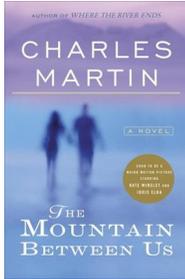


# Books by the Stack



## **The Mountain Between Us by Charles Martin**

Stranded in a frigid mountain wilderness after a plane crash, a gifted surgeon and a young magazine writer are forced to rely on each other for survival while confronting painful truths about their personal lives.

**Why you'll like it:** *Christian fiction. Survival story.*

**About the Author:** Charles Martin is a New York Times bestselling author of 13 previous novels, including his most recent, 'Send Down The Rain.' His work is available in 30+ languages. He lives in Jacksonville, Florida with his wife and their three sons.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. *The Mountain Between Us* is an adventure story, a story of survival, and above all a love story. By the end of the novel what do you learn about the author's view of love? Is there such a thing as a perfect marriage? What do Ben and Ashley learn from the pilot, Grover, about the nature of enduring love? Is that a lesson that stays with them throughout the book? Is your experience of marriage getting better? What makes a great marriage?
2. After the crash, Ben and Ashley are stranded at 11,500 feet, fifty miles from any kind of civilization with no hope of rescue, she with a broken leg, he with three busted ribs and a possible collapsed lung, and minimal supplies...yet they survive for more than four weeks in these extreme conditions. What skills and character traits do you think helped ensure their survival? Did you find the story credible?
3. Was Ben to blame at any point for what happened? Should he have hired the charter plane to take them out in the coming storm? During their time on the mountain, what choices did Ben make? Do you believe he made the right choices? What would you have done in his place?
4. We learn about Ben's wife mostly through the recordings she made on Ben's Dictaphone. Is she a strong presence in the book? What kind of person was she? What made her so special to Ben?
5. Ben refers to himself as "a bit of an emotional blockhead" (page 110). Why do you think he finds it so difficult to come to terms with the "separation" from his wife, Rachel? What part of his childhood experiences play in his emotional development?
6. In the most difficult times on the mountain, when Ashley and Ben are losing hope of survival, how do they keep themselves going? What was the most difficult part of their ordeal? If you were in their position, what would you have done? Do you think you would have made it home alive?
7. How does Ben and Ashley's time on the mountain change their perspective on life? Does it make them see anything more clearly? Are their lives irrevocably changed by the experience? In what ways?
8. Were you surprised by the revelation about Ben's family life at the end of the book? Did the discovery

make you feel? Looking back through the book, did the author lay any clues for the readers along the way?

**9.** Ben uses his Dictaphone to communicate with his wife. What do you learn about Rachel from his recordings? Do you think this technique works as a narrative device? What does it say about the way we communicate with our loved ones today? Why did Ben throw the Dictaphone into the ocean at the end of the book?

**10.** What is the significance of the title? What is “the mountain between us”?

**11.** In the author’s note, Charles references one of the beautiful Bible verses: I lift my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come ... What part does religious faith play in this novel? Do you think the author’s own optimism is derived from his faith in God?

*(Questions provided by the author/publisher)*



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