

YULETIDE

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**EXT. SNOWY FOREST - NIGHT**

A BLINDING SNOWSTORM whips amongst the TALL PINES. Howling wind is all we can hear. Eventually the wind dies down and-

We're GLIDING along the forest floor... Until we come upon the first sign of life:

A WOOD CABIN

It's distant, but the outline of the building is visible by the festive CHRISTMAS LIGHTS that run along the roof's shingles. The warm light of a FIREPLACE is seen in a window.

*SNAP!*

A twig is broken from a nearby SHRUB. And on closer examination... Something is barely noticeable: a strange, slender piece of metal is vertically protruding outwards.

It's the barrel of a rifle.

It moves slightly, swaying a bit, seemingly trying to keep itself steady while fighting against the powerful wind.

The rifle belongs to a YOUNG SOLDIER in ARMORED CAMOFLAUGE. He's trying his best to stand still. This is REINHART (24).

His rifle's scope is aimed towards the distant cabin, using it to survey for any targets. A moment passes. Then a VOICE:

VOICE ON COMMS (O.S.)  
Status. Reinhart.  
(audio static)  
-Reinhart? Visual on target?

Reinhart whispers into COMMS:

REINHART  
Negative. Nothing yet. Standby.

VOICE ON COMMS (O.S.)  
Copy. Standing by.

**REINHART'S RIFLE SCOPE -**

We're PANNING along the exterior of the Cabin until stopping at the main window. Inside, a CHRISTMAS TREE idles by an open FIREPLACE. A moment passes and a MOTHER and FATHER walk into the living room, laughing and smiling. Reinhart is focused...

REINHART (O.S.)  
(into COMMS)  
Whoa, whoa. Hold on.  
(MORE)

REINHART (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(pause)

I have the mother and father in sight. No target yet. *Standby.*

Now the Mother and Father are joined by their CHILD, a young boy who we'll come to know has a name: AARON (8-years-old).

**BACK ON REINHART**

He drops his scope a little and we see the look on his face. Beneath his stoic expression, a look of worry and dread flashes, but it is gone in an instant. *He's on a mission.*

REINHART (CONT'D)

(hesitant, into COMMS)

Target acquired. North window.  
Living room.

VOICE ON COMMS (O.S.)

Copy that.

(to someone else)

Move out. Weapons hot.

Reinhart springs out of the bush and towards the Cabin just as - FROM ALL AROUND THE CABIN - about TWENTY-FIVE ARMORED SOLDIERS appear from the shrubbery and surrounding trees.

They circle and silently close-in on the Cabin.

We're WITH REINHART as he makes his way towards the CABIN. TWO OTHER SOLDIERS join Reinhart as they ALL-THREE reach-

**EXT. WOOD CABIN - CONTINUOUS**

-THE CABIN'S FRONT DOOR. Reinhart slinks to the side of the door, ready for a breach. He waits for the rest of the soldiers to take up their various positions around the area.

Once everyone's good...

VOICE ON COMMS (O.S.)

Ready to breach.

(audio static)

-Confirmation? Reinhart?

Reinhart takes a deep breath. He's ready. Whisper into COMMS:

REINHART

*Confirmation.*

The Soldiers wait as...

VOICE ON COMMS (O.S.)  
Copy. On my mark...

On Reinhart as he silently prepares himself.

VOICE ON COMMS (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Three.... Two.....

Reinhart closes his eyes: *Here goes nothing.*

VOICE ON COMMS (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
.....ONE!! GO GO GO -- BREACH!!!!

Now all hell breaks loose.

WHAM!

THE FRONT DOOR IS BROKEN AND THE SOLDIERS RUSH INSIDE.

**INT. WOOD CABIN - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

THE FAMILY IS IN COMPLETE SHOCK as nearly every door and window is broken open. SOLDIERS SWARM, guns trained... But not at the family.

The Soldiers appear to be clearing the house, room by room, for some threat that hasn't arrived yet.

Reinhart's mission is Aaron, but before he can secure the boy, the FATHER blocks his path.

THE FATHER  
WHOA WHOA -- WHAT THE HELL IS GOING  
ON HERE!? WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE!??

The MOTHER is there too, protecting Aaron in her arms.

THE MOTHER  
You can't- What did we do!?? You  
can't just break in!

THE FATHER  
WHAT ARE YOU!? POLICE?? FBI?

REINHART  
My name is lieutenant James  
Reinhart. They're here for your  
protection and I'm here to get  
Aaron out of here to safety. You  
guys, believe it or not, are in  
grave danger.

The family is at a lose for words.

REINHART (CONT'D)

Look, You're just gonna have to trust me. You guys are the Stephensons. Martha and George, right? Your son is Aaron, he's eight years old. And about a week ago, you called the police saying "there might be a man in your house." The police checked it out, found nothing, but it kept happening. You told the leading officer that Aaron was the one who kept hearing it, right? That he heard footsteps and laughter late into the night? And of last Tuesday, Aaron told his 3rd grade English Teacher, Ms. Brennen, that he couldn't sleep well leading up to today, December 24th -- Christmas Eve -- Because he felt, quote-unquote, "Not good" -- Or in other words -- "Naughty". He told her that a man in his window told him that he made the list. "The bad list." Am I right? Is that all you guys?

They're stunned but nod in agreement. Aaron looks scared.

REINHART (CONT'D)

Good. We'll make this extraction quick and painless. Hope is that we'll be long-gone before the entity even knows you're gone. We gotta keep Aaron safe -- He's the one being targeted.

THE FATHER

Aaron's being targeted??

THE MOTHER

...The...The entity? What entity?

REINHART

That's not important. What *is* important is getting you folks outta here. We should get moving --

THUNK!

Everyone in the house, Soldiers and all, stop what they're doing and look to the ceiling where that sounds came from...

THUNK! THUNK!

It's FOOTSTEPS. Heavy, one thousand-pounds. Slow-moving.

THUNK... THUNK... THUNK...!

Reinhart shoots the family a look, finger up to his lips: *STAY QUIET*. The Soldiers slowly aim their rifles upwards.

REINHART (CONT'D)  
(mouths the words)  
Time to go. Follow me.

As Reinhart chauffeurs the family slowly towards the door, he hand-motions for the Soldiers to take up attack positions.

*CREAK-CRUNCH!*

A section of the roof bends under the weight of whatever the fuck is on top of the Cabin.

Reinhart cautiously calls into his COMMS:

REINHART (CONT'D)  
Subjects ready for evac vehicle.

CUT TO:

**EXT. SNOWY FOREST - SAME**

AN ARMORED SWAT CAR, the evac vehicle, barrels through the pines on it's way towards the Cabin. It SCREECHES to a STOP just outside.

THE DRIVER inside catches a glimpse of SOMETHING HUGE on top of the roof. A FIGURE with LARGE HORNS on it's head and a bag over it's shoulder.

The Horned-figure sees the vehicle and springs into action.

CUT TO:

**INT. WOOD CABIN - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

All is silent for a split second until --

*CRASH! THUD!*

The Horned-figure BURSTS through a WINDOW and lands on the floor. It's hunched over, but slowly stands to meet the Soldiers, who all look terrified.

We see how utterly horrifying this seven-foot-tall monster is. And if it wasn't clear already, this is KRAMPUS.

Krampus clocks Aaron from the other side of the Cabin. A thin smile erupts across Krampus' face. Then all in one instant --

THE SOLDIERS OPEN FIRE!

KRAMPUS ROARS AND BEGINS TO RIP AND GORE every Soldier in the house. The BULLITS HAVE NO EFFECT. Krampus RIPS A SOLDIER IN HALF and throws his remains towards the Living Room --

-- Which HITS THE LIVING ROOM WINDOW and SHATTERS IT.

Reinhart grabs the family and BOOKS IT through the door while Krampus continues to KILL EVERY PERSON IN THE CABIN.

**EXT. WOOD CABIN - CONTINUOUS**

Over the sounds of carnage, Reinhart shoves the family into the back of the EVAC VEHICLE and is about to close the door behind them, when --

*BOOM!*

-- Krampus launches from a window, covered in blood, and starts lurching towards the Evac Vehicle.

Reinhart raises his rifle and FIRES A FLURRY OF ROUNDS into Krampus' face, causing Krampus to stop for a brief moment.

Reinhart takes this time to jump into the Evac Vehicle --

**INT. EVAC VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS**

-- AND CLOSE THE BACK DOOR BEHIND HIM.

REINHART  
 (to the driver)  
 GO GO GO!!!

The Vehicle SPEEDS OFF. The family braces themselves.

**EXT. SNOWY FOREST - MOMENTS LATER**

TRACKING WITH THE EVAC VEHICLE as it maneuvers through the forest like a bat outta hell.

Feels like they're in the clear.

**INT. EVAC VEHICLE (DRIVING) - SAME**

Reinhart and the family catch their breath. They made it! There's a long moment of calm, which is soon interrupted by a LOUD ROAR. A split-second later, a metric-ton of shit hits the fan as --

-- SOMETHING OUTSIDE RAMS AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE EVAC VEHICLE --

-- THE SIDE WALL DENTS IN AND THE WHOLE VEHICLE TIPS OVER AND CRASHES -- REINHART AND THE FAMILY ARE TOSSED AROUND LIKE RAGDOLLS, SCREAMING -- GLASS AND METAL SPRAYING EVERYWHERE --

-- THE NOISE IS DEAFENING AS THE EVAC VEHICLE SLAMS INTO THE GROUND AND SKIDS TO A STOP, AND WE SUDDENLY --

SLAM TO BLACK.

**INT./EXT. EVAC VEHICLE (CRASHED) / SNOWY FOREST - A BIT LATER**

Reinhart's eyes dart open.

He sits up in the wreckage of the Evac Vehicle. He's bleeding and his leg is cut to shit. He groans in pain and he looks around...

THE BACK DOOR is OPEN, the freezing wind seeping into the Vehicle. The mother and father are sprawled out on the snow-covered ground, DEAD. Ripped to pieces.

Reinhart is horrified. Aaron is nowhere in sight. He manages to drag himself out of the Vehicle...

...And out onto the snowy ground.

LITTLE FIRES everywhere, a few pines have been destroyed from the crash. Amongst the rumble and the bodies...

KRAMPUS

...He lifts his huge Santa-like bag and Reinhart sees as Krampus slips an unconscious Aaron into the bag.

REINHART

No! NO!! Don't!

Krampus turns and looks Reinhart right in the eyes...and a toothy grin runs across Krampus' face. Reinhart's heart drops. There's nothing he can do. Reinhart has failed.

And as Krampus runs off into the woods, bag over his shoulder, we're left with a shell-shocked Reinhart. **BLACKOUT.**