

# **Icebound Study Guide**

**Icebound by Dean Koontz**

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# Plot Summary

Icebound is an early novel of Dean Koontz originally published under a pseudonym and another title. In this novel Harry Carpenter and his wife, Rita, lead a group of scientists to the polar ice caps where they plan to use explosives to break off a piece of the ice cap and monitor its progress as it moves through the natural ocean currents. The hope is to find a way to safely get these icebergs to countries devastated by drought. However, as the team finishes setting the bombs, a tsunami breaks off a section of the ice cap, leaving Harry and his team afloat on a giant iceberg. The team has just eleven hours to get off the iceberg before the bombs explode. Unfortunately, a huge storm is blocking the way for nearby ships and there is a possible killer among Harry's team members. Icebound is not a typical Dean Koontz novel, but it is filled with the same suspense and heroic characters that keep readers coming back for more.

Harry Carpenter and his team are on the polar ice cap attempting to dislodge a piece of ice and monitor its flow through the natural currents of the ocean in order to find a safe way to transport ice to drought devastated countries. Harry and two members of the team have just completed burying sixty bombs in the ice when a tsunami rocks them off their feet. Harry immediately packs up his team and heads back to camp to check on the condition of his other team members, including his wife. However, the direction of the wind and the setting on the compass warn Harry that the ice has shifted, suggesting that he and his team are now afloat on the ocean. Praying that his wife is on a separate piece of ice and therefore safe, Harry begins searching for camp. Halfway there, a chasm opens in the ice, swallowing Harry's snowmobile and their drill.

Further out on the ice, a team of three men is finishing the preparation of a beacon that will allow the team to monitor the movement of the ice once it separates from the ice cap. When the tsunami hits, the men are thrown off their feet and one man, George Lin, falls over the side of the newly formed iceberg. Brian Dougherty and Roger Breskin rescue George by lowering themselves to his location with ropes. The three men then return to camp to find out what has happened and what the plan is.

At camp, Harry discovers his wife and the eighth member of the team are okay, but their camp is destroyed. The team has no shelter and no source of heat, as well as little food. They find a cave to hide in and radio Gunvald Larsson, the final member of the team who remained at Edgeway Station to monitor the weather. Gunvald promises to radio for help immediately. However, the team realizes their first priority has got to be to find a way to dismantle the bombs. Unfortunately it took the men more than three days to set the bombs, therefore they cannot dismantle them all, especially without their drill. Harry believes that if they can dismantle ten they might be able to survive the blast. Four members of the team, plus Harry, return to the bombs and begin digging them up again.

Harry and his team successfully dig up four bombs, but the drill they are using breaks and they are forced to stop. The team packs up and goes back to the cave. However, upon their arrival they realize that Brian is not with them. They return to the area and Harry finds Brian lying behind a fissure of ice. They take Brian back to the cave and



warm him up in one of the snowmobiles. When Brian is able to talk, he tells Rita and Harry that someone hit him over the head and left him for dead, but he does not know who it is.

Harry tells Pete what Brian has said and asks for his help in keeping Brian safe until they can get off the iceberg. Unfortunately, it appears their chances of rescue are growing narrower by the moment as the two closest ships are forced to turn back because of the approaching storm. Fortunately, there is a Russian submarine in the area that has gotten permission from their government to help.

When the submarine arrives at the iceberg's location, the captain surveys the iceberg to find a way to send men to the iceberg and rescue the scientists. Unfortunately the storm has made the seas rough, so the only section of the iceberg they can get close enough to is one on which the side is smooth. The submarine attempts to shoot the iceberg with a missile to create a landing shelf, but this only results in a thin sheet of ice falling to the ocean, damaging a small section of the submarine's hull. Suddenly the iceberg changes direction and the submarine must dive deep into the ocean to allow the iceberg to cross over them. As they wait for the iceberg to pass them, they discover that the iceberg has a hole in the middle and a very uneven bottom.

The captain has his radio man contact Harry and they discuss the possibility of the team diving down to the submarine. Harry agrees that this may be their only chance. The submarine dives under the iceberg once more and moves beneath the hole in the iceberg. They then send up their aerial antenna with cases of special diving equipment attached. The Edgeway team dones the suits and begins the treacherous swim more than seven hundred feet to the submarine. During the dive, Roger Breskin pulls Harry's mask from his face and attacks Brian. The other members of the team see what is happening and they stop Roger by removing his air hose. Harry's team makes it to the submarine minus Roger just seconds before the bombs explode.



# Before

## Before Summary

This novel was originally written and published in the 1970s under a pseudonym and the name Prison of Ice. In the 1990s, fans of Dean Koontz asked him to republish some of his old books that were no longer available for purchase. Dean Koontz took those books, including this one, and updated them, improved the storylines, and republished them under his own name. This book is unique because its plot is like nothing Dean Koontz ever attempted before and one that he tells readers in a note at the end of the novel that he never intends to attempt again.

A news article from the New York Times declares that scientists in Russia have discovered that water from the polar ice caps is some of the purest water in the world.

A news article, also from the New York Times, quotes scientist Harold Carpenter as saying melted water from the polar ice caps could save thousands of lives in drought devastated countries.

Another news article recounts how drought is affecting the farming community, and therefore the world food supply, in California.

Another news article discusses the lack of food supplies available to send to drought affected regions.

A news article discusses the United Nations decision to fund an exploratory mission to the polar ice caps to investigate the possibility of using polar ice to help drought affected regions.

A news article announces that scientists have set up a research facility on the polar ice cap.

The final article tells the public that the scientists on the polar ice cap plan to use explosives to break off a piece of ice the following day at midnight.

## Before Analysis

This section of the novel is pretty straightforward. The section is presented as news articles from the New York Times that discuss the droughts affecting many regions of the world and the idea that water from the polar ice caps might be able to alleviate some of this suffering. The names Harold and Rita Carpenter are used frequently in these articles, suggesting to the reader that they will be two of the main characters in the novel. The final article mentions that an explosion is planned for the following night to release a section of ice into the ocean to further these ideas. This final article injects



possible conflict or danger into the story that suggests a direction for the main plot of the novel.



# Chapter 1, Snare

## Chapter 1, Snare Summary

At noon, Harry Carpenter, Pete Johnson, and Claude Jobert finish digging the hole for the final explosive that will be used to break off a piece of the polar icecap. Claude is relieved, having been complaining all day about the cold. Harry has never known Claude to complain before, so he puts this attitude down to the fact that this is Claude's last trip to the ice and he is still grieving the death of his wife. Pete points out that it has begun to snow. They know a bad storm is expected that night, so Harry hopes that this snow is only a localized squall. Harry watches Pete lower the bomb into the prepared hole, thinking it is lucky that they have him with them. Pete was a college football player and could have gone to the NFL, but he chose to get a degree instead. Today Harry is grateful for his great strength.

Gunvald Larsson is alone at Edgeway Station to monitor the radio and weather while the team is preparing the ice. Gunvald is nervous because there have been several earthquakes a few hundred miles from the polar icecap, but they have been coming closer all day. Gunvald is worried that the earthquake could cause a section of the polar ice where the expedition is to snap off. On top of this, there is a snow storm headed their way that is sure to hamper any rescue efforts should they be necessary. Gunvald has warned Harry of all this, but Harry insisted on finishing their work. Gunvald hopes they will finish before anything bad can happen.

Rita Carpenter is at the temporary camp with Franz Fischer, the expedition's meteorologist and a former lover of Rita's. Rita is uncomfortable with Franz's presence, but has managed to put up with his somewhat juvenile behavior thus far. On top of this, Rita has a phobia of ice and snow. Rita has always tried to not give in to the paralyzing fear, but sometimes it overwhelms her without warning. Rita feels a panic attack coming on, but she takes a few deep breaths and manages to quell it before it begins.

Roger Breskin, George Lin, and Brian Dougherty are on the section of ice the team hopes will separate from the icecap, preparing the beacon that will allow them to track the ice's movement in the ocean's natural currents. Brian Dougherty is not a scientist like the others, but a member of a famous political family. Brian's uncle was an American President who was assassinated and his father is a current American senator. Brian's presence on the Edgeway project has more to do with his family's large donation to the expedition than any help he might provide. George Lin is a Chinese immigrant with a chip on his shoulder regarding something that happened in his childhood. Although no one knows what this is, George seems to hold a grudge against Brian for it. Roger Breskin is a quiet, soft-spoken bodybuilder who recently immigrated to Canada.

Roger, George, and Brian are just finishing up and heading for their snowmobiles when the ice begins to shake. They all lose their footing and George goes over the edge of a new crevasse in the ice. Rita is outside packing the snowmobiles at the temporary camp



when the ice begins to shake and a nearby pressure ridge that had provided cover now begins to fall apart on the temporary camp. Pete, Harry, and Claude have just lowered and covered the bomb with ice when the tsunami hits. They hold on to one another and the snowmobiles for safety. Back at the camp, Franz crawls out of one of the ruined tents. Harry, Pete, and Claude recover their footing and prepare to head to camp. Pete is the first to notice that the compass reading is different and the wind seems to be coming from a different direction. Harry knows immediately that this means the ice they stand on has broken free of the icecap. When Pete and Harry explain this to Claude, they all realize that not only are they floating free on an iceberg, but that they are standing on sixty bombs set to explode in less than twelve hours.

## Chapter 1, Snare Analysis

This chapter introduces all the major players on the Edgeway Expedition. Harry is the leader, a strong, intelligent man who has been fascinated with ice his whole life. Harry loves life on the ice, loves the danger of it, the unexpected and the adventure. Harry's wife, Rita, on the other hand has a deep seated phobia of the ice. However, Rita chooses to work with ice in order to win her fight over the emotional demons that cause this fear. By living her life in this way, Rita proves to the reader that she is an amazingly strong woman with a dark, tragic background.

Pete Johnson and Claude Jobert are two scientists on the team. Pete was once a star football player and he could have gone into the NFL, but chose a life of academics instead. This tells the reader that Pete is highly intelligent and a man who refuses to have his life dictated to him by stereotypes. Claude Jobert is like Harry in that ice has been his life for many years. However, Claude has reached an age at which working on the ice is becoming dangerous for him, so this expedition will be his last. On top of that, Claude recently lost his wife to random violence, an event that has scarred him and left him grieving for the life he should have had.

Brian Dougherty is the son of a political family like the Kennedys. Brian's father is a sitting American senator and his uncle was an American President who was assassinated during his term. This is a lot for a young man to live up to and Brian seems to resent it. Therefore, Brian has spent most of his adulthood pursuing dangerous recreation rather than picking a career and sticking with it. Brian is on this expedition now because it seemed like another adventure and his family made a large donation to the cause. Brian hopes to write a few articles about his experiences, articles that he is thinking of turning into a full length book. Perhaps this experience is helping Brian grow up.

George Lin is a survivor of the Communist regime in China in the 1950s. George experienced something dark that he will not share with anyone, and he seems to have a distrust of all governments. This distrust extends to Brian; therefore there is a great deal of tension between the two men. Roger Breskin is a soft spoken, silent bodybuilder who recently immigrated from the U.S. to Canada for reasons he has not explained to anyone. The reader learns little about Roger at this point in the novel, except for these





few facts, leaving the reader wondering what might come out about him as the plot continues to develop. Finally, Gunvald Larsson is the lucky member of the expedition picked to remain at base camp to watch the weather and the radio. Gunvald warns Harry both about the earthquakes and the weather, but it appears no one takes him terribly seriously until disaster strikes.

The earthquakes in the area around the polar icecap cause a tsunami that breaks a large section of the icecap off. This large iceberg includes the area where the expedition is working as well as their camp. This means the team is stuck on a floating iceberg that contains sixty bombs set to go off in less than twelve hours with a storm heading their way that might hinder any attempts at rescue. The conflict is clear and the reader already doubts there will be any saving this group from impending doom.



# Chapter 2, Ship

## Chapter 2, Ship Summary

Brian and Roger recover from the tsunami and immediately begin investigating the crevasse where George went over. However, they quickly discover that it is not a crevasse, but the edge of the newly formed iceberg. Roger explains this to Brian as he lowers a flashlight over the edge to search for George. Brian is surprised to discover that George landed on a shelf created on the edge of the iceberg by the tsunami and appears to be alive. Brian is hesitant to attempt a rescue, however, for reasons he cannot explain even to himself.

Harry drives one snowmobile while Pete and Claude follow on the other. Harry is driving slower because he has no idea where the iceberg broke, therefore he does not know if he might come up on the edge so quickly that he cannot stop his snowmobile. As they travel the light snowfall from earlier has become something of a blizzard, making visibility limited. Harry slows even more, his thoughts moving to Rita. Harry hopes the break occurred between them and the camp, leaving Rita on safe ice. Harry knows this situation would aggravate Rita's ice and snow phobias, therefore he wants her safe. As Harry is thinking this, he suddenly sees a chasm opening in front of him. Harry manages to stop the snowmobile just as it is about to fall into the crack. Harry gets out of the special Plexiglas cabin of the snowmobile to check out the crevasse. As he stands there, the ice begins to crumble under his feet, expanding until the snowmobile, and the drill carried on it, disappears.

Rita fights her phobias as she investigates a cave created by large pieces of fallen ice. The cave appears to be their only hope for shelter now that the temporary cave has been destroyed. Franz moves the radio and begins hailing base camp. Gunvald is happy to hear their voices, but not thrilled to learn his prediction has come to fruition. Gunvald tells them the storm is quickly approaching their area, making it impossible for an air rescue. Their only hope is two trawlers that are a few hundred miles away.

Roger lowers Brian by rope to the shelf where George lies. Roger touches George and finds him conscious and responsive. Brian places the makeshift harness on George and signals for Roger to lift him up. When George is safe, Roger lifts Brian. There is a moment when Brian is afraid Roger will drop him, but he makes it to the top safely. When Brian mentions this to Roger, Roger assures him it was not his time to die.

The other snowmobile can only carry two people at once, so Harry elects to ride in the trailer used to transport supplies. The cold combined with the wind generated by the movement can freeze a man in seconds, so Harry huddles down as tight as he can, allowing his mind to drift to the day he met Rita while attending a scientific convention in Paris. Pete pulls Harry from his reverie when they reach camp. Harry is thrilled to see Rita, despite his hope she would be safe. Harry promises Rita when this is all over he will take her back to the same hotel where they spent their first night together.



The Ilya Pogodin is forty miles from the coast of Greenland monitoring radio transmissions. The radio man, Timoshenko, raises the aerial antenna and monitors local transmissions. Gorov, the captain, checks in with him, but Timoshenko has nothing to report.

Harry talks to Gunvald and learns that the storm is expected to last a week, leaving them with only the trawlers as a form of rescue. Harry knows the trawlers will turn back if the seas become too rough and that they cannot last more than a day or two, if they survive the bombs, on the food and shelter they have. Harry talks to his team, telling them that their first priority should be to dig up some of the bombs and disarm them, giving them a fighting chance of surviving the midnight blast. Brian questions this approach and George leaps on him, arguing almost incoherently. Harry has to remind George that Brian just saved his life and he should allow him some latitude. The group decides their best chance is to disarm ten of the bombs.

## Chapter 2, Ship Analysis

Roger and Brian discover that George has fallen over the edge of the newly formed iceberg, falling on a shelf, so they are able to save him. Brian shows his adventurous side in this event as well as a maturity that seems to have been missing in him previously. However, George is not very grateful for Brian's efforts and continues to blame him for some unknown event or situation. Also important for the reader to note at this point is Roger's comment that Brian will die sometime, but that this was not his time. This comment seems philosophical at first, but the way it is stated should make the reader wonder what Roger's true meaning is.

Harry loses his snowmobile when a new crevasse appears in the middle of the new iceberg. This leaves the team with one less snowmobile to use to keep warm. The crevasse too is of interest, though Harry is not sure why at this point, therefore the reader is not sure either. Harry shows his own sense of bravery when he insists on riding in the trailer back to camp so that neither man on the other snowmobile will have to do it. During this time, the reader learns how Harry and Rita met, an event that shows more of Rita's personality. Rita is a forceful, brave woman, who goes after what she wants without restraint. This suggests to the reader that her personality will be a large part of what helps Rita survive this ordeal.

The reader learns along with the survivors that rescue could be impossible because of the storm bearing down on them. The only hope they have is two trawlers, but the storm could force them to turn back as well. A submarine is introduced in this chapter, suggesting the submarine might have some part in their rescue. In the end, however, Harry puts everyone to work disarming ten bombs with the hopes that this will not only give everyone something to do to keep their minds off of impending danger, but will also allow them to survive detonation in order to wait for rescue.



# Chapter 3, Prison

## Chapter 3, Prison Summary

Nikita Gorov, the captain of the Ilya Pogodin, tries to take a nap, but his mind is drawn to the past and the death of his son. Gorov was on a similar clandestine mission on the Pogodin when he got word that his son, Nikolai, was ill. By the time Gorov got to his son, he had already passed away. Gorov is filled with guilt over the loss of his child and the fact that he was not there when his child needed him most. This trip is Gorov's first since returning to active duty after the death of Nikolai. Gorov's memories are interrupted by Timoshenko who has come to tell him about the Edgeway scientists stuck on a slow moving iceberg.

Harry and his team manage to pull the first bomb from its ice encrusted grave. At the same time, Gunvald gets word that one of the trawlers has already turned away, forced back by choppy seas. On board the Pogodin, Gorov listens to exchanges between Gunvald and Thule, and comes to the same conclusion, that the other trawler will more than likely turn back as well. Gorov knows that they are the only chance the scientists have and he feels a need to help them, perhaps to relieve some of the guilt he feels about his son's death. However, Gorov must convince his second officer of this because it will require contacting Moscow, something they have been forbidden to do. Gorov argues that the multi-national aspects of the group, including the fact that a member of the Dougherty family is among the stranded, will make their efforts look good for Russia should they save them. Zhokov reluctantly agrees and the submarine prepares to surface in order to contact Moscow.

Harry's group pulls the second bomb. Harry remains with Pete while he dismantles the bomb while the others go to the site of the third bomb. Pete tells Harry that they will not have enough time to remove all ten bombs because it took them nearly an hour to get each of these and they will grow slower as they tire. Harry agrees, but tells him they have no other options at the moment. In the meantime, the Pogodin is waiting for word from Moscow. Gorov hopes for the best. Unfortunately for Harry and his team, the drill breaks and they have no choice but to return to the cave and wait. On the Pogodin, the message from the Ministry tells them to return to their original course and surface in an hour for an answer. As the Pogodin dives again, Gorov writes a fake note from the ministry allowing them to change course and make their way toward the iceberg's location while they await confirmation. Gorov shows this to Zhokov and asks him to use it to protect himself should there be any questions about Gorov's decision to change course.

Harry and his team return to the cave. Rita notices that Brian is not there. Harry, Pete, and Roger go in search of Brian. The men divide up the area and begin a search pattern. Harry finds Brian behind a monolith of ice. Roger comes over and helps Harry put Brian in a snowmobile. About that same time, Gunvald gets word that the last trawler, the survivors' last hope of rescue, has turned back in rough seas. A short time



later, Harry is relaxing inside one of the snowmobiles when Rita comes and tells him he should go talk to Brian. Harry goes to the snowmobile where Brian is recovering from his brush with death. Brian tells Harry that someone hit him over the head and left him for dead. Unfortunately, Brian did not see who did it. This adds a new danger to their now precarious situation. On the Pogodin, Gorov receives permission from the Ministry to help in the rescue of the Edgeway team.

Rita sits with Brian, massaging his limbs to keep frostbite from setting in. They talk and Brian tells her he wants to write a book about this experience with heroism as a theme. In the cave, Harry finds himself staring at his teammates, trying to determine who is insane enough to try to kill Brian. The only candidate so far is George, who has acted with animosity toward Brian since they arrived on the polar icecap. Interrupting his thoughts, Harry receives a radio call from Gunvald. Gunvald tells him both trawlers have turned away, but a Russian submarine is coming to their rescue.

### **Chapter 3, Prison Analysis**

In this chapter Harry and his team try desperately to disarm the bombs and give themselves more time, but fail after only three. This leaves them in nearly the same situation as before. Fifty-seven bombs could shatter their iceberg and throw them into the sea, an immediate death sentence. Now the group has less than seven hours to find a way off the iceberg. At the same time, Harry discovers that someone, despite their clear death sentence, has attempted to kill Brian. The only reason Harry can think of that someone would target Brian is because of his political family. Unfortunately this does not narrow the number of possible suspects. George seems likely because of his growing animosity for Brian, but no one knows the cause of it therefore they cannot know if George hates Brian enough to kill him. Therefore, this still leaves four other suspects.

Unaware of the drama playing itself out on the iceberg, the crew aboard the Pogodin becomes aware of the teams predicament and decides to help them. This decision is spearheaded by the captain, Gorov, who has recently lost a child and is suffering the guilt associated with the fact that he was not home during his child's illness and arrived too late to comfort him before death. This is a personal mission for Gorov, one that he is willing to take to its conclusion no matter what the cost to his career. To this end, Gorov fakes a message in order to convince his second officer to move the sub toward the iceberg before permission has been granted. This shows the reader that Gorov is willing to do anything to save these eight strangers, if only to absolve himself of a perceived failure. This injects optimism into the plot, but leaves the reader frightened for the safety of the men aboard the Pogodin.



# Chapter 4, Night

## Chapter 4, Night Summary

The Pogodin has arrived at the iceberg and has surfaced to find a place where they might land rafts in order to send men up the side of the iceberg to rescue the scientists. Unfortunately, there are no shelves or outcroppings on the side that is best protected from the choppy seas and the other side of the iceberg offers a few shelves, but the water is too choppy for the submarine to remain on a steady course with the iceberg. Gorov considers using a breeches buoy despite warnings from Zhukov that it would be too dangerous for both the men and the sub. Gorov then orders Timoshenko to contact the scientists and inform them of his plan.

Harry asks Pete to take a restroom break with him. While they are alone outside the cave, Harry tells Pete that someone tried to kill Brian and that he does not know who he can trust. Pete warns Harry that he should not trust anyone, including himself. However, Pete agrees to keep an eye on Brian in case the killer should make another attempt. Harry receives a call from Timoshenko when he returns to the cave. Harry is unsure about the plan, but has no alternative to offer. The others all have something to say as well, including George who is unhappy that a group of people from a formerly communist country are coming to their rescue. Eventually they all agree that they have no option but to rely on the Pogodin and her crew to save them.

Gorov and his crew shoot the breeches buoy at the ice, but it fails to grip the ice. Instead it breaks a thin sheet from the edge of the iceberg, leaving it even smoother than before. Instead, Gorov decides to shoot a torpedo at the iceberg to create a shelf. Harry's group is warned to evacuate the cave in case it collapses from the impact of the torpedo. Harry takes advantage of the situation to call Gunvald and ask him a favor. Harry asks Gunvald to search the lockers belonging to the team members. Gunvald is reluctant, but with the knowledge that Brian's life is in danger, he agrees. Gunvald goes to the storage hut where the lockers are and begins breaking into them, using a hammer to break the locks. Gunvald searches carefully through each locker, but finds nothing. Then Gunvald sees an envelope taped to the back of one locker that has been designed to hide something, even if the locker were searched. Gunvald opens the envelope and discovers a notebook that is something of a scrapbook chronicling the slow deterioration of a man's sanity.

On the Pogodin, Gorov orders a torpedo to be fired at the iceberg. Gorov watches as the torpedo hits the side of the iceberg and begins to break away thin sheets of ice. Before he can determine the extent of the damage they have caused, Gorov notices that the iceberg is changing direction. In a moment this is confirmed by his crew, who also alert him that the iceberg is moving faster than before. The iceberg has fallen into a fast moving, natural current. The iceberg is moving toward the Pogodin, so they quickly dive to prevent a collision. Unfortunately, they collide with an unseen object, but are unsure of the damage. The Pogodin continues to dive, moving to dangerous depths in



order to get under the iceberg. As the Pogodin dives, the fathometer reports how far below the iceberg they are. Suddenly they come under an open space that seems to be in the middle of the iceberg. After a few moments, they are under the iceberg again, but the depths vary from inch to inch. On the iceberg, Harry and his team become aware of the change in direction the iceberg has taken.

Despite water coming in through the hull of the Pogodin, Gorov orders the boat to take another turn under the iceberg in order to investigate the hole that appears to be in its middle. When they surface again sometime later, Timoshenko radios Harry and describes a plan that Gorov has come up with to get them off the iceberg. It will be dangerous and requires deep sea diving, but Harry recognizes it is his only option and agrees his team will attempt to dive down through the hole in the iceberg and reach the sub a little more than seven hundred feet below.

## Chapter 4, Night Analysis

As time speeds on, the Pogodin searches desperately for a way to save the Edgeway team. Every attempt Gorov can think of employing fails in one way or another, leaving him desperate for a way to save the scientists. Gorov is driven to save them, desperate to do something good after the terrible death of his son. This determination is important because the Pogodin is the only chance the team has of getting off the iceberg before the bombs detonate. Eventually Pogodin finds a hole in the iceberg by accident and plans to use it to get the team down to the submarine. However, this plan is dangerous for the scientists because it requires deep sea diving, and dangerous for the Pogodin because its hull has been compromised and they could implode should the water leaking through the hull find a larger entry point.

At the same time the Pogodin is searching for a way to save him and his team, Harry is still searching for a possible killer among his team. Harry asks Gunvald to search the private lockers of the team members and he finds a disturbing notebook that chronicles the deterioration of a sane mind, but he is unable to get the information to Harry because the iceberg has entered a new, faster current and has moved out of radio range. Now Gunvald knows the identity of this person, a confirmation to the reader that there is a killer on the ice, but has no way of telling anyone, including the reader. Now Harry and his team must undertake a dangerous dive with a killer among them and they are still unaware of the killer's identity.





# Chapter 5, Tunnel

## Chapter 5, Tunnel Summary

The Pogodin has surfaced so that the crew can fasten cases containing the diving gear to the aerial antenna. At the same time, Harry leads his team to the chasm that swallowed his snowmobile, convinced that this is the top section of the hole Timoshenko described. Harry believes this hole and the unusual pattern of ice beyond it were caused by lava released during the tsunami. When they reach the crevasse Harry climbs into it and begins to search for the hole. Harry finds it at the end of a narrow tunnel. Underneath the iceberg, the Pogodin positions itself under the hole. They deploy the aerial antenna and extend it as far as it will reach.

When the aerial antenna's balloon breaks the surface of the hole, Harry drags the cases onto the ice and instructs his team to begin dressing in the wet suits. Down below them, Gorov gets a report that the hull is beginning to sweat in the missile room again. Gorov orders the sub to remain at its current depth. At Edgeway Station, Gunvald continues to look at the notebook he has found, frightened for his friends on the iceberg. Forty minutes before detonation, Harry's team begins to enter the water, Roger Breskin in the lead because he has previous diving experience, and Brian between Harry and Rita for protection from potential attack.

Gorov receives a report from the officer's mess that there is water sweating through the hull there as well. Gorov continues to order the sub to remain where it is, wondering if he is putting lives at stake for his own selfish reasons. In the water, the passage is slow and Rita's ice phobia begins to cause a panic attack. Rita closes her eyes and sees herself back in the car with her parents, watching the avalanche fly down the mountain. Rita recalls the snow and ice filling the car, the death of her parents, and waiting under her father's coat for rescue that she was sure would never come.

As the team continues their descent, Roger suddenly turns on Harry. Roger pulls Harry's mask from his face and swims toward Brian. Rita, despite her fear, becomes aware of Roger's movements and she braces herself for a surprise attack. Rita wraps herself around Roger's back and tries to pull off his mask, but Roger is stronger than she. Roger manages to brush her off. By this time the others have become aware of what is happening. Franz and Pete come to Brian's rescue while George flashes back to the night he watched communist soldiers kill his grandparents and rape and murder his mother and sister.

Harry recovers his mask and swims toward Roger. Harry manages to pull Roger's air hose from his suit. Claude helps Brian recover his mask. Slowly the team recovers from the attack and resumes their dive to the Pogodin. Each member of the team thinks about their pasts or their futures as they make their way. At the same time, the crew of the Pogodin become tense, fearful that the boat will implode before the scientists reach them. Alarms begin to go off, warning of a possible hull breach and water begins to pool





in both the missile room and the officer's mess. Minutes before the bombs are due to detonate on the iceberg, the first of the Edgeway team reaches the Pogodin. Only four people can go at once, so Harry sends Rita, Brian, Claude, and George. As soon as they are processed, Harry, Pete, and Franz jump into the chamber. Gorov orders the Pogodin to emerge from under the iceberg the moment he gets word that all the divers are aboard. They feel the concussion from the bombs' explosion seconds after midnight, but they manage to surface without incident.

## Chapter 5, Tunnel Analysis

As the Edgeway team makes their way down to the Pogodin through the hole in the ice, they find themselves not only struggling with their own personal demons, but with the insanity of one of their members. Roger Breskin, the soft-spoken body builder who recently immigrated to Canada turns out to be the would-be killer. Roger has developed some sort of distrust for government and the Dougherty family in particular. For this reason, Roger has focused on Brian, deciding his killing of a Dougherty would make him some sort of hero. Roger has become so insane, however, that he does not stop to think about his own safety or the fact that the whole team is there to stop his attack on Brian in the water. Needless to say, Roger's insanity is the direct cause of his death.

The Pogodin is damaged and this damage could cause the ship to implode, killing everyone on board. This is a fear of all crews of submarines and the fact that this possibility has become so real makes the crew members willing to leave the Edgeway scientists to die. Fortunately, these people are all loyal to Gorov and Gorov refuses to quit, even though he is beginning to doubt himself and his reasons for pushing this issue. It is lucky for the Edgeway survivors that Gorov is so determined to save them because they are rescued only seconds before the bombs detonate on the iceberg.

# After

## After Summary

The survivors are delivered to Dundee, Scotland. George has never liked traveling by sea, so he is relieved to finally be on land. A ceremony is held to celebrate the rescue. A reporter calls George a hero, but he refuses to accept the title. George points at the crew of the Pogodin, calling them the heroes.

Gunvald learns that his team, minus Roger Breskin, were safely rescued and that he will be airlifted off the polar icecap soon. This news comes five days after the rescue.

Pete e-mails Harry and Rita in France to let them know he, Claude, and Franz are enjoying their vacation in Jamaica.

Harry and Rita are enjoying some time alone in their favorite hotel, the Hotel George V in Paris, France.

## After Analysis

George has been humbled by his experience and perhaps it will help him to deal with the tragedy from his past. The others are all enjoying a vacation, except for poor Gunvald who is ironically still stranded at the Edgeway Station.



# Characters

## Dr. Harold 'Harry' Carpenter

Dr. Harold Carpenter, or Harry, is a scientist who is attempting to find a way to break off pieces of the polar ice cap and take it to countries that have been devastated by drought. Harry is a kind, intelligent man who wants to save the world through his work, but not in the least egotistical. With his wife, Harry is leading an expedition to break off a piece of the polar ice cap and monitor it as it moves into the ocean's currents in order to figure out a safe way for ships to transport these icebergs to places where water is in great demand.

Harry and his team have just planted the bombs that will divide a small chunk off the ice cap when a tsunami hits, breaking off a large section of the ice cap with Harry and his team trapped on it. Harry rushes to his wife's side and begins making plans to turn off enough of the bombs to make it possible for the team to survive on the ice until help can come. Harry remains calm, even when he comes to realize there is a potential killer among the men on his team. Harry keeps the team together, keeps them calm, and proves to be the backbone of the operation.

## Dr. Rita Marzano Carpenter

Rita Carpenter is Harry's wife and partner in his attempts to bring polar ice to countries devastated by drought. Rita, however, has a deep fear of ice and snow that stems from an episode in her childhood during which she and her parents were caught by an avalanche. Rita survived, but she was stuck in the car for many hours with her deceased parents while she waited for rescue. As a result, Rita dislikes snow and ice, a distaste that causes her to have panic attacks while working in the ice. Only Harry knows of Rita's fear, proving to the reader how well Rita is able to contain her emotions. However, when Rita is forced to swim down a tunnel in the base of the iceberg, her fear threatens to overwhelm her, even as her husband is below her fighting for his life.

## Pete Jackson

Pete Johnson is a large, black man who played football in school. However, instead of joining the NFL, Pete choose to continue his education and become a scientist. Pete is a part of Harry's team, using both his computer knowledge and his great strength to help in the project. When the novel opens, Pete is helping to bury the bombs. Later, Pete will help remove some of those same bombs in an effort to give the stranded team a chance at survival. When Harry learns of the attempt on Brian's life, it is Pete he turns to because Pete is the one man Harry trusts above all the others. However, Pete is the first to warn Harry that he cannot trust anyone, even Pete.



## Claude Jobert

Claude Jobert is an older man who has been studying ice his entire adult life. Claude Jobert is a member of Harry's team, but this is most likely his last trip to the ice because his physical abilities are no longer at the peak they need to be at for work on the ice. Not only this, but Claude Jobert recently lost his wife to a random act of violence. Claude has become somewhat jaded, complaining a great deal on this trip even though he has never really complained before. Harry believes that Claude's complaints are based in the fact that he will deeply miss this work and because he still grieves his wife.

## Gunvald Larsson

Gunvald Larsson is another member of Harry's team. Gunvald normally would go with the team, but this time around Gunvald has been elected to be the man who remains alone at Edgeway Station in order to monitor the weather and radio transmissions. During the final twenty-four hours of Harry's trip to the polar ice cap's outer region, Gunvald becomes aware of several earthquakes taking place a few hundred miles from Harry's location. Gunvald is concerned about this because he knows that if an earthquake hits close to Harry's location it could cause catastrophic damage that could either kill Harry and his team, or leave them stranded in the coming storm. Gunvald is helpless to do anything to help Harry and his team but to give them the information and pray. After Harry and his team find themselves floating on an iceberg, Gunvald tries to get them help, but the storm has already caused the seas to be too treacherous for the nearby ships. Gunvald is powerless, and then he loses all contact with the outside world. Gunvald has no idea what has happened to his friends for four days, until the weather clears and he is finally able to make radio contact with Thule.

## Roger Breskin

Roger Breskin is another scientist with Harry's team. Roger is a bodybuilder and he has recently immigrated to Canada from the United States. Roger appears to be a friendly guy who goes out of his way to help rescue George Lin when he falls over the edge of the iceberg. However, it is soon made clear that quiet, soft spoken Roger is hiding a mental breakdown that could cost everyone their lives.

## George Lin

George Lin is another member of Harry's team. When the tsunami first hits, George falls over the edge of the iceberg and is rescued by Brian and Roger. However, this act does not change George's feelings about Brian. George believes that Brian is part of some government conspiracy to spy on the scientific mission. Not only this, but George believes that Brian's family is full of communists who are out to hurt people. Later the reader learns that George saw his mother, sister, and grandparents killed by communist soldiers in his native China. Afterward, George was forced to hide in a fireplace for



several days until his father came home and found him. George is damaged by this experience, but he is a kind, gentle man beneath his fears and prejudices.

## **Brian Dougherty**

Brian Dougherty is the son of a senator and the nephew of a President. Brian, however, has no interest in politics and has spent most of his adulthood spending money and going on one adventure after another, all adventures that have been highly publicized. Now Brian is a part of Harry's team as a working observer. Brian had originally hoped to write a few articles about the experience, but after the tsunami, Brian decides to write a book on the theme of heroes. This idea solidifies when the members of the team save his life after Roger Breskin tries to kill him.

## **Franz Fischer**

Franz Fischer is a meteorologist with Harry's team. Franz and Rita once had a sexual relationship, before she met Harry, and having Franz around now makes her deeply uncomfortable. Franz is not the type of man who takes being dumped by a woman well, therefore he has spent most of his time on this mission acting like a spoilt child. However, as the team is rescued by the Russians, Franz recognizes his own failings and vows to be a better friend to Rita, someone he admires greatly.

## **Nikita Gorov**

Nikita Gorov is the captain of the submarine, Ilya Pogodin. Gorov lost his son from an illness while he was away on a secret mission, a fact that has filled him with a great deal of guilt since returning home to find his child already dead. Gorov feels that he let his son down by not being with him when he needed him most. When Gorov, on his first mission since his son's death, hears about the trouble the Edgeway team has gotten into, he decides he must rescue them. Gorov hopes that by rescuing the Edgeway scientists he might be able to forgive himself for not helping his son.

## **Emil Zhukov**

Emil Zhukov is the second officer on the Ilya Pogodin. Zhukov is a very by the book sort of guy and Gorov knows that he will be his only obstacle in helping the Edgeway scientists. Gorov must do all he can to convince Zhukov that what he is doing is for Russia and that they will not be punished by breaking the rules of their mission. Zhukov greatly admires Gorov, but he is also intent on having a great military career himself. However, Gorov is finally able to convince Zhukov to go along with his plans.

## **Peter Timoshenko**

Peter Timoshenko is the radio operator on the Ilya Pogodin. It is Timoshenko who first brings to the attention of the captain the situation regarding the Edgeway scientists. Timoshenko is monitoring radio transmissions around the polar ice caps as part of their clandestine mission and he picks up Gunvald's conversations with the military base at Thule. Later Timoshenko talks with the stranded scientists and relays to them the plan for rescue. Without Timoshenko, the rescue might not have happened.



# Objects/Places

## Fathometer

A fathometer is an instrument on a submarine that measures the sound waves that bounce off of solid objects, enabling submarines to know what objects might be present above and below them as they travel underwater.

## Bombs

As part of their experiment, the Edgeway scientists have buried multiple bombs in the iceberg to break a piece of the iceberg off the whole. Unfortunately, the iceberg breaks into a larger piece after it is hit by a tsunami, leaving the scientists stranded on an iceberg that is about to explode into tiny pieces.

## Snowmobiles

The Edgeway scientists have special snowmobiles that are designed to provide transportation in extreme cold. These snowmobiles become the scientists only means of heat after their camp is destroyed during the tsunami.

## Radio

The radio is the scientists only means of communicating with the outside world. Unfortunately, the stranded scientists quickly move away from their base, causing difficulty with communication and a storm knocks out the base's ability to communicate with the outside world for several days.

## Locker

At Edgeway Station each scientist is given his own locker to keep personal items. When it is discovered that someone has tried to murder Brian Dougherty, Gunvald is instructed to search these lockers to discover the identity of the would-be killer.

## Notebook

Gunvald finds a notebook in one of the scientist's lockers that indicates a man with a grudge against the Dougherty family and growing mental instability.



## Deepwater Diving Equipment

The Pogodin sends deepwater diving equipment to the Edgeway survivors using an aerial antenna the submarine uses to listen in on radio transmissions. This diving equipment will help the survivors dive more than seven hundred feet to the Pogodin under the iceberg.

## Submarine Hull

The hull of the Pogodin becomes compromised after it is hit by ice. This damage causes a leak in the submarine during a deep dive that could possibly lead to hull failure and the death of all on board.

## Iceberg

Harry and Rita Carpenter are running an experiment with a group of seven other experts on the polar ice caps. The idea is to separate a section of the iceberg and observe its movement in the natural currents to find a way to transport icebergs to drought plagued areas. Unfortunately, a minor tsunami causes the iceberg where Harry and his crew are running the experiment to separate early, with them on it.

## Ilya Pogodin

The Ilya Pogodin is a Russian submarine running near the area of the iceberg on a top secret, practice spying mission. The Pogodin's captain decides to make an attempt to rescue the Edgeway survivors using his submarine.

## Edgeway Station

Edgeway Station is the name of the headquarters of the project Drs. Carpenter are running on the polar ice caps.

## Thule

Thule in Greenland is where the closest military base to Edgeway Station is located.





# Themes

## Scientific Experimentation

This novel begins with news reports of the growing danger of droughts throughout the world. The reports focus on the irony of fresh water frozen on the polar ice caps, unusable although it could provide plenty of water for these struggling countries. Two scientists, Drs. Harry and Rita Carpenter, want to experiment with the polar ice caps and find a way to transport sections of icebergs to these drought areas. It is this idea that brings them to the polar ice caps in the beginning of the novel. Drs. Carpenter and their team want to break off a small piece of the ice cap and attach directional beacons to it in order to track its movement in the natural currents of the ocean, hoping to find a way to get the icebergs to safe areas of the ocean in order to allow ships to drag the icebergs to drought areas.

Scientific experimentation is the situation that puts Drs. Carpenter and their team on the polar ice caps, places the team in danger and creates the conflict that will drive the plot. As the team prepares to leave the polar ice cap and return to their base, a tsunami hits and breaks off a section of the cap, leaving them floating on a time bomb. Rescue is near impossible because of an impending storm and the team must rely on the unexpected help of a Russian sub. All of this springs from the scientific experiment and it is the experiment's bombs that create the time problem that will add tension to the plot. For these reasons, scientific experimentation is a theme of the novel.

## Guilt

Nikita Gorov had a son named Nicolai. While Gorov was on his submarine conducting a highly classified mission, his son became ill. Gorov was not notified until his son's condition became fatal. By the time Gorov returned home, his son had passed away. For months afterward, Gorov remained at his wife's side, torn apart by grief and the guilt that he had not been with his son when he needed him most.

Eventually Gorov decides he must get back to work. It is during his first mission back aboard the Pogodin that he learns of the peril of the Edgeway scientists.

Gorov is a good captain, always the type to follow the rules. However, the death of Gorov's son has left him questioning the rationale that kept him on the submarine, unaware of his child's situation, until it was too late. Now, as Gorov learns more and more about the situation in which the Edgeway scientists find themselves, he struggles against his own need to do something proactive and his sense of duty to the Russian government. Gorov never doubts his decision to help the scientists. In fact, Gorov feels that by helping these men he might in some way pay his debt to his son. Gorov only has to convince his second officer and the Russian ministry. Guilt is Gorov's motivator and



the reason the Pogodin comes to the rescue of the Edgeway scientists, making guilt a theme of the novel.

## Mental Instability

Someone tries to kill Brian Dougherty. Brian is the son of an American politician, the nephew of an American President. Brian's family is well known by everyone on the Edgeway team and it seems one of them resents his family's political connections. While attempting to dismantle some of the bombs, someone hits Brian over the head and leaves him on the ice to die of exposure. Fortunately Harry finds him in time to save his life, but Brian does not know who hit him and therefore has no idea who the potential killer might be.

Harry is faced with impending death, either from exposure or from the bombs that are set to go off at midnight. Harry does not want to add to this list murder. However, Harry trusts all the members of his team and cannot imagine which man it might be who is trying to kill Brian, or what his motives might be. Harry contacts Gunvald at the base and asks him to search the lockers, hopefully to find some information that will identify the killer. Gunvald does this and finds a notebook that exhibits the quickly deteriorating mental stability of one of the team members. However, before he can contact Harry to tell him who it is, the storm blows in and ends all radio communications. Harry and his team proceed with the rescue attempt the Pogodin has outlined, still unclear who the murderer might be and when he might try again. During a dive in deep water, one of the team members attacks Harry before attempting to kill Brian. A fight ensues and the guilty party is killed.

At the same time Harry and his team are dealing with a mentally unstable would-be killer, other members of the team are beginning to crack under the pressure of impending doom. George Lin is haunted by memories of a childhood in which he saw communist soldiers kill his mother, sister, and grandparents. This causes Lin to fight against the idea of being rescued by Russians. Rita Carpenter, too, struggles with childhood memories. Rita's parents died in an avalanche in which she was also trapped, leading to a deep fear of ice and snow, a fear she struggles with everyday of the mission. This fear is increased as Rita and the rest of the team dive in frigid water to the Pogodin far below. Due to these examples of mental instability, this is a theme of the novel.

# Style

## Point of View

The point of view of the novel is third person omniscient. The author moves from character to character in his narration in order to give the reader a well rounded story. Harry and Rita tend to be the primary narrators when the story focuses on the survivors of the Edgeway team. On occasion, the narration moves to Gunvald, the only member of the Edgeway team who remains at base. When the story focuses on the submarine Ilya Pogodin, the narration moves from the captain, Gorov, to the radio operator, and, occasionally, to the second officer. This narration allows the reader to see the emotions and thoughts of all these people, including action that happens out of the knowledge of the main character, Harry Carpenter. In this way, the author is offering motivations of the various characters as well as a rounded story that perhaps makes more sense than one told in the first person would present.

The point of view of this novel works well because it offers an intimate portrait of the main characters, especially Harry Carpenter, the leader of the Edgeway Station. The point of view also allows the reader to get to know Gorov, the Russian submarine captain, and understand his motive in getting involved in the rescue of the Edgeway team, a rescue that proves to be the teams' only chance of survival. This point of view also adds tension to the novel because it occasionally focuses on Gunvald who is aware of the building storm headed their way and the name of the man attempting to kill Brian, even though he is unable to share this information with the team. Finally, this point of view works because it allows the story to be told from several angles, creating a more rounded and satisfying plot.

## Setting

The novel is set on the polar ice caps, hundreds of miles from Greenland. The novel begins on the actual edges of the ice cap where a group of scientists are burying bombs in order to break off a piece of the ice and monitor its progress through the natural currents of the ocean. This setting is imperative to the novel because it sets up the situation in which the scientists find themselves, the conflict that propels the plot.

The novel's setting is a unique one that presents a set of dangers unique to its location. The ice cap is an inhospitable place in which a man could freeze to death in a matter of minutes. Added to this is the fact that the ice has broken apart and is floating out to sea, with eight people on it, toward an impending storm. The chances of rescue are slim, but when a storm is added into the equation, rescue seems impossible.

The setting of this novel is fascinating in that it both provides a location readers can easily imagine and that provides the danger that drives the plot. If this book had been set anywhere else, the plot would make little sense and the danger inherent in this

setting would not have existed. For this reason, the setting of this novel is deeply important to the overall plot and it becomes something of a character in the story itself, creating the conflict that drives the story.

## Language and Meaning

The novel is written in simple English. The novel is easy to read for readers of all ages, including very few phrases that would not be familiar to the average reader. The novel uses some words that are of a scientific nature, such as the word fathometer, but most of these words are either familiar because of common use in the American dialect, or they are explained in the text so that the reader can understand the use or purpose of the item or word.

The language of this novel is used to tell a simple, tension filled story. The language is simple enough for the younger readers, but complicated enough that it does not make the more educated reader feel talked down to. The scientific information in this novel is accurate, but presented in a simple format, making the novel entertaining and easy to understand. This writer is notoriously careful with his language, using words to paint a story, rather than for the enjoyment of using big, complicated words. For this reason, this novel is well crafted and uncomplicated.

## Structure

The novel is divided into five chapters and contains a prologue and epilogue. The prologue and epilogue include news stories that set up the situation that has brought the Edgeway team to the polar ice caps and what has happened since their attempted rescue. The chapters are each divided into sections that are titled with a time and, at times, a countdown to detonation. In this way, each chapter's section allows the reader to keep track of how much time is passing and how close the Edgeway team is to the detonation of the bombs. This allows tension to build in the plot, creating an atmosphere in which the reader is anxiously awaiting the same rescue the team is praying for.

The novel is written with one major plot that follows the struggle of the Edgeway team to find a way off their iceberg before the bombs they themselves planted explode. Several subplots are included in this plot, including the attempted murder of Brian Dougherty, the childhoods of George Lin and Rita Carpenter, and the death of Nikita Gorov's son. All these subplots are used to reinforce the main plot, adding motivating information or tension to the main plot. All plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the book, and are further explored in the epilogue.



## Quotes

"As a scientist, Harry respected the tools of logic, method, and reason, but he had learned never to discount a hunch—especially on the ice, where strange things could happen."

Chapter 1, Snare, pg. 11

"Because he had come into Rita's life after Franz, Harry felt, in his unfailingly sweet and reasonable way, that their history was none of his concern." Chapter 1, Snare, pg. 33

"Then, as suddenly as the terror had begun—no more than a minute ago—it ended."

Chapter 1, Snare, pg. 52

"This time he had a good reason for risking everything: A human life was at stake. Was that the problem? Was it that he didn't want to be a hero? Too damned many heroes in the Dougherty family, power-thirsty politicians who had become heroes for the history books." Chapter 2, Ship, pg. 68

"He was thinking in terms of their survival rather than his own, for he knew that he was the least likely member of the expedition to come through the forthcoming ordeal with his life."

Chapter 2, Ship, pg. 95

"Let's get moving. I can hear those sixty clocks ticking. I don't want to be too near them when the alarms go off." Chapter 2, Ship, pg. 129

"Gorov knew that was true. He believed it as well, which was more important than merely knowing it. Yet oceans of guilt washed through him in endless, corrosive tides."

Chapter 3, Prison, pg. 134

"One down. Nine to go." Chapter 3, Prison, pg. 152

"But his world was composed of data banks, programming keys, input, output, and gadgets—and he was not able to deal well with people unless they behaved in a predictable, machinelike manner." Chapter 3, Prison, pg. 179

"But they had to find a place to land the rafts. A small shelf. A tiny cove. A niche above the water line. Something." Chapter 4, Night, pg. 225

"The contents hit him with tremendous force, shocked him as he had never imagined that he could be shocked. Hideous stuff." Chapter 4, Night, pg. 293

"Detonation in forty minutes." Chapter 5, Tunnel, pg. 347



## Topics for Discussion

What is Edgeway Station? Why are these scientists on the polar ice caps? Is their plan to help drought stricken countries plausible? How do the scientists plan to implement their theories? What are the bombs for? How did the team plan to get back to their camp? What stops this from happening?

What phobias does Rita Carpenter have? What caused these fears? Why is she on the polar ice caps? How do her phobias make this situation difficult? What causes Rita's fears to possibly interfere with the rescue of the team? Will Rita be able to face her fears? What helps Rita face her fears?

What does George Lin think of Brian Dougherty? For what reason? What is significant about Brian's family? Does this have something to do with George's distrust of him? Would George do anything to hurt Brian? Why is George ungrateful for Brian saving his life? Why does George not trust the Russians? What happened to George to create these prejudices?

Why is Brian Dougherty on the Edgeway team? What is his role there? How did Brian get on the team? What is Brian's occupation? What occupation does Brian want to adopt after he gets off the polar ice cap? In what ways is Brian an extreme sportsman? How does Brian end up saving George's life? What reason did Brian have to do this? What does Brian recall about this episode that leads him to identify his possible killer?

Why would someone want to kill Brian? Why does this person leave Brian to die of exposure? How does this attempt on Brian's life affect the rescue attempts of the Pogodin? Who does Harry believe the killer is? Why does Pete tell Harry not to trust anyone, even Pete himself? Is this good advice? Does this suggest Pete is the would-be killer? Why does the killer attack Harry during the dive? Did the killer want Harry to die?

Who is Nikita Gorov? Why does he decide to help the Edgeway scientists? What about his son's death motivates him? Why does Gorov break Russian rules and turn the sub toward the iceberg before he receives permission? Why does his second officer fight this idea? What could happen to Gorov should it be found out he did this? Was it the right choice?

What causes the tsunami that breaks apart the ice cap? Could Harry have gotten his team off in time had he listened to Gunvald's warnings? Why did he not listen? What happened to the camp where the team was staying? Why was it imperative they get off the iceberg before midnight? What might have happened had they been on the iceberg at midnight? How did the rescue take place? What might have happened to the Pogodin had the hull failed?