

a horrifying story... but in other ways it is really an inspiring story. People just pull off rescues and do a courageous thing. It's really hard to believe it really even happened except that it did! I felt proud of the people that did this work. People are saving lives on mountains. That's a lot braver than what I was doing.

JK: What's the biggest lesson you learned by telling this story?

PZ: You know, when I was in these villages where people live off...it's not a money economy, it's less than couple of dollars a year in some cases. In a way they have a lot of things we don't have. They really know their neighbors. They have a lot more time to sit and chat and drink tea. Play games. And in some ways it is a really wonderful way to live and I think "Gosh, I'd love to live in place like that. Boy, shouldn't I know my neighbors and care more about my community and just do good things for the sake of doing good things?"

And then on the other hand I think, "My gosh, I am so lucky. I can walk down the street and buy a cup of coffee that costs more than the people I was interviewing will make in years. I am not going to die of a contagious disease. I have tremendous opportunities." We are given an opportunity here. We need to do something with that. It made me really want to do more, and do more good things for the world and be more cognizant of how nice we have it.

JK: People are going to want to know what your significant other (Portland Mayor Sam Adams) thought about you traipsing around the globe working on this project for so long.

PZ: He was supportive. I honestly try not to tell my loved ones too much about what I'm doing, who aren't directly involved, because it would just stress them out. It's better to say "Hey, I made it home safely. Let me tell you where I went" afterwards rather than saying this is where I'm going. I really didn't give Sam the details. But he was supportive.

JK: A writer's life.

PZ: A writer's life.

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