

"Get back from the edge!" you yell. *"I didn't fall, I was pulled in!"*

For a few moments you hear nothing; then Sneed yells, "Thanks for warning us. There may be some force here we don't understand. But don't worry, we're rigging a brace so we can pull you up without getting too close."

A few minutes later you see a nylon climbing rope dangling in front of you. You pull in enough to tie around your waist and under your arms. Taking a firm grip, you call up to the top, "I'm ready—pull away!"

Your heart skips a beat as you're yanked off the ledge. You dangle for a moment; then, slowly, foot by foot, your friends pull you up over the edge. You scramble across the ice into their arms.

"Thank goodness we got you!" says Larsen. "The Bottomless Crevasse is a killer. I think we'd better quit now."

"I agree. I've had enough," Sneed says.

After what you've been through, you're not about to argue with them. The three of you pack up and begin the long trek back across the glacier. You're happy to be alive, but you know that you'll always regret that you never reached the Underground Kingdom.

The End