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. Limps 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...


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