

Moving very slowly he eventually made it, and at last the sun was beginning to set. This meant the temperature would fall to a more comfortable level, which would give him some relief from the terrible heat. Unfortunately, it also meant no one would be able to find him until dawn the next day, and that every large carnivore for miles around would now be out looking for something to eat.

Not too far away he could hear elephants. Like rhinos, they eat only vegetation but can be very dangerous if they decide to stampede. He knew his painted dogs hunted best by moonlight, and there were also the prowling hyenas to worry about. Above the sounds of the night he suddenly recognised the distinctive call of a lioness communicating with a lion.

Desperate to keep these big predators away, he felt his best chance was to make a lot of noise. Animals all seem to hate loud noise, so after beating hard on the plane's windscreen he started to drum on an aluminium strut

to make as much racket as possible. When he stopped, the lioness came within six feet of him, but by keeping up the noise he managed to scare her off and somehow survive the night.

The next day looked like it was going to pass much like the first, only worse. Overnight Rasmussen had gone from being seriously thirsty to dangerously dehydrated. The pain from his lower body was increasing in severity too, and he was getting more and more worried that no one was coming to rescue him.

Perhaps the SOS message hadn't got through, or maybe it had but nobody could find the crash site or knew where to begin looking. Whatever the reason, he understood enough about this sort of place to know that he couldn't survive without water.

Fearing the end was near, Rasmussen spent some time thinking about his years working in the Hwange National Park. He felt them to have been among the best of his life. The experience of learning so much about the lives of painted dogs, and working to save them from extinction, had been enjoyable and a real privilege, even though the terrified locals referred to them as 'devil dogs'. His was a life that very few people got to experience, and it was something for which he was immensely grateful.

Lost in his thoughts, the weakening Rasmussen only slowly became aware of the drone of an aircraft. As it approached he tried to signal by waving a piece of wing spar, but the plane soon turned around. Closing his eyes, his spirits sank to a new low. He didn't know it but the pilot had already spotted something down below that looked like wreckage. He sent a radio message confirming this to the helicopter crew who were also scouring the area, and



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to a team on the ground approaching in an off-roader.

A few minutes later he was greeted by the first human voices he'd heard since his ordeal began. It didn't take long for the helicopter pilot to find a suitable spot to land. Pausing only to quench his insatiable thirst, Rasmussen was soon on his way out of danger. Nursing him back to health would take many months, however, and involved several dozen operations to rebuild his shattered bones. As a result of this his legs are now a couple of inches shorter, but he is back at Hwange and able to continue working with the painted dogs that mean so much to him.

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Read the text carefully and tell me which of these statements is true or false. Just circle or highlight the correct answer!



- | | | |
|------|--|-------|
| True | Greg was safer during the day than the night. | False |
| True | Carnivores were not the only animals Greg needed to worry about. | False |
| True | There were at least 2 types of carnivore Greg was worried about. | False |
| True | Greg couldn't stop the lioness coming close by using noise. | False |
| True | The next day saw Greg's pain get worse. | False |
| True | The animals were Greg's biggest threat to survival. | False |
| True | Fearing the worst, Greg reflected gratefully on his work. | False |
| True | Greg thought the aircraft hadn't seen him. | False |
| True | Priority was to immediately put Greg in the helicopter. | False |
| True | Greg suffered no lasting impact from his ordeal. | False |