

## Check Before You Jump

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This story was written when Samantha held a class at Concordia University. Fran and I were students in the class and given the assignment – to write a short story.

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It was a warm sunny day when we packed up our camping gear, flung our packs on our backs, and headed down the trail on our way home.

JP ran on ahead since he was so full of energy, but we eventually caught up with him when he slowed down on the hill up to the last lake. By the time we hiked over that hill and reached the creek on the other side we were all hot and sweaty.

The mountain creek looked inviting and cool, so we stopped beside a pool and sat down for a brief rest.

“Do you think I can take a swim?” JP asked while sitting on the warm rocks.

“Sure” I said, “You will probably dry off by the time we reach the car.”

I thought he would test the water before jumping in, but as soon as he took off his pack and clothes he climbed up to a big rock by the pool and jumped in.

He went in with a loud splash that drowned out the noise of the creek – but even before the bubbles had a chance to settle, his head appeared out of the water with a look of shock on his face!

I have never seen anyone get out of water so quickly! Only after he had managed to thrash his way to the side of the pool and clamber up the rock did he finally find the wind to yell: “Is that water ever cold!”