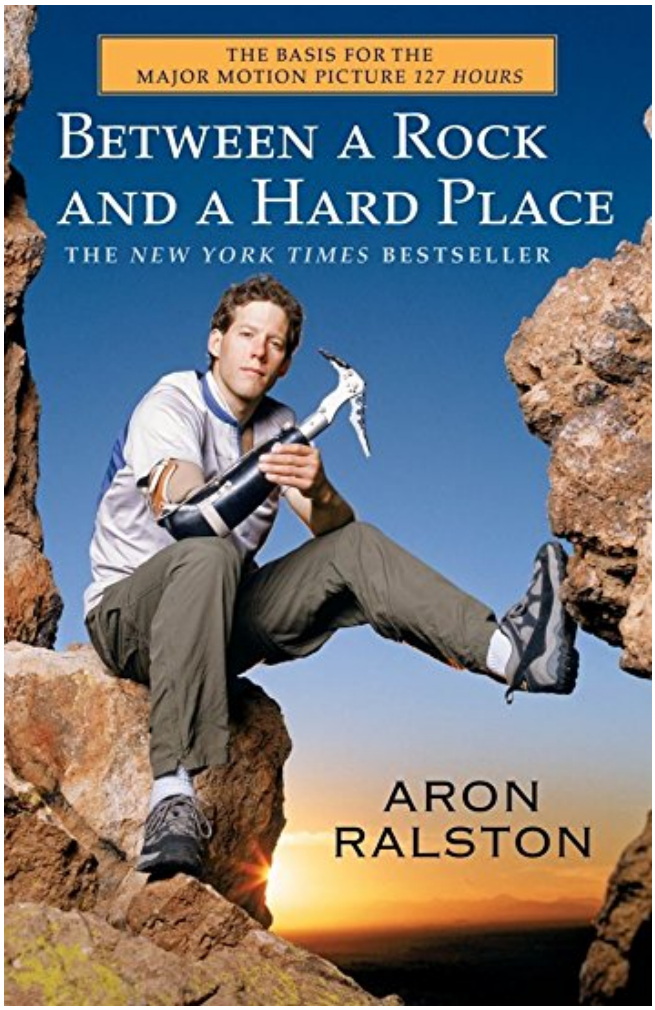
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Between A Rock And A Hard Place



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Customer Reviews

Book DescriptionIn April 2003, 28-year-old Aron Ralston took a day trip in Blue John Canyon in Utah’s Canyonlands National Park. Shortly after beginning his solo excursion into the canyon, a boulder came loose and pinned Ralston’s right arm between it and the canyon wall. Unable to free his arm, Ralston was trapped for 127 hours (more than 5 days) with limited water and food. Because Ralston had broken one of the cardinal rules of outdoor pursuits (always let someone know where you are going), no one knew where he was (or even to come looking for him) until he didn’t show up for work on Monday. His account of the ordeal and his eventual decision to save himself by amputating his right arm is documented in this well-written (and surprisingly funny) memoir.My ThoughtsWhen watching 127 Hours, I was absolutely mesmerized by Ralston’s predicament. (It didn’t hurt that Ralston was portrayed by James Franco and the movie directed by Danny Boyle.) After watching the film, I wanted to get the full story about what Ralston had experienced. Did he really have a vision of his future son that bolstered his courage? Did he really talk into his video camera during his entrapment? Why had he made such a fundamentally stupid mistake by not telling anyone about his whereabouts? The book answered all these questions and provided much more detail into Ralston’s personality and background.In fact, after reading the book, I’m not completely surprised that Ralston found himself in his predicament. In the book, he recounts several near-death experiences he faced during various other outdoor pursuits (from almost drowning in the Grand Canyon to being buried under an avalanche). Ralston’s whole life was (and is) about pushing himself in the outdoors--often in ways that others might consider foolish or overly risky. In addition, solo adventuring was nothing new to Ralston. At the time of his entrapment, he was pursuing his quest to make the first solo ascents of all "fourteeners" (mountains over 14,000 feet) in Colorado. The one line in the movie that stuck with me--"This rock had been waiting for me all my life"--really sums up Ralston’s life. (I may be misremembering the exact line but it is something fairly close to this.)Did he leave the canyon a changed man--aside from the obvious loss of his right arm? Spiritually, Ralston matured--coming to a new appreciation for life and his loved ones. What the experience didn’t do was dampen his enthusiasm for outdoor pursuits. Working with prosthetics and climbing companies, Ralston designed a prosthetic arm for himself so he could continue rock climbing and mountain climbing.The book is surprisingly well written. After all, just because you have the guts to amputate your own arm and survive for five days in a canyon with limited food and water doesn’t mean you’ll be able to tell your story eloquently. But Ralston (who was an engineer before quitting corporate life to pursue the outdoor life in Colorado) seems to be a true Renaissance man--crafting a well-rounded, eloquent and often amusing account of his life,

philosophy and the accident changed him forever.Finally, I must mention that the book includes a collection of full-color photographs of Ralston before, during and after the accident. I had a rather morbid fascination with these photos (including the one of the severed arm immediately after the amputation), but they really did add to the story. It was amazing to see the exact place where this took place and what Ralston looked like during his entrapment. I also need to give a shout-out to the filmmakers for seeming to recreate Ralston's predicament, clothing, and equipment down to the smallest detail.Recommended For: Readers who enjoy gripping and well-told adventure/survival stories, fans of the movie 127 Hours, and anyone looking for real-life survival story that demonstrates what people will do to survive.

I don't ever want to be too hard on a book, because I enjoy the act of reading regardless (usually) of the content. I have always been enthralled by this story, and followed it pretty closely in the news. I expected the book to be an insider view of what Aron dealt with while trapped by the boulder. Well, that story is in there, but so is a lot of fluff. Aron tells story after story after story of his climbing prowess, usually about something death-defying. In fact, reading the book, it's amazing he lived long enough to get his arm trapped. The stories tend to come off in a braggadocios manner, like Aron is trying to prove how awesome he is as if people are out there saying he's not. Reading about his time trapped in the canyon was thrilling. It is a great story that involves facing death and the will to survive against all odds. The stories that take place outside of the canyon, even his recounting of his friends and family back home preparing to search for him, are painful at best. The book would have rated at 5 stars if all of the fluff had never been added.

Well, the odds are pretty darn good that luck is going to run out on you if you have tempted fate as many times as Aron Ralston had and continues to do.Like so many people, I was held spellbound back in 2003 when Ralston's story first hit the media. What kind of man does it take to cut off his own arm to survive a terrifying accident? I knew the area the accident happened in and that just made the story more compelling to me - the Canyonlands are not a forgiving landcape."Between a Rock and a Hard Place" answered some of my questions. I, for one, am glad that this is not the story of JUST the accident but tells more of Ralston's life story. I see it more as a character study and I think if you read it as that, you won't be disappointed.Even after reading the book, do I understand Ralston? No. He wrote the book himself and I enjoyed his writing style. He was VERY candid about his lifestyle and all his past mistakes and imperfections. He is an adrenaline junkie, an adventurer - problem is that he makes careless mistakes, takes ridiculous chances, has

endangered others in his various quests.I have a son the same age as Ralston and I have to say, as a mother, I would not want to be Ralston’s mother. I am quite sure that his accident was the culmination of years of sleepless nights and waiting for THAT phone call.The book really made me think about what inner qualities it takes to become an adventurer, an explorer, a trailblazer. I can’t decide if any of these are Ralston’s aims or whether he just has a death wish.I don’t agree with many of his methods but Ralston is living the life he wants to live. He is the first person, as noted in his book, to ever scale all 59 of Colorado’s 14,000 foot or above peaks solo in winter. And this manchild had the extraordinary fortitude and will to live to be able to cut off his own arm, rappel one-armed down a cliff face, and hike miles out of the desolate Canyonlands to reach safety. How many people in the whole world would have been able to do the same?

Download to continue reading...

Between a Rock and a Hard Place 127 Hours: Between a Rock and a Hard Place (Movie Tie- In) Between a Rock and a Hard Place (Bend or Break Book 6) Aerosmith: Hard Rock Superstars (Rebels of Rock (Library)) Aerosmith: Hard Rock Superstars (Rebels of Rock (Paperback)) Classic Rock of the ’50s: Early Rock ’n’ Roll, Doo-Wop and Rand B - Authentic Guitar-Tab (Classic Rock (Warner)) Rock ’n’ Road, 2nd: An Atlas of North American Rock Climbing Areas (Regional Rock Climbing Series) Hard Corals: Selecting and Maintaining Hard Corals, Feeding and Algal Symbiosis, Lighting and Water Clarity Working Hard, Drinking Hard: On Violence and Survival in Honduras Sudoku Puzzle Book: Sudoku LARGE Print Book For Adults with 200+ Puzzles (Very Easy, Easy, Medium, Hard, Very Hard) and 12 Sudoku Solving Techniques Learn Ruby the Hard Way: A Simple and Idiomatic Introduction to the Imaginative World Of Computational Thinking with Code (3rd Edition) (Zed Shaw’s Hard Way Series) Learn Python 3 the Hard Way: A Very Simple Introduction to the Terrifyingly Beautiful World of Computers and Code (Zed Shaw’s Hard Way Series) Studio Anywhere 2: Hard Light: A Photographer’s Guide to Shaping Hard Light The Hard Thing About Hard Things: Building a Business When There Are No Easy Answers Sudoku: 400+ Sudoku Puzzles (Easy, Medium, Hard, Very Hard) (Sudoku Puzzle Book) (Volume 1) Sudoku: 400+ Sudoku Puzzles (Easy, Medium, Hard, Very Hard) (Sudoku Puzzle Book) (Volume 2) Sudoku: 400+ Sudoku Puzzles (Easy, Medium, Hard, Very Hard) (Sudoku Puzzle Book) (Volume 3) Will Shortz Presents Extra Hot Sudoku: 200 Hard Puzzles: Hard Sudoku Volume 1 Sudoku Puzzle Book: 200+ Sudoku Puzzles (Easy, Medium, Hard, Very Hard), 12 Sudoku Solving Techniques SUDOKU EXPERT Volume 1: Expert Sudoku: 400 sudoku extreme puzzles, sudoku very hard level for difficult sudoku puzzle enthusiasts (Sudoku evil, very hard sudoku)