**Summary by Amazon.com:**

After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he’s left with a choice: wither away in juvenile detention or fly to Kathmandu with his long-lost father. Peak quickly learns that his father’s renewed interest in him has strings attached. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit. The story of Peak’s dangerous ascent—told in his own words—is suspenseful, immediate, and impossible to put down.

**Vocabulary**

**Auspicious,** means *promising success.*

**Precarious,** means ***DANGER****!*

HAPE stands for **“High Altitude Pulmonary Edema”**. It is when fluid builds up in you’re lungs, and you don’t have enough oxygen in your blood.

**Traverse**, *to cross at an angle.*

**Character Description**

**Josh**

Josh is Peak’s dad. Josh is famous and climbs for money. Josh is a great climber because got to the summit without an oxygen mask. I think that’s why he’s a celebrity.

Josh was not there when Peak was born because he was climbing. This makes Josh selfish (but selfish might not be a bad thing because you have to think about yourself and nothing else when climbing or you could have an accident like Josh’s mom did).

Josh has his own business and has to be safe because people hire companies with safe ratings. For example, Josh will try to get people up the mountain (that’s what they pay for!) but if they are sick he will try to get them off the mountain. He is also safe by letting the climbers that were at base camp a couple weeks longer go up first and have Peak, Holly and Sun-jo stay at base camp a little longer.

Josh cares for other people and is helpful. If you have HAPE he will go through tough storms to come get you. Just like Sun-jo’s dad did to save Josh’s life once. This is why Josh owes Zopa (Sun-jo’s grandpa).

**Peak Describes Josh**

**Beginning:** Peak described Josh as a person who just does his own thing. He is selfish and thinks he was the best climber ever.

**Middle:** Peak is mad at Josh because he finds all of his letters Peak sent to Josh as a child, in a stack unopened. Then Josh has to get Peak off the mountain to keep Josh’s clients happy. Peak is furious but secretly Peak, Sun-jo and Zopa were going up the mountain another way. That’s how Peak got mixed emotions.

**End:** Peak thought Josh was “OK” in the end and was starting to understand why Josh didn’t write back. He understood that for one, he had to be selfish and not think about other things or something will happen (his mom told him that). Secondly, Josh was probably busy climbing and didn’t have the time to write his son back.

Peak & Sun-jo’s Relationship

Peak and Sun-jo have a lot of ups and downs throughout the book. At first Peak was uneasy about Sun-jo because when Peak was at the hotel, Josh told him that Zopa would come and get him however Sun-jo came instead. Peak knew nothing about Sun-jo. Next, they found out some things they had in common and Peak decided he liked Sun-jo. Then Peak found out Sun-jo was planning to summit too. Peak thought Sun-jo and Zopa were trying to get Peak down off the mountain by giving Peak’s climbing stuff to Sun-jo. So then again, Peak felt they were back to square one. But then Sun-jo clarified he was NOT trying to get Peak off the mountain. So now he feels like he wants to be friends again now that Sun-jo said that. But it wasn’t until the Ice Fall when Peak saved Sun-jo’s life that they truly forgave each other. Then at the summit Peak decided to let Sun-jo go to the summit while Peak stayed down when he was perfectly capable of making it to the top of the world. That generous act made them officially BFF’s.

Who wrote this and what does this mean…

*The only thing you’ll find on the summit of Mount Everest is a divine view. The things that really matter lie far below…*

Peak wrote it and means when you’re up on the mountain what matters most is your family down bellow. Peak wrote it at the end when Paula and Patrice asked “What are you doing?” and Peak responded, “Finishing my moleskin.”

Interview with David

-Lowest point in the U.S. is Death Valley.

-Highest point in IA is Hawkeye Point.

-3ft=1 yd.

-At 24,000 feet you may need an oxygen mask.

-Animals on mountain that David saw were Marmots, Pica, Elk, Fox, Moose and tracks of Lynx.

-David’s friend climbed Everest.

-David has a friend Sherpa that opened a restaurant in Bolder CO.

-David climbed all the peaks above 14,000 in CO.

-Porters are carriers and Sherpa’s are climbers.

-You poop in a bucket in the area of MT. McKinley AK.

-You can put dust on poop to make it smell less.

-HAPE means you get fluid in your lungs.

-HACE means your brain swells and you do stuff you don’t mean to like say “its hot I’m going to take my clothes off.”

-HAFE means your Flatulence collapses and you fart 24/7.

-David was in an Ice storm and his buddy’s eyelashes froze together.

-If you get cold keep on moving.

-David, one time got pizza delivered by a plane while on the mountain (It was still hot!!!!).

-For water on the mountain you have to melt a ton of snow.

-The highest mountain David climbed was 21,000 ft. high and it took him 2 weeks to get to the top.

-David said base camp food was pretty good.