

POLAR

Jami Todd

Littlebiglion@gmail.com

FADE IN

EXT. CANADIAN ARCTIC - AMITY PASS - DAY

A stark white desert of melting snow and ice reflecting the sky and the low burning sun. Amidst this melting desert a large POLAR BEAR stealthily moves up a ridge. It stops. Stares down at a-

EXT. POACHER'S CAMP - DAY

A small lodge attached to a kennel for a pack of sled dogs. In front of the lodge-

BORRIS SAKOV, late fifties with a square jaw and a cold stare. Checks his rifle with a sweating brow and his thick parka jacket completely unzipped. Hot. Too hot for the Arctic.

A sled dog suddenly barks. Then, one by one, the pack begins to stir uneasily until all nine dogs bark and pace nervously around the kennel.

Borris observes the dogs with his cold, steel eyes. Looks at the horizon toward the polar bear without actually seeing it. All he sees is snow, ice and the blinding sun.

The polar bear stares directly at Borris. The bear doesn't move. Doesn't take his eyes off Borris. Borris turns to his dogs.

BORRIS  
(Russian with subtitles)  
Shut up!

The dogs ignore him, whimpering and barking nervously. He approaches the dogs.

BORRIS (CONT'D)  
(Russian with subtitles)  
What's the matter with you?

Borris hears something crunching through snow on the other side of the kennel. He rounds the kennel to find SERGEI RAVNO early thirties, urinating against the kennel wall.

BORRIS (CONT'D)  
(Russian with subtitles)  
What the fuck, Sergei! You a fuckin animal!?

SERGEI  
                   (Russian with subtitles)  
 Leave me alone! I've had enough of  
 this shithole.

Borris lifts his rifle. Aims at Sergei's crotch.

                  BORRIS  
                   (Russian with subtitles)  
 This shithole is gonna make you a  
 very rich man. Never mind the  
 pelts... you know how much zoos pay  
 for a cub?

                  SERGEI  
                   (Russian with subtitles)  
 This is my last trip.

Borris smiles.

                  BORRIS  
                   (Russian with subtitles)  
 That's what you said last trip.

                  SERGEI  
                   (Russian with subtitles)  
 Stop fucking around with that  
 thing!

Borris smiles. The dogs bark louder. He turns to face the  
 dogs. Narrows his gaze on them. Approaches them. Sees  
 something moving in the snow. Squints. Makes out-

A puppy. Running away.

                  BORRIS  
                   (Russian with subtitles)  
 Where you going stupid dog?

Borris fires at the puppy. Misses. Fires, again. Grazes it.  
 The puppy shrieks in pain. He smiles as the puppy staggers  
 away and soon disappears beyond a mound of snow. Then,  
 suddenly, from behind, he hears a quick gasp.

Borris turns back toward Sergei. But Sergei's missing.

                  BORRIS (CONT'D)  
 Sergei?

Borris investigates. Finds polar bear tracks on the ground  
 near the area where Sergei urinated.

Borris follows the tracks to the back of the compound where he finds Sergei in a pool of steadily widening blood, holding his neck, trying to keep the blood from gushing.

Sergei talks, but only blood sputters from his quivering mouth. Borris mumbles a curse to himself as Sergei's eyes widen. Borris turns to face a polar bear-

CHARGING!

Borris staggers back. Fires! Misses. Fires! Misses! Fires, again. Hits the bear in the shoulder.

The bear stumbles. Borris quickly reloads as the bear slowly rises and fixes its gaze on him. The polar bear stares at Borris. Borris aims the rifle at its head.

EXT. CANADIAN ARCTIC - SKY - DAY

An Arctic Tern soars over huge expanses of snow and ice.

INT. ARCTIC TERN - MOMENTS LATER

JACK VOHRA, early fifties with a sun burnt face and thinning hair. Jack stares at the beautiful view below him. A sudden gunshot startles him. He approaches and passes over the-

POACHER'S CAMP

Jack sees nothing. Hears another-

BANG!

Searches the ground. Again, sees nothing. Jack's Comms Unit suddenly crackles to life.

MIKEY (V.O.)

Jack, you close by? We need that kerosene. Generator's down.

Jack talks into his Comms Unit.

JACK

Any minute now.

MIKEY (V.O.)

Copy that. One more thing...

JACK

Go ahead...

MIKEY (V.O.)  
Rick wants to know if he can take  
her up for a spin.

JACK  
Yeah... that ain't happening. This  
plane is my life.

MIKEY (V.O.)  
He can fly, you know.

JACK  
Well then... he should get his  
license, then we'll talk.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - DAY

The station consists of two main structures. One structure  
for research and the other for the generator that powers the  
station. The Arctic Tern elegantly lands between the two  
structures.

RICK LAPOINTE, late twenties, handsome, fit, comes out in his  
shorts and boots. Jack disembarks, observing Rick.

JACK  
You should at least wear a sweater.

Rick indicates an icicle dangling from the top of a BANDVAGN  
206 Arctic vehicle. Melting. He approaches Jack.

RICK  
Gotta love global warming.

JACK  
And 'Clean Coal' right?

RICK  
It's not as bad as people say.

JACK  
You're outside in your shorts in  
the middle of the Canadian Arctic  
in March?

RICK  
Exactly.

Rick smiles.

MIKEY LAPOINTE, late teens, chubby, jovial, comes out to  
greet Jack wearing nothing but shorts and boots.

JACK  
And here comes Tweedle Dee.

Jack stares at Mikey in disbelief, then turns to Rick.

JACK (CONT'D)  
I couldn't find a hose.

RICK  
Jack... Generator won't last much longer without a new hose.

JACK  
Why don't you ask your neighbors? They're only an hour away by Ski-Doo?

RICK  
I'm asking you.

JACK  
Next trip. I won't forget. Promise.

Rick grabs a container of fuel and heads to the-

INT. STORAGE HANGAR - MOMENTS LATER

On one side of the hangar two Ski-Doos are parked. On the other side there is a massive, rusting generator.

SKI-DOO SECTION

Mikey and Rick walk past a Ski-Doo to-

GENERATOR SECTION

Mikey places the can of kerosene next to an ancient generator pretty much held together by duct tape. Rick places his can of kerosene beside the generator.

MIKEY  
I should probably get started on dinner. We've got that activist coming with his crew.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
We should probably get a new generator.

RICK  
Just needs a new hose.

Rick looks at the generator. His brother. The generator.

RICK (CONT'D)  
We ain't getting a new generator.  
Money doesn't grow on trees, right?

MIKEY  
Shit, you sound like Dad.

Rick gives Mikey a look, then stares at the generator for a moment. He pulls the cord. Nothing. Pulls the cord, again. Nothing. Mikey kicks the generator.

Rick pulls the cord. The generator starts, stops, starts, then sputters and dies. Then he kicks the generator over and over again, and he pulls the cord.

At last, the generator sputters to life. Rick stands back. Stares at the generator. Smiles victoriously. A sudden WHUMP! startles them from the shadows.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
What the fuck was that?

Rick shrugs. They enter a dark, shadowy area of the storage hangar. Mikey creeps toward a workbench with his back to Rick.

Mikey sees something. Kneels. Grabs something from the floor and turns with a scream of terror, holding a metal box that contains an unharmed mouse. Rick jumps back! Mikey laughs.

RICK  
You fuck head!

MIKEY  
Actually, you're the fuck head.  
These traps don't work, bro. You  
gotta get the ones that snap the  
neck.

Mikey stares at the mouse in the trap.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
This is seriously the same fucker  
for the last year getting fatter  
and fatter on our food. I really  
don't know why we don't just get  
poison.

RICK  
I'll take him out farther this  
time.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - DAY

Rick treks through the snow holding the non-lethal mouse trap. He sees an ice cavern in the distance. He approaches and enters the-

POLAR BEAR DEN

Rick opens the lid of the trap. The mouse doesn't move. He reaches down to poke the mouse and it leaps out at him! He loses balance. Falls out of the cavern. Tumbles down. His arm slams into a puddle of half-frozen blood.

He regards his blood soaked arm and hand.

RICK  
What the fuck...

He stands. Scans the area. Spots polar bear tracks in the snow. Adult and cubs. Then he sees bullet shells and ski-doo tracks. He kneels by a patch of snow near the puddle of blood.

Rick cleans his arm with snow and water. Notices something. Looks ahead. Sees the fat, little mouse staring at him. Unafraid. He stares back at it. Indicates his dirty arm.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Because of you.

The mouse just stares at him.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - DAY

Rick enters. Passes the kitchen where Mikey cooks a meal. Passes through the dining area to find-

SAM TUCAH, late twenties, lean, serious, Inuit with thick black hair and dark eyes, sitting at the dining room table, carving a chunk of soapstone.

Jack sits beside him, on a laptop. Rick grabs a deck of cards from the table. He indicates the soapstone.

RICK  
What's it going to be?

SAM  
Haven't figured that out yet.

RICK  
You up for a game later?

SAM  
And lose my paycheck before I earn  
it? No thanks.

RICK  
I ain't that good.

SAM  
You're that lucky.

Rick addresses Jack.

RICK  
How about you?

Jack reads an article on his laptop.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Get off Facebook for second,  
grandpa. I'm talking to you.

JACK  
Just reading about our guest. He's  
pretty hard-core. You know he's  
actually shown scientists have been  
way off on their predictions... the  
way we're going, there will be no  
ice by 2030 and not 2070.

RICK  
No proof the ice is melting because  
of us. Even if it were... we'd melt  
all the ice and torch the world if  
it meant a few more jobs and little  
more profit.

JACK  
So that's why you open your doors  
to him?

RICK  
I open my doors to anyone who pays.

SAM  
There you go again pretending like  
you don't give a shit.

RICK  
I had no one else booked.

SAM  
Because you declined the Russians.

RICK  
They rubbed me the wrong way.

Rick exits. Heads down the hall to-

RICK'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Rick grabs a sweater, old and torn. He stares at a picture of himself and his father by the station. Loses himself.

KITCHEN - LATER

Rick enters sniffing the aroma infusing the kitchen.

RICK (CONT'D)  
What smells so good?

MIKEY  
I do what I can with whale blubber.

RICK  
Funny.

MIKEY  
Carrot ginger soup. Roast beef.  
Veggies.

Mikey hands Rick a spoon. Rick samples the soup, then the roast beef and veggies.

RICK  
My little bro gets me liking  
veggies. That's talent.

MIKEY  
That's what I want to talk to you  
about?

Rick gets serious.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
I want to... I don't know... do  
something with my talent.

RICK  
I need you here, not in Spain at  
some school.

MIKEY  
Paris. Cordon Bleu.

RICK  
This is just a phase.

MIKEY

I'm going.

RICK

We'll talk about this another time.

Rick exits.

DINING ROOM - LATER

Rick sits at the dining room table with his back facing the entrance door. Sam, Jack and Rick hold cards. Each player keeps their poker hand guarded. Rick holds a full house.

A Comms Unit near the fireplace comes to life with static. Everyone turns to the Comms Unity, waiting for a message. Nothing. They return to their poker game.

SAM

You should let him go.

RICK

You should play your hand.

JACK

I'm out.

Sam shows his hand. 7-2-Offsuit. Rick shows his. Full house.

SAM

Getting cold.

Sam gets up. Heads to the fireplace. Searches for the matches. Finds an empty box. Shows it to Rick and Jack.

JACK

I have matches in my first-aid kit  
in the plane.

Sam approaches the entrance. But Rick places his cards down.

RICK

I'll go.

Rick moves toward the entrance. Puts on his extreme weather winter boots but doesn't bother putting on his down parka.

INT. ARCTIC TERN - LATER

Rick sits in the pilot seat. He reaches behind and grabs the first-aid kit. Opens it. Pulls out matches. Sees a flare gun. Grabs the gun. Examines it. Returns it to the first-aid kit.

Rick sits in the seat and places his hand on the yoke. Stares ahead into the darkness. Sees something move. Narrows his gaze. Nothing. A moment later he disembarks.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - NIGHT

Rick approaches the research station. Stops again. Turns. Stares beyond the plane toward the great arctic tundra. Stares for a moment. Sees nothing. Then continues back toward the research station.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - DINING ROOM - LATER - NIGHT

Ricks starts a fire. Returns to the table. Sits. Watches his brother play with Sam and Jack.

JACK  
Looks like luck runs in the family.

Mikey challenges Rick.

MIKEY  
I beat you... you help me...

RICK  
I win?

MIKEY  
I do your laundry for a month.

RICK  
No. You stop talking about Paris.

Mikey nods. Sam deals. Rick looks at his cards. Grins. Sam looks to Rick to see if he wants another card.

Rick shakes his head in answer. Mikey, too. Mikey places five cards of the same suit before him.

JACK  
Tough to beat.

Rick stares at the cards, then places a straight flush on the table. Mikey blinks. Swallows. Stands. Leaves. Sam shakes his head at Rick in disappointment. Suddenly-

The COMMS UNIT crackles to life.

A male Russian voice speaks over the Comms Unit. Nothing intelligible. Everything frantic and in Russian. Everyone stares at the Comms Unit, not sure what to do.

JACK (CONT'D)  
You should respond?

RICK  
I don't speak Russian.

SAM  
It sounds like he needs help.

RICK  
He sounds drunk.

JACK  
We should do something.

RICK  
None of our business. If they need help... they can call the police. I asked those bastards for fuel... They shot at me and fuckin laughed. Now... they're making bets on whether I'm stupid enough to go back. Shit gets boring here. People do stupid shit when they're bored. I ain't falling for it.

SAM  
You're scared.

RICK  
They shot at me... for shits and giggles! Let them call the police. I ain't ever going back to that place again.

JACK  
If he calls again... we go... all three of us.

RICK  
What's wrong with the police?

SAM  
They're a day away. That's what's wrong... If he calls again... we go out... see what's happening.

Rick stares at the Comms Unit. They all do. Nothing.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MORNING

Without a jacket, Rick clears the snow off the Bandvagn, otherwise known as the snow tank.

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - LATER

Rick starts the Bandvagn. He drives it past the research station.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - LATER

Rick drives the Bandvagn toward rolling snow dunes.

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - MOMENTS LATER

Rick stares out his windshield. He sees something. A fox? A rabbit? A puppy? Hard to tell. He drives toward the dune. Stops. Disembarks.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - MOMENTS LATER

Rick runs up the dune. Searches for the puppy, but doesn't see it. Stands at the top and suddenly discovers a glop of blood melting the snow. He scans the dunes. Searches. Gives up with a sigh when he doesn't see anything.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Sam and Rick at the table. Rick sits with his back to the entrance.

SAM

How do you know it wasn't a Nanuq cub?

RICK

It wasn't a bear. It was a dog.

SAM

So the Russians lost a pup?

RICK

Or they went under the ice like the scientists last year. Pup got lucky.

SAM

Luck or no luck... It won't last long on its own.

RICK

Maybe I'll go out later.

SAM

No, you won't. Might be Hawaii in the day, Rick, but it's definitely the Arctic at night. Speaking of Arctic... you hear what happened to the oil prospectors?

MIKEY

Yeah. They were attacked by fuckin deer. No one knows why.

VANCE HOCKING, late thirties, tall and stiff, walks in with Jack.

VANCE

Animals are losing their land. Their way of life.

Rick turns to face Vance.

VANCE (CONT'D)

Even deer fight back when pushed into a corner.

Rick stands.

RICK

They killed people.

VANCE

People kill them all the time.

RICK

For food.

VANCE

For territory. For sport. For fun. And this unfortunate herd... for revenge.

RICK

Where's the camera crew?

ELLIE IVALU, Inuit, late twenties, toned, brunette, opens the door and enters wearing a thick down parka.

ELLIE

Hey, Rick.

A voice like a slap in the face. Rick stares, stunned. Sam's eyes go wide. Rick turns to face Mikey. Mikey shakes his head to indicate he had no idea Ellie was part of Vance's team. Rick turns to Ellie.

RICK  
Ellie when the sun shines.

Ellie sighs.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Excuse me if I don't shake your  
hand. Cold, you see.

Rick walks past her and exits wearing his old sweater.

SAM  
Coming with you.

Sam passes Ellie. Whispers-

SAM (CONT'D)  
Nice to see you, Ellie.

ELLIE  
You, too, Sam.

Sam puts on his jacket and heads after Rick.

RICK (V.O.)  
You didn't know!? You didn't fuckin  
know!?

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - LATER

Rick drives with Sam sitting in the passenger seat.

SAM  
She wasn't on the manifest.

RICK  
Had I known, I wouldn't have  
agreed.

SAM  
Maybe that's why she wasn't on the  
manifest. She probably kept her  
name out to be a part of this.

RICK  
A part of what? He measures ice,  
Sam? Fuckin, ice. Who the fuck  
cares?

SAM  
OH-LAAA! Rick, shit is bad and at  
least he's doing something.  
(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

If we're not careful Tornarssuk the Nanuq god is gonna make things right again.

RICK

Yeah, well, I don't believe in an angry polar bear god tearing us to shit to protect fuckin ice.

SAM

Not to protect... Enlighten... Help us see the way.

RICK

Whatever.

Sam stares at Rick.

RICK (CONT'D)

I can feel you looking at me.

SAM

She looks good. Happy, even.

Rick stares out the window into the darkness. Sees nothing.

SAM (CONT'D)

Maybe it was a seal.

RICK

It wasn't a fuckin seal!

INT. RESEARCH STATION - DINING ROOM - LATER

Rick sits alone at the dining room table, staring at the dying fire in the fireplace, drinking a bottle of whiskey. Ellie walks up behind him. Rick doesn't need to turn around to know that it's her.

RICK

You sneak out?

ELLIE

Not the sneaking kind.

Rick scoffs. Ellie sits beside him.

RICK

You're not with 'Captain Save-The-World?' Aren't you his girl?

ELLIE

I'm no one's girl. We had a thing.  
Now it's over. We're still friends.

RICK

You got what you wanted and you  
ended it.

ELLIE

I'm sorry you think that of me.

RICK

I don't think anything of you. At  
least he's still your friend.

ELLIE

And we're not? So what am I, then?

RICK

Business. Just business.

ELLIE

Right. Sorry for interrupting...  
this...

Ellie gestures at his gleaming bottle. She stands and exits. Rick lifts his bottle to her in salute as she disappears down the hall. Alone, he takes another slug. Shuts his eyes.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MORNING

The burning sun melts the ice. Puddles on the ground. Rick stumbles outside in a T-shirt and jeans. He approaches Ellie and Vance and Sam who are waiting by two Ski-Doos.

Rick doesn't acknowledge them. He merely climbs onto one of the Ski-Doos and starts the engine.

Sam sits behind Rick. Ellie and Vance sit on the other Ski-Doo. Rick turns to Ellie. He calls out.

RICK

Follow me. I'll take you to the  
Bay... but we ain't taking these on  
the ice.

Rick indicates the Ski-Doos.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - LATER

The two Ski-Doos plow through the melting snow until several miles out they reach the-

## FROZEN BAY

The Ski-Doos approach the edge of the water and suddenly halt. Rick kills the engine. Ellie, too. She disembarks and pulls out her camera. Prepares it as Rick scans the area. Then she films the bay.

Using a stick, Vance prods and tests the ice as he advances into the bay. Ellie follows close behind, filming. Ice grinds and creaks beneath their feet.

Vance stops. Pulls out a drill from his rucksack. Drills a hole. Places a stick down the hole. Pulls it out. The tip is wet. Measures the ice.

Rick and Sam watch them safely from shore.

RICK

Fools.

SAM

I wouldn't say that.

RICK

One measures ice. The other makes movies about people who measure ice.

SAM

At least they love what they do.

RICK

I love what I do.

SAM

Your father loved what you do. Your father was a scientist. It wasn't just about being a... landlord.

A silence.

SAM (CONT'D)

She looks good.

RICK

Quit saying that.

Suddenly, a bark. Rick turns to Sam.

RICK (CONT'D)

Hear that?

Sam nods.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Told you it wasn't a fuckin seal!

Ellie heard the bark, too. She approaches a puppy stranded on a block of ice surrounded by dark, cold water.

SAM  
She's going too far!

RICK  
She'll stop.

Vance stops. But Ellie continues.

SAM  
She ain't stopping.

Rick sighs. Grabs rope and a hook from the back of the Ski-Doo. He carefully steps onto the ice. Makes his way to Ellie.

Rick walks past Vance. Vance stays behind, clearly afraid to advance. He stares down at the flow of water beneath his feet.

Rick takes careful baby steps toward Ellie. Approaches her. Says nothing. All business.

The puppy stares at them from an island of ice a few feet out of reach, surrounded by slush, broken ice and water.

ELLIE  
That your puppy?

RICK  
No.

ELLIE  
So why do you care?

RICK  
I don't.

Ellie addresses the puppy.

ELLIE  
Where's your family little guy?

RICK  
Dead. Probably under the ice.

ELLIE  
How do you know?

RICK  
Dogs don't abandon each other.  
Humans do. Humans abandon each  
other all the time. But not dogs.

ELLIE  
Maybe try to pull him closer.

RICK  
I know what I'm doing.

Rick prepares his rope. He throws the hook side of the rope toward the puppy. The hook lands in the water. He pulls it back. Tries again. Again, same result.

ELLIE  
Let me try.

Rick's face tenses. But he doesn't respond. He throws the hook and the hook attaches! To the small block of ice. He then pulls in the puppy with difficulty. Ellie tries to help, but he shrugs her away.

Rick struggles, making little progress. Silently he acquiesces as she takes the rope behind him. Together they pull. The mini-iceberg moves toward them.

When the puppy is within reach, Rick grabs it, noticing one side of the puppy is covered in frozen blood. But suddenly, he loses his balance and nearly falls into the water just as-

Ellie snatches his sweater. Prevents him from falling. Pulls him back. Rick steadies himself. Turns to her. Walks past her.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
You're welcome.

Ellie and Rick carefully walk across the ice with the trembling puppy. Sam waits for them with a blanket.

When they reach the shore, Rick places the puppy in the warm blanket. Sam wraps the puppy. Rick turns to Ellie.

RICK  
I'll bring the pup back to the  
station. You... you... go back  
to... filming... ice.

Sam raises his eyebrows. Ellie shakes her head at Rick. Sam and Rick get on the Ski-Doo and speed away.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - BATHROOM - LATER

On his hands and knees, Rick washes the puppy. Mikey enters with a first aid kit. The blood washes away and drips down the drain of the tub.

Rick searches the puppy and finds a small wound. He patches it up. Suddenly, Mikey's Comms Unit sounds and Ellie's voice fills the bathroom.

ELLIE (V.O.)  
Hey, Mikey... pick up...

Mikey gives Rick a look, then grabs the Comms Unit.

MIKEY  
Go ahead.

ELLIE (V.O.)  
You and Rick should get out here.

Rick shakes his head. Mikey talks into his Comms Unit.

MIKEY  
I think it's more like you better get back. Big ass storm coming.

ELLIE (V.O.)  
Storm or no storm, this is serious. We found something.

Mikey gives Rick another look.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - LATER

Rick and Mikey plow through the snow on a Ski-Doo toward Ellie, Sam, and Vance. They approach their parked Ski-Doo. They park beside the Ski-Doo. They disembark and walk toward

A DEAD POLAR BEAR

Sprawled over the ground. Rick takes in a deep breath. Holds it. Blinks. Ellie finally breaks the silence.

SAM  
Poor, Nanuq.

Ellie addresses Rick.

ELLIE  
You know who did this?

RICK  
I have an idea.

VANCE  
We need to find them.

RICK  
And do what, exactly?

VANCE  
Whatever we can.

RICK  
It ain't going to bring the bear  
back.

VANCE  
This doesn't bother you!?

RICK  
No.

Ellie addresses Vance.

ELLIE  
We don't need permission. We'll  
find them.

RICK  
Not with my Ski-Doo.

Ellie turns to Mikey for support.

MIKEY  
There's a storm coming and their  
camp is an hour away. Let the storm  
pass... I'll take you.

RICK  
No, you won't. These aren't  
teenagers up to no good. They're  
Russian poachers with a shit ton of  
money to make us all disappear.  
Nothing touches these guys.

VANCE  
Doesn't give them the right to do  
what they did!

RICK  
And what gives you the right? Who  
made you police of the world?

Suddenly, a rifle shot interrupts them.

Everyone starts. Sam and Mikey hit the ground. Rick pulls Ellie down behind a mound of snow. Ellie reaches up and pulls Vance down, too.

CA-RACK! A bullet hits the snow. Rick peers at Vance.

RICK (CONT'D)  
What are you waiting for? Go  
get'em!

Sam lifts his arms. Rises slowly. Waves his hands at-

YURI SUKOLOV, late thirties, in a jacket covered in frozen blood. He aims his rifle at Sam.

SAM  
We don't want-

Yuri pulls the trigger.

CA-RACK! A ear-splitting report, and the bullet zips past Sam who instantly jumps back into cover.

SAM (CONT'D)  
What the fuck is he doing!

YURI (V.O.)  
(Russian)  
Die you fuckin bear!

VANCE  
He thinks we're a bear.

ELLIE  
Delusions.

SAM  
Hypothermia. Hallucinations.

YURI (V.O.)  
(Russian)  
Die!

CA-RACK! A bullet hits the ground!

ELLIE  
He's getting closer.

A click. No report. Another click. Again, no report.

RICK  
He's empty.

Rick stands. Yuri approaches him.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Hey, man... don't want trouble...  
it's just...

YURI  
(Russian)  
I killed you! I killed you!

Yuri fires. Again, a click.

RICK  
You don't got bullets, buddy. I  
wouldn't be trying to convince you  
I ain't a bear if you did.

Yuri thrusts his rifle at Rick. The rifle falls at his side.

RICK (CONT'D)  
You're cold... you need to be  
inside.

Yuri pulls out a nine inch hunting knife.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Shit!

Rick quickly grabs the rifle ground. Blocks a knife attack with the butt of the rifle. Yuri attacks, again. Again, Rick blocks the attack with the rifle, but stumbles. Yuri leaps at Rick. Raises the knife just as-

Ellie grabs Yuri's arm. Yanks him back. Yuri pushes Ellie to the ground. Leaps on top of her. Goes to stab her just as Sam tackles him. Pulls the knife out of his hand.

Yuri clammers to his feet, then falls. He turns to face Vance marching toward him.

VANCE  
Are you done killing!?

Yuri doesn't see Vance. He sees a bear.

YURI  
(Russian)  
I killed you! I killed you!

VANCE  
Yeah... How many have you killed!?

Yuri shrieks in pure terror as Vance inches up to him, and he suddenly dies with his eyes wide open.

VANCE (CONT'D)  
What's wrong with him?

SAM  
He's dead. That's what's wrong.

Sam and Rick stare at Yuri's face of terror.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Like it or not, Rick, we gotta talk  
to his friends.

RICK  
We'll call the police.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - DINING ROOM - EVENING

Jack sits by the Comms Unit. Sam carves his soapstone at the table. Jack talks into the Comms Unit.

JACK  
Tom, this is Jack. Do you copy?

Rick enters.

RICK  
Any luck?

Jack shakes his head.

JACK  
They've probably got another  
emergency. Keep trying.

SAM  
That's the problem when your entire  
police force consists of three  
cops.

Sam regards Rick.

SAM (CONT'D)  
He could have hurt others, Rick.

RICK  
That's a possibility, but the truth  
is none of us speak Russian. We'll  
go there. They'll think we killed  
their friend. Then it's one  
misunderstanding after another  
until we're in a full scale war  
with the Russians.

JACK  
Last thing we want is war with the  
Russians.

SAM  
You can't leave him in storage  
forever.

RICK  
Not forever. Just until Tom and his  
men get here.

Sam stops carving his soapstone.

SAM  
You ever think of selling?

RICK  
No one would buy this place.

SAM  
I would. Me and my cousins. We've  
got ideas. I mean you could sell  
and do what you really want to do.

RICK  
That's what I'm doing.

Sam carves his soapstone.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - RICK'S ROOM - LATER

Rick stares at the puppy. The puppy stares back at him.

RICK  
Don't give me that look.

The puppy cuddles up with Rick. Suddenly, the power cuts.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Fuck.

INT. STORAGE HANGAR - MOMENTS LATER

Wearing his old sweater, Rick passes a corpse covered with a wool blanket. He approaches the generator. Gives it a kick. Tries to start it. Doesn't work. The puppy gives him a look. He tries again. No dice. The puppy gives him another look, a long pleading look.

RICK  
I ain't getting a new generator.

Rick kneels by the generator. Wraps thick duct tape around the hose.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Took dad two days to put it  
together. Just needs a little love.

Rick continues to reinforce the hose.

RICK (CONT'D)  
And a new fuckin hose.

Rick stands. Gives the generator another kick. And another. Pulls the cord. Again. And again! At last the generator starts with a stutter. He smiles at the puppy. Then-

The hose bursts and the generator dies. Rick grabs a new roll of duct tape. Attaches and reinforces the hose. The puppy stares at him. He stares back at it.

RICK (CONT'D)  
I ain't going back there... even  
for a hose...

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Rick approaches the entrance as Vance exits.

RICK  
Where you going?

VANCE  
Get some air.

RICK  
Don't wander too far. Storm's  
picking up.

VANCE  
I'm a big boy.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - KITCHEN - LATER

Rick enters to find Ellie and Mikey laughing as they prepare dinner together. They suddenly go silent. Rick stares at them.

RICK  
What's so funny?

MIKEY  
Just reminiscing.

RICK

How nice.

Ellie notices Rick's old sweater. Rick makes himself a peanut butter sandwich.

ELLIE

My god you still have that sweater.

RICK

It's a good sweater.

ELLIE

You should get a new sweater.

RICK

I don't need a new sweater. This one's fine.

ELLIE

I could lend you one if you want?

RICK

Sweater's fine.

ELLIE

It looks cold, Rick. You know they've got sweaters made out of material warmer than wool.

RICK

I don't care for the fake shit.

MIKEY

It has holes, Rick.

RICK

It's warm.

MIKEY

I've got other sweaters. I mean dad never really wore that one.

RICK

That's because he gave it to me.

ELLIE

I've got extra sweaters in my bag.

RICK

No thanks... I'm fine.

ELLIE

I shouldn't have said anything.

RICK  
That's right. You shouldn't have.

ELLIE  
I'm showing Mikey a new way to make  
Shepherd's Pie.

MIKEY  
Bro... Peanut butter sandwich?

RICK  
I fuckin love peanut butter  
sandwiches.

Rick places his sandwich on a plate. Stares at Ellie.

RICK (CONT'D)  
They're true.

Rick exits. Ellie looks at Mikey. Mikey shrugs.

DINING ROOM - LATER

Ellie serves Sam, Jack, and Mikey some Shepherd's Pie. Jack  
digs in. Ellie searches around for Vance.

JACK  
This is amazing!

ELLIE  
Where's Vance?

JACK  
Haven't seen him all evening.

SAM  
Me neither.

Ellie suddenly seems concerned. She puts down a plate of  
Sheppard's pie. Marches away. Returns after a moment.

ELLIE  
He's not in our room.

Rick appears. Ellie turns to him.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
Where's Vance?

Rick turns to Jack.

RICK  
You get in touch with Tom?

JACK  
Nah. I'll try again after.

ELLIE  
Where is he!?

RICK  
Last time I saw Vince... he was  
going out for some air.

Ellie starts. Rushes outside. Rick follows with a sigh.

INT. STORAGE HANGAR - MOMENTS LATER

Ellie rushes in. Stares at the Ski-Doo. One is missing. Rick follows her. He notices the missing Ski-Doo. Ellie jumps on one of the Ski-Doos. Suddenly, Rick pulls the key out of the ignition.

RICK  
Can't let you do that.

ELLIE  
He'll die out there.

RICK  
I don't need two customers lost.

She disembarks. He gets on. He starts the Ski-Doo. She offers her jacket. He shrugs her away.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - LATER

Rick drives his Ski-Doo away from the research station through a wall of pelting snow. He can barely see an inch in front of him. He suddenly comes across an overturned Ski-Doo close to the research station.

He stops. Disembarks. Squints in the snowstorm. Barely sees the lights of the research station. He sees footprints. He follows them back toward the research station.

He gets back on his Ski-Doo. Heads back toward the research station, searching through the storm for Vance.

For a moment, just a moment he spots a silhouette moving through the falling snow. The silhouette circles in the same spot. Over and over again. Lost. Weak. Confused. Irrational.

Rick accelerates toward-

VANCE

Rick stops. Disembarks. Stares at Vance. Vance is covered in snow and ice. He's literally ten feet from the Research Station! Moving in circles. Rick grabs Vance's hand.

RICK  
Hey, big boy. You're a little lost.

Vance looks at Rick but doesn't seem to see him.

RICK (CONT'D)  
You're okay... you just need to follow me.

Rick nudges him, and he slowly leads him ten to twelve feet through a wall of falling snow to the entrance of the-

INT. RESEARCH STATION - INFIRMARY - LATER

Vance lies on a gurney, sleeping. Ellie's jacket covers him. Ellie holds his hand. Rick enters.

RICK  
That what was pretty stupid.

ELLIE  
At least he tried to do something. A man tried to shoot us, Rick. Now he's dead. Who knows what's going on over there?

RICK  
None of my business.

ELLIE  
Maybe he hurt others. Maybe he tried to stop them from poaching. Maybe that's what we should be doing.

RICK  
Jack's ready to take you both back in the morning. Your boyfriend needs help.

Rick exits.

RICK'S ROOM - LATER

Rick stares at a picture of his father and him when he was a boy. The puppy sits beside him. Rick rummages through a drawer and pulls out a picture of him and Ellie hugging and kissing. He turns to the puppy.

RICK (CONT'D)  
 Stay away from girls... shit... you  
 don't even have a name...

Rick places his picture down. He lifts up the puppy.  
 Considers.

RICK (CONT'D)  
 ...Lucky... yeah... Lucky.

DINING ROOM - MORNING

Rick enters the dining room. Mikey eats alone at the table.  
 Rick moves toward the kitchen.

RICK (CONT'D)  
 Where's Sam?

Rick enters the-

KITCHEN

Rick pulls out a loaf of bread.

RICK (CONT'D)  
 Where's Sam!?

MIKEY (V.O)  
 Gone.

RICK  
 Gone? Gone where?

Rick returns back to the-

DINING ROOM

Approaches Mikey.

RICK (CONT'D)  
 Gone where, Mikey?

MIKEY  
 He took Ellie out.

RICK  
 What?

MIKEY  
 She's taking ice measurements.

Rick gives him an incredulous look.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
That's what she said!

Rick approaches the door. Opens the door. Observes that it is a little windy outside. He puts on his parka jacket.

RICK  
Watch Lucky and Vince.

MIKEY  
Vance.

RICK  
Whatever.

MIKEY  
Who's Lucky?

RICK  
Our fuckin dog!

Rick exits.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - LATER - DAY

The Bandvagn plows through the snow and ice. Rick searches the great white expanse for Sam and Ellie.

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - DAY

Rick drives by the frozen bay, searching desperately for Ellie and Sam. Looks left and right. Doesn't see anything. Drives away from the bay toward a pink mound of flesh in the distance. Halts near the frozen pink corpse. A skinned polar bear. He kills the engine. Stares at the pink corpse for a long pensive moment.

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - DUSK

Rick drives in silence. He looks down at his fuel gauge. Almost empty. He accelerates over a snow dune and soon spots the Ski-Doo. He parks the Bandvagn beside the Ski-Doo. Disembarks.

EXT. POACHER'S CAMP - OUTSKIRTS - MOMENTS LATER

Rick stands beside the Ski-Doo staring down at the camp. Suddenly, Sam steps up beside Rick, startling him.

SAM  
Figured you'd come.

RICK  
Didn't figure you would.

Ellie appears. Steps up beside them.

ELLIE  
There's been no movement for hours.

RICK  
Good. Let's go.

ELLIE  
We should see if someone needs  
help.

Ellie approaches the poacher's camp. Sam puts his hand on Rick's shoulder.

SAM  
Feel for you, bud.

RICK  
For what?

SAM  
Nothing.

Sam grins. They watch Ellie approach the entrance of the main lodge. Ellie regards them for a moment, then knocks at the door. She knocks again. No answer.

RICK  
Okay. You can come back now.

SAM  
She's gonna try to get in.

RICK  
She better not.

Ellie knocks on the door again. No answer. Suddenly, she tries to open the door without success.

RICK (CONT'D)  
What the fuck are you doing?

SAM  
She's gonna bust the lock.

RICK  
No. She won't.

Ellie tries to smash the door open.

RICK (CONT'D)

Fuck!

Rick bolts for her.

LODGE DOOR

Rick approaches Ellie. Speaks in a harsh whisper.

RICK (CONT'D)

You fuckin kidding me?

Ellie indicates the snow. Frozen blood.

ELLIE

Someone needs help.

Rick tries to bust the door down. Doesn't succeed. Then they both smash it at the same time and bust the lock. The door smashes open. Ellie enters cautiously.

INT. POACHER'S LODGE - MOMENTS LATER

Dark. No electricity. Ellie, Rick and Sam enter. Rick turns on a flashlight. Notices blood on the floor. Ellie enters the-

DINING ROOM

Ellie gasps as she finds a severely mauled Russian man lying in a pool of half-frozen blood. Not too far away the window is shattered and the wall is busted. She backs up the way she came. Suddenly, she bumps into-

RICK

Ellie starts. Rick glares at her. Ellie motions terrified eyes toward the Dining Room.

ELLIE

Over there.

Ellie leads Rick to the body. Rick stares at the mutilated body. A silence. Sam approaches them.

Rick bends down. A bloody hand suddenly reaches up! Grabs him! The mutilated face mumbles "Mama" in Russian! Then the Russian's hand releases Rick and his arm falls limp as he releases his last breath.

Ellie moves toward the sleeping quarters. She leads them down another hall. They enter the-

## SLEEPING QUARTERS

They find the mutilated body of a Russian woman atop a stack of polar bear pelts. Rick stares at the scene in disbelief.

SAM  
We should get out of here.

RICK  
That's good advice.

ELLIE (V.O.)  
Over here!

Rick sighs.

## KENNEL

A kennel of mauled and mutilated dogs. Ellie stares at them. Rick and Sam enter.

RICK  
Fuck me. Even the goddamn dogs.

SAM  
Ohhh-lahhh...

RICK  
... Horrible...

ELLIE  
You almost seem sadder for the dogs.

RICK  
People know better.

Rick passes a generator. Smashed. He yanks off the hose. Examines it. Places it in his jacket's pocket.

They approach a small cooking fire. Charred dog flesh and bones scattered about.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Jesus...

SAM  
Let's hope they didn't eat the liver.

Rick hears a moan. He turns to face-

BORRIS!

The only survivor. His face mauled, skin peeling off, his teeth falling out of bleeding gums. Agonizing. In a world of pain. Rick stares at him in shock. They all do. Then-

RICK  
He ate the liver.

SAM  
Let's get him out of here.

They grab him.

BORRIS  
(Russian)  
Get away! Get away!

He sobs.

RICK  
Listen... you ate... enough Vitamin A to drop an elephant. Your skin is gonna fall off if we don't get you help. Do you understand?

Rick tries to grab his hand and pull but suddenly pulls off skin. Sam winces. Too late.

SAM  
Shit.

RICK  
We can't leave him here.

Rick and Sam grab him. Borris screams frantically. Ellie leads the way as Rick and Sam drag Borris out of the kennel.

DINING ROOM

SAM  
You have food... why would you eat your god damn dog...

RICK  
I don't think he moved from there for days.

Sam gives Rick a look. Sam and Rick drag him to the-

FRONT DOOR

Rick opens the front door as Borris shouts madly in Russian.

BORRIS  
(Russian)  
I'm not going out! I'm not going  
out!

Rick maneuvers to leave him space to exit just as Borris is snatched by something and pulled out into the beginning of a snow storm. Rick and Sam rush out to see-

A sudden blur!

At their feet a trail of steaming blood. Agonized screams in the distance. Then-

Silence.

Rick and Sam scramble back falling to the ground. Rick vaults up and shuts the door.

ELLIE  
What was that? What the fuck was  
that!?

SAM  
We need a gun! Get a gun!

Rick backs up into the-

DINING ROOM

Ellie disappears into a nearby room.

RICK  
Come on!

Sam clambers to his feet. Follows Rick.

DINING ROOM

Rick scans the area for a gun. Finds a knife by the body. Ellie comes out with two rifles. She gives one rifle to Sam.

RICK (CONT'D)  
And me?

ELLIE  
You have a weapon.

Sam stares at the door.

SAM  
Fuckin shit!

ELLIE  
How are we getting out of here?

RICK  
We wait till it goes.

SAM  
No way. By the looks of this place,  
it's been stalking and killing for  
days.

ELLIE  
Doesn't make sense.

RICK  
Polar bears hunt people. What the  
fuck are you talking about.

SAM  
Not like this.

ELLIE  
We need to figure out what's going  
on with it.

RICK  
Sure. Great idea. We'll have a  
fuckin chat with it. Ask it to use  
its fuckin words...

Suddenly, the roar of a bear and the door pounds. Rick grabs Ellie's gun. Fires at the door until he empties the gun and the pounding stops.

Sam approaches a door practically off its hinges. The door creaks as the whistling wind hits it from the outside.

Sam reaches for the handle. He goes to open the door, but something suddenly tackles the door!

The door snaps off its hinges and collapses over Sam! His gun scatters away just out of reach as-

A POLAR BEAR, large, caked in blood, mad with anger, tries to maul him. Tries but doesn't succeed as he is protected by the door on top of him. Rick and Ellie instinctively back away.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Sam!

Sam struggles under the door as the polar bear tries to get at him without success.

SAM  
Get away! Fast! He can't get me!  
When he figures that out... he'll  
come after you!

Rick grabs Ellie. Dashes back to the back of the lodge as the polar bear suddenly gives chase. Rick leads Ellie into the-

INFIRMARY

Rick and Ellie rush in. Close the door behind them. Within seconds, the polar bear slams the door several times then stops. Rick yells out to Sam.

RICK  
Sam! You okay!?

Ellie finds a fist-sized, bullet hole in the wall in the back of the room.

SAM (V.O.)  
I'm good! A bit cold!

Ellie pulls at Rick. Shows him the hole in the wall through which they can see Sam in the dimming sunlight pinned under the door with the gun just out of reach to his side.

RICK  
I can see you, buddy.

SAM  
Where's the bear!?

RICK  
Don't know. I think--

Suddenly, the polar mauls the hole. A claw rips through, grazing Rick's forehead. He staggers back as the polar bear continues to attack the wall. It doesn't get through, but it widens the hole.

Rick moves closer to the hole. Sees the polar bear approaching Sam.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Get away from him!

The polar bear sniffs around the door. Then leisurely climbs on top of the door, crushing Sam underneath. Turns once. Twice. Like a dog. Then the polar bear lies down and stares at Rick as Sam screams under the crushing weight.

SAM  
Fuck!

RICK  
Son of a bitch! Get off him!

Sam wheezes. Struggles for breath. Rick shouts at Sam. Ellie approaches him from behind.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Reach for your gun! I'll distract  
him! When he comes after me...  
shoot'im!

Rick backs up, opens the door, enters the-

HALLWAY

Slowly Rick approaches the polar bear with his knife at the ready.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Hey, you! Get off my friend!

The polar bear's ears perk up. It waits for Rick to get closer. It stands on the door. Sam screams. The polar bear climbs off the door and approaches Rick.

Rick bolts down the hallway back to the infirmary. He doesn't enter. He taunts the polar bear.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Come on! What are you waiting for?

Sam reaches for the gun with difficulty. Grabs it. Squirms, pulls, and drags himself away from the protection of the door as the polar bear approaches Rick.

Sam aims. Shoots. Nails the polar bear in the shoulder. The polar bear turns to face Sam. Sam aims, again. The polar bear charges. Sam shoots! Misses. Fires again. Click! Empty.

Sam's eyes widen as the polar bear practically mauls his arm off. Then retreats, leaving Sam to agonize on the cold floor.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Sam!

Ellie grabs Rick. Pulls him back into the-

INFIRMARY

They shut the door. Rick rushes to the hole to suddenly find the polar bear staring directly at him. Mere inches away.

RICK (CONT'D)  
What the fuck did we do to you!?

Ellie hears something shift in the back of the infirmary. She moves to a metal container.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Fuckin bastard!

She looks inside the container. Her eyes widen. Sam moans in pain in the background. Ellie corrects Rick.

ELLIE  
Bitch.

RICK  
What are you talking about?

ELLIE  
Mother.

Rick marches toward her. Stares into the container.

POLAR BEAR CUBS. One dead. The other dying.

RICK  
Fuck.

ELLIE  
Help me open this.

They struggle to open the container.

RICK  
Fuck...

ELLIE  
I think we can save this one. Give it back.

RICK  
Save it!?

ELLIE  
Gotta a better idea?

Rick looks around the infirmary. Sam screams. Rick rushes to the hole. He sees the polar bear putting pressure against Sam's wound. Making Sam scream in agony on purpose.

RICK  
She's trying to lure us out!

Rick calls out to Sam.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Sam! We've got a plan! Hang in there.

Sam shrieks as the polar bear prods his arm. Ellie places the living cub on a metal tray with wheels. She grabs some water. Gives it to the cub. It laps water.

ELLIE  
That's it. Drink up.

Ellie turns to Rick.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
I'll lead the cub into the kennel to lure the bear. Then make a run for the Ski-Doo. You get Sam.

RICK  
I'll lead the cub.

ELLIE  
You'll be faster with Sam.

Rick looks out at the polar bear through the hole. Turns back to Ellie. Nods in agreement.

RICK  
You get in the kennel, you leave that cub and you fuckin run.

ELLIE  
I wasn't planning on walking.

Ellie pushes the cub on a tray. Rick approaches the hole in the wall.

RICK  
Sam! We're coming!

HALLWAY

Ellie pushes the tray. Sees the polar bear. Hesitates.

ELLIE  
Hey! Over here!

The polar bear sees the cub. Ellie heads into the kennel. As she enters the kennel, the cub closes its eyes.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
No, no, no.

KENNEL

Ellie places the dying cub on the floor. Backs up toward the door. Trips on a dog. Clambers to her feet.

The polar bear enters. Walks to the dying cub. Looks at Ellie, then the cub. The polar bear nudges her cub to keep it awake and alive. Ellie mutters to herself-

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
I'm so sorry.

Ellie exits into the storm.

EXT. POACHER'S CAMP - NIGHT

Rick carries Sam all the way to the-

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - MOMENTS LATER

Rick places Sam in the back seat where he can lie down. He turns to see Ellie running toward him. A tremendous roar shakes the night.

Ellie reaches him. Rick helps her inside. Then he hops inside just as the polar bear slams into the Bandvagn.

RICK  
Shit!

Rick turns to Ellie.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Where's the cub?

ELLIE  
Dead.

He starts the Bandvagn. Takes off. The polar bear follows. Then disappears. Ellie searches through the window for the polar bear but doesn't see it.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
She's gone.

Rick attempts to contact Mikey on the Comms Unit.

RICK  
Mikey, pick up. Mikey... pick up...  
Mikey... god damn it, pick up...  
Mikey...

Suddenly, the polar bear tackles the Bandvagn. Smashing the door. Shaking the COMMS UNIT. Mauling the ANTENNA of the Comms Unit. Nothing but static on the radio.

The polar bear doesn't stop. Ellie tries her cell. No reception.

ELLIE

Nothing.

The polar bear tackles the Bandvagn, again.

RICK

Stop! Stop!

Rick turns to Sam. He's drifting in and out of consciousness.

RICK (CONT'D)

Stay awake, Sam.

Ellie regards Sam.

ELLIE

He's losing a lot of blood, Rick.  
We need to get back as soon as possible.

RICK

Doing the best I can!

The polar bear strikes the Bandvagn.

RICK (CONT'D)

Fuck you! We didn't kill your fuckin cubs!

ELLIE

Yeah, well, we've got their smell all over us.

Sam groans. Ellie turns to observe him. The polar bear strikes again. Rick pulls off his jacket while he drives.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

The polar bear strikes again and nearly tips the Bandvagn over. The Bandvagn veers to the side and gets stuck in a snow bank. The polar bear stops. Stares at Rick.

Rick reverses. Drives forward. Reverses. The polar bear tackles the driver's side. The Bandvagn almost tips over.

The polar bear backs up and tackles it again, denting the driver's door and nearly tipping over the Bandvagn.

The polar bear backs up, again, then bolts toward them!

Suddenly, Rick slams the gas pedal and reverses out of snow bank. He drives on, leaving the polar bear behind.

RICK  
She's giving up.

Ellie stares through back window and sighs her relief.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Take the wheel.

Ellie holds the wheel. Rick hops in back as she eases into the driver's seat.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Hey, Sam. Hang in there, buddy.  
We're good.

Rick wraps his jacket around the gash in his arm.

SAM  
He got me good.

RICK  
She.

SAM  
Shoulda figured.

Rick smirks. Sam's jacket quickly soaks up the blood. He stares up at Rick.

SAM (CONT'D)  
You remind me of your dad.

RICK  
The good side, I hope.

SAM  
All sides.

Sam grins.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Without your dad, I don't know what would have happened to me. He kicked my ass like he kicked yours and that's a good thing.

RICK  
Stop talking.

SAM  
I think your dad would have been  
okay with selling. I don't mean to  
me... you know what I mean...

RICK  
Save your strength.

SAM  
You should tell her.

RICK  
What?

SAM  
You know what.

Rick shakes his head. Sam laughs despite his pain. Suddenly,  
the Bandvagn slows to stop.

RICK  
What's going on?

ELLIE  
I don't know.

Ellie tries to start it again. Doesn't start. Rick vaults  
back to the front seat. He checks the fuel gauge. Empty. He  
prepares to disembark.

Ellie goes to take off her jacket to give it to him.

RICK  
The sweater's fine.

ELLIE  
It's cold out there.

Rick ignores her and disembarks.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
Freeze, then.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Mikey tries to contact Rick on the Comms Unit.

MIKEY  
Guys... pick up...

Jack enters.

JACK  
I'm hungry, chef.

MIKEY  
They aren't answering.

JACK  
I wouldn't worry. They probably  
went for a little arctic drive.  
Reminiscing.

MIKEY  
We should go up.

JACK  
Not in this weather. I wouldn't  
worry, Mikey. They're safe in the  
tank. At least until the weather  
clears.

MIKEY  
You think so?

JACK  
Yeah. Not a big deal.

EXT. BANDVAGN 206 - MOMENTS LATER

Rick pulls out a container of gas from the trunk of the Bandvagn. He moves to the side. Opens the container. The cover falls. As he goes to pick it up-

A massive polar bear paw suddenly crashes down against the Bandvagn. Rick falls, spills the container of fuel. He scrambles away. Clambers to his feet.

Ellie opens the door.

ELLIE  
Rick!

Rick rushes to the door. Gets inside with Ellie desperately pulling him in. The polar snatches his jeans but no flesh. Tries to pull Rick out of the Bandvagn.

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - MOMENTS LATER

Rick yanks his foot desperately. The jeans rip and he quickly slams the door just as the polar bear smashes it. He ends up on top of Ellie.

Rick pushes himself off as the polar bear charges and smashes the Bandvagn. Again, and again. Finally, the polar bear stops. Backs away. Disappears in the growing storm.

Rick turns to Ellie.

RICK  
Your turn.

She gives him a look.

ELLIE  
What are we gonna do?

RICK  
Wait.

She indicates Sam.

ELLIE  
We can't.

Rick hops in back. Sits next to Sam.

RICK  
How you doing?

Sam opens his eyes, then closes them, unable to speak. Rick goes to feel his jacket. Finds that it is drenched in blood. Rick grabs Sam's hand. Holds it tight.

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - LATER

Ellie stares at Rick as he shivers and sleeps next to Sam. Rick opens his eyes. Shivers in the back seat. He stares at the windows that are now all covered with frost and snow.

Ellie points toward her side of the Bandvagn.

ELLIE  
She's over there. Behind the dune.  
I saw movement earlier.

RICK  
How long ago?

ELLIE  
I don't know... fifteen minutes...

Ellie regards Sam.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
You should wake him up.

Rick nudges Sam.

RICK  
Sam... look at me...

Sam barely opens his eyelids. Rick turns to Ellie.

RICK (CONT'D)  
We can't wait... I'm gonna try  
again. You keep an eye outside.

ELLIE  
Take my jacket.

Rick gives her an annoyed look. Then he moves to the door. Opens it slowly. Sticks his head out. Barely sees anything in the thick of the storm.

EXT. BANDVAGN 206 - NIGHT

Rick disembarks. He slowly walks around the Bandvagn. He kneels to search for the container of gas. Ellie stares through the window but sees nothing.

Rick grabs the container. Lifts it slowly and gently. Begins to fill the tank with what remains. He scans around him nervously.

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - MOMENTS LATER

Ellie finds a small spot in the back seat with Sam to see outside the snow-covered window. A scratching sound suddenly startles her.

Outside, Rick clears some snow from the windshield. Ellie stares at him then movement suddenly catches her attention.

She turns to the back window to see the polar bear lumbering by. She gasps. Vaults into the front seat as-

Rick opens the door and takes his seat with speed. She stares at him with relief.

RICK  
What?

ELLIE  
I saw her.

RICK  
Where?

ELLIE

In back.

Rick turns to Sam.

RICK

Hang in there, Sam. Won't be long now.

Rick tries to start the engine. Doesn't start.

ELLIE

Did you get gas in?

RICK

Not much. But enough...

Rick tries again. Doesn't start.

ELLIE

You sure you got gas in?

RICK

Yup.

Rick tries again. And again. Finally the engine sputters to life. He lets out a laugh. He begins to drive through the storm and has a tough time navigating with the only visibility being a small, round clearing in the windshield.

ELLIE

Don't you have wipers?

RICK

Busted.

The clear spot thickens with snow.

ELLIE

Stop. I'll clear it.

RICK

I know where I am.

They hit a bump. Rick stops the snow tank but keeps the engine running. He opens the door. Leans his trunk out. Cleans a bit of the windshield. Returns inside.

ELLIE

A bit more.

Rick gives her a look. Then he opens the door, again. But suddenly, he sees the polar bear huffing and puffing as it lumbers toward them. He shuts the door!

RICK  
Fuckin bear!

Rick drives forward, staring through the small clearing in the windshield he created for himself.

Ellie stares at Sam. She grabs the wrist of his good arm and checks his pulse. She closes her eyes.

ELLIE  
Sam's gone, Rick.

Rick absorbs this.

RICK  
I'm gonna kill her myself.

ELLIE  
Rick...

RICK  
Don't give me some 'save-the-bear' speech. Not now, Ellie.

ELLIE  
Sam was my friend, too.

LATER

Ellie stares at Rick.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
I wish you could understand.

RICK  
I understand. We don't need to talk.

Suddenly, Rick cannot see anything through the frost covered windshield. He stops the Bandvagn.

He opens the door. Sticks his body out. Clears a little area of the windshield while he nervously looks around for the polar bear. He then gets back in and continues to drive forward into the storm.

Ellie watches Rick as he drives and mumbles angrily to himself. Again, the windshield thickens with frost and snow. He stops the Bandvagn.

A silence. Then just as Rick goes to open the door to clear the windshield again-

The polar bear smashes into the Bandvagn.

Rick starts. Glares outside at the oncoming polar bear. The polar bear smashes its head into the door and stumbles back.

RICK (CONT'D)  
That's it... break your fuckin  
head!

The polar bear stares at Rick, and Rick glares back at it.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Screw it.

He drives regardless of his inability to see outside. Ellie gives him a concerned look.

ELLIE  
Maybe we should wait a bit.

RICK  
We're not far now.

He catches a glimpse through the side window of the polar bear lumbering beside them. He swerves to the side to hit it and-

MISSES!

Rick tries again. Misses. And, again. And-

MISSES!

Rick prepares to swerve into the polar bear yet another time.

RICK (CONT'D)  
You're fuckin dead!

And he rams into a-

SNOWBANK!

The Bandvagn gets stuck.

Rick reverses. Advances. Reverses. Advances. Finally he manages to get out. He spots the polar bear again. He prepares to ram it again.

ELLIE  
Rick, stop!

Ellie grabs the wheel.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
We get stuck. We're done for.

Rick veers.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Stop!

Rick slams the break. Brings the Bandvagn to a stop.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Watch her.

Rick glares at the polar bear approaching his door. Bang! It hits. And hits again.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

I'll clear my side.

Carefully Ellie opens her side of the door. She leans out with difficulty to scratch off some ice and frost with an ice scratcher. Rick and the polar bear lock eyes. Suddenly-

The polar bear backs away. Disappears.

RICK

Get in... get in now...

Ellie doesn't hear.

RICK (CONT'D)

Ellie, get in!

Ellie still doesn't hear. Rick sees movement behind the truck. He vaults up, grabs Ellie's jacket and-

Yanks her in! Just as-

The polar bear smashes the door almost off its hinges.

Rick scrambles over Ellie. Reaches for the door. Yanks and forces it closed. Bent out of shape, the door doesn't close properly. He holds the door as the polar bear tries to pull the door open with its claws.

Rick struggles to keep the door closed. Ellie grabs part of the handle and pulls with him. At last the polar bear releases the door.

Ellie looks at the deformity in the door and manages to close it. Rick releases the door and returns to the driver's seat.

RICK (CONT'D)

Guide me.

Rick starts the Bandvagn and accelerates. Ellie stares through the windshield with difficulty.

ELLIE  
I can barely see.

RICK  
It will have to do.

ELLIE  
Slower!

He slows down.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
Right.

He veers right. Accelerates.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
Slower!

He decelerates.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
Slower!

Suddenly, he hits a snowbank!

RICK  
Fuck!

Ellie looks at him but says nothing. He reverses. Advances. Reverses. No luck. This time, the Bandvagn barely budes.

Rick stops for a moment. Glares at the steering wheel. Takes a deep breath. He tries again. Advances. Reverses. Reverses. Reverses. Again, no luck. He lets out a deep sigh. Smashes the wheel. Shouts his frustration.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jack devours a plate of pasta. Mikey sits beside him with his own serving.

JACK  
This is exceptional. You're a lucky man. A very lucky man.

MIKEY  
Why's that?

JACK  
Most float on the sea of life without a rudder or destination. You've got both.  
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

You just gotta paddle to where you want to go and do it while you've still got strength.

MIKEY

I'll always have the strength.

JACK

Maybe in your mind... but... before you know it your a grandpa with a kid and a grand kid trying to help them get to where they need to go.

Mikey nods, then stares at the entrance. Sighs.

JACK (CONT'D)

I wouldn't worry. They'll be here soon.

EXT. BANDVAGN 206 - LATER

Rick disembarks. He walks around the Bandvagn. Stares at the ice on the ground. Hears a creak coming from the ice. Kneels. Approaches his ear to the ice. Listens. Another creaking noise.

Rick stands. Opens the trunk. Pulls out a shovel. Steps back. Scans the area. Doesn't see anything. Approaches the front. Shovels. Stops. Taps the window to signal Ellie.

Ellie reverses but the Bandvagn is still stuck. Rick shovels some more. Taps the window, again. Ellie reverses and-

The Bandvagn reverses slowly.

RICK

Good... Good...

The Bandvagn reverses with an accelerated jerk to reveal-

The polar bear!

RICK (CONT'D)

Oh, fuck!

The polar bear approaches Rick. Rick attacks with his shovel. With one swipe, the polar bear cracks the shovel in half. The shovel whacks against the ice floor. He swallows. Stumbles back. Clambers to his feet.

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - MOMENTS LATER

Ellie sees the polar bear. Shifts gears. Accelerates and tries to smash the polar bear. The polar bear evades just in time. She then smashes deep into the snowbank sending a massive cloud of snow in the air, creating an obstruction between Rick and the polar bear.

Ellie opens the door and returns to the passenger seat as Rick vaults inside and slams the door shut. He tries to reverse. The Bandvagn doesn't budge. He stops.

RICK

I don't want to chance breaking the ice. Last fuckin thing we need.

Rick stares outside for a moment.

RICK (CONT'D)

Fuck!

LATER

Dark and cold inside the Bandvagn. Outside it has stopped snowing. Rick shivers and breathes with difficulty. Ellie regards him.

ELLIE

You think she's still out there?

Rick nods. He takes out a few of the matches he pulled out of the plane earlier in the day.

RICK

I'm gonna open the door for air.  
Start a little fire.

Rick ignites a match. Brings it to the Bandvagn's owner manual. A draft snuffs it out. He tries another match. Again, a cool draft snuffs it out. The third try ignites the manual.

They warm their hands around the small fire. Then Rick reaches in the back and pulls out-

FLYING FOR DUMMIES.

ELLIE

You don't have your license yet?

RICK

It's not as simple as just abandoning everything to go to school.

ELLIE  
If that's how you see it.

Rick doesn't respond. He rips a page out of his pilot's manual. They rub and warm their hands by the fire.

ELLIE (CONT'D)  
How far are we?

RICK  
A mile. Maybe less.

ELLIE  
They're probably looking for us.

RICK  
With what? Your boyfriend busted one of our Ski-Doos. You took the working Ski-Doo. We've got the Tank. No. They're gonna wait till things clear up, then take the plane.

Rick stares at her for a long moment. He closes his eyes, then opens them. Turns to Ellie.

RICK (CONT'D)  
You know... since we're gonna die here... I may as well confess...

ELLIE  
What?

RICK  
I... well... ever since we were kids... I...

Rick hesitates. Suddenly something shuffles in the backseat. They turn to see the-

POLAR BEAR!

Staring at them with a muzzle dripping with blood. It roars! Snatches Ellie's neck with a paw!

RICK (CONT'D)  
Ellie!

Rick snaps awake. Turns to stare at Ellie. A nightmare!

ELLIE  
What?

RICK

Nothing.

Ellie peers at Rick as he tears a page from his book on planes and tosses it in the dwindling fire.

ELLIE

I'm going to make a run for it.

RICK

No. I will.

ELLIE

Don't start. I was always the faster runner.

RICK

Ellie, we're not five anymore.

ELLIE

Even in high school, asshole.

RICK

You're not faster than a polar bear.

ELLIE

Neither are you... and paper's running out. I ain't freezing to death waiting to be rescued. The longer we wait... the colder and weaker we get.

Rick feeds the last piece of paper to the fire.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

I'm going cause I'm the one with the fuckin jacket.

The fire dies. Rick stares at Ellie, considering.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

I'll come back guns blazing.

Rick nods. Opens his side of the door. Stares around. Doesn't see any sign of the polar bear. He reaches outside and clears his side of the windshield.

RICK

Come.

She hops over him and disembarks.

EXT. BANDVAGN 206 - MOMENTS LATER

Rick points at a star in the night sky.

RICK  
See that star.

ELLIE  
Yeah.

RICK  
Follow it.

Ellie empties her pockets. Finds a book. Gives it to him.

ELLIE  
Keep warm.

Ellie bundles up. Then she smiles at Rick. Gives him a lingering look. Opens her mouth to say something, but then doesn't.

She turns her back and follows the star to the research station. Rick shuts the door.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - NIGHT

Ellie scrambles through the snow toward the station. She stops suddenly, turns to see if the polar bear is stalking her. Stares left. Right. Nothing. Continues.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - INFIRMARY - MOMENTS LATER

Mikey watches over Vance. Jack enters. Sits beside him.

JACK  
Did Sam ever show you his plans?

MIKEY  
Yeah. Good idea, but it doesn't matter. Rick will never sell.

JACK  
Doesn't mean you can't.

MIKEY  
He's my brother.

Jack nods. After a moment, he pulls out a picture of a superhero birthday cake. Hands it to Mikey. Mikey stares at the picture.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
What? I don't bake cakes.

JACK  
You're the only one who could pull something like this off.

MIKEY  
Anyone could.

Jack shakes his head.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
How do you know?

JACK  
I know. I've tried. Four times.

MIKEY  
We'll make it together.

Jack smiles.

JACK  
Sure.

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - MOMENTS LATER

Rick sets the first aid book on fire. He warms up. He suddenly sees a massive shadow lumber by his window.

Rick peers out the window and catches a glimpse of the polar bear as it follows Ellie's trail.

RICK  
Shit. Shit, shit, shit...

Rick turns to Sam in the backseat. Reaches over. Searches Sam's pockets. Pulls out a hunting knife from Sam's jacket. Grabs the hose from his blood-soaked jacket.

Rick stares at Sam. Then stuffs the hose into his back pocket. Disembarks.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - MOMENTS LATER

Ellie runs faster and faster. She stops suddenly. Turns to see the polar bear closing in on her. She looks around. Spots and runs toward a small mountain of ice. Finds a small tunnel. Squeezes in just in time!

EXT. FROZEN LAKE - MOMENTS LATER

Rick bolts across the ice, then stops suddenly when ice cracks underneath his feet. Slowly and cautiously he negotiates the thin, creaking ice. He inches toward mounds of snow at the bank of the frozen lake. Suddenly-

The ice groans.

Rick freezes. He stares at the ice. Takes a careful step forward. A crack! He freezes, again. Considers his situation. Finally, Rick lowers himself on his belly. Slowly and carefully he eases his way across the thin ice.

The ice groans, again. Again, Rick freezes. He breathes deeply, then releases his breath slowly.

RICK  
Fuckin ice!

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - MOMENTS LATER

With a sonorous roar the polar bear approaches Ellie. Mauls and smashes at the ice. With every strike, the polar bear increases the size of the opening and is able to squeeze closer and closer to Ellie.

Ellie shrieks, backs away, kicks at the polar bear's vicious jaws. It pushes closer and closer! The polar bear suddenly snatches Ellie's boot with its razor sharp teeth.

The polar bear yanks. Pulls. Ellie scrambles to pull off the boot and succeeds just in time. The polar bear then claws at her leg. Snatches her leg. Drags her screaming and yelling out of the tunnel. Suddenly-

Rick emerges, pushing through the knee-deep snow. Sees the polar bear dragging Ellie's limp body by the pants in the distance.

RICK  
No!

Rick stumbles. He looks up. Sees the polar bear. The polar bear sniffs Ellie's lifeless body. Rick scrambles to his feet. Races toward her.

RICK (CONT'D)  
No, no, no! Please, no!

Ellie closes her eyes. Plays dead. The polar bear sniffs Ellie from her belly to her nose. She doesn't budge. The polar bear approaches her mouth and nose.

Ellie holds her breath.

The polar bear places its nose right beside her nose. Ellie holds her breath. Then the polar bear turns away from the lifeless body. Then, suddenly, Ellie's lips quiver. She releases a slight gasp.

The polar bear instantly turns and snarls at her with a muzzle covered in frozen blood and gore. The polar bear roars! Approaches Ellie. Goes to bite her face off just as-

Rick slams the hunting knife into the polar bear's shoulder where it gets stuck. The polar bear shrieks. Turns its attention to Rick.

ELLIE

Rick!

RICK

Fuckin run, Ellie! Run!

Ellie scrambles to her feet and limps toward the research station, following the star in the night sky.

Rick dashes in the opposite direction toward a mountain of silvery ice. The polar bear chases him.

Rick bolts through the snow for his life. Just as the polar bear leaps for him-

Rick leaps into a small, narrow-

TUNNEL

The polar bear tries to follow after Rick but soon realizes it is too big to go any farther. It stops. Stares at Rick. Rick breathes hard.

The polar bear stares at him. It backs away. Then charges and smashes the entrance of the tunnel. The ice walls shake. Chunks of ice and snow fall. The polar bear attacks again. And again.

Rick stares at the ceiling. Bits of ice and snow crumble with every attack. Rick backs up into an-

ICE CAVERN

Just as the small, narrow, tunnel collapses!

All around Rick sees several ice interconnecting tunnels. Some big. Some small and narrow. Then he hears something. The echo of an animal breathing hard. The sound growing louder and louder and then the breathing stops.

Rick spins around in all directions. Frantically stares at all the tunnels to assess where the polar bear is hiding or where it will come from. Then something shuffles behind him.

Rick suddenly dives to the ground. Scrambles on the ice floor. Crawls into a narrow tunnel as the polar bear roars and charges after him. Rick turns. The polar bear snaps at his feet.

Rick quickly kicks the polar bear twice in the face. Gives it a third kick but hits the knife out of its back. The polar bear roars in pain. Without a second to spare, Rick crawls through the tunnel down into another-

#### SMALL ICE CAVERN

With several options of escape!

Rick hears the polar bear roaring toward him. He quickly rushes into an ice tunnel. Runs. Turns left into a tunnel. Turns right into another. Runs for his life. Stops. Listens. Nothing.

Rick heads into a medium-sized tunnel. Forges ahead, always looking ahead when suddenly he sees-

The polar bear! Directly in front of him. He rushes back the way he came. Quickly thrusts himself into a small tunnel and crawls away as fast as he possibly can. Then he stops when the tunnel narrows to a point where he can no longer continue.

Rick takes a moment. Calms his breathing. Listens. Nothing at first. Then he hears it. The polar bear lumbering through the ice tunnels, breathing hard and angry.

Rick stares left. Then right. Then left, again. He tries to locate the polar bear without success. Echoes come to him from several directions. It's cold, dark, confusing and claustrophobic.

Rick closes his eyes to gather himself. Then, opening his eyes, he inches back the way he came. He soon reaches a series of interconnecting tunnels. He listens for the polar bear, then chooses enters another tunnel.

He continues to move through this glittering ice labyrinth. He rushes down one tunnel and reaches a wall of ice. He doubles back, takes another tunnel and reaches another dead end.

Rick tries another tunnel and reaches another dead end. Stops. Considers. Doubles back. Chooses another tunnel and yet reaches another-

## DEAD END

Rick makes his way back. Stops when he reaches a series of interconnecting tunnels. Picks one. Follows it all the way back to the-

## ICE CAVERN

A sudden roar shakes the labyrinth of ice. Echoes through its tunnels and caverns.

Rick tries to figure out the location of the roar, but the echoes resound in every tunnel. Another roar.

He stares at a tunnel. A narrow tunnel. He gets on his hands and knees. Crawls into the dark tunnel. Searches the ice floor for something. Doesn't find it. Backs up into the cavern.

He stares at another tunnel without standing. Crawls into another tunnel. Searches. Doesn't find anything. Back up back into the cavern.

He then tries another tunnel. Crawls inside. Searched and soon finds it. Holds up the-

## HUNTING KNIFE

The polar bear roars from somewhere in the ice labyrinth. Rick starts. Backs up into the cavern. Stands. Stares at the six or seven tunnels he can take.

Rick finally chooses a medium-sized one. He bolts through it but then freezes when he hears a roar! He stares ahead of him. Nothing. Stares behind him. Nothing. Then-

Rick pushes forward. Exits to find a desert of ice and snow before him but no polar bear. Sudden relief. But then he hears-

The polar bear breathing in the tunnel.

Without a moment to lose, Rick sprints away while continually looking over his shoulder when suddenly the polar bear emerges from a tunnel just a few meters in front of Rick. He freezes. Exhausted, exasperated, he mumbles-

RICK (CONT'D)

Fuck you.

The polar bear turns its bloodshot eyes on Rick. He swallows. Turns. Bolts away! The polar bear charges after Rick.

Rick scrambles of ice and snow. Looks over his shoulder to see the approaching polar bear. Trips. Stumbles and falls into a crevice.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Mikey stands by the entrance and stares at the sky as it begins to snow hard, again. Jack approaches him from behind.

MIKEY  
Now's our chance.

JACK  
It's only gonna get worse.

MIKEY  
We can't leave them out there.

JACK  
And we're useless to them dead.

Jack places a comforting hand on Mikey's shoulder.

MIKEY  
I'll head out myself.

JACK  
Not unless you want to fight an old man. I ain't letting you go out there.

Mikey sighs.

EXT. CREVICE - MOMENTS LATER

Rick holds an outcropping of ice. He steadies himself. Places his foot in a small nook. Looks downward. Sees only darkness. Looks up. Nothing. Then the polar bear appears. Stares at him for a long moment before it lumbers away.

Rick breathes hard in the silence. Then he hears an ice boulder being pushed against the ice. He contorts his face. Confused. Whispers-

RICK  
What the fuck are you doing?

Soon a small boulder of ice appears at the edge near him. The polar steps beside the boulder. Stares at Rick, then the boulder. It adjusts the position of the boulder so that it's directly over Rick. He stares up in horror.

The polar bear nudges the ice boulder down with its nose. The ice boulder-

Hits Rick on the top of the head but-

He manages to hold on to an outcrop. Stabilizes himself. Looks up at the polar bear. The polar bear stares back at him, then disappears.

Soon Rick hears the scraping of ice and snow, again. Again, the polar bear pushes an ice boulder toward the edge of the crevice. A bigger one. Positions it at the edge.

RICK (CONT'D)

Fuck...

Rick quickly searches for something to hold onto with his free hand. Finds a small nook. Holds it. Quickly lets go of the knife. Moves just as the polar bear pushes the boulder down.

The boulder misses. But Rick nearly loses his footing. He manages to secure himself. Then he reaches for his knife. Pulls it out. Begins to climb slowly as the polar bear nudges and pushes another ice boulder toward the crevice.

The boulder falls. Hits Rick against the arm. Rick absorbs the shock, then continues to climb.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

The snow falls heavier and faster. Ellie spins around in circles searching for the way to go. She can hardly see two inches in front of her with the wind and snow.

She stops. Closes her eyes. Looks up. Sees a light flickering on and off. Then she loses it. But not the direction. She trudges through the snow toward the entrance with the last of her energy.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - CREVICE - MOMENTS LATER

Rick's almost at the top of the crevice. The polar bear pushes another boulder down. It hits him. He falls down a bit, then snatches a sharp piece of ice.

He takes a moment, then climbs back up with bleeding hands and fingers cut up by the ice. He stabilizes near the edge. Waits. Listens to the sound of the approaching bear. Waits. Hears the bear as it pushes another boulder.

The boulder falls toward Rick. He evades and-

The polar bear sticks its head down to see if it nailed its target. As it does-

Rick leaps up and-

Plunges the knife into its muzzle. It roars with the blade sticking through its mouth. It loses balance. Falls down-

DOWN! DOWN! AND-

SPLASH!

Rick breathes. Pulls himself up, but suddenly-

SLIPS! FALLS! But he-

Manages to snatch a fissure. He takes a moment to stabilize himself. Looks up to see that he's got a hell of a climb ahead of him. At least three meters. He climbs slowly. Carefully. Measures every move. Stops.

Rick searches for another crack or nook or outcropping. Nothing. He starts pounding away at the ice wall above him with his frozen, bleeding fist.

Eventually Rick creates a small crack in the ice wall. Pulls himself up. Reaches for another outcropping just above. Grabs it. Pulls himself higher. Breathes.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Ellie drags herself inside.

MIKEY

Ellie!

Mikey rushes to help her. Drags her into the-

DINING ROOM

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Where's Rick?

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - CREVICE - MOMENTS LATER

Rick's almost at the top of the crevice. His fingers are cut to hell and bleeding down his arm. He pulls himself up. Gathers himself. Stares at the edge. Reaches. Grabs. Pulls himself out of the crevice.

Rick drags himself away. Clammers to his feet. Stares at the sky but the stars are not visible in the growing storm. He pushes forward despite the cold and pain.

He stumbles. Falls hands first in the snow. Pulls them out. They leave a stain of blood. He clammers back to his feet. Takes one difficult step after another as the wind and snow nips at his face and hands.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Ellie lies on the couch by the fire. Jack covers her frozen feet with a thick blanket. Mikey enters with a gun. He approaches Ellie.

MIKEY

Where?

ELLIE

I'm coming with you.

MIKEY

Not gonna happen. Just tell me where.

Ellie stands. Searches for a pair of boots.

ELLIE

I'm going.

MIKEY

You stay with Vance.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - MOMENTS LATER

Rick drags himself through the storm. Collapses. Tries to push himself up. Collapses, again. Looks upward. Then lets his head fall. Closes his eyes. Wants to give up, but doesn't. He hears the crunch of snow in front of him.

His eyes snap open. He looks up. Sees legs. Looks up to find AN OLDER MAN in a thick jacket. The man gives him his hand. Rick takes it. With the last of his strength he stands. He searches for the man but he's suddenly disappeared. Then with renewed resolve, he trudges through the thick, deep snow.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Jack hands Ellie a pair of boots. Mikey watches her put them on and sighs. Then he exits and soon returns with a rifle. Tosses it to her.

MIKEY  
Lead the way.

Ellie opens the entrance door to suddenly find-

RICK

Staggering toward them.

They both rush out to help him inside. As Rick enters, he hands Mikey the hose.

RICK  
We're gonna need this.

ELLIE  
The bear?

RICK  
Dead.

Rick inches toward the fire.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Warmth.

Mikey grabs Ellie's gun.

MIKEY  
We won't be needing this.

DINING ROOM - LATER

Mikey brings Rick and Jack some Shepherd's Pie.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
When the weather clears... Tom's coming in with his men.

Rick takes a bite. Chews. Looks up at Mikey.

RICK  
This is fuckin good. You're a talented kid.

Rick stares at Mikey, admiring. Fire goes out. Rick stands. Grabs matches and paper and tries to restart the fire but the matches don't work.

RICK (CONT'D)  
What's wrong with these?

MIKEY  
Lucky pissed on'em.

RICK

Great.

JACK

I've got matches in the plane. In the first aid kit.

Ellie enters from the hallway.

ELLIE

I'll get 'em.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - NIGHT

Ellie approaches the plane. Opens the door. Senses something. Freezes. Turns. For just a moment she sees something move. Then it disappears. She narrows her gaze in the distance. Sees nothing. Then she closes the door with the matches in her hand.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - DINING ROOM

Ellie tries to light the fire. Rick kneels beside her.

ELLIE

I can start a fire.

RICK

I didn't say anything.

She turns to face him. A moment as she stares at him. Rick grabs some matches. Ellie strikes one. Rick, too. From one of the two burning matches a fire ignites.

ELLIE

You didn't need to do that.

Rick places the rest of the matches in his pocket.

INFIRMARY - LATER

Ellie sits beside Jack as he watches over Vance.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

How's he doing?

JACK

Better. I'm gonna fly him in tomorrow to see a doctor.

Vance turns to them. Opens his eyes.

VANCE  
I'm okay.

JACK  
Still needs to see a doctor.

Jack turns to Ellie.

JACK (CONT'D)  
You both do.

A moment, then Jack addresses Ellie.

JACK (CONT'D)  
Mikey told me you're making movies.  
Real ones, too.

ELLIE  
This was going to be my first. I  
figured what's happening to the ice  
is worth documenting.

VANCE  
That would be the understatement of  
the year.

JACK  
Sorry, it didn't work out as you  
planned.

ELLIE  
Story of my life.

JACK  
Mine, too.

Ellie and Jack stand as Rick enters.

ELLIE  
But I'll be back to finish this.

RICK  
How's he doing?

VANCE  
He's doing fine.

Ellie and Jack exit. Vance stares at Rick for a long moment.

RICK  
What?

VANCE  
Killing that bear was a sin.

RICK

It was mad... We did nothing to hurt it...

VANCE

You did nothing.

Vance allows Rick to absorb this.

VANCE (CONT'D)

Had you made a single phone call when you first knew what those bastards were up to that bear would still be alive with its cubs... and so would your friend. But you did nothing.

Vance sighs and closes his eyes to get some rest.

VANCE (CONT'D)

There's a bear coming for us all. Not because of what we did. Because of what we didn't do.

Vance laughs to himself. Rick exits.

DINING ROOM - LATER

Rick stares at Sam's half-carved soapstone in the flickering firelight. Jack reads a book, pets Lucky, and regards Rick now and then.

JACK

There was nothing you could do.

Rick stares at Sam's half-carved soapstone.

RICK

He wanted to buy the place, you know. Him and his cousins.

JACK

I know. They had a good idea, too. Kinda a summer camp thing for kids. Teach'em about Inuit culture, the environment, and how we're pissin it all away with shit like 'clean coal.'

Jack sighs sadly.

JACK (CONT'D)

People don't seem to get it anymore.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

The News has most of us convinced that what's happening is normal so the big wigs can keep raking in the cash.

Jack gathers his thoughts.

JACK (CONT'D)

All I ever did is read blogs and hit 'Like' or 'Dislike' buttons. Shit is melting right in front of my fuckin face and I'm reading blogs and reports that say it isn't and believing it. Can you imagine? It's like I don't want to believe what I'm seeing.

Jack laughs to himself.

JACK (CONT'D)

There's a name for that, you know. Normalcy Bias. We want to believe everything is as it should be even though all the evidence points to the opposite.

Jack sighs heavily.

JACK (CONT'D)

Maybe I'll do something one of these days. I'm still not over the hill yet. There's still some fight in me. Fifty is the new twenty or something like that.

Jack smiles at Rick.

JACK (CONT'D)

Camps that are fun and educational and help kids remember why we need to leave this world in a better place than when we got it... that's a good thing. I'd send my grand kid here if you ever changed your mind and sold. I'm sure Sam's cousins would do a damn great thing here. Damn great.

RICK

I still can't believe you're a fuckin grandpa.

Jack smiles. Pulls out a picture. Hands it to Rick.

Rick stares at a picture of a young man, his wife, and a young three-year-old boy with a new home in the background. Jack indicates the house in the picture.

JACK  
That house is why I'll never  
retire.

Rick gives him a confused look.

JACK (CONT'D)  
I cashed in my retirement to help  
my son buy it for his family.

Rick's eyes go wide.

JACK (CONT'D)  
Best investment I ever made.

Jack laughs.

JACK (CONT'D)  
What the hell am I gonna do with  
that money, anyway? Go to the same  
dumb time-share every year and talk  
about my failing organs and medical  
conditions while the world goes to  
hell in a hand basket and my son  
struggles to pay for a mortgage  
that forces him to work three jobs.

Jack shakes his head.

JACK (CONT'D)  
I've got more sense than that.

RICK  
You're a good grandpa. You think  
you could maybe give me flying  
lessons, grandpa?

JACK  
Not if you call me grandpa.

Rick smiles as Jack stands.

JACK (CONT'D)  
I've got extra blankets in the  
plane. Might get cold. And I don't  
trust your fuckin generator.

Jack exits. Ellie enters with a limp. Sits in front of Rick.

ELLIE  
Thanks... for coming back for me.

Rick stares at her for a long moment.

RICK  
Were there many Vincses?

ELLIE  
Any special friends in your life?

RICK  
Plenty. From all over the world.

ELLIE  
Good. It's good to have friends.  
Maybe when you get your pilot's  
license you can fly down to see  
them.

RICK  
Sure... it's that easy... just  
leave everything and go.

ELLIE  
Easy? No. Takes courage to go after  
what you love.

RICK  
I go after what I love.

ELLIE  
Problem is you're always going to  
deal with those who don't love  
something bad enough to go after it  
or... even worse... those who love  
something but don't have the guts  
to go after it. They'll try to make  
you feel guilty and that's the one  
thing you should never feel.

RICK  
Not a question of guilt. Question  
of being there for your friends or  
the ones you say you love.

ELLIE  
I've always been there for my  
friends, especially the ones I  
love.

RICK  
My father had just died.

ELLIE

It had almost been a year... but I know to you... and I'm not taking anything from you... he had just died... Wasn't a day I didn't think about you.

RICK

Don't say that.

ELLIE

Not a day.

She grabs his hand. Holds it for a second, then releases it.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

I wished you could be happy that all those movies you helped me put together got me into a great film school. I could have never done it without you or your father.

RICK

Bad timing.

ELLIE

You start making excuses with your dreams... then it's never the right time...

RICK

My dad died!

ELLIE

And he's the one who inspired me.

Ellie nods as Rick absorbs this.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Your dad was the biggest dreamer I knew.

Ellie nods, again.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

This station. His dream. His dream.

Rick turns away.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

That's why you turned one of the top research stations in the world into a bed and breakfast, Rick.

(MORE)

ELLIE (CONT'D)

This place deserves better. You  
deserve better.

Ellie peers at Rick as he looks down.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

You think your dad wants you to  
keep his dream alive or... do you  
think he'd want you to do your own  
thing...

RICK

You don't know what you're saying.

ELLIE

You don't like what I'm saying.

RICK

We never got along.

ELLIE

Better than always getting along.

RICK

Doubt that.

ELLIE

We'll never know.

RICK

That's right. We'll never know.

Rick stands. Approaches the fire. Adds a log. Embers and ash  
crackle up. Looks down at Lucky. The power suddenly cuts.

INT. STORAGE HANGAR - LATER

Rick approaches the generator. Grabs a can of kerosene. Fills  
the generator with fuel. Places the can down. Then replaces  
the hose with the newer hose he took from the Russian camp.

He reinforces the hose with duct tape at the edges. Then he  
kicks the generator. Pulls the cord. Kicks the generator,  
again. Pulls the cord. The generator starts.

He senses movement behind him. Turns. Scans the area.  
Nothing. Then he stares at the blanket covering the dead  
Russian. Hears metal clanging violently.

He moves toward the work bench. The metal stops clanging.  
Kneels. Stares at the metal mouse trap. Sees the mouse in the  
breathing hole.

RICK  
You, again.

The mouse pushes the cover. Harder and harder. Stops. Then suddenly it busts the cover wide open!

Rick starts. Falls back beside a fallen oil container. Watches the mouse disappear in the darkness. He stands. Places the oil container back on top of the work bench.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - ARCTIC TERN - MOMENTS LATER

Rick spots the plane door open. He closes it. Scans the area.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Rick enters.

RICK  
Jack! You left the door open!

DINING ROOM

RICK (CONT'D)  
Where's Jack?

MIKEY  
I didn't see him come in.

JACK'S ROOM

Rick pops his head in. Empty.

DINING ROOM

RICK  
He ain't in his room.

Mikey's got his jacket on.

MIKEY  
I'll check outside.

Mikey exits. Rick stares at the door for a long while. Mikey returns.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Nothing.

ELLIE  
What's going on?

RICK  
Jack's missing. Mikey, get your  
gun.

MIKEY  
Shit.

Mikey nods and exits.

ELLIE  
I'll go with you.

RICK  
Stay with your... friend...

Rick puts on an old, torn jacket as he prepares to go outside. Ellie stares at him.

ELLIE  
She's dead, right?

RICK  
I saw her fall. I'm sure he just  
went for a piss.

Mikey returns. Throws Rick a rifle.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Mikey and Rick push through the storm as they approach the plane.

MIKEY  
Jack!

RICK  
Don't call out.

MIKEY  
I don't see him, Rick.

Rick gestures to Mikey.

RICK  
This way.

Rick leads Mikey toward a snow bank. They round the bank and find nothing.

Rick hears something. He stops. Over the whistling wind, he hears a subtle wheezing. He scans the area but sees nothing across the ground. Mikey inches up to Rick.

MIKEY  
Where the fuck is he?

RICK  
Shhh.

Again, a subtle wheezing. Rick searches the ground, then suddenly narrows his gaze at the silhouette of a mound in the distance that might have just moved. Suddenly-

From the mound he sees the silhouette of an arm rising, flagging both of them down with difficulty. Rick gasps. Bolts toward him.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Ah... shit...

Mikey follows close behind as they approach-

Jack wheezing with his mouth full of blood and his jacket torn to hell. A steady pool of black blood grows around him.

MIKEY  
Jesus.

Rick turns to Mikey.

RICK  
Check the area.

Mikey scans the area. Rick crouches beside Jack.

RICK (CONT'D)  
You're okay, bud. We'll get you  
some help.

JACK  
I don't feel okay... fuckin liar...

Jack attempts a smile at Rick. Mikey returns from his perimeter search.

MIKEY  
Nothing.

RICK  
Help me. We gotta carry him back.

Rick slings his rifle over his shoulder. Mikey, too.

MIKEY  
What do we do?

RICK  
Grab his legs.

Rick grabs Jack by the shoulders. Mikey by the ankles.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Now.

They lift but suddenly his innards spill out!

RICK (CONT'D)  
Stop!

They place him back down gently and exchange looks of deep concern. Rick reaches over Jack. Lifts the jacket and-

Jack's gut is ripped open from chest to belly button.

Rick looks up at Mikey. After a moment, Rick turns to Jack at a loss for words. He hesitates several times, doesn't know what to say.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Hey, Jack... we can't move you,  
buddy.

JACK  
Pic... ture...

Rick rummages in Jack's pocket. Pulls out the picture of his family. Jack grabs it. Rick grasps Jack's free hand. Jack stares at his family. A smile grows over his agonized face. After a moment-

Jack wheezes and dies. Rick holds his hand for a long moment. Then he releases his hand and stands.

Mikey collapses to his knees and stares at Jack in shock. Rick approaches Mikey. Places his hand on Mikey's shoulder.

RICK  
We need to go, Mikey.

MIKEY  
Jack...

RICK  
We need to go...

Rick helps Mikey to his feet. Readies his rifle. Leads Mikey back to the-

INT. RESEARCH STATION - NIGHT

Mikey closes the door behind them. Rick storms in. They don't bother taking off their jackets or boots. Rick holds his rifle close to him and enters the-

DINING ROOM

Ellie sits at the table.

ELLIE  
Where is he?

Rick whispers to Ellie-

RICK  
Jack's dead.

Ellie's eyes widen.

RICK (CONT'D)  
We need to reinforce the door.

MIKEY  
You think she's gonna try to come in?

RICK  
She won't stop until she's killed the last human being on the planet. Yeah. She's coming in. Let's block the front and back door.

BACK AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Mikey and Ellie push a stove in front of the back door.

RICK'S BEDROOM

Mikey enters. He pushes a bunk-bed in front of the window just as the polar bear tries to break through, and the bed tips over on Mikey's leg.

ELLIE  
Rick!

Ellie tries to lift the bed as the polar bear squeezes through the window. She lifts the bed with difficulty as Mikey drags himself backward.

The polar bear stands on its hind legs with its face soaked with blood that drips black in the moonlight. The muzzle drips blood from a gaping hole.

Ellie stumbles back as Rick enters the room firing. Empties the rifle in the polar bear. Quickly drags Mikey out of the room with Ellie trying to help. They manage to close the door.

Rick stands in front of it as he attempts to reload his rifle with trembling hands. He drops bullets but manages to reload. Then he aims at the door, waiting for the bear.

A moment later the bear smashes the door. Again, and again!

CA-RACK! CA-RACK!

Rick unloads his rifle blindly into the door. Then he drops to his knees and scrambles for the bullets he dropped earlier. Reloads. Stands. Empties the rifle, again.

Rick hears the bear retreating. Ellie helps Mikey to his feet.

MIKEY

Let it bleed out.

They all stare at the door for a long while. Rick turns to Mikey, regards his leg.

RICK

Broken?

MIKEY

Don't think so.

RICK

Back away from the door. Maybe...  
barricade yourselves in the  
infirmary with Vance.

ELLIE

What about you?

RICK

I'm going after it.

ELLIE

We should wait... wait a bit more.

RICK

I ain't takin a chance.

Ellie helps Mikey into the infirmary down the hall. Rick puts his hand on the door handle. Slowly turns it. Opens it with his gun at the ready.

Rick enters the-

## BEDROOM

Nothing but a busted wall and window and the cool wheezing of the wind filling the room. Ellie stands beside Rick with Mikey's rifle. Rick turns to her.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Go back.

ELLIE  
Yeah, right.

They enter the room. They find nothing but a trail of blood. Rick approaches the busted and splintered window. Stares at the black blood dripping from a splinter. He stares at the blood then turns and exits.

## DINING ROOM

Rick stares at the door. They push away the table in order to open it. Suddenly, the generator powers down. Lights go off. Almost complete darkness. Rick curses under his breath.

RICK  
Keep the fire going.

He hands Ellie a few bullets.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Stay here.

ELLIE  
Don't think so.

RICK  
God damn it, Ellie, I need someone to stay with Mikey and Vance. Believe me, I'd gladly send you out there if you knew how to get the fuckin generator started. Gladly.

Ellie considers.

RICK (CONT'D)  
We'll fuckin freeze to death before the bear gets us... please...

Ellie peers at him.

ELLIE  
Just the generator. You don't go after her alone.

Rick nods. Then he clambers over the table and squeezes through the door, and he walks into the stormy night.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Rick heads toward the side of the station where he finds a trail of blood slowly being covered by the falling snow. He follows the trail beyond the station ground and into the-

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - MOMENTS LATER

Rick follows the blood trail out until it begins to double back toward the station. He pauses for a moment. Then realizes the polar bear headed back to the research station.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ellie massages Mikey's leg on the floor by the fire, checking to see if any bones are broken. He winces once or twice as she applies pressure to his thigh.

MIKEY

That hurts.

ELLIE

It's not broken. Fracture...  
Maybe...

Suddenly, the door thumps. Then goes silent. Completely silent. Ellie stares at the door, not sure what to think.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Rick?

No answer. Complete silence. Ellie goes back to applying pressure against Mikey's leg. Then nother thump followed by silence.

MIKEY

Rick!

Ellie shakes her head. As she does, the door starts pounding with the weight of a polar bear behind it.

WHUMP! WHUMP! WHUMP!

And the polar bear busts right through, pushing the dining room table back.

Ellie leaps for her rifle. Aims. Fires. Misses. Fires, again. Grazes the polar bear attempting to negotiate the dining room table to get to Ellie and Mikey.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - MOMENTS LATER

Rick pushes his way through the snow, following the trail back to the station. He stops suddenly when he hears the report of a rifle in the distance. Without hesitation, Rick sprints back to the research station as a second report shakes the otherwise still night.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Ellie fires again. Hits the polar bear's shoulder. Shoots again! Hits the polar bear in the chest. The polar bear doubles back but then turns to face Ellie. It roars its anger. Vance exits the infirmary.

VANCE

Hey!

The polar bear turns to face Vance.

ELLIE

What are you doing!?

VANCE

We don't have to kill it.

Vance holds up a syringe.

VANCE (CONT'D)

I've got a tranquilizer!

Vance runs to the-

BEDROOM

Vance runs through the busted wall into the cold night. The polar bear chases him. Ellie rushes after them, leaving Mikey alone.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Ellie rushes out. Stops suddenly. Sees Vance running away from the compound but no polar bear in pursuit. She hears-

BREATHING!

Ellie turns to see the polar bear on the-

ROOF

The polar bear leaps at her with a roar! Ellie evades just in time. Her rifle falls into the snow.

Vance stops. Turns. Sees that Ellie is in trouble.

Ellie reaches for her gun. Fires as the polar bear bolts around the compound.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

In the darkness, Mikey sits, holding his leg. Then the busted entrance door clanks.

MIKEY

Ellie...

Through the darkness emerges-

THE POLAR BEAR!

Mikey backs up as the polar bear approaches him. Suddenly, Vance and Ellie emerge behind the polar bear. The polar bear stops. Senses them.

Ellie aims.

Vance lowers the rifle with his hand. Shows Ellie the syringe. Ellie shakes her head. Vance nods and steps forward. Inches beside the polar bear. Sticks it with the syringe.

The polar bear suddenly turns on him with a roar. Vance's eyes widen. He swallows. The polar bear gives him a confused look. Then leaps on him! Ellie fires! A second too late!

The polar bear escapes through the hallway, into the bedroom and outside. Mikey stares at Vance who jerks in agony on the floor. Ellie approaches Vance. Kneels beside him.

VANCE

Don't... kill it...

Vance dies. Ellie approaches the busted entrance door. Stares at it for a long moment, barely seeing past the falling snow. Suddenly-

Rick emerges. And-

Ellie fires, but, luckily, the bullet just misses him.

RICK

Hey, hey!

ELLIE  
Shit, sorry!

Rick leans back into the gaping hole in the door.

RICK  
Where?

ELLIE  
In back.

Rick disappears.

The back door creaks. Ellie turns to the back. Checks her gun. No bullets. Nothing. Throws down her gun. Quickly runs to the-

KITCHEN

Grabs two knives.

DINING ROOM

Ellie rushes back in and places one knife in Mikey's hand. Mikey stares at it and then turns to Ellie.

MIKEY  
What the fuck am I supposed to do with this?

ELLIE  
Whatever you can, Mikey. Whatever you can...

MIKEY  
Jack has a gun in his plane.

ELLIE  
We're fixing that leg first.

Ellie helps him up. They slowly hobble toward the infirmary.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - NIGHT

Rick moves slowly toward the back. He rounds the corner of the research station to find the polar bear lying on the ground, breathing heavily.

Rick creeps up to it. He aims. Then lowers his rifle. It seems defeated. Maybe he won't have to kill it.

Rick watches it. Then retraces his steps backward. Silently. But the crunch of snow suddenly alarms the polar bear.

The polar bear turns to see Rick. It clambers to its feet and roars its anger. With renewed anger, the polar bear lumbers toward him.

Rick empties the rifle into the polar bear but-

The polar bear doesn't go down.

Rick laughs absurdly. Then thrusts his gun at the polar bear. The lights shimmer on and off as the generator struggles to power on.

Rick stares at the lights for a moment, then makes a decision. He takes a deep breath and makes a mad dash for the-

EXT. STORAGE HANGAR - MOMENTS LATER

Rick bolts toward the door. The polar bear gives chase. Rick looks over his shoulder to make sure he's being followed. He sees the polar bear lumbering toward him as he reaches the door and slips inside.

INT. STORAGE HANGAR - MOMENTS LATER

Rick approaches the generator. Looks at it for a long moment. Decides. He grabs a cloth and sticks it into the gas tank like a fuse. He grabs a can of kerosene. Spills one can directly over the generator. Then he grabs another can.

The doors pound. Unperturbed, Rick spills another can over the floor.

The pounding stops!

Rick pulls out the last of his matches. Stares at the front entrance, waiting.

Nothing.

Stares at the side entrance.

Nothing.

RICK  
Come on... come on!

Rick approaches the front door. Opens it slightly. Sees nothing but falling snow. Shaking, with cut and bruised hands-

He drops his matches in a heap of snow that had been dragged into the hangar by his boots. He crouches to pick the matches up when suddenly-

THE POLAR BEAR

TOWERING ON HER TWO FEET

BEHIND HIM!

ATTACKING!

Misses Rick's head by mere inches!

Rick feels the swoosh, knows his luck, and-

DIVES!

Rick rolls over and over as the polar bear goes after him!

Unwittingly Rick rolls into a pool of kerosene and oil with his jacket. Gets up. Stumbles away as the polar bear suddenly gets distracted by a sound.

The generator sputters to life then dies down again.

Rick bolts past the generator that struggles on its own to start again with moderate success turning the lights on and off with every attempt.

The polar bear smashes the clunky, clattering generator.

Rick grabs a shovel. Smashes the bear with it. Rushes back toward the front door where he dropped the matches.

He dives for the ground. Scrambles to find matches scattered on the floor. Finds-

FOUR MATCHES!

Tries the first one. But-

The wet match won't ignite. He tosses the match away. With trembling hands he grabs another!

The polar bear stares at Rick as he scrambles on the ground, inching toward the door. Stopping now and then to strike a match with little or no success.

He tries the second match. But, again, it's too wet.

The polar bear lumbers toward him. Not in any particular rush. Rick snatches the third match and so pumped with adrenalin, he snaps it, and the match breaks.

He grabs the fourth. Steadies his hands. Focuses. Strikes it once. Twice. Thrice. At last-

THE FOURTH MATCH-

IGNITES!

But he drops it on his-

JACKET!

And his jacket goes up in a swirl of violent flames! Rick desperately wiggles out of his jacket and throws it in a puddle of kerosene that instantly-

IGNITES the generator! And the polar bear!

Rick turns and scrambles outside before everything blows up.

EXT. STORAGE HANGAR - MOMENTS LATER

Rick claws at the ground to pull himself as far away from the hangar as he can the whole while looking over his shoulder at the burning hangar. He takes a deep calming breath when suddenly-

The burning polar bear rushes out after him-

Rick starts. Clammers to his feet as the fire on the polar bear is slowly extinguished by the falling snow. Suddenly-

Mikey appears with a club, limping, attacking the polar bear.

MIKEY

Come on! Fuck you! Fuck you!

The polar bear turns to face Mikey. Approaches. Mikey attacks it. Instantly, the polar bear snatches the end of the club in its jaws.

Mikey holds on for dear life as the polar bear attempts to yank his weapon away. Suddenly-

The polar bear yanks the club out of Mikey's hand. Sends the club to the ground.

Mikey stumbles. Hits the ground hard. The polar bear approaches him.

Rick snatches the club and nails the polar bear on the back as it attacks Mikey.

RICK

Leave him be!

The polar bear turns to face Rick. Staggered toward him. Trips over its own feet. Rick calls out-

RICK (CONT'D)  
Mikey, you okay!?

No answer.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Mikey!?

Mikey lies in the snow. Doesn't move.

Rick backs away slowly. He regards the club. Makes a decision. Places it against the ground and busts it in two with his foot, creating two short spears.

Rick grabs the two make-shift spears. Continues to back away without taking his eyes off the polar bear.

RICK (CONT'D)  
That's it... come on...

The polar bear stumbles. Stands. Follows Rick.

Rick picks up the pace. Stumbles. Stands. Backs up. Faster and faster, leading the polar bear away from Mikey as the storage hangar goes up in flames.

Rick leads the polar bear to the-

POLAR BEAR DEN

The polar bear begins to pick up the pace. As Rick approaches the entrance of the den-

The polar bear attacks, lunging at Rick!

Rick attempts to plunge one of the make-shift spears into the polar bear's chest. But-

The polar bear smashes it out of Rick's hand. It falls close to his feet. Then the polar bear attacks!

Quickly, Rick holds up the other short spear up with both hands as the polar bear falls on him. The spear-

Plunges deep into the polar bear's shoulder!

The polar bear roars in pain.

Rick grabs the fallen make-shift spear on the ground, then frantically pushes away from the raging polar bear. Tumbles down the side of the den and onto-

A mound of frozen polar bear blood.

The polar bear quickly rushes down toward Rick. But stops suddenly. Sniffs the ground. Breathes harder and harder. Recognizes the scent of the blood on the ground and-

Rises on two feet with a sonorous roar!

Towering over Rick.

Rick closes his eyes. Nowhere to go. Nothing to do. Suddenly-

CA-RACK!

A FLARE hits the polar bear's leg. Nearby, Ellie trembles to reload the flare gun from the Arctic Tern. She watches as-

THE POLAR BEAR COLLAPSES OVER RICK!

The polar bear struggles to inch its way up to Rick's neck. It rises slightly and opens a mouth full of razor-sharp teeth. Goes to snatch his face off! Suddenly-

Rick plunges the other spear into its neck. His eyes go wide with disbelief as the polar still chomps down on his defending arm, making its way to his neck! Suddenly a shriek and-

WHUMP! WHUMP! WHUMP!

Ellie towers over the polar bear. With the last of her strength she raises a massive piece of ice dripping with polar bear blood.

The polar bear releases Rick.

WHUMP!

The massive piece of ice smashes down on the polar bear's head.

WHUMP! WHUMP! And the polar bear-

DIES!

With Rick pinned under it.

A massive pool of steaming hot blood grows around the polar bear and Rick, melting the snow and ice around them. Rick squirms and pushes away from the polar bear to see-

Ellie standing a few meters away from him, holding a massive piece of ice dripping with the polar bear's blood.

Ellie stares at the scene. Doesn't say anything. Releases the ice block into a patch of frozen blood.

The ice block dripping with warm blood. The fresh steaming blood melts into the frozen blood on the ground. Mother's blood mixes with her cubs' blood.

Rick sits in front of the polar bear in shock. His entire body covered in oil, kerosene and the polar bear's blood, he holds his wounded arm and can't stop staring into-

The polar bear's lifeless eyes.

Rick holds back tears. Reaches out with a trembling hand. Notices the polar bear's blood dripping from his grimy fingers. He shuts the polar bear's eyelids.

Ellie silently approaches him. She steps up behind Rick. She removes her jacket. Places her jacket around him. Sits beside him.

They sit in silence, staring at the polar bear. After a long moment, Rick speaks but doesn't remove his gaze from the polar bear.

RICK (CONT'D)

I think... I think... I want to see  
Paris.

Ellie wipes a tear that slips down Rick's cheek. Kisses him on the cheek. He turns to face her. They stare at each other. At last they-

KISS

Rick and Ellie pull away from each other as Mikey and Lucky approach them. The falling snow slower covers them and the-

BLOOD COVERED ICE BLOCK

FADE OUT

THE END