

eXtreme Blindside

Study Guide

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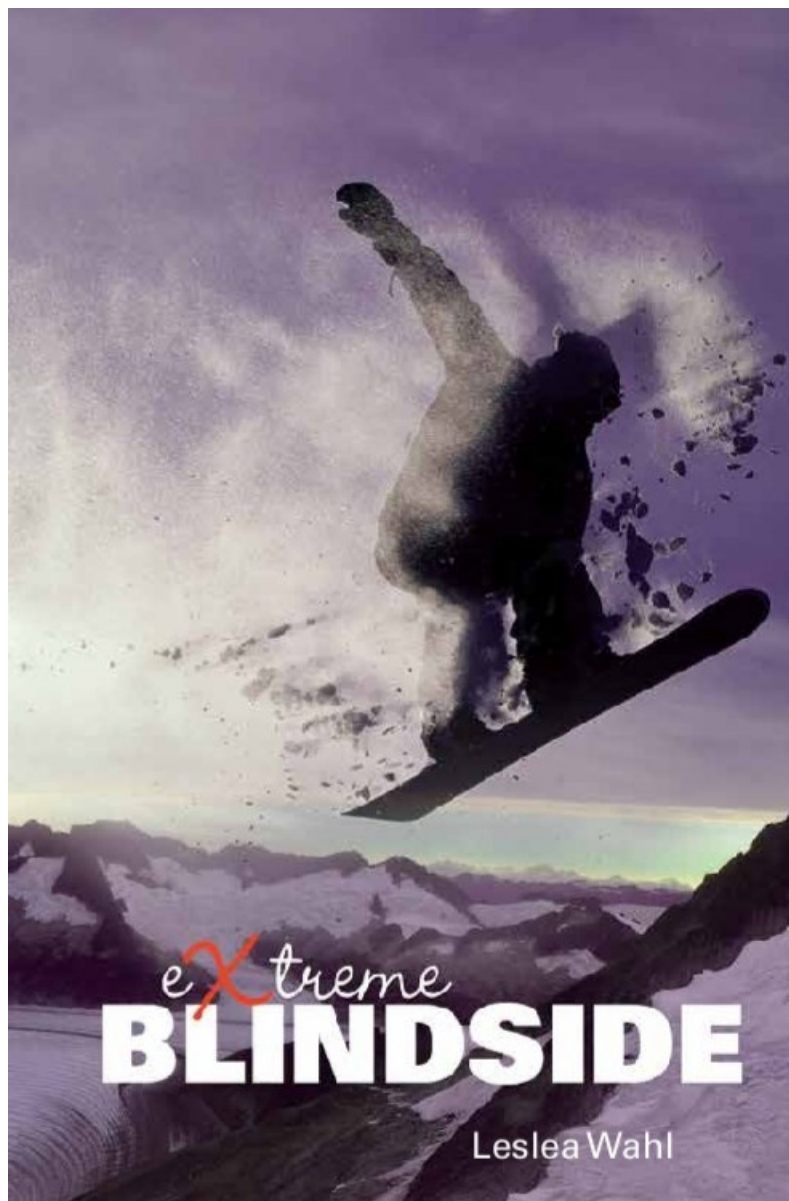


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Answer Key

Note to Instructor

This study guide is intended to help students analyze the story by providing comprehension questions. These questions are designed to be adaptable and can be answered with one or two sentences, or with longer essays. Keep in mind, the student's answers will probably be slightly different than the answers provided. They may also be used as discussion questions, as springboards to more in-depth analysis. Select the questions appropriate for your student(s). This guide is created in the OLVS curriculum style.

Summary

Life is good for Jake and Sophie. After the incident at Silver Springs mine last year, things are getting back to normal. Or as normal as things get when you're an Olympic snowboarder, or getting your first big break as a journalist! But when strange accidents start happening on the slopes at the premiere extreme winter sports competition, Jake becomes suspicious. And it's only a matter of time before he and Sophie are tackling another mystery together - one that may prove more dangerous than the Mountain Madness Games themselves. Can this couple unravel the clues before Jake becomes the next victim?

Things are about to get **EXTREME**.

Chapters 1-3

1. Where is Jake at the beginning of the story? What is he doing there?
2. Who does Jake have dinner with in Chapter 1? What is their relationship?
3. Who is Jake introduced to during dinner?
4. What gift does Sophie give to Jake? Why is it special?
5. What does Mallory send to Sophie?
6. What is the name of Jake's new trick?
7. What happens to Tommy during practice?

Chapters 4-6

1. Who comes to Silver Springs to talk to Sophie? What do they discuss?
2. Who is the first person Sophie meets when she arrives at the hotel?
3. Where does Sophie want to drive to for an article?
4. What does Jake learn about Tommy's board?
5. What happens during Jake's final practice run?
6. Where does Sophie find Jake after the final practice run?
7. What is the topic of Sophie's first article?

Chapters 7-9

1. What advice does Jake's mom give him on how to stay focused on his faith?
2. Why does Jake's mom want Chad and Kate to come early?
3. What surprise has Jake arranged for Sophie?
4. What did Jake add to his pre-run routine? Why?
5. At the polar plunge event, who does Sophie set up an interview with?
6. Who is Elle?
7. What happens to the top snowmobiler during his event?

Chapters 10-12

1. What does Sophie find when she looks through her photos?
2. What does Duke tell Sophie about the workers?
3. Why does Matt hate Jake?
4. What is the curse?
5. How did Ms. Addelstein get her job?
6. Who do Jake and Sophie have dinner with?
7. What was Jake's surprise?

Chapters 13-15

1. How old is Jake on his birthday?
2. What happens between Elle and Sophie?
3. Sophie's mom calls. What does she want Sophie to do?
4. Why doesn't Drake want to do the interview?
5. Who offers to drive with Sophie to Glenwood Springs?
6. What does Sophie tell Jake before the banquet?
7. Who does Jake run into after the banquet? What is wrong with him?

Chapters 16-18

1. Since Sophie can't fix things with Jake, on what does she decide to focus her attention?
2. Instead of watching Jake's qualifying run, what does Sophie do?
3. What does Sophie find in the cabin?
4. What happens at the start of Matt's qualifying run?
5. When Jake finds out that Sophie was investigating something, what does he do?
6. What kind of message does Sophie send to Jake?
7. Does Sophie make it safely out of her hiding spot?

Chapters 19-21

1. Jake follows a man on a snowmobile. Before he can reach him, what happens?
2. Was Sophie on the snowmobile?
3. How does Sophie detain the man who is pursuing her?
4. How does Jake give his parents his location?
5. What does Jake point out to Sophie about Jorge?
6. Who shows up at the Taylors' suite when Jake and Sophie are talking about their relationship?
7. Why does he come by?

Chapters 22-24

1. What change does the Mountain Madness officials make regarding Jake?
2. What does Sophie ultimately decide about Jake and their relationship?
3. After finishing her article, what piece of business does Sophie attend to?
4. What does Mr. McKenzie confess to Jake?
5. What does Mr. McKenzie ask Jake to do?
6. Where does Sophie find Jake?
7. While Sophie waits for Jake to talk to Mr. McKenzie, who does she talk to? Why?

Chapters 25-28

1. What answer does Jake give to Mr. McKenzie?
2. How does Mr. McKenzie respond?
3. How did Sophie know where to find Jake?
4. Who does Sophie alert about the situation?
5. What decision do Jake and Matt make regarding their final runs?
6. Who does Jake have an interview with in the final chapter? Why?
7. What was the reason for Tex Masterson attending the Madness Games?

Chapters 1-3 Answers

1. Where is Jake at the beginning of the story? What is he doing there?

Jake is on a helicopter in the Swiss Alps. He and Tommy will have their heliboarding run filmed.

2. Who does Jake have dinner with in Chapter 1? What is their relationship?

Jake has dinner with Mr. McKenzie, who is a friend of Jake's agent, Bill. Jake will be helping Mr. McKenzie with a new training facility.

3. Who is Jake introduced to during dinner?

Jake is introduced to Ms. Addelstein. She is a reporter who will be following him for a month.

4. What gift does Sophie give to Jake? Why is it special?

Sophie gives Jake a framed photo that she took of Claim Jumper's Creek. This is the location where she and Jake started to get to know each other.

5. What does Mallory send to Sophie?

Mallory sends Sophie a picture of Jake with another girl on New Year's Eve.

6. What is the name of Jake's new trick?

Jake's new trick is a Cab Double Cork 1260.

7. What happens to Tommy during practice?

Tommy crashes during practice. He is severely injured and is taken off the mountain by the ski patrol.

Chapters 4-6 Answers

1. Who comes to Silver Springs to talk to Sophie? What do they discuss?

The reporter, Ms. Addelstein, comes to Silver Springs to ask Sophie to attend the Mountain Madness Games as a reporter and to assist her with the article about Jake.

2. Who is the first person Sophie meets when she arrives at the hotel?

The first person Sophie meets at the hotel in Aspen is a bellboy named Jorge.

3. Where does Sophie want to drive to for an article?

Sophie would like to drive to the site where the new training facility will be built, near Greenwood Springs.

4. What does Jake learn about Tommy's board?

Jake finds out that the bolts on Tommy's board had been stripped. Vince, the man who takes care of Jake's team's boards, believes someone may have tampered with the board.

5. What happens during Jake's final practice run?

A bright flash of light messes up Jake's vision, causing him to crash. Matt makes a statement that angers Jake, and the two of them nearly get into a fight.

6. Where does Sophie find Jake after the final practice run?

Sophie finds Jake at the hotel's lap pool, blowing off some steam.

7. What is the topic of Sophie's first article?

Sophie decides to write an article about how difficult instant fame was for Jake.

Chapters 7-9 Answers

1. What advice does Jake's mom give him on how to stay focused on his faith?

Jake's mom tells him to focus on his relationship with God. If he puts God first, all the other parts of his life will fall into place. She shares with him the acronym WWJD - What Would Jesus Do?

2. Why does Jake's mom want Chad and Kate to come early?

Jake's mom suggests that Chad and Kate come early to help celebrate Jake's birthday.

3. What surprise has Jake arranged for Sophie?

Jake arranges to take Sophie snowboarding.

4. What did Jake add to his pre-run routine? Why?

Jake wanted to add an element of his faith to his pre-run routine. He decided to say a quick prayer and kiss his confirmation cross.

5. At the polar plunge event, who does Sophie set up an interview with?

Sophie sets up an interview with reclusive snowmobile racer Drake Finley.

6. Who is Elle?

Elle is the granddaughter of the man who sponsored Jake's polar plunge. She is also a fan of Jake's.

7. What happens to the top snowmobiler during his event?

Josh Parker's snowmobile doesn't work. Drake Finley offers his snowmobile to the unlucky competitor. However, the official rules state that a rider must compete on the snowmobile with which they registered.

Chapters 10-12 Answers

1. What does Sophie find when she looks through her photos?

While looking through the photos of Jake's practice run, Sophie see a flash of light coming from the halfpipe.

2. What does Duke tell Sophie about the workers?

Duke tells Sophie that the workers with blue jackets were brought in to help with the event.

3. Why does Matt hate Jake?

Matt feels that all of Jake's success should be his.

4. What is the curse?

A former athlete, Barrett James, was disqualified last year and stripped of his medal and award money after he cheated. In a rant that went viral, he cursed the Mountain Madness Games.

5. How did Ms. Addelstein get her job?

Ms. Addelstein got her job because of her father's connections. She wants to keep it on her own merits.

6. Who do Jake and Sophie have dinner with?

Jake and Sophie have dinner with Jake's parents, Bill, and Mr. McKenzie.

7. What was Jake's surprise?

Jake surprises Sophie with Chad and Kate's early arrival to the Madness Games.

Chapters 13-15 Answers

1. How old is Jake on his birthday?

Jake turns seventeen on his birthday.

2. What is wrong with the top contender at the Big Air Snowboarding Event?

The top contender does not have his signature snowboard.

3. Sophie's mom calls. What does she want Sophie to do?

Sophie's mom saw the news about Sophie and Elle's fight. She wants Sophie to head home.

4. Why doesn't Drake want to do the interview?

Drake believes that Sophie only wants her own fame.

5. Who offers to drive with Sophie to Glenwood Springs?

Jorge offers to drive with Sophie to Glenwood Springs.

6. What does Sophie tell Jake before the banquet?

Sophie admits that she is not sure she wants to deal with Jake's fame and the issues that come with it.

7. Who does Jake run into after the banquet? What is wrong with him?

After the banquet, Jake runs into Matt, who has been drinking.

Chapters 16-18 Answers

1. Since Sophie can't fix things with Jake, on what does she decide to focus her attention?

Sophie decides to investigate who has been messing with the Madness Games.

2. Instead of watching Jake's qualifying run, what does Sophie do?

Sophie decides to track down the men that Rachael was suspicious of.

3. What does Sophie find in the cabin?

Sophie finds a list of the athletes who had problems during the events. Jake's name is on the list.

4. What happens at the start of Matt's qualifying run?

While Matt is in the starting position, Jake sees a laser light beam focused on Matt. Jake tackles Matt in order to keep him safe. The rest of the qualifying runs are postponed.

5. When Jake finds out that Sophie was investigating something, what does he do?

Jake, worried about Sophie, misses his qualifying run in order to go search for her.

6. What kind of message does Sophie send to Jake?

Sophie sends Jake a coded 49ers message.

7. Does Sophie make it safely out of her hiding spot?

No. The mustached man finds her and lunges for her.

Chapters 19-21 Answers

1. Jake follows a man on a snowmobile. Before he can reach him, what happens?

Before Jake can reach the snowmobile, an avalanche blasts through the area.

2. Was Sophie on the snowmobile?

No, she was not on the snowmobile. She is buried in the snow when she fell in a tree well.

3. How does Sophie detain the man who is pursuing her?

She stops the mustached man by pushing him into the tree well.

4. How does Jake give his parents his location?

Jake activates his GPS watch to let his parents know his location.

5. What does Jake point out to Sophie about Jorge?

Jake tells Sophie that Jorge is probably interested in her and wants to be more than friends.

6. Who shows up at the Taylors' suite when Jake and Sophie are talking about their relationship?

Matt Brown shows up to talk to Jake, interrupting Jake and Sophie's relationship talk.

7. Why does he come by?

Matt comes by to tell Jake that he received another message from the people disrupting the events. They want Matt to throw his race.

Chapters 22-24 Answers

1. What change does the Mountain Madness officials make regarding Jake?

The Mountain Madness officials unanimously decide to let Jake compete, even though he'd missed his qualifying event. They make this decision because Jake was tracking down the people who are trying to disrupt the Games. The Men's Halfpipe Final will be postponed until the next day to ensure everyone's safety.

2. What does Sophie ultimately decide about Jake and their relationship?

Sophie realizes that her relationship with Jake is worth dealing with the issues of his fame.

3. After finishing her article, what piece of business does Sophie attend to?

Sophie has some time on her hands after finishing her article, so she makes a phone call to the construction company in charge of the new training facility.

4. What does Mr. McKenzie confess to Jake?

Mr. McKenzie tells Jake that he is the one behind the incidents at the Madness Games. He is trying to raise money to save the project by betting on the underdogs.

5. What does Mr. McKenzie ask Jake to do?

Mr. McKenzie asks Jake to throw his run and lose.

6. Where does Sophie find Jake?

Sophie finds Jake at the nearby church.

7. While Sophie waits for Jake to talk to Mr. McKenzie, who does she talk to? Why?

While Sophie waits for Jake, she has a talk with Jorge. She wants to explain that she only thinks of him as a friend.

Chapters 25-28 Answers

1. What answer does Jake give to Mr. McKenzie?

Jake tells Mr. McKenzie that he won't cheat or throw the race. But he will do what he can to help save the project.

2. How does Mr. McKenzie respond?

Mr. McKenzie has his driver hit and tie up Jake to keep him from talking to anyone. He will keep Jake hostage until the event is over.

3. How did Sophie know where to find Jake?

Sophie uses the GPS signal from Jake's watch, which was connected to her phone.

4. Who does Sophie alert about the situation?

Sophie leaves a message for Detective Jackson. She also sets off her own GPS signal so her parents know that she's in trouble.

5. What decision do Jake and Matt make regarding their final runs?

Jake and Matt decide to compete in their halfpipe event.

6. Who does Jake have an interview with in the final chapter? Why?

Jake sets up an interview with Ms. Addelstein. He's hoping that if the truth of what happened comes out, the training facility project can be saved.

7. What was the reason for Tex Masterson attending the Madness Games?

Jake finds out that Tex Masterson is planning on making a movie about Jake's life.

8. Jake and Sophie learn the importance of putting God first. How can you remember to keep God first in your own life?