



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

“The Mountain Between Us” by Charles Martin

1. “The Mountain Between Us” is an adventure story, a story of survival, but above all a love story. By the end of the novel, what do we learn about the author’s views of love? Is there such a thing as a perfect 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. 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. Ben refers to himself as “a bit of an emotional blockhead” (page 119). Why do you think he finds it so difficult to come to terms with his “separation” from his wife, Rachel? What part did his childhood experiences play in his emotional development?
5. 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 back home alive?
6. How does Ben and Ashley’s time in isolation on the mountain change their perspective on life?
7. Were you surprised by the revelation about Ben’s family life at the end of the book? How did the discovery make you feel? Looking back through the book, did the author lay any clues for the reader along the way?
8. 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?

The above questions are from Penguin Random House (2016). Reader’s Guide: The Mountain Between Us. <http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/108230/the-mountain-between-us-by-charles-martin/9780767927024/readers-guide/>

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