

THE FIRST STEP

And now we return to the beginning.

The wheels are coming off. The critics hate the thing you have poured your heart and soul into for the past two years. You are in a death spiral of complexity. You are hemorrhaging cash and bankruptcy looks imminent. The board has lost confidence in you. Your screenplay is a disaster. It looks like your injury will never fully heal. Awareness dawns that your relationship might really be over.

For me, it was looking out over the blackened ruin of Lake Lagunita, knowing in my gut that we were finished—but also knowing that I was still at the helm, psychologically shattered, with months of excruciating leadership challenges ahead.

Together we stand at the brink, looking out over this vista of failure. It stretches farther than we can see.

The only way across is straight through.

They say the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.

So let's close our eyes.

Take a breath.

We will make it through. I promise.

Let's step.

EATING GLASS



*The Inner Journey
Through Failure and Renewal*

MARK D. JACOBSEN



CONTINUAL ASCENT

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