>	<p>"I began to enjoy the exercise, feeling fitter and stronger than I thought I would." p.20 "Despite my earlier protests at Simon's suggestion that we should take no cigarettes to base camp, I could feel my lungs working hard in the thin cold air...I was forced to agree that it might be wise to stop during this expedition." p.20</p>
<p>The men have decided to stop smoking for the climb, to ensure their maximum fitness level; increasing their performance and chance for survival.</p>	

THE SITUATION (WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERS DOING/WHAT IS THEIR SITUATION)	QUOTES/DIALOGUE TO SUPPORT THIS IDEA
<p>Joe and Simon build up their physical energy with food: a good store of nutrition for the next days' climbing. Joe is naturally afraid of their climb but views this as a healthy response: <b>better to be realistic than ignorant of the dangers.</b></p>	<p>"For two whole days, we gorged ourselves on food." p.25 "I began to feel spasms of fear...what if something went wrong? It wouldn't take much to kill us off. I saw ho very much alone we had <b>chosen</b> to be and felt small...It was healthy to be a little scared, and good to sense my body responding to fear." p.25</p>
<p>Joe sykes himself with <b>positive talk</b> to overcome his fears.</p>	<p>"We can do it...we can do it...I kept repeating like a mantra (chant) whenever I felt that hollow hungry gap in my stomach." p.26</p>
<p>Both men try to cut down on weight but they are carrying a huge amount of gear that they view as a necessity but also a climbing burden. Their equipment is suitable for the climb, apart from a bivvi tent that is left behind (this may</p>	<p>"Despite all our efforts to cut down on weight, the rucksacks were going to be a heavy burden...the bivvi tent was far too cumbersome; we decided to leave it behind and rely on finding good snow holes instead."</p>

<p>be regretted later). The men plan the timeline for their climb: for themselves but also for Richard who is waiting for them; they joke about the possibility of not returning (indicating that it <b>is a possibility</b>).</p> <p>The men try to memorise their route down so that they don't fall into dangerous terrain and get lost getting to base camp. This will be important information for their descent. The temperatures early in the morning and after the sun goes down, are very cold. This makes it difficult for the men's bodies to function properly. The men are skilled and get into a rhythm on the ascent. It is initially enjoyable.</p>	<p>p.26 "Four days you reckon?" (Richard) "Five on the outside. And it were not back in a week, you'll be the proud owner of all our gear." p.26 "We know what we're doing and if something goes wrong there is nothing whatever you can do." (Joe) p.26 "We looked back at our route so as to fix the features in our mind. Neither of us wanted to forget it on the way down." p.28 "It was cold...I struggled with zips and gaiters until my fingers would not work." p.29 "Ten o'clock...minus fifteen temperature." p.35 "Head down, keep looking at your feet, swing, swing, hop, look at your feet...all the way up a smooth 150 feet, no effort, no headache, feeling on top of the world." p.30</p>
<p>During the day, the temperatures, combined with the physical exercise are high.</p>	<p>"The sun was fully up; jackets and tops were in the sacks." p.31</p>
<p>Joe notices the brittle, crumbling nature of the ice as they ascend and it is difficult to place his ice-axe into.</p>	<p>"The ice was harder and more brittle...large chunks of ice that were breaking away from my axes." p.32 "Twenty feet of rtted honey-combed ice." p.34</p>
<p>There is running water under the ice.</p>	<p>"Water was running under the ice." p.33</p>
<p>The ascend becomes more dangerous: not being able to find the couloir (best route), overhanging snow cornices, rock fall and difficult climbing make the task more challenging.</p>	<p>"We had to find the steep ice coulair which ran up to the side of the buttress...we had under six hours to find it." p.31-32 "Some of the cornices overhung the West Face by as much as forty feet and we were directly under their fall line. Suddenly the day seemed less casual." p.32 "Rocks! I yelled, ducking down and away. Heavy blows thudded into my shoulder...the boulder about four-foot square, swept below me directly at him (Simon). p.33 "Thrashed about me, breathing quick, frightened gasps of effort before I could pull myself out on to the easy snow slopes above the coulair." p.35</p>
<p>Joe and Simon bivvi in what seems like a perfect snow cave. However, Joe is nervous, remembering a near-death experience with Ian Whittaker in the French Alps; the men fell down a "2,000 foot abyss" attached to the wall of their snow cave that had fallen away.</p> <p>Ian Whittaker never climbed again, but Joe did: indicating he has the perseverance to overcome fear, difficult circumstances and traumatic memories.</p>	<p>"It would be quite adequate for a night's sleep...it was solid and gave us no reason to think it might be unsafe." p.37 "I felt myself drop swiftly... as I went plummeting down the 2,000 foot abyss below." "We hung on that fragile rope for twelve formidable hours." "Eventually our shouts were heard and a rescue helicopter succeeded in plucking us from the wall." p.39 "Ian...desire to climb had been destroyed...I was lucky, or stupid, and got over my dread-except when it came to bivouacs." p.39</p>
<p>Towards the summit the men have to climb up huge serracs (flutings of snow). Doing so, icicles fall down on Joe, splitting his lip and cracking his tooth; he perseveres through this injury.</p>	<p>There was a formidable barrier of tooth-shaped serracs with no apparent way through them." p.41 "A hundred weight of icicles smashed down on to my head and shoulders...the sharp pain of a split lip and a cracked tooth." "You're lip's bleeding," he (Simon) said flatly." "It's nothing." (Joe) p.44-45</p>
<p>The terrain and conditions are foreign to the men making it difficult to gauge a safe climbing response.</p>	<p>"South American mountains were renowned for these spectacular snow and ice creations, whose powder snow seemed to defy gravity...ridges</p>

	turned into tortured unstable cornices of huge size...on any other mountains the powder would have swept on down and only formed on much easier-angled slopes. p.45
Joe's feet slip on the difficult terrain, ascending up the mountain, <b>foreshadowing the fall that will take place on the descent.</b>	"My left foot slipped and the crampon point skittered on the rock. I hated this sort of delicate balanced climbing but I was committed to it now no going back." p.46
The men realise that they are not going to make the summit by the end of the second day.	"Four hours to climb 300 hundred feet. I seriously doubted whether we would be able to get up these flutings." p.47
Simon gets the first stages of frost-bite on one of his hands. The temperature continues to drop.	"I think my little finger is frost-bitten. It's white down to the hand." p.48 "wind chill temperature down nearer to minus forty." p.48
There unexpected second night, bivving on the ascent is problematic because they may not have enough gas to boil water for the entire climb: ascent and descent.	"How much gas have we got left?" I asked. "One tin." (Simon) "We haven't got much fruit juice left either. Just one packet." (Joe) "Enough for one more bivvi, that's all we need." (Simon)
Joe Simpson and Simon Yates reach the summit of the previously unclimbed West Face of Siula Grande. <b>Joe feels a sense of anti-climax as he knows he will now need to seek out a ne climbing challenge.</b>	"Summit...we took off our sacks and sat on them. p.52 "I felt the usual anti-climax... <b>if you succeed with one dream, you come back to square one and it' not long before you're conjuring up another, slightly harder, more ambitious- a bit more dangerous.</b> " p.53
A bad storm hits the summit and the men must quickly descend. <b>Visibility is almost non-existent.</b>	"The clouds closed in on us after half and hour...ten minutes later we were lost in the white-out." p.54
At the beginning of the descent, Simon falls through a cornice of snow, trying to get to the ridge: a near-death event, indicating that the descent may be more life-threatening than the ascent.	"The ropes ran unchecked through my wet icy gloves for a few feet then tugged sharply at my harness." (Joe) p.55 "There was no warning. No crack. One minute I was climbing, the next I was falling." (Simon) "I shivered at the thought of what had happened if I had moved up with him- it would have taken both of us." (Joe) "When he did finally stop, he was hanging in space." (Joe) p.56 "I had to think it out before I realized you had held my fall...I was hanging thirty feet above the ridge line...when I finally go up I heard you shouting...I was nearly too tired to answer.

## 2) THE CONFLICT/PROBLEM:

**What is happening to place the characters in a difficult circumstance?**

**What is the problem?**

**What conflict/s arise?**

THE CONFLICT/S OR PROBLEM/S	QUOTES/DIALOGUE TO SUPPORT THIS IDEA
<p>Joe refers to the space surrounding Siula Grande as "the void."</p> <p>Joe feels anxiety about what may happen on their descent but sees this as the normal nerves felt in their dangerous situation.</p> <p>Simon has frostbite.</p> <p>The men have planned to use the last of their gas bottle on the final morning of their descent.</p> <p>The men have a near fall, roped together.</p> <p>Simon had witnessed a fatal accident in the French Alps: two Japanese climbers were killed together; there was nothing he or his climbing partner could do.</p> <p>Simon had to recover from the trauma of his climbing in the French Alps.</p> <p>The men use the last of their gas bottle and know they will have no more water, until the glacial lakes below.</p>	<p>"the clouds which had closed <u>over the void</u> again several hundred feet below us." p.58</p> <p>"As I climbed up to rejoin his tracks it occurred to me that I had felt a moment of anxiety only minutes before Simon had fallen." p.58</p> <p>"The descent was already far more serious than we had reckoned."</p> <p>"Two of Simon's finger's were frostbitten." p.61</p> <p>"Falling over the cornice had shaken both of us." p.62</p> <p>"We only had enough gas for two drinks in the morning, but that should be enough." p.62</p> <p>"The image of the two of us falling helplessly down the East Face, still roped together, had all too nearly come true." p.62</p> <p>"The year before he (Simon) had witnessed just such a terrible accident at the Croz Spur, high in the Mont Blanc range of the French Alps. Two Japanese climbers had fallen to their deaths from close to where he stood...He had seen the falling leader jerk and twist and, without a sound, pull his partner into the void...The two men plunged down, roped together, helpless." p.62-63</p> <p>"There was nothing they could do for the two men, who would never have survived the fall, and the quickest way to get news to the rescue services would be over the summit and down into Italy." p.63</p> <p>A day later he (Simon) was his normal self again: an experience absorbed, Shelved in his memory, understood and accepted, and left at that." p.64</p> <p>"There would be no more water until we got down to the lakes below." p.65</p>
<p>Joe's ice axe slips from its placement as he is descending the ice-wall. Both knees lock as he hits the slope and he shatters his right knee joint. He is unable to climb any further and believes that he will die on the mountain.</p>	<p>"As the hammer came out there was a sharp cracking sound and my right hand, gripping the axe, pulled down. The sudden jerk turned me outwards and instantly I was falling." p.71-72</p> <p>"Both knees locked as I struck it (the slope). I felt a shattering blow in my knee, felt bones splitting, and screamed."</p> <p>"Simon would be ripped off the mountain."</p> <p>"grotesque distortion in the right knee, twisting the leg into a strange zigzag." p.72</p> <p>"It wasn't just broken, it was ruptured, twisted, crushed, and I could see the kink in the joint and knew what had happened. <b>The impact had driven my lower leg up through the knee joint.</b>" p.73</p> <p>Dying had seemed so far away, yet now everything was tinged with it." p.73</p>

	<p><b>"We were above 19,000 feet, still on the ridge, and very much alone...I looked at the small rise I had hoped to scale quickly...I would never get over it. Simon would not be able to get me up it. He would leave me. He had no choice."</b> p.73</p>
	<p>"For and age, I felt overwhelmed at the notion of being left." p.74</p>
	<p>"I've broken my leg." (Joe)          "He had an odd air of detachment. I felt unnerved by it, felt suddenly quite different from him, alienated...Pity. Pity and something else; a distance given to a wounded animal which could not be helped." p.74          "In an instant an uncrossable gap had come between us and we were no longer a team working together." p.75</p>
	<p>"You're dead...no two ways about it!"          "I accepted without question that I could get off the mountain alone." p.76 (Simon's thoughts)</p>
	<p>"I was amazed to see that Joe had started traversing away from the cliff...He moved so slowly." p.77 (Simon's thoughts)          "I couldn't help him, and it occurred to me that in all likelihood he would fall to his death. I wasn't disturbed by the thought. <b>In a way I hoped he would fall...I had no idea how I might help him. I could get down. If I tried to get him down I might die with him.</b> It didn't frighten me. It just seemed a waste. It would be pointless. I kept staring at him expecting him to fall." p.79 (Simon's thoughts)          "I started after him." p.78 (Simon's thoughts)</p>

### 3) CHARACTERS' SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES/ACTIONS:

What do the characters do to survive?

How do they try to get themselves out of this problem/conflict/difficult circumstance?

CHARACTERS' SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES/ACTIONS	QUOTES/DIALOGUE TO SUPPORT THIS IDEA
Joe hangs suspended over the cliff's edge in darkness. He is slowly freezing.	"With each gust I was getting colder." p.98 The pressure of the harness on my waist and thighs had cut off the circulation and both legs felt numb." p.98
Fear and a sense of extreme exhaustion overcomes Joe.	"Twinges of fear lurked round my mind but even these were fading as it crept through me." p.98 "I felt so tired; sleepy tired, and weak." p.99
Joe resolves that he will die. He is also aware of Simon's precarious position and that with his weight, Simon will be pulled from the mountain.	"I stopped shouting at Simon. I knew he was in the same position as e, unable to move." p.99 <b>"Either he would die in his seat or be pulled from it by the constant strain of my body."</b> p.99 <b>"He would be colder than me."</b>
Joe's apathy about death sets in and he remembers a fellow climber, Toni Kurtz, whose will to live on a mountain, was constant to the very end. This memory is a direct contrast to Joe's willingness to succumb to the inevitable.	"Each thought of death, of mine or his, came quite unemotionally...I was too tired to care. Perhaps if I was scared I would fight harder." p.99 "I accepted that I was to die. There was no alternative. It caused me no dreadful fear." p.107 "Toni Kurtz had fought and fought when he was dying on the Eiger. He had never once stopped fighting, and he had dropped suddenly dead on the rope still fighting to live. Rescuers had watched him die." p.99
Joe does not want Simon to die because of his injury and circumstance; he does not believe that this is fair. Joe's anger sets in and he curses the situation, the weather and his own weakness.	"I hope Simon doesn't die, that's hard...he shouldn't have to die for me." p.99 "Anger surged through me. It warmed me, shook me, driving the cold off in a tirade of obscenities and frustrated tears." p.100
Joe feels responsible for Simon's outcome.	"Everything came down to me. It was <i>my</i> knee that was smashed. <i>I</i> had fallen, and <i>I</i> was dying, and Simon with me." p.100
Simon reflects on his and Joe's efforts to get down the mountain and sees the process of events as admirable and successful. He also admires Joe's resilience in the midst of pain.	"We had made such fast progress. Efficient. I felt proud about it....especially with Joe digging the seats for me...Wonder whether I would have done that? Who knows? p.101 (Simon)
Simon knows that Joe has fallen and that he can not help him; Joe's weight is too heavy.	"Joe's fallen...Whatever Joe had gone over had stopped him getting his weight off the rope." p.101 (Simon)
Simon is slowly slipping from the mountain. He is also extremely cold.	"I couldn't hold the weight much longer." p.101 "I kept stamping my feet. I was trying to halt the collapse of the seat but it wasn't working. I felt the shivers of fear...I can't hold it, can't stop it. God I had to do something." p.102 (Simon) "I was shaking with cold." (Simon)
Simon remembers his knife and almost without hesitation, secures his position on the mountain and cuts the rope. Immediately he feels the weight of Joe, leave him.	"The knife. The thought came out of nowhere. Of course, the knife. Be quick, come on get it." "It needed no pressure. The taut rope exploded at the touch of the blade." p.103 (Simon) "I was alive and at that moment that was all I could think about. Where Joe was, or whether he was alive, didn't concern me in the long silence of the cutting. His weight had gone from me." p.102 (Simon) "Had I killed him...I felt numb, freezing cold and

<p>Simon is tormented by what he has done. He questions his judgment and rationalizes that he had no other choice, if he was to survive himself.</p>	<p>shocked into a numbed silence.” p.103  “Plagued with endless thoughts which turned madly upon themselves, sleep was impossible.” p.104 (Simon)  “I wanted to question what I had done. It seemed necessary to prosecute myself...I was actually pleased that I had been strong enough to cut the rope...A lot of people would have died before getting it together...<b>I was still alive because I had held everything together right up to the last moment.</b>” p.105 (Simon)  <b>“I should feel guilty. I don’t. I did right.”</b> p.105</p>
<p>Simon is extremely dehydrated (24 hours since last drink of water) but has no gas to make liquid. He has built a snow cave to rest in for the night but barely sleeps</p>	<p>“It was nearly twenty-four hours since I had taken a drink....I smelt the water in the snow around me and it maddened me...an insistent craving for liquid.” p.105 (Simon)</p>
<p>Simon prepares for the day’s descent alone but believes (calmly) that he too will die.</p>	<p>“I was in no hurry to start down and was certain it would be my last day.” p.106 (Simon)  “My fear had gone and I was quiet. I felt cold and hard...I was as ready as I would ever be.” p.107  “I was about to die.” p.107 (Simon)</p>
<p>Joe recalls his fall and his break through the crevasse. He is astounded when he hits the edge that he is alive and laughs at this fact.</p> <p>Joe realizes he has landed on a ice ledge and secures himself to the crevasse wall with an ice screw and the rope.</p>	<p>“I fell. Like something cam alive, the rope lashed violently against my face and I fell silently, endlessly into nothingness.” p.108 (Joe)  Now the crevasse! Ahh...NO!...Bursting electric flashes in my eyes as I heard, but never felt, the air rushing from my body.” p.108  “Alive!...laughed again, a real happy laugh.” p.109  “Behind me I felt my legs against a slope of snow...I was on a ledge, or a bridge.” p.109  “After several abortive attempts suddenly I found that I had tied a series of knots...I clipped it to the ice screw, smiling foolishly into the darkness.” p.110</p>
<p>Joe calls out to Simon and then considers that he may be dead. He can not bare this thought.</p>	<p>“Simon!...Dead? I couldn’t conceive of him dead, <i>not now, not after I had survived.</i>” p.111</p>
<p>Joe lights up the crevasse with his torch and sees that there is 100 feet of space (at least) below him. He feels trapped.</p>	<p>“I searched in my rucksack for the spare torch battery I knew was there...I switched on the beam.. By the light I could see down into 100 feet of space...I felt trapped and looked quickly for some break in the walls. There was none...Only the small black hole above...unless I climbed the blocks it was unreachable as the stars.” p.112</p>
<p>Joe thinks that his only hope is if Simon comes to rescue him and then considers that Simon might be dead. He understands that Simon will think he is dead.</p>	<p>“I could only think of Simon. He was the only chance of escape, but somehow I was convinced that if he was not dead, then he would think that I was...You can’t fall that far and survive. That’s what he would think.” p.113</p>
<p>Joe is immensely angry at his predicament.</p>	<p>“I swore again and kept swearing...I screamed frustration and anger until my throat dried and I could shout no more.” p.113</p>
<p>Joe pulls the rope to him and realizes Simon has cut it. He cries, truly believing that he will die in the crevasse.</p> <p>Joe has no hope that Simon will come to rescue him.</p>	<p>“Did he fall with me? Find out...pull the rope.” p.113  “I drew the slack rope to me, and stared at the frayed end. Cut! I couldn’t take my eyes from it.”  “I turned off the torch and sobbed quietly in the dark, feeling overwhelmed. I cried in bursts, and between them listened to the childlike sounds fade beneath me, then cried again.” p.114  “Acceptance seemed better...Simon would leave me for dead.” p.114</p>
<p>Joe tries to climb out of the crevasse but his injury is excruciating and he can not lift himself.</p>	<p>“I made four attempts to climb the vertical ice wall...I would not try again.”</p>

CHARACTERS' SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES/ACTIONS	QUOTES/DIALOGUE TO SUPPORT THIS IDEA
Joe decides to belay himself down deeper into the crevasse, to find an opening.	"I already knew that I wasn't going through that madness again....threw the rope down to the right...I let myself slide off the edge...If there was nothing there (on the ledge) I didn't want to come back." p.116 (Joe)
Simon recollects how the weather had closed in on their tracks as he descends.	"There was no trace of our passing. The night had swept it clean." p.117 (Simon) "I could have moved quicker, but somehow there didn't seem any point...I wanted to do this thing with clam and dignity." p.118 (Simon)
Simon is shocked to see that he lowered Joe into a huge crevasse. He imagines how terrible this would have been.	"It wasn't until I had descended half the rope's length that I glanced down and saw the crevasse...I stared at the endless black depths...Joe had undoubtedly fallen into the crevasse. I was appalled...I shut my eyes tightly and pressed my forehead against the taut rope." p.120 (Simon) "I might as well have put a gun to his (Joe's) head." p.118 (Simon)
Simon almost wishes that he and Joe were still fighting to survive on the mountain and that maybe Joe had died in this process. At least then Simon would have been 'courageous' to the end.	"Everything had changed so much. I almost wished it were still as bad. At least then I would be fighting for something. I would have reasons to justify my survival and his end." <b>"If I hadn't cut the rope, I would most certainly have died."</b> p.120 (Simon) "Yet having saved myself, I was now going to return home and tell people a story that few would ever believe. <b>No one cuts the rope!"</b>
Simon calls into the crevasse but resolves that Joe must be dead. He does not go back for a second look.	"Joe!" I shouted, but the sound echoed into the blackness...I turned away, suppressing the thought of going back for a second look." p.121-122 (Simon)
Simon is hungry, dehydrated and weak. Even if he wanted to come back for Joe with a search party, it would be days before his return.	"The lack of food and water in the last twenty-four hours had taken its toll...I wondered whether I would even get back to base camp. It would take days to eat, rest, and recover enough to mount a rescue attempt." p.122 "When I was strong enough to return he would have died some desperate lonely death in the ice. 'Yes. It's the best way.' I whispered." p.122
Simon finds water.	"The descent had become a confused blur of endless boulder fields, burning midday sun, and the thirst." p.124 (Simon)
Simon considers not telling people that he cut the rope; who would know otherwise?	"Wet scree...I saw that there was not enough flow to satisfy my carving thirst." p.124
Simon considers not telling people that he cut the rope; who would know otherwise?	"Why tell them that you cut the rope? They'll never know otherwise...Just say he fell down a crevasse...Yeah1 Tell them we were unroped...He's dead. How he died isn't important. I didn't kill. It's lucky I'm here at all...so why make it worse. I can't tell the truth." p.125 (Simon)
When Simon meets Richard, he explains the truth of what has happened. He feels doing otherwise would dishonor Joe's attempts to survive.	"I saw Richard slowly walking towards me...'Joe's dead'...'Yeah he fell,' I said flatly." p.127 (Simon) "Without realizing I was doing it. I told Richard exactly what happened. I could have done nothing else...Not to have done so would have saved me hurt...I could not say Joe had fallen

<p>Joe is afraid as he lowers himself further into the crevasse.</p>	<p>from a glacier, not after he had been through so much trying to survive." p.128          "We talked no more of Joe." p.128 (Simon)</p>
<p>Joe sees a light in the roof of the crevasse. He is determined to get out of there.</p>	<p>"The desire to stop abseiling became almost unbearable." p.130 (Joe)          "The torment of anticipating something unknown...I hung shaking on the rope with my helmet pressed to the ice." p.131 (Joe)</p>
<p>Joe is determined to get out of the crevasse.</p>	<p>"A pillar of golden light beamed diagonally from a small hole in the roof, spraying bright reflections off the far wall of the crevasse." p.132          I knew without absolute certainty. How I would do it, and when I would reach it were not considered. I just knew. In seconds my whole outlook had changed....The twelve despairing hours I had spent...seemed suddenly to have been nothing like the nightmare I had imagined." p.133  <b>"I could crawl and climb, and keep on doing so until I had escaped from the grave."</b> p.133</p>
<p>Because Joe has a goal, he is able to overcome his fear and his pain.</p> <p>He continues to have doubts; which he must fight.</p>	<p>"Now I had a plan." p.133          "The change in me was astonishing. I felt invigorated, full of energy and optimism. I could see possible dangers, very real risks that could destroy my hopes, but somehow I knew I could overcome them." p.133          "For a brief moment I wondered whether I had been deluding myself with the idea that I could possibly reach the sun above...The menace was my imagination but I couldn't stop it playing in my mind." p.135</p>
	<p>"I dug my ice-axes deep into the snow above me and then hauled myself up the snow with my arms...my knee throbbed painfully." p.136</p>
<p>Joe feels as though he has had a second chance at life.</p>	<p>"My head popped up through the snow roof and I stared gopher-like at the scene outside...I lay against the snow numb with relief. I felt as if I had been fighting someone too strong for me for far too long...I had succeeded beyond my wildest hopes."</p>
<p>The reality sets in, that Joe has not overcome the worst of the journey back to base camp.</p>	<p>"I was 200 feet above the glacier and six miles from base camp...I almost believed that I would be allowed to escape." p.140</p>
	<p>"I had never been so entirely alone...I was committed. The game had taken over and I could no longer choose to walk away from it." p.141</p>
<p>Joe refers to "the voice" as his determination; his logical mind edging him on.</p>	<p>"It was like there were two minds within me arguing the toss. The <i>voice</i> was clean and sharp and commanding. It was always right, and I listened to it when it spoke and acted on its decisions. The other mind rambled out a disconnected series of images." p.141          "I had to get to the glacier." p.141</p>
<p>Manageable goals help Joe to cover the terrain.</p>	<p>"Eventually I managed to unhook the spikes."          "The <i>voice</i>, and the watch, urged me into motion...I kept moving...the <i>voice</i> told me to reach that point in half an hour. I obeyed. Sometimes I found myself slacking...I was told that I must reach the prescribed spot in time." p.144-145</p>
<p>Joe presents his hopes: his mother/grandmother praying for him.</p>	<p>"I hoped that Ma was praying for me as she always did." p.145</p>

<p>Joe sings a song to cover the distance, in the timing of his footsteps.</p>	<p>"I sang lyrics of a pop song incessantly to the tune of my crawling." p.145  "A cold, clinical side of me assessed everything, decide what to do and made me do it."  "Events passed in slow motion, and thoughts became so confused I lost all sense of time passing....Ten minutes later the <i>voice</i> would jolt me back to reality....I passed like a ship passes an iceberg. I drifted slowly by." p.145  "The <i>voice</i> I banished the mad thoughts from my mind...<i>Go on, keep going...faster. You've wasted too much time. Go on before you lose the tracks...the voice</i> said I would lose my way, said I would never get through the crevasses without the prints." p.147</p>
<p>Joe is concerned that the falling snow will hide their previous climbing tracks.</p>	<p>"Fresh falling snow!...The snow and wind would hide the footprints."</p>
<p>Simon tries to deal with the reality that Joe is dead.</p> <p>The mountainous area becomes detestable to Simon; everything is tainted with the loss of Joe.</p>	<p>"Joe had been dead thirty-six hours...there was a hollow ache inside ; which no food could fill...he was gone and there was nothing I could do about it." p.150-151  "I hated the place for its cruelty and for what it had made me do. I wondered whether I had murdered him." p.151</p>
<p>Simon tries to death with Joe's death through a ritual cleansing and burning of Joe's clothes.</p>	<p>"I spent a long time by the pool, cleaning my clothes and picking the sunburn from my face. It was a peaceful cleansing ritual and my despair gradually faded." p.151 (Simon)  "I knew once I had accepted it, I could tell others. They would never know what it had been like...the healing process had started."  "Another drawn out session of picking, cleaning and inspecting followed. It was wonderfully restorative...It was a luxury and a balm. Feet, fingers, face, hair, chest and legs- all got the treatment." p.152 (Simon)  "I gathered all the things I wanted to give his parents." p.152 (Simon)  "I ignored what climbing equipment he had left behind."  "He (Richard) fetched some petrol and we burnt the clothes in the river bed."</p>
<p>Richard is a great support to Simon, providing food, hydration and encouragement.</p>	<p>"Richard made a hot meal and endless cups of tea." p.152 (Simon)</p>
<p>Joe is beginning to hallucinate: remembering things from his past. He also believes that Simon and Richard are following him at one point (but that they are embarrassed at his condition).</p>	<p>"I recited a soliloquy from Shakespeare over and over again." p.153 (Joe)  "I realised how desperately thirsty I was."  "Where had the rest of the day gone? Was this due to lack of food and water? ...I needed to consume at least one and a half litres of fluid each day, just to combat the dehydration of altitude.. Food did not worry me. I wasn't hungry...Eating snow quenched the dryness in my mouth for a short time...It wasn't possible to eat enough snow to stave off that urgent need for liquid." p.150-151 (Joe)</p>
<p>Joe can not find their original trail.</p> <p>Joe makes it to the rocks.</p>	<p>" I crossed and re-crossed my tracks....I sat up and searched intently for some remembered landmark in the snows ahead...there were no more crevasses." p.158-159  "All those rocks!"</p>
	<p>"My memory was working fine." p.160 (Joe)  "Somewhat I couldn't get its insistent chant out of my mind...<i>Brown girl in the ring...Tra la la la</i></p>

Joe protects his knee from further injury and the pain of falling by wrapping it in his sleeping mat.  Setting time goals passes the monotony, pain and dilusions.	<i>la.</i> "I wrapped it (the sleeping mat) twice around my knee...with a strap from my crampons I buckled it tight on to my upper thigh." p.161 "There was no question of crawling. Walking was also out, so it would have to be hopping...I was hunched over like an arthritic pensioner...with all my weight on the axe I made a violent hop forward...my axe shaft would slip on a loose rock and send me tumbling half-way through a hop, or I would land on some scree and fall sideways into the boulders." p.162 "I forgot why I was doing it; forgot even the idea that I would probably make it. Running on instincts that I never suspected were in me...I timed myself religiously...I looked ahead to a landmark and gave myself half an hour to reach it...it felt so damned important to beat the watch...the watch became as crucial as my good leg."
Joe finally gets water.	"Half a mouthful of gritty water...I caught it in my throat and I coughed explosively."
	"The moraines were as lifeless as the glacier."
He realizes that time goals are pivotal to make pace.	"I stopped timing landmarks and set my sights on Bomb Alley...when it became dark I had no idea how far Bomb Alley was...without checking my watch I had lain in stupefied exhaustion." p.166
Simon can not leave the area. He does not know why. Richard convinces him to leave the next morning.	"Why did I feel strongly against moving, there was nothing to gain." p.168 (Simon) "We'll go first thing in the morning." p.168 (Simon)
Joe finally makes it to the camp and crawls into the latrine.	"The previous hours of despair had been forgotten." p.177 (Joe) "There was a high fecal smell gutting round me." p.186 "SIIMMMon" p.186

#### 4) THE OUTCOME

**Are the characters' survival techniques/actions successful?**

**What is the outcome of the character/s situation?**

THE OUTCOME- What happens to the character/s? * Do they survive?	QUOTES/DIALOGUE TO SUPPORT THIS IDEA
Joe sees the light of the tent come on.  Simon screams out to Joe. The men find Joe and Simon swears a lot.  Joe has nothing left: no energy, no resilience. Simon can not believe that Joe is alive.	"I thought at first it was an electric flash in my head...It kept on glowing, red and green, pulsing colours into the black night." p.187 "A spray of yellow light suddenly cut from the colours in a wide cone...'The tents!! They're still here...'" p.187 (Joe) "Joe! Is that you? JOE!" (Simon) "Help me...please help." "His (Simon's) words tumbled out in an obscene litany, expletives said for no reason, a meaningless stream of obscenities, with Richard hovering, nervous, scared of the pain." p.188 "Dying...couldn't take it anymore. Too much for me...too much...thought it was over...please help." (Joe) p.188 "He knelt by my side staring at me, and I could see

<p>Joe thanks Simon for trying to get him down the mountain.</p> <p>The men laugh at the fact that Joe has no clothes- Simon (and Richard) burned them.</p>	<p>a confusion of pity, and horror, and alarm fighting in his eyes." p.189          "I smiled at him, and he grinned back." p.189          "Thanks, Simon," I said. "You did right....Thank you, I said again, knowing it could never tell him what I felt." p.189  <b>"You saved my life you know. It must have been terrible for you that night. I don't blame you. You had no choice. I understand that, and I understand why you thought I was dead. You did all you could have done. Thanks for getting me down." p.192 (Joe)</b>          "There were tears on his cheeks: "Honestly, I thought you were dead. I was sure of it...I couldn't see how you would possibly have survived....I wish I'd have stayed longer...just believed you could still be alive. It would have saved you so much." p.193 (Simon)          "I've burnt all your clothes!"..."I thought you weren't..." p.189-190 (Simon)          "He (Simon) burst out laughing at the expression on my face, and I laughed with him." p.190          "Hours went by without us noticing, and the tent filled with a babble of voices blurting out our stories." p.190          "At every gesture, a touch on the arm, a look, an intimacy we would never have dared show before and never would again." p.190</p>
<p>Richard cooks food and Simon makes Joe eat it.</p>	<p>"Endless cups of tea given with concern...Simon forced me to finish the porridge as Richard prepared fried egg sandwiches."          Eat it! Simon said sternly." p.190          "He had suddenly become stern and efficient."          "We'll have to get you out of here quickly." p.191 (Simon)          "I (Joe) need rest and food. I can't cope two days on a mule straight away." p.192 "You'll just have too. There's no question about it. It'll be three days before you get to a hospital. You've got frostbite, as well as the leg, and you're exhausted. If you leave it any longer, it will get infected."          p.192 (Simon)          "He (Richard) hesitated by the stove...He moved to my side and held my leg gingerly below the knee." p.191          "The leg was a bloated stump stained yellow and brown, with livid purple streaks running down from the knee. There was no discernable difference between my thigh and my ankle." p.191          "It's bad," Simon muttered..."You've broken your heel as well." p.191          "Simon, I'll never be able to cope with the mule. You don't know how weak I am." p.195 (Joe)          "It'll be all right. We'll help you." p.195 (Simon)</p>
<p>Joe reflects on his situation now that he is back at camp</p>	<p>The moment I knew help was at hand something had collapsed inside me. Whatever had been holding me together had gone. Now I could not think for myself, let alone crawl! There was nothing to fight for, no patterns to follow, no voice, and it frightened me to think that without these, I might run out of life." p.195 (Joe)</p>
<p>Joe rides the donkey back to civilisation</p>	<p>"The next two days were a blur of exhaustion and pain...Somehow I managed not to fall."          "Simon mothered me down through the bad</p>

	times, walking back and forth on the trail, goading the donkey driver to increase his pace...walking close by when sleep and weakness threatened to topple me from the saddle." p.195-196 (Joe)
The party are asked to help transport a man who is badly injured on their truck to a hospital	"We all turned to examine the old man...grimacing with pain...the man's legs were smashed. I had a brief glimpse of two distorted legs, ripped open raw wounds, blood stains, and the deep angry purple colour of infection." p.197 (Joe) "Bad. He (the man) hasn't a hope!" p.197 (Simon)
Joe talks of his experiences in the hospital in Lima	"The hospital was frightenly out of date by our standards." p.198 (Joe) "I lay there for two indescribable days without food, painkillers or antibiotics until my insurance was confirmed by telex and they deigned to operate on me." p.198 (Joe) "Wait until you get home, for the love of God, don't let them do it...Darkness slipped over the lights and slowly all muffled down to silence." p.199
Ten years later Simon writes in his version of the story about the events that led to the accident, how it was inevitable considering their errors	"Only with hindsight could I see that there had been a build-up to that moment. During the days before we had made many errors of judgment. We had not eaten or drunk enough and carried on climbing long after nightfall. By doing so, we had allowed ourselves to become cold, exhausted and dehydrated." p.204 (Simon)
Joe reflects after ten years on the mistakes and errors made and how their youthful inexperience led to the accident	"We hadn't allowed ourselves enough gas to keep us adequately hydrated. Our small canister between the two of us per day was simply inefficient. So as to save weight, we had pared everything down to a minimum. It left us no room to manoeuvre when things started to go drastically wrong....If we had done that (dug a snow cave, slept and started the next day) we would have seen and avoided the ice cliff, and remained in control." p.204-5 (Joe)
Simon reflects on his decision to cut the rope.	"All my agonizing after cutting the rope had not changed anything. My decision had been right; we had both survived...I know that my decision would be the same....Ultimately, we have to look after ourselves, whether in the mountains or in day to day life...that is not a licence to be selfish, for only taking good care of ourselves are we able to help others. Away from the mountains...the price of neglecting this responsibility might be a marriage breaking down, a disruptive child, a business failing or a house repossessed. In the mountains the penalty for neglect can often be death." p.206 (Simon)
Joe writes a final word on why he needed to tell the story to show that Simon did nothing wrong	"I wrote this book in the hope that, by telling the story straight, it might nip in the bud any harsh or unfair criticism of Simon." "We are fallible and accidents happen. I suppose the trick is to anticipate all the possible consequences of what you set out to do so that, if things go wrong, you are better to stay in control." p.206 (Joe)