



# Between a Rock and a Hard Place

*By Aron Ralston*

## **Between a Rock and a Hard Place** By Aron Ralston

One of the most extraordinary survival stories ever told—Aron Ralston's searing account of his six days trapped in one of the most remote spots in America, and how one inspired act of bravery brought him home.

It started out as a simple hike in the Utah canyonlands on a warm Saturday afternoon. For Aron Ralston, a twenty-seven-year-old mountaineer and outdoorsman, a walk into the remote Blue John Canyon was a chance to get a break from a winter of solo climbing Colorado's highest and toughest peaks. He'd earned this weekend vacation, and though he met two charming women along the way, by early afternoon he finally found himself in his element: alone, with just the beauty of the natural world all around him.

It was 2:41 P.M. Eight miles from his truck, in a deep and narrow slot canyon, Aron was climbing down off a wedged boulder when the rock suddenly, and terrifyingly, came loose. Before he could get out of the way, the falling stone pinned his right hand and wrist against the canyon wall.

And so began six days of hell for Aron Ralston. With scant water and little food, no jacket for the painfully cold nights, and the terrible knowledge that he'd told no one where he was headed, he found himself facing a lingering death -- trapped by an 800-pound boulder 100 feet down in the bottom of a canyon. As he eliminated his escape options one by one through the days, Aron faced the full horror of his predicament: By the time any possible search and rescue effort would begin, he'd most probably have died of dehydration, if a flash flood didn't drown him before that.

What does one do in the face of almost certain death? Using the video camera from his pack, Aron began recording his grateful good-byes to his family and friends all over the country, thinking back over a life filled with adventure, and documenting a last will and testament with the hope that someone would find it. (For their part, his family and friends had instigated a major search for Aron, the amazing details of which are also documented here for the first time.) The knowledge of their love kept Aron Ralston alive, until a divine inspiration on Thursday morning solved the riddle of the boulder. Aron then committed the most extreme act imaginable to save himself.

*Between a Rock and a Hard Place* -- a brilliantly written, funny, honest, inspiring, and downright astonishing report from the line where death meets life -- will surely take its place in the annals of classic adventure stories.

## **Between a Rock and a Hard Place** By Aron Ralston Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

In a moving account of strength in the face of adversity, Ralston presents the full story behind the 2003 event that became worldwide news: his self-amputation of his right arm after it was caught between a boulder and a canyon wall during what began as a routine day hike in the Utah Canyons. An experienced climber, Ralston, 28, effectively shows he wasn't a risk-taker, and alternates between describing how his jaunt turned into a nightmare when a huge stone suddenly came unstuck as he used it to climb down a ledge, and recalling early experiences that changed his novice attitudes toward hiking, which he admits "were not intrinsically safe." Ralston candidly renders the details of six days of entrapment, using transcribed monologues from videotapes he made while trapped, including his increasingly exhausted thoughts as well as poignant farewells to his family. But his best writing details his self-amputation and his subsequent march to safety, in which he rappelled one-armed down a hill and then hiked six miles before someone found him. Ralston's prose is never gruesome, nor is it used to shock, even as he describes first breaking his forearm, and then slipping "into some sort of autopilot" as he cuts through muscle fibers to detach the arm. It's truly thrilling when he finishes and is free: "A crystalline moment shatters and the world is a different place." 16 pages of color photos.

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School - From midday Saturday, April 26, 2003, until midday Thursday, May 1, Ralston was pinned between a boulder and a canyon wall in a remote area of Canyonlands National Park in Utah. He had little food and water. No one would even wonder where he was until he didn't show up for work on Tuesday. Unable to sit, lie down, use his right arm (that was the part between the rock and the wall), or sleep, he knew right away that he was in for an excruciatingly difficult time. Those 120 hours of what he calls "uninterrupted experience" tested to the fullest his physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual being. His eventual rescue led to international headlines, partially due to his dramatic means of escape: he severed his arm with a cheap, dull, dirty knife. This is a searing and amazingly detailed rendition of his ordeal, along with accounts of several of Ralston's previous wilderness adventures. He is one active and tough guy, but readers never get the sense that he is boastful or seeking notoriety. Rather, he seems genuinely intrigued, even mildly befuddled, by his insatiable drive to be active in the wild. One could say he takes too many risks, and that he has a tendency toward carelessness. He himself notes this. But the man's drive and devotion to his calling are nothing but admirable. Sixteen pages of color photographs add considerably to readers' experience of this nuanced, gripping survival story that belongs in most collections. - *Robert Saunderson, Berkeley Public Library, CA*

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From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* The world knows the outlines of Ralston's extraordinary story: with precious little water or food, his right arm pinned for nearly five days by a boulder in a narrow canyon shaft in central-eastern Utah, Ralston amputated the arm with his pocketknife, then rappelled and hiked his way to his own rescue. What makes his account of his ordeal extraordinary, too, is the detail and precision Ralston, a former mechanical engineer, brings to the telling, from the almost minute-by-minute chronology of his ordeal to topographical descriptions of the ground he's covered in his life as an outdoor adventurer. It's also the extremes of failure and achievement we see forged in this life-or-death crisis: carelessness at not telling friends where he was going, despair as he wrote his epitaph on the canyon wall, even a certain unthinking in taking five days to figure out his deliverance. But those were all trumped by Ralston's amazing resourcefulness in prolonging

his supplies and finding a way out, his boundless enthusiasm for life, and his dogged force of will at enduring far longer than anyone could have expected. *Alan Moores*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Darren Marshall:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*. Try to make the book *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* as your buddy. It means that it can be your friend when you really feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunate for you. The book makes you considerably more confident because you can know almost everything by the book. So, let me make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

#### **Susan Roundy:**

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students since they're still students or that for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has different personality and hobby per other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great along with important the book *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*. All type of book are you able to see on many resources. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

#### **Alex Thayer:**

Do you considered one of people who can't read gratifying if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* book is readable by means of you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the details here are arranged for enjoyable reading experience without leaving perhaps decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer of *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* content conveys prospect easily to understand by a lot of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the written content but it just different such as it. So, do you nonetheless thinking *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

#### **Jerry Lyon:**

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, you could enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout men. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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