

Missing
In The
Mountains

By: Ben J.

Jack is a fourteen year old boy that is going on a summer camping trip in the Rocky Mountains with his little brother Nathan. The two love nature and the outdoors, they set out on a trail to their campsite at two pm. They hiked for an hour and a half and Jack saw the lake where they would set up camp and stay for the next few days. The boys set their gear down by the lake and set up their tents, got their sleeping bags ready, and set up a fire pit to cook food over. Nathan pulled out a pot and scooped up water from the lake while Jack went around with his tomahawk cutting off dead brush from the trees for the fire. Jack then gathered a bunch of pine needles and put them at the base of the fire pit, then added twigs, sticks, and eventually logs. Nathan pulled out a pocket knife and a piece of flint and handed it to Jack. Jack then stuck the blade against the piece of flint and a spark hit a twig, and the camp fire started. The two boys smiled as Jack put the pot of water by the fire to boil while Nathan went in search of a log to sit on. Nathan returned to camp rolling a log that could fit four people. The boys kept putting wood in the fire to keep it going, but around six o'clock, they got out their fishing poles and went to catch a fish to cook for dinner. Nathan caught two trout while Jack got a rainbow trout. They fileted the fish and set it on a rock by the fire to cook. Jack taught Nathan how to craft a spoon and fork from a stick, when their fish was done and the boys ate in silence, enjoying every bit as the sun was setting over the mountains. Jack went to bed after eating and Nathan stayed up a few extra hours to tend the fire. In the morning when the boys woke up and they searched for berries to eat, the boys returned and Nathan got the fire going as Jack washed off the berries. The two ate them and drank water as they were talking to each other of what needs to be done that day. The two stayed at camp until around noon when Nathan left to get more fire wood. Hours went by but Nathan had not returned so Jack decided to go look for Nathan. He followed the trail Nathan took and

was yelling Nathan hopping that there would be a response. Along the way, Jack saw a pile of sticks with blood drizzled in places. There had happened to be a trail of blood leading somewhere. Jack got scared and pulled out a knife to defend himself. So many thoughts went through Jack's head right now like "is he ok, is he hurt, did he get lost, where is he, how will I tell mom and dad". These thoughts made Jack more scared as he followed the trail. Eventually Jack started to hear a groan, and saw a motionless figure on the ground. The groan got louder as Jack approached it. It was Nathan! Covered in blood! Jack said "Nathan! Are you ok?" Nathan replied back in a mumbled voice "No". Nathan was too weak to stand so Jack carried him back to the camp. When they were back at camp, Jack pulled out a first aid kit and put bandages on Nathan's wounds. Jack said "what happened Nathan?" in a calm hushed tone. Nathan could barely speak but he managed to mumble "I was looking for sticks and a black bear came out of burrow and charged at me, when it reached me it slashed me, I dropped the sticks I was carrying and ran with blood spilling everywhere and tripped on a tree root, the bear got me and beat me up". Jack said "everything will be alright Nathan, I will pack up camp tomorrow morning and we will head home. Nathan laid in pain that night. In the morning, Jack packed everything up and the boys left. Nathan was still limping and about thirty minutes into walking back home, they came across three black bears. The bears charged at the two boys so they ran. The boys managed to escape somehow, but they ran so far they lost the trail and sense of direction. So they were sadly never seen again, perhaps making them missing in the mountains.