

Another Chance

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS, SLOPE - EVENING

ALEX (27), pale face dusted with snowflakes, opens his eyes: he's in a pile of snow, surrounded by mighty black trees. Drops of blood splattered around him.

ALEX
Where am I?

He feels the back of his head. His snowboard is nearby, broken in half. He nods, recollecting.

Alex digs his cell phone out of snow, pushes the buttons. No reception. He struggles to get on his feet, sinks in deep with every step.

ALEX
Anybody there?!

His voice echoes in dead silence. He crawls out to the snow-covered tracks. Limpes along.

Suddenly - a light flickers between the dark tree trunks. Alex hesitates. He rubs the back of his head - his palm is bloody. Turns his way toward the light.

EXT. WOODS, CABIN - EVENING

Alex approaches a log cabin. Knocks. An ELDERLY MAN (80) opens the door. He eyes Alex up and down as he rubs his beard.

ELDERLY MAN
Well, come in.

Alex peeks in. The fireplace crackles, bright and inviting. A table is set for dinner. Alex steps in.

INT. CABIN - EVENING

The Elderly Man gestures, offering to join him at the table. Alex pulls off his snowboard jacket and boots.

ALEX
Do you have a phone here I can use?

ELDERLY MAN

I don't have one, but would you mind sharing dinner with a lonely hermit first? After all, you need to warm yourself by the fire a bit.

Alex glances at his reflection in the wall mirror: pale, blue lips tremble.

ALEX

Thank you but it's kind of an emergency.

The Elderly Man ignores him, plates the bubbling stew.

ALEX

I think I have a concussion.

ELDERLY MAN

Don't be a baby for God's sake. Sit down and eat. Later you can borrow my snowmobile.

Alex hesitates, hypnotised by the Elderly Man's glare, finally obeys. He stirs his stew but doesn't try it. The Elderly eats like he hasn't had a meal in days.

ELDERLY MAN

Why won't you eat, Alex?

The spoon freezes in Alex's hand.

ALEX

You know my name?

ELDERLY MAN

Oh, I know quite a bit. Come on, eat.

Alex fills his spoon.

ALEX

And what do you know?

The Elderly Man smirks.

ELDERLY MAN

Hmm, where do I start. Your parents bought you a puppy on your eighth birthday. You named him Ram, he was so curly...

Alex stares at the Elderly Man, who smiles as if watching the old memories in front of him.

ELDERLY MAN

Your first love... Emily, she was a fine brunette with those amazing eyes--

ALEX

Very funny. Let's say you know everything, did you know I was laying in snow out there probably freakin' forever--

ELDERLY MAN

Not long enough.

Alex stands up.

ALEX

Thanks for the stew.

The Elderly Man blocks his way.

ELDERLY MAN

Do you know why you are here Alex?

ALEX

Phone. I need to make a call.

The Elderly Man laughs. Suddenly his face becomes dead serious.

ELDERLY MAN

Why won't you marry her?

ALEX

What?

ELDERLY MAN

You assume you're going to live forever. By the way, you were meant to freeze to death out there. But I saved you, thought you might want another chance.

ALEX

Are you God?

The Elderly Man chuckles.

ALEX

Who are you?

The Elderly Man looks him straight in the eyes.

ELDERLY MAN

The part of your cerebrum below the
level of conscious perception.

Alex storms out of the cabin.

ALEX

(mumbles)

I'm so stupid...

EXT. WOODS, SLOPE - NIGHT

Gnarled trees. A snowstorm blows in Alex's face. He plows his way up the slope through deep snow. Not a single light around. He's panting. A wolf howls in the distance.

Alex tumbles, exhausted. Looks back, he can't see the cabin's light anymore. Mad wind swirls the snow. Alex grips his head, grimaces in pain. Throws up.

Stands up to proceed. The howling is louder. Alex glances in the direction where it's coming from.

ALEX

Help...

He sprints. Stumbles. Jogs. Falls. Crawls. Looks back. Two green eyes watch him from a bush.

ALEX

Don't even try to come up!

He clenches his fists. Struggles up the hill. He notices how the green eyes move along with him.

His hand digs his pockets. He has nothing except the cell phone. He clutches it. He hears the wolf's excited breathing, eager to attack.

He grabs a stick and swings it in defence. His legs are shaky, he stumbles. Keeps moving.

Collapses. Unconscious...

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EXT. WOODS, CABIN - EVENING

Alex approaches the log cabin. Knocks. A WOMAN (40) opens the door. Alex glances at her. Suddenly he remembers. Surprised.

ALEX
Where is the old man?

WOMAN
It's just us. Tony my husband, our kids and myself.

ALEX
Are you sure?

WOMAN
Are you lost?

Alex shakes his head. Backs up, smiling. The woman shrugs, shuts the door.

He gets his cell phone out, dials. Closes his eyes, holds his breath. A dial tone, clicks - it's answered.

ALEX
(into phone)
Emily? Hi.

He looks up in the indigo sky. The full moon rises illuminating the glistening snow.

FADE OUT