DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

For members of the Donner Party, ages are given as of May, 1846, when the Donners and Reeds left Independence. Ages in the text may vary slightly, as they reflect the age at the appropriate moment of the story.

MEMBERS OF THE DONNER PARTY

GEORGE DONNER FAMILY
George Donner, husband, 66-69
Taturn Donner, wife, 44
Eliza Donner, daughter from prior marriage, 11
Leanna Donner, George's daughter from prior marriage, 11
Frances Donner, daughter, 7
Georgianna Donner, daughter, 9
Eliza Donner, daughter, 3

JACOB DONNER FAMILY
Jacob Donner, husband, about 56
Betty Donner, wife, about 58
Solomon Hook, Betty's son from prior marriage, about 14
William Hook, Betty's son from prior marriage, about 11
George Donner, son, 9
Mary Donner, daughter, 7
Issac Donner, son, about 5
Samuel Donner, son, about 4
Lewis Donner, son, about 3

BREEN FAMILY
Patrick Breen, husband, about 51
Peggy Breen, wife, about 40
John Breen, son, 14
Edward Breen, son, 11
Patrick Breen Jr., son, 9
Simon Breen, son, about 8
James Breen, son, 5
Isabella Breen, daughter, about 1

MURPHY FAMILY
Leah Murphy, widowed, 36
Landrum Murphy, son, 16
Mary Murphy, daughter, 14
Lemuel Murphy, son, 13
William Murphy, son, 10
Simon Murphy, son, 8

FOSTERS
William Foster, Leah's son-in-law, about 50 (returned as a rescuer after reaching safety)
Sarah Foster, Leah's daughter, 21

PIKES
William Pike, Leah's son-in-law, about 31
Harriet Pike, Leah's daughter, 18
Naomi Pike, daughter, 1
Catherine Pike, daughter, about 1

THE KESEBERG FAMILY
Lewis Keseberg, husband, 31
Philippine Keseberg, wife, 23
Ada Keseberg, daughter, 3
Lewis Keseberg Jr., son, less than 1

THE WEBSTER FAMILY
John Webster, husband, about 50
Mary Webster, wife, about 38
John Webster Jr., son, 14

THE CAMPBELL FAMILY
James Campbell, husband, about 39
Maria Campbell, wife, about 35

THE MURPHY FAMILY
Leah Murphy, widowed, 36
Landrum Murphy, son, 16
Mary Murphy, daughter, 14
Lemuel Murphy, son, 13
William Murphy, son, 10
Simon Murphy, son, 8

THE EDDY FAMILY
William Eddy, husband, about 50 (returned as a rescuer after reaching safety)
Eleanor Eddy, wife, about 25
James Eddy, son, about 2
Margaret Eddy, daughter, 11

THE WOLFGANG FAMILY
Wolfgang [first name unknown], husband, about 20
Doris Wolfgang, wife, about 10

INDIVIDUALS
Antonio ——, 37

OTHERS

Edwin Bryant, a newspaperman who initially traveled with the Donners and Reeds, but later went ahead as part of a rescue
Charles Cady, rescuer, member of the second relief party, which was led by James Reed
Nicholas Clark, rescuer, member of the second relief party, which was led by James Reed
James Clayman, mountain man, skeptic about "Hastings' Cut-Off"
William T. Fallon, rescuer

Aquila Glover, rescuer, co-captain of the first relief party
Lansford Hastings, promoter of "shortcut" taken by the Donner Party
Heinrich Lienhard, emigrant traveling ahead of the Donner Party
Lutze ——, Indiana, 2nd from Fort Sutter, age unknown
William Russell, captain of the party with which the Donners and Reeds initially traveled
Salvador ——, Indiana, 2nd from Fort Sutter, age unknown

John Sinclair, Sacramento alcalde, or top local official
John Stark, rescuer

Charles Stone, rescuer, member of the second relief party, which was led by James Reed
Joseph Reinhardt, rescuer, member of the first relief party, which was led by James Reed
Samuel Shoemaker, rescuer for the Donners, about 50
James Smith, rescuer for the Reeds, about 35
John Snyder, rescuer for the Reeds, about 15
Augustus Spitzer, rescuer for the Reeds, about 50
Charles Stanton, rescuer, age unknown, about 50
Jean Baptiste Trudeau, employee of the Donners, about 16
Baylis Williams, employee of the Reeds, about 52
Eliza Williams, employee of the Reeds, about 54
The families trapped in the mountains did not know it, but their last slim chance of immediate help had vanished. They were on their own.

same reasons they cannot reach you—then how the hell do you save their lives?