

The boys hiked painstakingly for about forty-five minutes up the snowy slopes. They were forced to take small steps, lifting one foot after the other in the deep snow. Gradually, they made their way higher and higher, until they entered an out-of-bounds area. Neither saw the warning signs.

At the top of the climb, the boys looked down on a sparkling pathway that led down to a lake. "All that powder snow just for the two of us," said Paul.

It was steep... steeper than any slope Sam had ever been on before. The frozen lake looked far away and shone like a jewel.

"Think you can do it, little brother?" Paul asked.

"Sure!" said Sam, but inside his chest his heart was pounding with fear.



