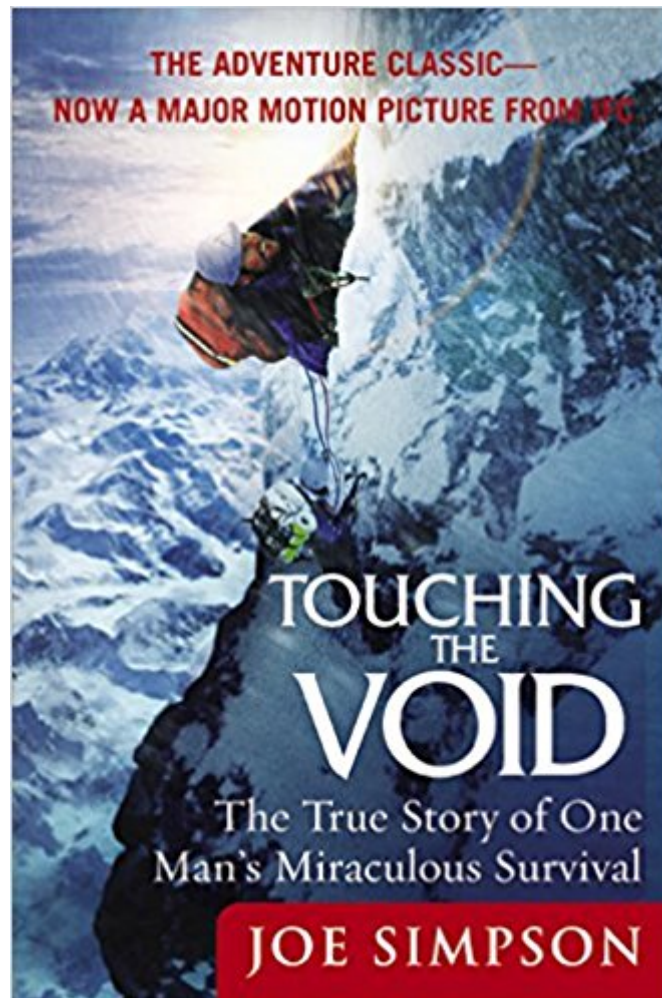




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# Touching The Void: The True Story Of One Man's Miraculous Survival



## Synopsis

Joe Simpson and his climbing partner, Simon Yates, had just reached the top of a 21,000-foot peak in the Andes when disaster struck. Simpson plunged off the vertical face of an ice ledge, breaking his leg. In the hours that followed, darkness fell and a blizzard raged as Yates tried to lower his friend to safety. Finally, Yates was forced to cut the rope, moments before he would have been pulled to his own death. The next three days were an impossibly grueling ordeal for both men. Yates, certain that Simpson was dead, returned to base camp consumed with grief and guilt over abandoning him. Miraculously, Simpson had survived the fall, but crippled, starving, and severely frostbitten was trapped in a deep crevasse. Summoning vast reserves of physical and spiritual strength, Simpson crawled over the cliffs and canyons of the Andes, reaching base camp hours before Yates had planned to leave. How both men overcame the torments of those harrowing days is an epic tale of fear, suffering, and survival, and a poignant testament to unshakable courage and friendship.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Concise and yet packed with detail, *Touching the Void*, Joe Simpson's harrowing account of near-death in the Peruvian Andes, is a compact tour de force that wrestles with issues of bravery, friendship, physical endurance, the code of the mountains, and the will to live. Simpson dedicates the book to his climbing partner, Simon Yates, and to "those friends who have gone to the mountains and have not returned." What is it that compels certain individuals to willingly seek out the most inhospitable climate on earth? To risk their lives in an attempt to leave footprints where few

or none have gone before? Simpson's vivid narrative of a dangerous climbing expedition will convince even the most die-hard couch potato that such pursuits fall within the realm of the sane. As the author struggles ever higher, readers learn of the mountain's awesome power, the beautiful--and sometimes deadly--sheets of blue glacial ice, and the accomplishment of a successful ascent. And then catastrophe: the second half of *Touching the Void* sees Simpson at his darkest moment. With a smashed, useless leg, he and his partner must struggle down a near-vertical face--and that's only the beginning of their troubles. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A brilliant, vivid, gripping, heart-stopping account of their terrifying adventure... Superbly written" *Sunday Express* "One of the absolute classics of mountaineering...a document of psychological, even philosophical witness of the rarest compulsion" --George Steiner, *Sunday Times* The thrilling adventure of the century. A mountaineering classic with a happy ending. --gilberto.dur@gmail.com

I love this story and have read it multiple times. Certainly one of the best survival stories out there. I originally saw and purchased the movie which could only have been better if it was in Imax as the photography is absolutely breath taking. The book certainly has some more detail however I think having seen the movie helps a bit with visualizing the extreme conditions these guys were in. There is a scene in the movie that starts as an incredible panoramic view of the mountain range and the camera slowly pans in to the point where you see these two specs climbing the shear face of the mountain. For me that scene really puts the whole story into perspective. There were no margins for error here and then how these two dealt with it and their emotions when the worst occurs. I highly recommend this one

I've read a few mountain climbing books but this true story entrapped me more than the others. The first hand accounts by the author and his climbing partner so clearly not only described the terrain, the exertions, the fears, but made me feel them to an extent I have not experienced reading other true life accounts. I could not put it down. And when I finally did, exhausted, and shared it with my wife she stayed up all night until she, too, had come to the end.

Joe Simpson One man's journey back from the edge of death  
In 1985, Joe Simpson and Simon Yates made an assault on the previously unclimbed West Face of Siula Grande, in Peru. Reaching the summit was a proud moment. Now, it was time to climb down.

And that's when disaster struck. There were no fixed ropes, but Simpson and Yates were connected by 150 feet of line. When Simpson fell suddenly he shattered his right leg at the knee. In excruciating pain, Simpson was unable to do much climbing. Yates tied two ropes together, making 300 feet. He began to slowly lower Simpson bit by bit down the mountain. Unfortunately, Simpson again fell. Unable to pull him back up, Yates made the only decision he could. Badly worn out himself, he had to ensure that he could climb down to base camp. He cut the rope, sending Simpson into a crevasse. Very certain that Simpson was now dead, Yates carefully made his way into camp. This is the story of a miracle. By any odds, Simpson should have died. Unable to use his right leg, Simpson made a perilous journey back to camp, dragging himself inch by inch. The power of the human spirit is often amazing. In his own words, Simpson tells the story of his ordeal. His story is interspersed with Yates thoughts, the loss of his friend and the guilty thoughts of his decision to cut the rope in spite of the fact that he knew he could have done nothing else. Bravery and adventure in the world of mountain climbing! I give the book five stars! Quoth the Raven

I climbed, I clawed, I hung on for dear life through the entire book. This true story of two men climbing in the mountains of Peru had me figuratively climbing with them. This well written book describes what goes on in a climber's mind and the physical toll one experiences while knowing death is possible at any moment. The range of a climber's emotions are extreme. One can be joyful over the smallest detail like a sip of warm tea in the morning or an ice pick that never leaves your hand. The terror of what can happen in the blink of an eye (it happens) and the knowledge of an experienced climber of what to expect now begs the question; is it worth it to go on? An inner voice constantly prodded Joe Simpson forward despite the hopelessness that lay before him. My fingers got cold just reading it. We all have a built in desire for survival; some more some less. I believe my desire to live, to survive, to just keep going, grew from experiencing this book. Richard

Incredible story of survival and a person's will to live. Sometimes the story got a little confusing with the bouncing back and forth between the different narrators, and sharing past experiences of disasters while mountaineering. Overall though it is a good book for any one who loves the outdoors, rock climbing, mountaineering, or just wants to have an adventure vicariously through someone else.

This was the best book I've read about dying and then somehow and beyond any possible hope Joe

Simpson does not die. The writing about how he felt knowing there was no hope is really excellent. The book gives new meaning to NEVER GIVE UP!

This book rates up there with "Between a Rock and a Hard Place" (f.k.a. 127 Hours) as one of my favorites of overcoming incredible odds in the wilderness. Simpson's determination to survive, him and Simon's immediate reconciliation over an impossible decision, and his reasoning of "better to try and die than sit here and wait for death to come" makes this book an inspiring read.

A truly inspiring story, in this book oe Simpson tells the story of how his partner felt he could no longer hold Joe who had a broken leg, vits the rope between them. The next morning he checks on and comes to the conclusion that Joe is dead. Meanwhile, Joe climbs out of a crevass and crawls back to camp

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