

CHRISTMAS CRYSTAL BALL

by

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INT. FOREST - DAY

Heavy snow covers the ground of the forest. On both sides are a lot of trees. Snow lands on the leaves of the trees, making the green leaves fade.

It is quiet and freezing. No people, no animals and no birds. The snow becomes the focus of the forest.

A moment later, this quiet atmosphere is interrupted by three persons emerging. Among them are FRANK SAMPSON, 35, short and neat hair, glasses, wearing a heavy anorak with a backpack on his back, his wife KRISTI SAMPSON, 33, gentle and kind with a cap and fleece on and a backpack on her back. Standing next to her is their son CODY SAMPSON, 10, who has a cute face. He wears a thick jacket, bobble hat and gloves.

All look exhausted. Kristi GASPS. Frank trudges through the snow. Cody has a tired look on his face. They go toward a tree whose ground is not covered by snow. They stop.

FRANK

Let's get a rest here.

KRISTI

Time to take a break.

FRANK

Not a break. Perhaps, we need to stay here for at least two hours.

KRISTI

(confused)

Why?

FRANK

It seems that we got lost.

A worried look on Kristi's face.

KRISTI

Are you serious?

Frank nods. Kristi and Cody exchange a look.

FRANK

No worries. I'll do my best to lead the way.

KRISTI

I'm not telling you off.

CODY

Dad, I support you.

Frank smiles.

FRANK

Let's sit down. Enjoy the snow.

All sit down. Cody stares at the snow on the ground.

CODY

Today is Christmas.

KRISTI

The snow goes with it.

Cody spots a thing on the snow. He moves toward it and picks it up.

CODY

It's a crystal ball.

He hands it to Kristi. In it is a Santa Claus putting a stretcher with three deer on it into an ambulance.

KRISTI

I've never seen such a strange crystal ball before.

Frank takes out a map from his backpack and studies it. Moments later, he sighs.

FRANK

I'm sorry. We got lost.

Kristi and Cody turn to Frank.

KRISTI

There's no need to apologize. You're not an expert in hiking.

FRANK

I shouldn't have brought you two here without good preparation.

KRISTI

You have done your best.

CODY

I'm hungry and thirsty.

FRANK

Let's get some water and cereal bar.

Frank searches through his backpack.

FRANK

Where're they?

Kristi spots a big hole at the bottom of the backpack.

KRISTI

(points at the bottom)

Have a look at it.

Frank complies.

FRANK

My God. You've water and cereal bar in your backpack, Kristi.

KRISTI

Ate up and drank up.

Frank looks disappointed.

FRANK

We've to leave here as soon as possible.

They keep on sitting without doing anything.

SUPER: THREE HOURS LATER

They still sit under the tree. Their faces are pale. They start to embrace together to keep warm.

A man, with a backpack on his back, 70, wearing a red coat with white hair and a snowy-white beard appears. This is DEREK HELSER. He WHISTLES Santa Claus Is Coming To Town while sauntering. He notices the three. Their tired and nervous faces catch his attention. He stops to move up to them.

DEREK

Hi, are you all right?

FRANK

We got lost. We don't know which direction we should go.

DEREK

I'm the person who can help you get through this. I'm a regular here.

KRISTI

We've been here for three hours. No food. No water. Freezing.

CODY

I'm hungry and thirsty.

DEREK

I have water and biscuits. Would you like some?

CODY

Of course. Give me some.

KRISTI

You can't be that impolite, Cody.

CODY

I'm sorry. Please give me some.

Derek smiles. He pulls out some biscuits from his backpack and gives them to Cody, who shares with his parents. Derek takes out a bottle of water and hands it to Frank.

FRANK

No, thanks. You'd keep it for yourself.

DEREK

Water can make you three feel better. Drink it.

Frank takes it.

FRANK

Thanks.

DEREK

Drink it up because I don't need it.

KRISTI

We won't. You need some for yourself.

DEREK

Because I live nearby. I know how to get out of here. It'll take an hour.

Frank passes the bottle to Kristi, who hands it to Cody.

CODY

Mom, you drink first.

KRISTI  
You look pale. It's good for you.

Cody starts to drink and share with his parents.

CODY  
What's your name?

DEREK  
Derek Helser.

CODY  
My name is Cody Sampson.

FRANK  
I'm Frank Sampson.

KRISTI  
Kristi Sampson.

FRANK  
You come here every day?

DEREK  
Yes. Take a walk. Get used to it even though it's freezing.

Frank nods. He looks at his watch.

FRANK  
It's time we went.

DEREK  
Follow me.

They get up and follow Derek.

SUPER: ONE HOUR LATER

They walk down. They stop when they see cars on the highway. Cody APPLAUDS.

FRANK  
Derek, you gave us the best Christmas gifts we've never had. Biscuits and water.

KRISTI  
And got us out of this danger. Thanks a lot.

DEREK  
You're welcome. I've to go. Merry Christmas.

FRANK/KRISTI/CODY

Merry Christmas.

Derek goes to another direction. They start to walk. Kristi stops to takes out the crystal ball from her pocket.

KRISTI

Derek comes here every day. Perhaps, he lost this crystal ball there.

She turns around.

KRISTI

Derek!

Nobody. Frank looks around.

KRISTI

(shocked)

Where's Derek?

They turn to the crystal ball. Kristi and Frank's eyes and mouths go wide while watching the three deer. Frank exchanges a look with Kristi.

FRANK

Santa Claus saved us in the snowy forest.