

Touching the Void-Key Quotes

Chapter One-Beneath the Mountain Lakes:

- “We could have been anywhere.” P1 **Nature**
- “...separated from the nearest village by twenty eight miles of rough walking...” P1 **Isolation**
- “...I relished this moment when I could be entirely alone.” P2 **Isolation**
- “...4,500 foot West Face had so far defeated all attempts.” P2
Foreshadowing
- “Richard...cramped and cold...headed straight for the river bed, clutching a roll of toilet paper.” P3 **Relationships**
- Richard-“...he was no mountaineer...He had lived off grubs and berries with pygmies...He travelled the world between bouts of hard work to raise funds. Usually he journeyed alone to see where chance encounters in alien cultures would take him...There were distinct advantages...to having an entertaining watchman in camp to keep an eye on the gear while Simon and I were out climbing.” P3
Relationships
- Richard-“...the effects of altitude...” P4 **Adventure**
- Simon-“...vivid dream...hallucinations were a direct result of the sleeping pills...I resolved to try some that very night.” P4
Relationships
- Joe’s diary: “It feels menacingly remote and exhilarating at the same time...no hordes of climbers, no helicopters, no rescue-just us and the mountains...” P5 **Isolation**
- Simon on the weather: “My only worry is the weather.” P5
Foreshadowing
- Joe on the weather: “These weather patterns were different somehow.” P5
Foreshadowing
- Joe on Simon: “...but something was nagging at me, making me question him.” P6 **Foreshadowing**
- Joe on Simon: “I envied Simon his carefree take it as it comes attitude.” P6
Relationships
- Joe on Simon: “There were few other people I could have coped with for so long. Simon was everything I was not, everything I would like to have been.” P6 **Relationships**
- “I had worried unduly about whether there would be a marked difference between us.” P7 **Relationships**
- “I was forced to agree that it might be wise to stop during this expedition.” P7 **Foreshadowing**
- “I became aware of the silence and the solitude of our position.” P7
Isolation
- “I became aware of a feeling of complete freedom...” P8 **Adventure**
- “We had responsibilities to no one but ourselves now, and there would be no one to intrude or come to our rescue...” P8 **Adventure**
- “18,000 feet...a height record for both of us...” P10 **Adventure**

- “Neither of us said anything about going straight down. It was an unspoken understanding between us that the summit would be left out this time.” P10 **Relationships**
- “...arrived back at camp exhilarated and panting.” P10 **Adventure**
- “...girls at the huts...had a wild, abandoned look about them...” P11 **Isolation**
- “..the weather had taken a turn for the worse and dark threatening clouds were rapidly converging on our exposed position.” P12 **Foreshadowing**
- “We ...wondered what Richard would think of our third failure to reach the summit. But we were fit, acclimatised and ready now for our main objective-the West Face of Siula Grande.” P13 **Relationships/Adventure**
- “I began to feel spasms of fear now that we were committed to Siula...What of something went wrong?” P13 **Foreshadowing**
- “It was healthy to be a little scared and good to sense my body responding to the fear.” P14 **Adventure**
- “In the morning the outlook was bleak.” P14 **Foreshadowing**
- “There was an odd sense of menace in the air.” P14 **Foreshadowing**
- “Simon glanced at me-‘and if we’re not back after a week you’ll be the proud owner of all our gear!’” P14 **Relationships/Adventure/ Foreshadowing**
- “I could see Richard laughed only because we laughed. I didn’t envy him...Five days was a very long time, especially on your own with no one to talk to.” P15 **Relationships**
- Joe on Richard-“...he looked forlornly abandoned. He was in for a lonely time.” P16 **Relationships**
- “...we looked back at our route so as to fix the features in our minds. Neither of us wanted to forget it on the way down.” P16 **Foreshadowing**

Chapter Two: Tempting Fate

- “It was cold.” P17 **Short/Snappy**
- “Right then, this was it!” P17 **Short/Snappy**
- “The weather looked perfect.” P17 **Motivational**
- “Head down, keep looking at your feet, swing, swing, hop, look at your feet, swing swing...no effort, no headache, feeling on top of the world...This was it!” P18 **Ellipsis**
- “Simon was coming up, hitting hard, ice splintering down below him, hitting hard and strong...head down, hitting, hopping, on past me and up without a word...” P19 **Ellipsis**
- “...the rhythm became ragged with monotony.” P19 **Negative**
- “For the moment we were safe.” P19 **Foreshadowing**
- Joe comments on the icfield sloping below: “Looming over, with my stomach clenched and a sharp sense of danger, I enjoyed the feeling.” P19 **Adventure**

THEMES: Survival/Adventure/Isolation/Trust/Friendship
LANGUAGE: Ellipsis/Short Snappy/Personification/Symbolism/Motivational/Negative
Language/Verbs/Adjectives/Nature/Landscape
Foreshadowing/Narrative Hook
Narrative Perspective-Point of View

- "...we were directly under their fall line." Joe on Simon-"He too had realised the danger." P21 **Relationships/Adventure**
- "I slowed down, climbing carefully, cautious of rushing into a mistake." P22 **Adventure**
- Simon-"Get moving, I don't like it here." P22 **Foreshadowing**
- "Hit hard. Hit again-that's it, now the hammer. Look at your feet...no time to answer. This way is wrong. Damn, damn!" P24 **Ellipsis/Short Snappy**
- "Tired and irritable after a hard fifteen hour day, we had dreaded the hour or so it would take us to dig a snow hole." P25 **Negative**
- Simon to Joe on finding a ready made snow hole-" 'I said you wouldn't believe it,' ...all tiredness and bad humour gone." P25 **Relationships/Adventure**
- Joe reflects on a climbing accident two years previously in the Alps, where his camp with a friend Ian, literally collapsed from beneath them: "It was solid and gave us no reason to think it might be unsafe." P27 **Foreshadowing**
- "Suddenly and without warning, I felt myself drop swiftly...went plummeting down into the 2,000 foot abyss...then felt a springy recoil." P27 **Foreshadowing**
- "All my weight was held on my armpits." P27 **Foreshadowing**
- "...the shock of the fall, while half asleep in the dark, had completely confused us." P28 **Foreshadowing**
- "...aware of the seriousness of our position...we would be both hurled into the void...We could do nothing...We hung on that fragile rope...Eventually our shouts were heard and a rescue helicopter succeeded in plucking us from the wall...will never be forgotten." P29 **Foreshadowing**
- "Ian returned to the Alps...but his desire to climb had been destroyed. I was lucky, or stupid and got over my dread-except when it came to bivouacs." P29 **Foreshadowing/Relationships/Adventure**

Chapter Three: Storm at the Summit

- "It was my turn to lead." P30 **Relationships**
- "I reckoned that the main difficulties were now behind us and it would be only a matter of running it out to the top of the ramp, and then up to the summit slopes." P31 **Foreshadowing**
- "When I joined Simon in the ramp, I realised our problems were not over." P31 **Foreshadowing**
- "We alternated lead, rarely talking to each other, concentrating on forcing the pace." P32 **Relationships**
- "I felt confident and at ease." P32 **Motivational**
- "I felt a thrill at the knowledge that I was, at last, on the verge of achieving a first ascent, and a hard one at that." P32 **Motivational**
- "Simon was grinning broadly. I needed no explanation for his good humour." P32 **Relationships**

- “It was one of those moments when everything came together, and there were no struggles or doubts, and nothing more to do but enjoy the sensation.” P32 **Motivational**
- “I watched Simon carefully, for I knew that if he fell it would be with the sudden violence of hand.” P33 **Survival**
- “I tensed...so that I could hold his fall immediately.” P34
- “Without thinking I swung my hammer through the fringe of ice, and even more stupidly, looked up at what I was doing. The best part of a hundredweight of icicles smashed down on to my head and shoulders and clattered down on to Simon.” P35
Survival/Negative/Relationships
- “I cursed myself and the sharp pain of a split lip and cracked tooth, and Simon cursed me.” P35 **Survival/Negative/Relationships**
- Joe to Simon-“Sorry,...didn’t think.” Simon to Joe-“Yeah. I noticed.” P35 **Survival/Negative/Relationships**
- “For the first time we could see the summit...it looked like bad weather was on the way.” P36 **Foreshadowing**
- “...the state of the snow...worried us...We had heard all about Peruvian flutings and hadn’t liked the stories; it was best not to attempt them.” P36 **Foreshadowing**
- “I was standing on a open face with a drop of nearly 4,000 feet below me and felt very unnerved by the exposure. There was a long gap of unprotected rope between me and Simon...his only anchor was his axes buried in the snow, and I knew all too well how useless these would be if I made a mistake.” P37 **Survival/Adventure**
- Joe gets a fright on part of the climb-“I could hear the fear in my voice and cursed myself for letting Simon know it.” P38 **Relationships**
- “...I couldn’t shake off the fear. I was gripped.” P38 **Personification**
- “The sudden fright still had me breathing hard and it annoyed me to see Simon climb easily over the difficulties and know that I had lost control and let fear get the better of me.” P38 **Relationships**
- Joe to Simon-“God! I was gripped stupid on that gully.” Simon to Joe-“I noticed.” P38 **Relationships**
- “...the huge drop framed behind him emphasised the precariousness of our position.” P42 **Isolation**
- “I hesitated.” P42 **Short Snappy**
- “Suddenly our exposed stance appalled me.” P43 **Isolation/Survival**
- Joe on reaching the summit-“...first time in four days I had a new view on which to feast...it felt luxurious to sit there warmed by the sun.” P43 **Adventure**
- “...content to be quiet a while and look around us.” P44 **Adventure**
- “We took the customary summit photos and ate some chocolate. I felt the usual anti-climax. What now? It was a vicious circle. If you succeed with one dream...it’s not long before you’re conjuring up another...a bit more dangerous.” P44 **Adventure**

- "...it always unsettled me, this moment of reaching the summit...gave me time to wonder at what I was doing...was I here purely for pleasure or was it egotism?" P45 **Adventure**
- "The flutings looked impassable." P45 **Foreshadowing/Negative Language**
- "The snowfall was getting heavier. I felt the first twinges of anxiety." P46 **Foreshadowing**
- "This ridge had turned out to be a lot more serious than we had ever imagined..." P47 **Foreshadowing**
- "...ropes suddenly whipped out through my gloves...tugged sharply at my harness, pulling me chest first into the snow slope...Simon must have fallen...the ropes remained taut with his body weight." P47 **Survival**
- Joe describes Simon in shock after his fall-"...one hand on his thigh trying to stop the tell tale tremor in his leg."P48 **Survival/Relationships**
- "...I shivered at the thought of what would have happened if I had moved up with him-it would have taken both of us." P48 **Survival/Relationships**
- Simon to Joe on his fall-"I wasn't scared then, just totally confused and numb." P48 **Relationships**
- Simon to Joe on his fall-"I had to think it out before I realised that you had held my fall." P49 **Relationships**
- "...now faced with a very dangerous ridge which, although it had collapsed, was no safer as a result." P49 **Foreshadowing/Negative Language**

Chapter Four: On the Edge

- "I had felt a moment of anxiety only minutes before Simon had fallen. I had noticed this in the past and had always wondered about it." P50 **Foreshadowing**
- "...I had sensed something would happen without understanding quite what it would be...anxiety had returned with a vengeance...Simon had also tensed up." P50 **Foreshadowing**
- "The descent was already far more serious than we had reckoned." P50 **Foreshadowing**
- "I moved carefully." P51 **Short Snappy**
- "It would be dark in an hour...to make things more difficult, the storm clouds had boiled over us again..." P51 **Foreshadowing**
- "I dropped swiftly...bumped heavily against Simon, stopping jammed up against him." P52 **Adventure/Isolation/Relationships/Short Snappy/Ellipsis**
- "Jesus...I...Oh shit! I thought we'd had it...this is fucking stupid!" P52
- "Simon said nothing." P52 **Adventure/Isolation/Relationships/Short Snappy/Ellipsis**
- "My heart seemed to be trying to hammer its way out of my chest and my legs shook weakly." P52 **Personification**

- “The only flaw I could find in his reasoning was that he didn’t know whether his landing would be loose snow or rock! We were too tired and cold by then to care.” P53 **Foreshadowing**
- Joe on Simon-“He became angry with me when I started to dig another snow cave...was still bristling with anger at my lack of cooperation.” P54 **Relationships**
- “I prepared the meal...by then we had forgotten our tired anger and regained a sense of perspective...the descent had become increasingly difficult...” P54 **Relationships**
- “We had got angry enough with each other today, and more of the same wouldn’t help.” P54 **Relationships**
- “We only had enough gas left for two drinks in the morning, but that should be enough.” P55 **Foreshadowing**
- Joe tells us about Simon seeing two Japanese climbers falling to their deaths-“Both parties were coping equally well in the difficult conditions...two men plunged down, roped together, helpless...Simon...stood...trying to absorb the enormity of what had just taken place so close to them...the chilling sounds of someone in agony, desperately alone and terrified.” P56 **Foreshadowing**
- Joe on Simon’s reaction-“A day later he was his normal self again: an experience absorbed, shelved in his memory, understood and accepted and left at that.” P57 **Foreshadowing/Relationships**
- Joe on himself and Simon-“There would have been no one to watch us, I thought: as if it would have made any difference.” P57 **Foreshadowing**
- “Simon was still asleep...facing away...the close intimacy seemed odd despite how together we had been on the mountain.” P58 **Relationships**
- Joe on Simon’s frostbite-“Funny how my anxiety seemed to have more to do with whether he would be able to carry on climbing after we got down rather than concern for his injuries.” P58 **Relationships**
- “I became resigned to the helplessness of our situation...” P59 **Negative Language**
- “Any fall requiring a rope to stop it was going to be fatal; neither of us would stand a chance.” P59 **Negative Language/Foreshadowing**
- “...I was shaking violently. My legs had gone to jelly...” P61 **Negative Language**
- “I could see the tension in his face. The day was neither enjoyable or funny and when he reached me the fear was infectious...” P61 **Negative Language**

Chapter Five: Disaster

- I began to feel impatient. I was tired of this grinding need to concentrate all the time. The mountain had lost its excitement, its novelty and I wanted to get off it as soon as possible.” P62 **Negative Language**

- “We didn’t speak. This morning had already taken its toll, and there was nothing left to say.” P62 **Relationships**
- “From a safe distance Simon had watched my struggles with a grin on his face.” P63 **Relationships/Survival**
- “Frustration and the mounting exhaustion maddened me to a fury which I knew would be vented on Simon if he came close enough.” P63 **Relationships**
- “I wanted it to be perfect before I removed the axe...there was a sharp cracking sound...the sudden jerk turned me outwards and instantly I was falling.” P66 **Verbs/Adjectives**
- “I felt a shattering blow in my knee, felt bones splitting and screamed.” P66 **Verbs/Adjectives**
- “A wave of nausea surged over me.” P67 **Personification**
- “I’ve broken my leg, that’s it. I’m dead... a broken ankle could turn into a death sentence...It doesn’t hurt so much, maybe I’ve just ripped something.” P67 **Survival/Negative Language**
- “I felt detached from it, as if I were making a clinical observation about someone else.” P67 **Survival/Negative Language**
- “Dying had seemed so far away and yet now everything was tinged with it.” P68 **Survival/Negative Language**
- “...we were...very much alone...” P68 **Isolation**
- “Simon would not be able to get me up it. He would leave me. He had no choice. Left here? Alone? I felt cold at the thought.” P68 **Isolation/Relationships/Survival**
- “I felt like screaming and I felt like swearing, but I stayed silent. If I said a word I would panic. I could feel myself teetering on the edge of it.” P68
- “...what shall I tell him?...I had only hurt my leg and not broken it, would that make him help me?” P68
- “I had to cool it. If he saw me panicky and hysterical he might give up at once.” P69
- “I said as unemotionally as I could, ‘I’ve broken my leg.’” P69
- “His expression changed instantly. I could see a whole range of reactions in his face. I kept looking directly at him. I wanted to miss nothing.” P69
- “He stared at me...in that instant I knew his thoughts. He had an odd air of detachment. I felt unnerved by it...alienated...Pity. Pity and something else.” P69
- “I wondered whether I was being unduly paranoid.” P69
- “He stood close by me and said nothing. I had seen him glance at my leg but he made no comment.” P70
- “In an instant an uncrossable gap had come between us and we were no longer a team working together.” P70 **Isolation/Relationships/Survival**
- “I knew Joe had fallen, but I couldn’t see him so I stayed put.” P71 **Narrative Perspective-PoV**

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- "You're fucked, matey. You're dead...no two ways about it!" P71 **PoV/Relationships**
- "...knew he was dead. It never occurred to me that I might also die. I accepted without question that I could get off the mountain alone. I had no doubt about that." P71 **PoV/Relationships**
- "I was at a loss for something to say. The change in our fortunes was too abrupt." P72 **Relationships**
- "I left him and then forgot about him." P72 **Relationships**
- "I looked back and was amazed to see that Joe had started traversing away from the cliff...completely enclosed in his own private struggle." P72 **Relationships/Survival**
- "I watched him quite dispassionately...in all likelihood fall to his death." P73
- "I could get down. If I tried to get him down I might die with him." P73
- "I started after him." P73 **Relationships/Survival**

- "It struck me that we were both avoiding the issue." P74 **Relationships/Narrative Perspective/PoV**
- "We had a silent agreement. We both knew the truth...I was injured and unlikely to survive. Simon could get down alone. While I waited on his actions, it felt as if I was holding something...precious...I remained silent, but it was no longer for fear of losing control. I felt coldly rational." P74 **Relationships/Survival**
- "Encouraged by his confidence I lifted my feet and began to slide down. It worked!" P77 **Relationships/Survival**
- "Astounded and pleased as punch...my mood had swung from despair to wild optimism, and death rushed back to being a vague possibility rather than the inevitable fact." P77 **Survival**
- "The next lowering was much quicker. We had adopted an efficient system." P78 **Motivational**
- "I couldn't bring myself to dispense with the comforting reassurance of the rope." P78 **Symbolism**
- "The leg had become inanimate, a weighty, useless object...I cursed it..." P79 **Negative Language**
- "...it was all downhill and we had lost the sense of hopelessness that had invaded us at the ice cliff." P79 **Survival**

Chapter Six: The Final Choice

- "The face here was much steeper...enough to frighten me, and make me think that Simon was barely in control." P82 **Foreshadowing**
- Simon to Joe-"At this rate we should be down by nine o'clock." P83 **Motivational/Relationships**

- “He was still grinning and his confidence was infectious.” P83
Motivational/Relationships
- “Who said one man can’t rescue another...We had changed from climbing to rescue and the partnership had worked just as effectively.” P83
Motivational/Relationships
- “...as soon as we started to act positively everything had come together.” P83
Motivational/Relationships
- “My optimism had evaporated.” P83
Negative Language
- Joe on his leg-“It obeyed no commands...caused every sort of agony...gave myself up to the pain.” P84
Personification
- “He remained expressionless and continued to lower me. He had no time for sympathy.” P85
Relationships
- “By the end of the fourth drop I had deteriorated...I was close to exhaustion.” P85
Negative Language
- “...Simon knew all the time that he could descend alone...I began to thank him for what he was doing and then quickly stopped myself. It would only emphasise my dependence on him.” P86
Relationships/Survival
- “It seemed a stupid way to die after we had been through so much.” P86
Relationships/Survival
- “It was a wild place in which to be alone.” P88
Isolation
- Joe on the cold-“...flapping, rubbing, driving the intruder away.” P88
Personification
- “As he spoke he reached out and caught hold of my waist, tugging me gently towards him. He was careful, almost tender, in the way he spun me round so that I was facing out from the slope when I came to a stop beside him.” P89
Relationships
- “...he had been fully aware of the pain he had been putting me through, and this concern was a quiet way of saying, it’s all right. I wasn’t being a bastard. It just had to be done.” P89
Relationships/Survival
- “I...smiled at him...Behind his eyes I could see the truth of our situation...His face showed all the tension he had been through and his eyes didn’t smile...a dark uncertainty reflected the real story.” P89
Relationships/Foreshadowing
- “...sense of optimism snowballed with every foot descended.” P90
Motivational/Survival
- “We had regained control of the situation and it no longer felt as if we were fleeing in disarray or fighting desperately against the odds.” P90
Motivational/Survival
- Simon and Joe talk about their next move-Simon-“I was thinking of unroping. Then I won’t take you down if I get hit hard.”
Joe: “I’d fall anyway, so you may as well stay roped. That way...I can blame you!”
“He didn’t laugh. He had almost forgotten that I was hurt, and now I had reminded him.” P91
Survival

- “A sense of great danger washed over me. I *had* to stop.” P92
Foreshadowing/Short Snappy
- “Then abruptly my feet were in space. I had time to cry out, and claw hopelessly at the snow before my whole body swung off an edge.” P92
Negative/Verbs/Adjectives
- “Simon had managed to hold the impact of my body suddenly coming on to the rope...I was hanging in free space.” P93 **Adventure/Survival**
- “...I realised how useless my hands were. Both were frozen.” P95
Survival/Negative Language
- “I slumped back on the rope feeling utterly weary.” P96
Negative/Verbs/Adjectives
- “In two hours I would be dead. I could feel the cold taking me.” P96
Negative Language
- “I thought of it as something living; something which lived through crawling into my body.” P97 **Personification**
- Joe on Simon above him-“Either he would die in his seat or be pulled from it by the constant strain of my body.” P97 **Relationships/Survival**
- “Each thought of death, of mine or his, came quite unemotionally-matter of fact. I was too tired to care.” P98 **Relationships/Survival**
- “Won’t be long now. I’ll not last till morning...won’t see the sun either. I hope Simon doesn’t die, that’s hard...he shouldn’t have to die for me...” P98 **Relationships**
- “Anger surged through me...It was my knee that was smashed. I had fallen and I was dying and Simon with me.” P98 **Relationships**
- “The rope slipped. I slipped again. Stopped. I knew what was about to happen. Any minute, any minute...” P98
Narrative Perspective/PoV/Short Snappy/Ellipsis

- “I knew Joe’s climbing days were over, but now I was scared for my hands. There was no telling how bad they would be.” P99
Narrative Perspective/PoV/Survival
- “I had hurt him all the way down. It was strange being so cold about it.” P99 **PoV/Survival**
- “He had really held it together. That was some control! Wonder whether I would have done that? Who knows.” P99 **Relationships/Survival**
- “Suddenly I jolted forward...I threw my weight back and down into the snow. Christ! Joe’s fallen.” P100
Short Snappy/PoV/Relationships
- “I couldn’t hold the weight much longer.” P100
Survival
- “The knife! The thought came out of nowhere. Of course, the knife. Be quick, come on, get it.” P101
Survival/Short Snappy

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- "Panic threatened to swamp me...I had already made the decision. There was no other option left to me." P101 **Personification**
- "The taut rope exploded at the touch of the blade and I flew backwards...I was shaking." P102 **Survival/Verbs**
- "I was alive and for the moment that was all I could think about." P102 **Survival/Relationships**
- "Where Joe was, or whether he was alive, didn't concern me in the long silence after cutting the rope." P102 **Survival/Relationships**
- "...he had gone. Had I killed him? I felt numb." P102 **Survival/Relationships/Short Snappy**
- "There was no guilt, not even sorrow." P102 **Survival**
- "Sleep was impossible...It seemed necessary to prosecute myself, and to prove that I had been wrong." P103 **Survival**
- "I was actually pleased that I had been strong enough to cut the rope." P103 **Survival/Relationships**
- "I had done it and done it well." P103 **Survival**
- "I was still alive because I had held everything together right up to the last moment. It had been executed calmly." P103 **Survival**
- "I should feel guilty. I don't. I did right. But, what of Joe..." P104 **Survival/Relationships**
- "...a dazed confusion and Joe faded from memory. It was thirst that took its place..." P104 **Survival/Relationships**
- "...dread in the night had gone with the dawn...I dressed like a priest before mass, with solemn careful ceremony...Filled with a sense of condemnation...My fear had gone and I was quiet. I felt cold and hard." P105 **Personification/Simile**
- "I felt watched. Something in the crescent summits and ridges looked down on me and waited...I was about to die; I knew it and they knew it." P105 **Personification**

Chapter Seven: Shadows in the Ice

- "The rope jolted...So! It ends here. Pity! I don't want to disappear without a trace. They'd never know we did it." P106 **Short Snappy/Ellipsis**
- "Another jerk...Cold had long since won its battle." P106 **Personification**

- “Reality had become a nightmare and sleep beckoned insistently; a black hole calling me, pain-free, lost in time, like death.” P107
Personification
- “The stars were good to see...you’d think them gemstones hanging there...” P107 **Metaphor**
- “Then, what I had waited for pounced on me. The stars went out and I fell.” P107 **Personification**
- “No thoughts, and all fears gone away. So this is it!” P107 **Short Snappy**
- “I couldn’t breathe. I retched. Nothing. Pressure pain in my chest. Retching and gagging and trying hard for the air.” P108 **Short Snappy/Verbs**
- “I was alive...I couldn’t be dead and feel that. Alive! Well, fuck me! I couldn’t see what was so damned funny, but I laughed anyway.” P108 **Survival**
- “I stopped laughing abruptly. My chest tightened and the tension took hold again.” P108 **Personification**
- “SIMON!?...Dead? I couldn’t conceive of him dead, not now, after I had survived.” P111 **Short Snappy/Survival/Relationships**
- “...a calm rational voice in my head told me it was the cold and the shock.” P111 **Motivational**
- “The darkness beyond the light gripped my attention. I could guess what it hid and I was filled with dread.” P112 **Landscape**
- “The darkness seemed more oppressive than ever.” P112 **Landscape**
- “I was alone...I could only think of Simon.” P112
Isolation/Relationships
- “...if he was not dead, then he would think that I was.” P113
Relationships
- “You can’t fall that far and survive. That’s what he would think. I knew it. I would think the same if I were in his place.” P113 **Relationships**
- “The irony of falling 100 feet and surviving unscathed was almost unbearable.” P113 **Survival**
- “Cut! I couldn’t take my eyes from it.” P114 **Short Snappy/Survival/Relationships**
- “He should have left me on the ridge. It would have saved so much...I’ll die here after all that. Why bother trying?” P114 **Survival/Relationships**
- “He had gone...I was dead.” P116 **Survival/ Relationships**

Chapter Eight: Silent Witness

- “. . .the sense of menace threatened to overwhelm me.” P118 **Landscape**
- “It was as if the mountains were holding their breath, waiting for another death. Joe had died. The silence had said so; but must they take me as well?” P118 **Landscape/Personification**

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- "Empty. It was a pointless thing to have done—climb up it, across it and down it. Stupid! It looked perfect; so clean and untouched, and we had changed nothing." P118 **Adventure**
- "It felt as if there was something deliberate about it, something preordained by a bored and evil force." P119 **Personification**
- "The whole day's effort...had been for nothing. What fools we were to have thought we had been clever enough to get away with it!" P119 **Adventure/Survival**
- "I laughed...but the joke was on me. Some joke!" P119 **Adventure/Survival/Short Snappy**
- "I was determined now to get off the mountain alive." P120 **Survival/Motivational**
- "...feelings of guilt and horror flooded through me...I might as well have put a gun to his head and shot him." P121 **Survival/Relationships**
- "Now...assured of my survival, the full impact of what we had been through struck me." P121 **Survival/Relationships**
- "I had never felt so wretchedly alone...If I hadn't cut the rope I would certainly have died...No one cuts the rope! It could never have been that bad! Why didn't you do this or try that?" P121 **Survival/Relationships**
- "What a silly thing to pit oneself against!" P122 **Adventure/Survival**
- "The early morning paranoia returned with a vengeance." P124 **PoV**
- "He was up there buried in the snow, but I no longer felt guilty about it. If I were in the same position again I felt certain I would act in the same way...a growing sense of loss and sorrow." P125 **Survival/Relationships**
- "All I could think about was the disbelief and criticism I was inevitably going to be confronted with. I couldn't face it. I shouldn't have to face it!" P126 **Survival/PoV**
- "I was still convincing myself that to tell the truth was stupid." P127 **PoV/Relationships**
- "It seemed right to be punished; to atone for leaving him dead as if simply surviving had been a crime in itself." P127 **Survival/Relationships**
- Simon to Richard—"Joe's dead." P128 **Survival/Relationships**

- Richard to Simon-“Did Joe fall? What’s happened...?”
P128
- Simon to Richard-“There was nothing I could do.”
P128
- “I felt a sudden and deep affection and gratitude to him for being there...I wondered whether he had been aware of the danger.” P128
- “I was glad I was telling him the truth...the way we had fought to get down alive...not after he had been through so much trying to survive.” P129
Survival/Relationships

Chapter Nine: In the Far Distance

- “Simon had gone and would not return...to stay on the ice bridge would finish me....even in despair I didn’t have the courage for suicide.” P131
PoV/Survival
- “It was this or nothing...” P132 **Survival**
- “I was mesmerised by this beam of sunlight burning through the vaulted ceiling from the real world outside.” P134 **Motivational**
- “...reach that sunbeam. How I would do it, and when I would reach it were not considered. I just knew.” P134 **Motivational**
- “...my whole outlook had changed.” P134 **Motivational**
- “The menace was in my imagination but I couldn’t stop it playing on my mind, as if this thing had waited for a victim with the impersonal patience of the centuries.” P137 **Personification**
- “I shivered.” P137 **Short Snappy**
- “My knee throbbed painfully, harshly reminding me that I was a very long way from getting out.” P138 **Survival/Verbs/Isolation**
- “That’s the way. Find a routine and stick to it.” P138
Motivational/Short Snappy
- “Bend, hop, rest; bend, hop, rest...” P139 **Ellipsis**
- “That was the hardest thing I had ever done and thinking about it I felt a surge of confidence build in me.” P140 **Motivational**
- “I felt as if I had been fighting someone too strong for me for far too long.” P141 **Personification**
- “The heavy weight of despair and fear which had been with me for so long in the ice chamber seemed to melt away in the sun.” P141
Motivational
- “I had succeeded beyond my wildest hopes.” P142 **Motivational**
- “I was 200 feet above the glacier and six miles from base camp...a familiar tension returned.” P142 **Motivational/Survival**
- “I felt the menace surrounding me...This was not the playground we had walked into so long ago.” P142 **Personification/Symbolism**
- “It was ironic to have come here searching out adventure and then find myself involuntarily trapped in a challenge harder than any I had sought.” P143 **Survival**

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- “I was abandoned to this awesome and lonely place.” P143 **Isolation**
- “There were no dark forces acting against me. A voice in my head told me that this was true...coldly rational sound.” P144 **Motivational**
- “The *voice* was clean and sharp and commanding.” P144
- “...I set about obeying the orders of the *voice*.” P144 **Motivational**

Chapter Ten: Mind Games

- “I had come to a stop ten feet from a meandering line of footprints...It was comforting to find the prints.” P146 **Motivational/Survival**
- “The bad leg slid along behind like an unwanted pest.” P146 **Simile**
- “So long as I obeyed the *voice* I would be all right.” P147 **Motivational**
- “...the *voice* said: ‘Go on, before you lose the tracks.’” P149 **Motivational**
- “Fresh falling snow! My stomach tightened as panic threatened.” P150 **Isolation/Survival**
- “I had followed the footprints happily as if Simon were just up ahead and I wasn’t alone. Now the wind and snow threatened to leave me utterly alone.” P150 **Isolation/Survival/Negative**
- “My leg...got in the way like a pestering child, making me irritable, as if it were something I ordered around and it stubbornly refused to obey.” P150 **Simile/Personification**

- “Joe had been dead thirty six hours. I felt as if he had been gone for weeks...” P152 **PoV**
- “Sarapo loomed in front of me but its spectacular beauty no longer interested me.” P153 **Adventure**
- “There was no point in being here. It was barren and lifeless; I hated the place for its cruelty and for what it had made me do. I wondered whether I had murdered him.” P153 **Survival**
- “...clothes were tattered, but I went ahead and burnt them.” P155 **Relationships**
- “The hollow feeling was still with me and the guilt which I knew I could never ease, but I could deal with it now.” P155 **Survival/ Relationships**

Chapter Eleven: A Land Without Pity

- “I awoke screaming.” P156 **Short Snappy**
- “It was deathly quiet...I didn’t want to move.” P156 **Isolation**
- SHAKESPEAREAN QUOTE: “Ay but to die and go we know not where; To lie in cold obstruction and to rot;...To bathe in fiery floods or to reside/In thrilling region of thick ribbed ice...That age, ache, penury and imprisonment/Can lay on nature is a paradise/To what we fear of death” P 156-57 **Symbolism**

This soliloquy is taken from the play *Measure for Measure*, in which Claudio is condemned to death for making a woman pregnant out of

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wedlock. Like Joe he faces death for seeking pleasure in doing something he knew was dangerous. **Symbolism**

- "...at last I realised I was hopelessly lost." P161 **Isolation**
- "After half an hour the *voice* rudely disturbed my peace." P163 **Motivational**
- "Nothing ever seemed to change. I had been in these mountains so long I felt as if I must remain here in this half dream state..." P164 **Isolation**
- "There was no question of crawling. Walking was also out, so it would have to be hopping." P166 **Survival**
- "After covering ten yards I had managed to perfect my hobbling technique." P166 **Survival**
- "Place-lift-brace-hop. I needed water. I wasn't going to reach Bomb Alley. Place-lift..." P167 **Ellipsis/Short Snappy**
- "I did as I was told." P167 **Survival**
- "The moraines were as lifeless as the glacier." P168 **Landscape**
- "Half way down the cliff I began to feel cocky. It had been so easy. What had I been so scared about?" P170 **Motivational**
- "The *voice* prevailed. I shuffled into my sleeping bag and immediately fell asleep." P171 **Motivational/Survival**

Chapter Twelve: Time Running Out

- "...the only remaining evidence of my ordeal was the sight of my blackened fingertips." P172 **PoV**
- "I sensed what was on his mind but chose not to talk about it." P172 **Dramatic Irony-we know more!**
- "Something prevented me from leaving." P172 **Dramatic Irony**
- "It wasn't a crime to have survived. So why not go?" P172 **Relationships/Survival/Richard as plot device**
- Richard to Simon-"I think we should leave."
Simon's thoughts-"His blunt statement shocked me."
Simon's response to Richard-"What?... Yes. I suppose you're right. It's just...I'm not ready. I..." P172 **Richard as plot device**
- "Why did I feel so strong against moving?...To stay was stupid." P172 **Relationships**
- Richard to Simon-"...he's not coming back. You know it...I think we should go." P172 **Relationships/Richard as plot device**
- "I felt happy now that the decision was made." P174 **Relationships**

- "...two girls appeared...their show of grief. They angered me. What right had they to feel sad?" P177
Relationships
- "It felt as if they were examining me for signs of strain. I took their silence for pity." P177
Relationships
- "When Norma...began sorting through the cooking utensils I exploded...I was shaking with fury..." P177
Relationships

- "The *voice* told me I was too late; time had run out." P179 **Survival**
- "There was no reason for him to stay once he had recovered his strength." P179 **Negative**
- "At every hop I fell...In those fifteen minutes I lost whatever fight was left in me." P180-81 **Negative/Survival**
- "The *voice* countered this. I lay still and listened to the argument." P181
Survival
- "The *voice* won. My mind was set. It had been from the moment I got out of the crevasse." P182 **Survival**
- "I could feel my fight returning...I recognised the print of Simon's boots...Richard's trainers. They were with me." P184 **Survival**
- "The *voice* still urged me on...it seemed to suggest that I might as well get on with it for want of anything else to do." P184 **Survival**
- "If they had gone, what then? The prospect terrified me...It seemed inconceivable after my efforts. Nothing could be that cruel?" P187
Isolation/Negative/Survival
- "...the possibility of finding myself abandoned, not just for a second time, but for good." P189 **Isolation/Negative/Survival**

Chapter Thirteen: Tears in the Night

- "The *voice* had left me hours ago. I was glad not to be bothered by its interruptions." P193 **Survival**
- "The cold was taking me again...Alive, dead, was there much of a difference?" P194 **Survival**
- Simon to Joe- "It's okay. I've got you; you're safe..." P196
Relationships
- Joe to Simon-"Thanks, Simon...You did right...Anyway thanks." P196
Relationships
- "I stared across at Simon, seeing the haggard tension in his face and the shock in his eyes." P197 **Relationships**
- "I recognised the last time I had seen Simon look at me in this way...That instant moment when I knew he had accepted I would die...the spell was broken and we burst into a torrent of questions...mostly unanswered." P197 **Relationships**

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- "...now a deep abiding friendship. And at every gesture, a touch on the arm, a look an intimacy we would never have dared show before and never would again." P197 **Relationships**
- Joe on Simon-"He had suddenly become stern and efficient." P198 **Relationships**
- Simon to Joe on leaving-"Forget it! We go in the morning...You can't risk it." P200 **Relationships**
- "You saved my life you know. It must have been terrible for you that night. I don't blame you. You had no choice...You did all that you could have done. Thanks for getting me down." P201 **Relationships/Survival**
- Joe on Simon-"How much he had been through I could only guess." P201 **Relationships**
- "The minute I knew help was at hand something had collapsed in me...I might run out of life." P204 **Survival**
- "The enormity of what we had been through was just beginning to sink in." P207 **Survival**

Ten Years On...

- "...he did what I would have done in his place..." P212 **Relationships**
- "Some would argue that there was no decision to be made; that cutting the rope and the powerful symbol of trust and friendship it represents should never have entered my mind. Others say that it was simply a matter of survival." P212 **Survival/Symbolism**
- "...both our lives were being threatened, I had reached a point where I had to look after myself." P212 **Survival**
- "In short we had not looked after ourselves." P213 **Adventure/Survival**
- "Analysing after a climb what you did correctly or incorrectly is as important as being fit or talented." P213 **Adventure/Survival**
- "...tried to work our where we had gone wrong and what vital mistakes we had made." P213 **Adventure/Survival**
- "...we lost control and nearly our lives." P214 **Adventure/Survival**
- "All my agonising after cutting the rope had not changed anything. My decision had been right; we both had survived." P214 **Relationships**
- "In the mountains the penalty for neglect can often be death." P215 **Landscape**
- "The rope cutting had clearly touched a nerve...people seemed to be drawn to that element of the story-until I wrote it down as honestly as I could." P215 **Survival**

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- “Recovering from my injuries and getting back to the mountains were my priorities...90% of accidents are down to human error.” P215
Adventure/Survival

Epilogue: Bad Memories

- “I probably was dying when Simon found me that night.” P217 **Survival**
- “...exquisite moment when I realised the nightmare was over and that the rest of my life had just been given back to me.” P218 **Survival**
- “...confidence born of youth, too much testosterone and too little imagination.” P220 **Adventure**
- “Isn’t memory a wonderful deceiver?” P226 **Rhetorical Questions**
- “Life can deal you an amazing hand. Do you play it steady, bluff like crazy or go all in? I’ll never know.” P227 **Rhetorical Questions**