

NANUQ

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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 bark suddenly startles him.

A sled dog begins to bark. 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 half a mile beyond the horizon toward the polar bear without actually seeing it. All he sees is-

SNOW AND 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 commands his dogs to shut up in Russian.

BORRIS
Za-kroy rot!

The dogs ignore him. They continue to whimper and bark nervously.

EXT. CANADIAN ARCTIC - SKY - DAY

JACK VOHRA, late forties with a sun burnt face and thinning hair. He pilots an Arctic Tern over huge expanses of snow and ice. His Comms Unit suddenly crackles to life.

INT. ARCTIC TERN - MOMENTS LATER

Jack stares at the beautiful view below him. A sudden gunshot startles him. He approaches and passes over the-

POACHER'S CAMP

Sees nothing.

Hears another-

BANG!

Searches the ground. Again, finds nothing.

MIKEY (V.O.)

Jack, you close by? We need that kerosene. Generator's out. Been out for the last thirty minutes. Not that we need it in this weather, but the night promises to be cold.

Jack talks into his Comms unit.

JACK

Any minute now.

MIKEY (V.O.)

Copy that. One more thing...

Mikey's voice trails off.

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.

MIKEY (V.O.)

He can fly, you know.

JACK

Well then... he should get his license, and it won't be a problem.

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.

RICK
In this weather?

Rick scoffs.

JACK
Weather changes fast.

RICK
Now it's warm.

JACK
Now.

RICK
Gotta love global warming.

JACK
Great attitude, bro. That's exactly why we're in this fuckin mess.

Rick approaches Jack.

RICK
It's not as bad as people say.

Jack's eyes widen.

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

RICK
Exactly.

Rick smiles.

RICK (CONT'D)
It's not as bad as people say.

MIKEY LAPOINTE, late teens, chubby, jovial, comes out to greet Jack.

JACK
And here comes Tweedle Dee. Great example, Rick. Seriously.

Rick shrugs.

RICK
He's my brother. We think alike.

Rick grabs a can of kerosene from the plane. Mikey as well.

JACK
Forgot your jacket? Shirt, too.

MIKEY
Gotta love global warming.

Jack gives Rick a look. Rick grins and winks. Mikey follows Rick 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 a generator pretty much held together by duct tape.

Rick places his can of kerosene beside the generator.

MIKEY
You good? I'm gonna get started on dinner. We got that activist coming in with his team.

RICK
I got this.

They both stare at the generator.

MIKEY
We should probably get a new
generator.

RICK
This one's fine.

MIKEY
It's past its prime, Rick. Look at
it.

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

RICK
Hasn't expired yet.

MIKEY
Expired long ago, bro. We'd
probably save on fuel if not duct
tape.

RICK
We've still got another year or
two.

MIKEY
That's actually something I want to
talk to you about.

RICK
What about?

MIKEY
Later.

RICK
We ain't getting a new generator.
Money doesn't grow on trees.

MIKEY
Shit! You sound like Dad.

RICK
It's true.

MIKEY
I guess so. We'll talk later.

Mikey turns and exits the hangar.

Rick stares at the generator for a moment. He unscrews the cover of the fuel tank. Lifts the kerosene can. Pours. Then he screws the cover back on and pulls the cord.

The generator doesn't start.

Rick pulls the cord again. It doesn't start. He stops to give the old heap a pep talk.

RICK
That right... you done?

He tries again.

RICK (CONT'D)
Listen here... you want to be
scrap... fine... don't start...

He kicks the generator. Pulls the cord. The generator starts, stops, starts, then sputters and dies.

RICK (CONT'D)
You're not gonna die now.

Rick kicks it over and over again, and he pulls the cord. At last, it sputters to life. Rick stands back. Stares at the generator. Smiles victoriously.

RICK (CONT'D)
More like it.

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
What's it going to be?

SAM
Haven't figured that out yet.

RICK
You up for a game later?

SAM
Lose my paycheck before I earn it?
No thanks.

RICK
I ain't that good.

SAM
No. You're that lucky.

RICK
Luck has nothing to do with it.

SAM
Careful, chief. You don't appreciate what you got... you might lose it.

RICK
So 'no'...

SAM
I'll let you know later.

Rick turns to Jack.

RICK
How about you?

Jack doesn't answer.

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

JACK
Just reading about our guest. You know he's actually shown scientists have been way off on their predictions and that the way we're going, they'll be no ice by 2030, not 2070.

RICK
Good. I hate ice.

Jack shakes his head at Rick.

JACK
Gotta respect what he's doing.

RICK
Creating panic.

JACK
Opening eyes. So we can change.

RICK
No proof the ice is melting because of us. Even if it were, people don't change.

(MORE)

RICK (CONT'D)

They adapt when change comes... but they don't change... until then I say enjoy it... but he knows that... he's got an angle... selling t-shirts with save the world slogans and all the groupies that come with it.

JACK

That why you open your doors to him?

RICK

I open my doors to anyone who pays.

SAM

And gave him a discount.

RICK

I had no one else booked.

SAM

Because you declined the Russians.

RICK

They rubbed me the wrong way.

SAM

They were poachers.

RICK

I didn't know that.

SAM

Sure you didn't.

Rick sighs.

Sam smiles.

RICK

He's a fraud. But at least he's the kind I can stomach.

Rick stands. 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 for a moment. Then he snaps out of his memories and exits.

KITCHEN - MOMENTS 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 hand Rick a spoon. Rick tries a bit of soup.

RICK
That's good.

Tries roast beef.

RICK (CONT'D)
That's better.

Tries veggies.

RICK (CONT'D)
My little bro gets me liking
veggies. That's talent.

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

RICK
What? Veggies.

MIKEY
I mean this.

Mikey indicates the soup on the stove.

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

RICK
You are. Guests rave about the
food.

MIKEY
You know what I mean.

RICK
You're not going to the Bleu Bleu.

MIKEY
Cordon Bleu.

RICK
Whatever.

MIKEY
Not whatever. I want to go, and I need help, Rick.

RICK
I need you here, not in Spain.

MIKEY
Paris.

RICK
Look. You're good but sometimes we gotta be practical. You're not really going to become a chef. Seriously. It's a phase.

Mikey sighs.

MIKEY
I'm gonna fuckin go crazy here bro. I'll pay you back, I swear. Every last penny...

RICK
I have savings for a rainy day, not for things we don't really need. Why don't you do an online course?

MIKEY
You can't learn art on a computer.

RICK
Why not?

MIKEY
Rick. I'm going.

RICK
We'll see when the time comes. By then, maybe you'll want to do something else.

MIKEY
I have been doing this since I could break an egg.

(MORE)

MIKEY (CONT'D)

I've already wasted too much time
in the middle of nowhere, Rick. I'm
dying here.

RICK

How about we talk about this some
other time?

Rick exits.

DINING ROOM - LATER

Rick, Sam, and Jack play poker. Rick sits at the dining room
table with his back facing the entrance door.

Each player keeps their hand guarded.

Rick holds a full house.

SAM

You should let him go.

RICK

You should just 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. Doesn't find them. Turns to Rick.

SAM (CONT'D)

See the matches?

RICK

Kitchen.

Sam leaves and soon returns with an empty box of matches.
Jack shakes his head.

JACK

You're outta matches.

RICK
Shit.

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

Sam makes to go. 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.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - NIGHT

Rick approaches the plane parked near the storage hangar.

INT. ARCTIC TERN - MOMENTS 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.

Rick disembarks.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - NIGHT

Rick approaches the research station. Stops again. Turns. Stares beyond 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. Stands. Sits down in his seat. Watches his brother play with Sam and Jack.

JACK
Looks like luck runs in the family.

Rick approaches the table.

MIKEY

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

RICK

I win?

MIKEY

I do your laundry for a month.

RICK

No. You learn on the internet.

Mikey nods.

Sam deals.

Rick looks at his cards. Grins.

SAM

Card?

Rick shakes his head in answer. Mikey, too.

Mikey places five cards of the same suit before him.

Rick nods.

JACK

Tough to beat.

Rick stares at the cards then places a-

STRAIGHT FLUSH on the table.

Mikey blinks. Blinks, again. He swallows. Stands. Doesn't say a word. Leaves.

Sam shakes his head at Rick.

SAM

You could have folded.

RICK

No, I couldn't have.

Sam sighs.

SAM

You won... but you didn't...

JACK

I actually thought you would have let him win.

RICK
He needs to grow up.

RICK'S ROOM - MORNING

A pounding on the door.

SAM (O.S.)
Wake up... I'm hungry...

Rick rouses. Confused.

RICK
What the?

Gets out of his sleeping bag. Stands. Wipes the sleep out of his eyes.

DINING ROOM - LATER

Rick enters in boxers.

Sam and Jack wait at the empty table.

RICK (CONT'D)
Where's breakfast?

JACK
That's what I'm wondering.

Rick sighs.

MIKEY'S ROOM

Mikey sleeps on the bottom bed of a bunk-bed. Near the bed is a window. A knock at the door. Rick enters.

RICK
You forget something?

MIKEY
Nope.

RICK
Nope?

MIKEY
Nope.

RICK
Breakfast?

MIKEY

You can handle that.

Rick stares at him for a long moment.

RICK

Sure. I can handle that.

MIKEY

Not something I have to do.

RICK

Thought you enjoyed it?

MIKEY

Not anymore.

Rick stares at him for a long moment, then sighs, and closes the door.

KITCHEN - LATER

Rick stares at a pantry filled with canned food, sacks of vegetables and spices. Rick grabs a can of beans and stares at it. Puts it back. Moves to a refrigerator. Opens it. Grabs a few eggs.

DINING ROOM - LATER

A steaming plate of eggs.

Sam stares at his plate. Jack, too. Mikey sits at his place at the table.

Sam tries the eggs, tries to smile but can't. Swallows with difficulty. Jack does the same.

SAM

Rick. We've been friends since high school.

Rick shrugs.

SAM (CONT'D)

Would you still be my friend... if I didn't... eat this?

Jack just turns to Mikey, who stares at his eggs in disbelief.

JACK

Come on... Mikey...

Mikey shakes his head disappointedly at Rick.

MIKEY

How do you screw up eggs?

Mikey gets up. Heads to the kitchen. The sound of the refrigerator door opening and closing.

JACK

(calling out to Mikey)

Mikey. Make mine to go. Got to pick up our guests.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - AFTERNOON

In a T-shirt, Rick clears the snow off the Bandvagn 206, 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? His imagination. Hard to tell.

Rick 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 melting blood.

Rick scans the dunes. Searches. Gives up with a sigh when he doesn't see anything.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - EVENING

Rick fills the Bandvagn's tank with gas.

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 was a pup? Maybe it wasn't a pup. My guess... seal...

Rick sighs, frustrated.

RICK

I know what I saw. It was a pup. Husky... if I had to guess.

SAM

So a hunter team lost its pup?

RICK

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

SAM

Pup won't last long on its own. Won't know what to do.

RICK

Maybe I'll go out after.

Sam shakes his head.

SAM

Might be Hawaii in the day, Rick but it's definitely the Arctic at night.

RICK

Always wanted a pup.

SAM

Thought you were a Ski-Doo guy.

RICK

Doesn't mean there isn't room here for a dog.

MIKEY

Keep you company in my absence.

Rick sighs. Doesn't respond.

SAM
You hear what happened to the oil
prospectors?

Rick shakes his head.

MIKEY
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
Good to have you. Anyone else...

ELLIE IVALU, Inuit, late twenties, toned, brunette, opens the
door and enters. Rick looks up to see who's wearing the thick
down parka and jeans.

ELLIE
Hey, Rick.

A voice like a slap in the face. A stunned silence. 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
hands. Cold, you see.

Rick walks past her toward the outside wearing his old
sweater. Doesn't bother with a jacket.

SAM
Coming with you.

Sam passes Ellie.

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

ELLIE
You, too.

Sam puts on his jacket and heads after Rick.

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - LATER

Rick drives with Sam sitting in the passenger seat.

RICK
You didn't know? Seriously?

SAM
She wasn't on the manifest.

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

Rick sighs.

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

RICK
A part of what? He measures ice,
Sam? Fuckin, ice. Who care?

SAM
OH-LAAA. Rick, ice is melting way
faster than any big chief scientist
in a white jacket ever predicted.
Your father would care.

RICK
I'm not him.

SAM
No. You're not.

A silence. Rick scans the area.

RICK
You see anything?

SAM
Nothing.

He stares at Rick.

RICK
I can feel you looking at me.

SAM
She looks good.

Rick ignores him.

SAM (CONT'D)
Happy.

Rick stares out the window into the darkness.

RICK
I don't see anything.

SAM
You should let go.

RICK
You should mind your business.

SAM
It was a while ago.

RICK
We don't need to talk about that.
I'm over her.

SAM
I see that.

Rick sighs his frustration.

RICK
Too dark.

SAM
Probably a seal.

Rick loses his cool.

RICK
It wasn't a fuckin seal!

SAM
Okay, Rick. Whatever you say. It
wasn't a seal.

Rick turns around. Drives back toward the station. Sam
continues to stare at him.

RICK
Stop doing that!

SAM
What?

RICK
Looking at me. I'm fine.

SAM
I know you are.

RICK
Then stop.

SAM
Okay.

Sam continues to stare.

RICK
Are you seriously still looking at
me. Stop.

SAM
Okay.

Sam doesn't stop staring at Rick.

Rick sighs.

RICK
Stop!

Sam looks away.

SAM
We'll talk about this some other
time. When you're ready.

RICK
There's nothing to talk about.

SAM
I know. Just saying.

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.
It was fun. Now it's over. We're
still friends.

Rick scoffs, again.

RICK
You got what you want 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
So what am I?

Rick looks at her for a moment. Turns away. Stares at the fire.

RICK
Business. Just business. Nothing more...

Ellie nods sadly. She stands.

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

Ellie gestures toward his gleaming bottle. She 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 ice... but we ain't taking these on the ice...

Rick indicates the Ski-Doos.

RICK (CONT'D)
... walking is your best bet... even then, I won't follow on the ice.

Ellie gives him a look.

Vance nods his understanding.

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.

Ellie disembarks. She pulls out her camera. Prepares it as Rick scans the area. Then she begins to film the ice.

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
They're ridiculous.

SAM
They're passionate about what they do.

RICK
One measures ice. The other makes movies of people who waste their lives measuring ice.

SAM
At least they love what they do.

RICK
I love what I do.

Sam throws him a skeptical look.

SAM
Your father loved what you do. Your father was a scientist. It wasn't just about being a... landlord. Your father would be out there with them right now. He'd be really concerned about melting ice.

RICK
I love this place.

SAM
Oh, yeah. Tundra. Awesome. Can't do better than that-laah. That's why you're always booked solid.

RICK
Fuck off.

SAM
Sorry did you want me to just agree
with you. I love you too much for
that, man. I'm real with you so you
can be real with yourself. You only
get one chance at this.

RICK
Right.

An awkward silence.

SAM
She looks good, though.

RICK
Quit saying that.

Suddenly, a bark. Rick turns to Sam.

RICK (CONT'D)
Hear that?

Sam shakes his head. Rick turns back to Ellie and Vance.

RICK (CONT'D)
He's so... old.

SAM
He's not that old.

RICK
He's old.

SAM
Okay.

Rick shakes his head in disbelief.

RICK
What does she see in him?

SAM
I don't think they're together.

RICK
What is she doing here?

SAM
By the looks of it.... making a
documentary.

Another bark. Rick looks at Sam to see if he heard the bark.

SAM (CONT'D)
I heard that.

RICK
Told you it wasn't a seal.

Ellie did, too. She moves toward-

A PUPPY-

Stranded on a block of ice surrounded by dark, cold water farther into the bay.

SAM
She's going too far!

RICK
She's going to stop.

They watch Vance stop. But Ellie continues. Rick sighs.

RICK (CONT'D)
Fuck that stubborn bitch!

SAM
Hey.

RICK
Well, she is.

Rick grabs rope and a hook from the back of the Ski-Doo. He carefully steps onto the ice. Makes his way to Ellie. Rick approaches Vance as the thin ice begins.

VANCE
It's really thin.

RICK
Tell that to your girl.

Rick walks toward Ellie. Vance stays behind, clearly afraid to advance. Rick begins to walk on the thin ice. He can see the flow of water beneath his feet.

Rick then takes baby steps toward Ellie. Walks up beside her. Says nothing. Just sighs his anxiety. Twice to be clear.

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

ELLIE
Thought you weren't getting on the ice.

RICK
Don't flatter yourself. Not for
you.

ELLIE
He your puppy?

RICK
No.

ELLIE
So why do you care?

RICK
I don't.

Rick stares at the puppy.

ELLIE
Where's your family little guy?

RICK
Dead. His family's dead.

ELLIE
How do you know?

RICK
(sending a message)
Dogs don't abandon each other.
Humans do. Humans abandon each
other all the time. But not dogs.

Ellie sighs. Ellie and Rick consider the situation for a
moment.

ELLIE
Maybe try to pull him closer.

RICK
Please. I know what I'm doing. If I
need advice... I'll ask...

Ellie stares at the idea.

ELLIE
This is going to be tough.

Rick prepares his rope.

RICK
You have no idea.

Rick 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. I'm good with a rope.

Rick's face tenses. His eyes harden. 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 him pull in the ice, but he shrugs her away.

RICK

I don't need help.

Rick struggles, making little progress. Silently he acquiesces as she stubbornly takes the rope behind him, and together they pull in the mini-iceberg. When the puppy is within reach-

Rick grabs it, taking note that one side of the puppy is covered in frozen blood. But suddenly, he loses his balance and nearly falls in just as-

Ellie grabs hold of his sweater. Prevents them both from falling into the ice, cold sea water. Rick turns to her. Doesn't acknowledge her assistance. Walks past her.

ELLIE

It's hurt... careful...

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 inside. Rick turns to Ellie.

RICK

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

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

INT. RESEARCH STATION - BATHROOM - LATER

On his hands and knees, Rick washes the puppy.

Mikey comes in with a first aid kit. The blood washes away and drips down the drain of the tub. Then Rick searches the puppy for a wound but doesn't find anything.

Rick looks up to Mikey.

RICK
I can't find a single cut or wound.

MIKEY
Maybe they were attacked?

RICK
Could be.

MIKEY
Whose blood is it?

Rick shakes his head.

RICK
I don't know.

Suddenly-

Mikey's Comms Unit sounds and Ellie's voice fills the bathroom.

ELLIE (V.O.)
Hey, Mikey you there?

Mikey gives a look to Rick. Mikey grabs his Comms Unit.

MIKEY
Go ahead.

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

RICK
Tell her we don't give a shit about
melting ice.

Mikey talks into his Comms Unit.

MIKEY
I think it's more like you better
get in here. We're expecting a
storm.

ELLIE (V.O.)
Be that as it may. Get out here. We
found something.

Mikey gives Rick a look. Rick sighs. Nods.

MIKEY
Okay. We're coming.

Mikey looks at Rick for a long moment.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
I swear... I didn't know she was coming.

Rick sighs again.

RICK
Doesn't matter.

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.

Rick park beside the Ski-Doo. They disembark. And they walk toward a crimson mound of semi-frozen-

BLOOD AND GUTS.

A skinned polar bear sprawled over the ground. Rick takes in a deep breath. Holds it. Blinks. Sam finally breaks the silence.

SAM
Birds been chewing at it.

MIKEY
Puppy must have chewed at it, too.

Rick turns to Sam.

RICK
That the only one?

Sam shakes his head.

Ellie turns to Rick.

ELLIE
You know who did this?

RICK
I have an idea.

VANCE
We need to find them. Stop them.

Rick shakes his head.

RICK
I'm guessing that won't be
necessary. I'm guessing they fell
through the ice.

VANCE
I want to make sure.

Rick turns to Vance, annoyed.

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 faces Vance. Hesitates.

RICK
No.

ELLIE
Let us have a Ski-Doo. We'll find
them.

RICK
Ice not good enough for you, you
gotta play hero.

Ellie ignores Rick. She turns to Vance.

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

RICK
Not with my Ski-Doo.

Ellie turns to Mikey for support. Mikey shrugs.

MIKEY
There's a storm coming. I'll take
you after.

Rick faces Mikey.

RICK
No, you won't.

Rick shakes his head.

RICK (CONT'D)
These aren't teenagers up to no good. They're Russian poachers with a shit ton of money to make anyone disappear.

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

Rick turns to Vance.

RICK
What gives you the right? Who made you police of the world? Polar bears die every fuckin day. You want to help? Stick with what you know. Save the ice. Forget these Russians. They'll flay you quicker than they did this bear for interfering with their business. You don't fuck with these people.

Mikey nods. Rick jumps on the Ski-Doo. Starts it. Mike follows suit. They ride off as the wind picks up, leaving Vance and Ellie and Sam towering over the skinned polar bear.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - RICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

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)
Shit. Come with me.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Rick walks out wearing his sweater, puppy trailing behind. He approaches the-

INT. STORAGE HANGAR - MOMENTS LATER

Rick approaches the generator. Gives it a kick. Tries to start it. Doesn't work. The puppy gives him a look.

Rick tries again. No dice. The puppy gives him another look, a long pleading look.

RICK
I ain't getting a new generator.

Gives it another kick.

RICK (CONT'D)
Put it together with my dad. Just needs a little love.

Another kick. Pulls the cord. Again. And again! At last, the generator starts with a stutter. Rick smiles. Kneels beside the puppy.

RICK (CONT'D)
See. You don't give up on the things you love.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Rick approaches the entrance as Vance walks out.

RICK
Where you going?

VANCE
Get some air.

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

VANCE
I'm a big boy.

RICK
Sure you are.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - DINING ROOM

Rick walks in to find Ellie and Mikey laughing as they prepare dinner together. He walks into the-

KITCHEN

Ellie and Mikey go silent.

Rick stares at them.

RICK
What's so funny?

MIKEY
Just reminiscing.

RICK
How nice.

Ellie notices Rick's sweater.

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.

RICK
Sweater's fine.

ELLIE
I'll send you one for Christmas.

MIKEY
I think he'd like that.

RICK
No 'he' wouldn't. This one's fine.
It was handmade... or don't you remember...

ELLIE
It looks cold. They've got sweaters now made out of material warmer than wool.

RICK
Don't care for the fake wool.

MIKEY
It's got holes, Rick.

RICK
It's warm.

MIKEY
I've got sweaters, Rick. I mean dad never really wore that one.

RICK
That's cause he gave to me.

ELLIE
I've got extra sweaters that would fit you in my bag.

RICK
Thanks for the offer, but no.

MIKEY
You don't have to wear it if you're cold.

RICK
Never said I was cold. You said I was cold. I'm fine.

ELLIE
I shouldn't have said anything.

RICK
That's right. You shouldn't have said anything. The sweater's fine as it is.

A silence. Then-

MIKEY
Doesn't hurt to have two.

RICK
I don't want two. I just want one. This one.

Rick changes the subject.

RICK (CONT'D)
What are you making?

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

RICK

Great.

Rick moves to the pantry. Pulls out bread and peanut butter while Mikey and Ellie stare at him.

Rick places two slices of bread on the counter. Opens the peanut butter jar. Spreads peanut butter over the bread. Places on over the other. Stares at it satisfied.

MIKEY

Bro... you're going to spoil your appetite.

Rick grabs a plate from the counter.

RICK

It's spoiled.

MIKEY

Peanut butter sandwich?

RICK

I fuckin love peanut butter sandwiches.

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

RICK (CONT'D)

They're true.

Rick exits.

Mikey and Ellie watch Rick storm off.

MIKEY

What the fuck does that mean?

ELLIE

He's not eating with us.

DINING ROOM - LATER

Ellie serves Sam, Jack, and Mikey.

SAM

Where's Rick?

MIKEY

Don't ask.

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 off.

HALLWAY

ELLIE
Vance! Vance!

Open their bedroom door. Nothing. Opens the infirmary door. Nothing. She returns to the-

DINING ROOM

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Not in our room.

Rick appears.

RICK
What are you on about?

ELLIE
Where's Vance?

RICK
I ain't keeping tabs on your
boyfriend.

ELLIE
I'm not joking.

RICK
Neither am I. Last time I saw him
he went for some air.

Ellie suddenly rushes out. Rick sighs and follows suit.

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.

RICK
Fuck!

ELLIE
You left the keys in the ignition!

Rick shakes his head.

RICK
Generally not concerned by theft.

She jumps on one of the Ski-Doos. Suddenly Rick pulls the key out of the ignition.

RICK (CONT'D)
Can't let you do that.

ELLIE
He'll die out there.

RICK
I don't need two customers lost.
Bad for business. I'll find him.

She disembarks. Rick gets on. He starts the Ski-Doo. She goes to give him her jacket. He shrugs her away.

RICK (CONT'D)
I'm fine.

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 by 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.

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

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

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!

Lost.

Moving in circles.

Rick disembarks.

He grabs Vance's hand.

RICK
Hey, buddy. You're going to be okay. I found you.

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

RICK (CONT'D)
I'm taking your hand... you just need to follow me.

Vance stares blankly at him. Rick nudges him, and he moves slowly toward him.

Rick leads him ten to twelve feet through a wall of falling snow to the entrance of the-

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Sam, Mikey, Jack, and Ellie stare at him.

RICK
Just a little case of hypothermia.

MIKEY
Where was he?

RICK
Not too far. Take him to the infirmary. Needs body heat.

Rick taps his shoulder.

RICK (CONT'D)
Did good buddy. We'll get those poachers some other time.

Vance nods still in shock.

RICK (CONT'D)
You just rest now.

INFIRMARY - LATER

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

RICK (CONT'D)
How's Captain 'Save the World.'

Ellie gives him a dirty look.

RICK (CONT'D)
That what was pretty stupid.

ELLIE
At least he goes after what he loves... what he believes in...

RICK
Nearly killed him.

ELLIE
I guess it did.

RICK
Probably the end of your ice adventures. No more movie for you.

ELLIE
I wouldn't say that. I've got another movie in mind.

RICK
I won't allow it.

ELLIE
You've been paid. You have nothing to say.

RICK
I ain't gonna let Sam or Mikey go with you. These are bad guys, Ellie. They'll make you disappear.

ELLIE
Won't happen.

RICK
Don't go poking your nose where it don't belong.

ELLIE
They're poaching.

RICK
None of your business.

ELLIE
Everyone's business.

RICK
Take care of yourself first.

ELLIE
Not a policy I live by.

RICK
It's the only policy to live by.
Jack's ready to take you both back
to the airport.

ELLIE
You hard of hearing.

RICK
Stay away.

Ellie turns to face Rick.

ELLIE
Why do you care, Rick? Do you care?
Do you?

Rick swallows. Hesitates.

RICK
Insurance.

ELLIE
Insurance?

RICK
Yeah.

ELLIE
Fuck your insurance!

Rick sighs. Stands.

RICK
We'll talk about this later. When
you're a little more sensible.

Rick exits. Ellie stares at Vance. She shakes her head.

RICK'S ROOM - LATER

Rick stares at a picture of him and his father. The puppy sits beside him.

Rick rummages through a drawer and pulls out a picture of him and Ellie hugging and kissing. He shakes his head at it. He turns to the puppy.

RICK (CONT'D)
Stay away from girls...

Rick doesn't know what to call the puppy.

RICK (CONT'D)
... shit... you don't have a name...

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

RICK (CONT'D)
Lucky... cause you're lucky you didn't fall through the ice like the others... if that is what happened... serves them right the way they butchered that bear...

DINING ROOM - MORNING

Rick enters the dining room. Mikey's eating alone at the dining room 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 (O.S.)
Gone.

RICK
Gone where?

No answer. Rick returns back to the-

DINING ROOM

Rick approaches Mikey.

RICK (CONT'D)
Gone where?

Mikey shakes his head. Shrugs.

MIKEY
Beats me.

RICK
He didn't tell you.

MIKEY
He took Ellie out.

RICK
What?

MIKEY
She's taking ice measurements.

Rick gives him a look.

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

Rick's eyes widen in disbelief.

RICK
And you believed her?

MIKEY
Yeah. What?

Rick dashes to the Comms Unit on a desk near the entrance door. He grabs it.

RICK
Sam... where are you?

No answer.

RICK (CONT'D)
Sam... pick up.

He waits for an answer that never comes.

MIKEY
They're probably on the ice.

RICK
Better hope so.

He approaches the door. Opens the door. Observes that it is quite warm outside.

MIKEY

You gonna eat something?

Rick puts on his parka jacket nevertheless.

RICK

Won't be out for long. Watch Lucky
and what's his name.

MIKEY

Vance.

RICK

Yeah, him.

MIKEY

Who's Lucky.

RICK

Our puppy.

MIKEY

Our puppy?

Rick exits.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - LATER - DAY

The Bandvagn 206 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. He looks left and right. Doesn't see anything.

Rick sighs and drives away from the bay toward a pink mound of flesh in the distance.

Rick halts near the frozen pink corpse. Kills the engine. Stares at the fuel gauge. Empty. He disembarks.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - POLAR BEAR CORPSE - DAY

Rick scans the area. Finds a fresh set of Ski-Doo tracks. Stares ahead at the great stark expanse of white ahead of him. Sighs. Walks over to the side of the Bandvagn. Opens the door. Pulls out a green container of fuel.

Rick carries the container of fuel to the side of the Bandvagn. Unscrews the cap of the tank, then the container. Proceeds to empty the container's contents into the Bandvagn 206's tank.

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - DUSK

Rick drives in silence. He looks down at his fuel guage again. Almost empty. He sighs.

Rick accelerates over a snow dune and soon spots the Ski-Doo. He drives toward the Ski-Doo as he picks his Comms Unit. Contacts Mikey.

RICK
(on comms)
I've got them.

MIKEY (V.O.)
Where are they?

RICK
Guess.

MIKEY (V.O.)
Russian camp.

RICK
You get a gold star.

MIKEY (V.O.)
Shit. Well... be nice.

RICK
Always.

Rick parks the Bandvagn 206 beside the Ski-Doo. He disembarks. Approaches the Ski-Doo, searching for Ellie and Sam.

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 shakes his head, disappointedly.

RICK
Didn't figure you would.

SAM
She can be stubborn.

Ellie appears and steps up beside them both.

ELLIE
There's been no movement for hours.
No one left or returned.

RICK
That's because they're probably
under the ice. Let's go back.

ELLIE
No. I'm going down to investigate.

Rick sighs.

RICK
Of course you are.

Rick sighs again.

RICK (CONT'D)
Sam... tell her that's not a good
idea.

SAM
He's right, Ellie.

ELLIE
I'm going.

SAM
She's going.

RICK
I heard.

Rick watches her approach the poacher's camp. Sam puts his hand on Rick's shoulder.

SAM
Ohhh-laaaah...

RICK
Don't start.

SAM
Feel for you, bud.

Rick gives him a confused look.

RICK
For what?

SAM
Come on...

RICK
What?

Sam grins.

SAM
You may not see it... but I do.

RICK
See what?

Sam grins. Rick scoffs at the implication that he may still be in love with Ellie. He shakes his head.

RICK (CONT'D)
There's nothing.

SAM
I can see that.

RICK
Nothing.

SAM
Nothing. I agree.

RICK
Don't do that.

SAM
What?

RICK
You know what you're doing.

They watch Ellie approach the entrance of the main lodge. She regards them for a moment, then knocks at the door. No one answers. Rick sighs in relief.

RICK (CONT'D)
Nobody's there.

She knocks again.

No one answers.

RICK (CONT'D)
Okay. You can come back now.

SAM
She's gonna try to get in.

RICK
She wouldn't.

Sam indicates Ellie. Ellie knocks again.

RICK (CONT'D)
Come back...

She knocks again. Nothing. A moment.

RICK (CONT'D)
She's coming back now.

SAM
No, she isn't.

RICK
Come on... don't...

Suddenly, Ellie tries to open the door. Doesn't open.

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

SAM
Told you. Watch. She's gonna bust
the lock.

RICK
She better-

Ellie tries to smash the door open.

RICK (CONT'D)
Fuck!

Rick bolts for her.

LODGE DOOR

RICK (CONT'D)
You kidding me?

ELLIE
Something's up.

Ellie indicates the snow. Frozen blood.

RICK
We'll call the police.

ELLIE
Someone might need help.

Rick sighs. Then tries to bust the door down. Doesn't succeed. Then they both smash it at the same time. They bust the lock. Door springs open. Ellie rushes in.

INT. POACHER'S LODGE - MOMENTS LATER

Dark. No electricity. Ellie enters the dark lodge. Rick shuts the door. Turns on a flashlight. Notices blood on the floor.

ELLIE
Anybody here...

She walks into the-

DINING ROOM

Gasps as she finds a severely mauled body lying in a pool of half-frozen blood. Not too far away the window and wall are busted. Light pours in. Something big busted through.

Ellie backs up the way she came. Suddenly, Ellie bumps into-

RICK.

Rick glares at her.

RICK
What are you doing?

Ellie motions terrified eyes toward the Dining Room.

ELLIE
Over there.

Ellie leads him to the body. Rick stares at the mutilated body. Shakes his head. A silence. Then-

RICK
Well... he killed a bear, a bear
killed him.

Rick turns to Ellie.

RICK (CONT'D)
Get your camera out. This will make
you famous.

Ellie doesn't say anything.

RICK (CONT'D)
It's what you want isn't it? To be famous.

Ellie glares at him. Still doesn't respond. Rick bends down. A hand suddenly reaches up from the body. Grabs Rick! The mutilated face swears in Russian!

SAM
Shit! He's still alive.

Hand falls limp.

RICK
No... he ain't.

ELLIE
How long's he been here?

RICK
Hard to say.

SAM
Where are the others?

ELLIE
Let's find'em.

RICK
No. I've got a better idea. Let's go.

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

SLEEPING QUARTERS

They find a body of a mutilated woman in one room. The body of a man in another room. Rick shakes his head in disbelief.

RICK (CONT'D)
This can't be one bear.

SAM
Could be.

RICK
One really fuckin angry bear.

Rick turns to Ellie.

RICK (CONT'D)
You sure you don't want to film
this? You'd make a killing on
YouTube.

SAM
We should get out of here. Call the
authorities.

RICK
What's that smell?

Rick follows his nose to the-

KENNEL

A kennel of mauled and mutilated dogs.

RICK (CONT'D)
Fuck me. Even the goddamn dogs.

SAM
I've never heard of anything like
this.

RICK
This is... horrible...

ELLIE
You almost seem sadder for the
dogs.

RICK
People know better.

ELLIE
I'm not even going to ask you what
that means.

RICK
It doesn't need explaining.

Rick finds a small cooking fire.

RICK (CONT'D)
Someone ate a dog.

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

Rick hears a moan. He turns to face Borris, his face mauled,
skin peeling off, his teeth falling out of bleeding gums.
Vitamin A poisoning.

RICK
He ate the liver.

Sam turns and observes Borris. Ellie, too.

SAM
Let's get him out of here.

They grab him.

BORRIS
(Russian with subtitles)
Get away! Get away!

He begins to sob.

RICK
Listen... you poisoned yourself.
Your skin is gonna fall off, and
your teeth are gonna fall out if we
don't get you help. Do you
understand?

Rick tries to grab his hand and pull but-

He pulls off skin. Sam winces.

SAM
It's too late, Rick.

RICK
It's not too late. We can't leave
him here.

Sam nods. 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 goddamn dog...

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

They drag him toward the front door.

FRONT DOOR

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

BORRIS
(In 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.

A blur.

Rick and Sam scramble back falling to the ground. Rick leaps
to shut the door.

RICK
Shit!

SAM
We need 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 the gun to Sam.

RICK (CONT'D)
What about me?

ELLIE
You gotta weapon.

Sam stares at the door.

SAM
Fuckin shit!

RICK
Took the words right out of my
mouth.

ELLIE
How we getting out of here?

SAM
We're screwed. Whatever they did...
it won't stop... I've never seen
anything like this... this ain't
for food...

RICK
We wait till it goes.

ELLIE
We can wait till it goes.

SAM
My guess... it's been stalking and
killing for the last two or three
days.

ELLIE
Doesn't make sense.

RICK
Polar bears hunt people. It's not
unheard of.

SAM
Not for days. Not like this. Not
groups.

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

Rick gives her a look.

RICK
Sure. Great idea. We'll have a
fuckin chat with it. See why it's
gone mad.

Ellie sighs.

RICK (CONT'D)
I don't give a shit what's going on
with it. I want to get out of
here... alive...

ELLIE
We can't kill it.

Suddenly, the roar of a bear and the door begins to-
POUND!

RICK
You're damn right we can.

Rick grabs her 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-

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. Lucky for Sam the door is protecting 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!

Rick shakes his head.

SAM (CONT'D)
He can't get me! When he figures it out... he's 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. The polar bear slams the door several times then stops suddenly. Rick yells out to Sam.

RICK
Sam! You okay!

Ellie finds a bullet hole in the wall in the back of the room. Big enough to see what's going on in the dining room and entrance.

SAM (O.S.)
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.

SAM
Where's the bear!

RICK
Don't know. Can't-

Suddenly-

The polar bear looks right into Rick's eyes. Rick staggers back with a start. The polar bear attacks the wall. Doesn't get through but makes the hole a little bit bigger.

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

RICK (CONT'D)
He's headed your way!

The polar bear sniffs around the door. Then leisurely climbs on top of the door. Turns once. Twice. Almost 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 (CONT'D)
Reach for your gun! I'll distract him! When he comes after me... shoot'im!

Rick opens the door. Walks into the-

HALLWAY

Slowly Rick walks toward the polar bear with his knife at the ready.

RICK (CONT'D)
Hey, asshole! 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. It climbs off the door and walks toward Rick.

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

RICK (CONT'D)

Come on!

Sam reaches for the gun with difficulty. Grabs it. Drags himself away from the protection of the door.

The polar bear approaches Rick.

Sam aims.

Shoots.

Nails the polar bear in the shoulder.

The polar bear turns and stares at Sam. Sam aims again. The polar bear charges. He shoots but misses. He 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 ground.

RICK (CONT'D)

Sam!

Ellie grabs Rick. Pulls him back into the-

INFIRMARY

They shut the door behind.

Rick goes to stare through 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)

What do you want you bastard!?

She looks inside the container. Baby polar bear cubs. One dead. The other-

DYING.

Sam moans in pain in the background. Ellie corrects Rick.

ELLIE
Bitch.

Rick turns to Ellie.

RICK
Why are you talking about?

ELLIE
Mother.

Rick marches toward her. Stares into the container. Sees the cubs.

RICK
Fuck.

ELLIE
Help me open this.

They struggle to open the container.

Rick stares at the dying cub. Sighs.

RICK
Those mother fuckers.

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

RICK
You crazy?

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 him scream 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 it. It begins to lap 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.

RICK
You get in the kennel you leave
that cub you fuckin run as fast as
you can.

ELLIE
I wasn't planning on walking.

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

SAM
Sam! We've got a plan!

HALLWAY

Ellie pushes the tray. She sees the polar bear. Hesitates. Then calls out.

ELLIE
Hey! Over here! I've got what you
want!

The polar bear sees the cub. Ellie heads into the kennel. As she walks in 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. He helps her inside. He hops in just as-

The polar bear slams into the Bandvagn.

RICK
Shit!

Rick turns to Ellie.

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

ELLIE
Dead.

Rick starts the Bandvagn. Takes off. 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 sighs, then attempts to contact Mikey on the Comms Unit.

RICK
Mikey pick up. Mikey... pick up...

No answer.

RICK (CONT'D)
Mikey... god damn it, pick up!

Again, no answer.

RICK (CONT'D)
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. She shakes her head.

ELLIE
Nothing.

Rick yells at the polar bear. 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 cubs!

ELLIE
We've got their smell all over us.

Sam moans. Ellie turns to observe him. The polar bear strikes again.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
He's not okay.

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 gets stuck in a snow bank. The polar bear stops. Stares at Rick. Rick reverses out. Drives forward. Reverses. Pulls them out and drives on, leaving the polar bear behind.

RICK
She's giving up.

Ellie stares through back window. She sighs her relief.

RICK (CONT'D)
Take the wheel.

Ellie holds the wheel. Rick hops in back. Ellie 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.

They share a short laugh. Sam struggles to continue the joke.

SAM (CONT'D)
Hell knows no fury like a woman
scorned.

ELLIE
... more like a mother scorned...

SAM
Ohhh-laaaah... even worse.

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.

RICK
Save your strength.

SAM
Sell. Buy a bed and breakfast in
Paris until you figure shit out.
Better than the Tundra. You get one
chance. Don't waste it counting
beans.

RICK
Save your strength.

SAM
You're a stubborn shit.

ELLIE
Stubborn as they get.

Rick glares at her.

RICK
You don't get to make comments.

Rick returns his attention to Sam. Sam smiles at him.

RICK (CONT'D)
What's funny?

SAM
You.

RICK
What?

SAM
What?

RICK
I'm asking what's funny.

SAM
You know what. We've been friends a long time and you know what?

RICK
You're delirious.

SAM
Don't feel so hot... but I know what I'm saying.

A silence. Sam whispers.

SAM (CONT'D)
You should tell her.

RICK
What?

SAM
How you feel?

He glances at her.

RICK
She knows how much I despise her.

Sam begins to laugh.

ELLIE
What's so funny?

RICK
Nothing.

ELLIE
Don't sound like nothing.

Suddenly the Bandvagn slows to stop.

RICK
What's going on?

ELLIE
Stopped.

RICK
I can see that. Why?

ELLIE
I don't know.

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

Rick sighs.

RICK
Shit.

Rick prepares to disembark. Ellie goes to take off her jacket to give it to him.

RICK (CONT'D)
Don't want your jacket. Sweater's fine.

ELLIE
Just take the jacket.

RICK
Don't want it.

Ellie shakes her head.

ELLIE
It's cold out there.

RICK
Since when do you give a shit.
Ellie when the sun shines.

ELLIE
Freeze, then. You're right I don't give a shit.

Rick stares at her a long moment. Shakes his head. Disembarks.

EXT. BANDVAGN 206 - MOMENTS LATER

Rick pulls out a container of gas from the trunk of the Bandvagn 206. 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 206. 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 pulling him in.

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - MOMENTS LATER

Rick slams the door just as the polar bear mauls the door.

Rick ends up on top of Ellie. He pushes himself off as the polar bear charges and smashes the Bandvagn 206. Again, and again. Finally, the polar bear stops. Backs away. Disappears in the growing storm.

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.

RICK

How you doing?

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

RICK (CONT'D)

Hang in there.

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 206.

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

RICK
How long ago?

ELLIE
An hour... an hour and a half.

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 (CONT'D)
I'm gonna try again. You keep an
eye outside.

ELLIE
Take my jacket.

Rick gives her a look. Annoyed. 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 steps outside. He slowly walks around the Bandvagn 206. 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
I'm good.

Rick turns to Sam.

RICK (CONT'D)
Hang in there, Sam. Won't be long now.

Rick starts the engine. Doesn't start.

ELLIE
Did you get gas in?

RICK
Not much. But enough... I think...

ELLIE
I hope.

Rick tries again. Doesn't start.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
You sure you got gas in?

RICK
Yup.

Rick tries again.

RICK (CONT'D)
Come on! Everything's fucking with me! Don't fuck with me!

The engine sputters to life. Rick lets out a laugh. He begins to drive through the storm.

Ellie smiles.

Rick has a tough time navigating through a small clearing in the windshield.

ELLIE
Don't you have wipers on this thing?

RICK
Busted.

ELLIE
You should have cleared more.

Rick gives her a dirty look.

RICK
Was a little pressed for time.

The spot thickens with snow.

ELLIE
You should stop. I'll clear it.

RICK
I think I know where I am.

ELLIE
Stop I'll clear it.

They hit a bump. Rick stops but keeps the engine running.

RICK
I got it.

He opens the door. Leans his trunk out. Cleans a bit of the windshield. Returns inside.

ELLIE
A bit more.

Rick sighs.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
We'll just end up having to stop again.

Rick opens the door.

Suddenly, sees the polar bear huffing and puffing as it lumbers toward them. He instantly slams the door shut.

RICK
Fuck.

ELLIE
What?

RICK
She's back.

Rick begins to drive 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 and sighs.

ELLIE
Sam's gone.

Rick's eyes instantly tear. He nods but doesn't say anything. Then after a long moment, he explodes.

RICK
Fuckin bitch!

ELLIE
I'm sorry, Rick.

RICK
I'm gonna kill her myself.

ELLIE
Rick...

RICK
Don't you fuckin give me some 'save-the-bear' speech.

ELLIE
I was going to say I'm going to help you.

RICK
I don't need your help. Two years ago, yeah... not this... this I'll handle myself.

ELLIE
I wish you could understand.

RICK
Oh, I understand. Ellie when the sun shines.

Ellie doesn't respond to this.

RICK (CONT'D)
Sam was a friend. You... I don't
know what you were...

ELLIE
You're really upset.

Tears slip down his face. Bites his lower lip. Suddenly, he cannot see anything through the frost covered windshield.

Rick stops the engine. Opens the door. Sticks his body out. Clears a little area. Gets back in. Continues to drive forward into the storm.

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

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
That's it... break your fuckin
head. One more time just like that.

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 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. Misses. Tries again. Misses it. And again. Misses.

Rick prepares to swerve into the polar bear yet again.

RICK (CONT'D)
She's fuckin dead!

And he rams into a-

SNOWBANK.

The Bandvagn gets stuck. Rick reverses. Advances. Reverses. Advances. Finally 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 nods.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Stop the truck.

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

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Keep an eye on her.

RICK
Don't worry about that.

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

ELLIE
I'll clear my side.

Rick nods. Carefully Ellie opens her side of the door. Rick stares at the polar bear.

Ellie leans out with difficulty to scratch off some frost with an ice scratcher.

Rick and the polar bear lock eyes. Suddenly, the polar bear hears something. It backs away. Disappears.

RICK
Get in.

Ellie doesn't hear.

RICK (CONT'D)
Ellie, get in!

She 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. It doesn't close properly. He holds it closed as best as he can. Waits for an attack that never comes.

ELLIE
Why didn't you say something!

RICK
I did. Open your ears.

Ellie sighs. Rick returns to the driver's seat.

RICK (CONT'D)
Guide me.

He starts the Bandvagn and accelerates.

ELLIE
I can barely see.

RICK
It will have to do.

ELLIE
Slow!

Rick sighs.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
I can't see! Slower!

Rick slows down.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Stop. Right.

Rick veers right.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Good. You're good.

Rick accelerates.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Slower!

Rick decelerates.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Slower!

RICK
It's as slow as it goes.

ELLIE
Slower!

Rick sighs. Decelerates.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Left.

Rick veers left.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Right.

Rick veers right.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Slower!

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Right... no... left...

Rick hits a snowbank.

RICK
Fuck! You said right.

ELLIE
I said left.

Rick shakes his head, annoyed.

RICK
You said right.

ELLIE
If you had been going slower-

RICK
Stop. Quiet. I don't care.

Rick reverses. Advances. Reverses. No luck. This time, the Bandvagn barely budges.

Rick stops for a moment. Glares at the steering wheel. Takes a deep breath. Grinds his teeth. Tries again. Advances. Reverses. Reverses. Reverses. Again, no luck.

Rick lets out a deep sigh. Smashes the wheel.

ELLIE
Save your energy.

Rick turns to give Ellie a frustrated look.

LATER

A thick layer of snow covers the Bandvagn. Rick shivers and breathes with difficulty. Ellie regards him.

Rick pulls 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. Try not to set
us ablaze.

ELLIE

I'm sure you won't.

A silence. Rick ignites a match and 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 he ends up burning the manual.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Don't set yourself on fire.

RICK

That's great advice.

Ellie smiles. They warm their hands around the small fire.

ELLIE

Maybe it would be better to burn to
death, anyway.

RICK

Speak for yourself.

ELLIE

You'd rather freeze?

RICK

I'd rather not die.

ELLIE

If you had to choose...

RICK

I don't want to choose...

ELLIE

But if you had to.

RICK
I don't.

ELLIE
But if-

RICK
Stop.

A silence. Rick reaches in the back and pulls out-

FLYING FOR DUMMIES

A book on piloting.

ELLIE
You don't have your license yet?

RICK
No.

ELLIE
Oh.

RICK
Don't do that.

ELLIE
What?

Rick mocks her.

RICK
Oh.

ELLIE
Just said 'oh.'

RICK
I'd burn to death, freeze to death
before I let you nag me to death.

ELLIE
I'm not nagging. I just...
thought... that by now... you'd
have it.

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

ELLIE
If that's how you see it.

RICK
Yeah. That's how I see it. It's
called having responsibilities.

ELLIE
Oh.

Rick scoffs but doesn't say anything. He rips a page out of
his pilot's manual.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Don't burn that.

RICK
Yeah. Why burn paper... when I can
burn your jacket.

Ellie glares at him. Shakes her head.

ELLIE
Burn it. See if I care.

RICK
I know how much you care.

Rick rubs and warms his hands by the fire.

ELLIE
How far are we?

RICK
A mile. Maybe less.

ELLIE
You think they're 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.

Rick shakes his head.

RICK (CONT'D)
No. They're gonna wait till things
clear up. Maybe take the plane.

He stares at her for a long while.

RICK (CONT'D)
Were there many Vinces.

ELLIE
Vance.

RICK
Whatever.

ELLIE
What kind of question is that?

RICK
Toronto's a big city. Figured there
were other Vinces.

ELLIE
What does it matter?

RICK
Doesn't. Just trying to keep my
mind off the cold.

A silence.

RICK (CONT'D)
How many?

Ellie shrugs.

ELLIE
Lost count.

Rick swallows a lump.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
You? Any special friends in your
life?

RICK
Plenty.

ELLIE
Plenty?

RICK
Yup.

ELLIE
I must know them.

Rick shakes his head.

RICK
Nah. Researchers passing through.

ELLIE
Really.

Rick nods.

RICK
Swedish.

ELLIE
Swedish?

RICK
Italian.

ELLIE
Researchers?

RICK
As far as I know.

ELLIE
Did they speak English?

RICK
Language wasn't an issue.

Ellie smirks.

ELLIE
I'm sure it wasn't.

RICK
It wasn't.

ELLIE
I believe you.

A moment as they stare at the dying fire.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
I'm happy for you. It's good to
have friends.

RICK
We're still friends.

ELLIE
You and the Italians?

Rick nods.

RICK
I'm going to see him.

ELLIE
Is that right?

RICK
It is.

ELLIE
You want any advice...

RICK
Wouldn't mean much. I mean you're
cut from a different fabric.

Ellie stares at Rick a long moment.

ELLIE
It's good that you're thinking of
going to see them. Maybe when you
get your pilot's license you can
fly down to Italy.

RICK
Oh yeah. Just like that.

ELLIE
No. Not just like that. Takes
courage and sacrifice to go after
what you love. But you gotta. Or
else what's it all worth?

Rick swallows a lump.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
But 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.

Ellie peers at Rick.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
They'll try to make you feel guilty
and that's the one thing you should
never feel.

Rick peers back at Ellie.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
You should never feel guilt for
going after the thing that ignites
your soul. Guilt. They'll try. But
they won't succeed.

Ellie stares hard into Rick.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Not even a little. Doesn't matter what they say and say over and over again. I don't feel guilt.

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... even if they might not accept the things I needed to do.

RICK

My father had just died.

ELLIE

It had almost been a year... but I know to you... and I am not taking anything from you... he had just died...

Rick tears a sheet and fuels the fire.

RICK

I didn't feel so good. I needed you then.

ELLIE

I know. There was nothing I could do. Some things you do gotta do alone or you bring everyone down with you.

RICK

I wasn't doing that.

ELLIE

You still are!

A silence.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Wasn't a day I didn't think about you.

RICK

Don't say that.

ELLIE

It's true. I wished you could be happy that all those movies you helped me put together got me into a great school. I could have never done it without you or your-

RICK

Of course, I was happy! God damn it! Fuck yeah, I was happy!

ELLIE

Then?!

RICK

It was just the wrong time!

ELLIE

It was the only time! 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! Who gave me the money to go!

RICK

What?

ELLIE

Before he passed.

RICK

No.

ELLIE

Yes. And when I have the means... I'm giving what your dad gave me to Mikey.

Rick shakes his head. Ellie nods.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

You took the responsibility side of your dad, and you completely ignored the other side. Your dad was the biggest dreamer I knew. That station. His dream. His dream.

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

ELLIE (CONT'D)

And he made his dream a reality.
You think your dad wants you to
keep his dream alive or... do you
think he'd want you to realize your
own dream...

RICK

You don't know what you're saying.

ELLIE

You don't like what I'm saying.
There's a difference.

RICK

We never got along.

ELLIE

Maybe that's better than always
getting along.

RICK

I doubt that.

ELLIE

We'll never know.

RICK

That's right. We won't.

ELLIE

We're better off friends.

RICK

We're still not friends.

ELLIE

You may not be my friend... I'm
yours even if you hate my fuckin
guts.

Rick tears another sheet and feeds the fire. He reaches under
his seat and pulls out a First Aid Book.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

I think she's gone. I'm going to
make a run for it.

RICK

No. You stay here.

ELLIE

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

RICK
We're not five anymore.

ELLIE
Even in high school.

RICK
Yeah. I don't think so.

ELLIE
I know so.

RICK
Not faster than a polar bear.

ELLIE
Neither are you... and paper's
running out.

RICK
We can wait.

ELLIE
Won't make a difference. We'll just
be colder and weaker. That will
lessen our chances.

RICK
We wait for morning.

ELLIE
We'll freeze to death.

Rick feeds the last piece of paper to the fire.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
I thought you don't care anyway.

RICK
You're still a human being.

ELLIE
Best chance... I'm also the one
with a jacket.

The fire dies. Rick stares at Ellie, considering.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
I'll come back guns blazing with a
jacket.

RICK
And food.

Ellie nods.

ELLIE

And food.

Rick nods. Ellie takes a deep breath. Rick opens his side of the door.

RICK

Come.

She hops over.

OUTSIDE

The storm has subsided.

Rick stares around. Doesn't see any sign of the polar bear. He clears his window and windshield. Ellie makes her way out. Rick points at a star in the night sky.

RICK (CONT'D)

See that star.

ELLIE

Yeah.

RICK

Follow it.

Ellie empties her pockets. Finds and gives him a book.

ELLIE

Keep warm.

Ellie bundles up. Smiles at him. Almost wants to kiss him. Then turns her back and follows the star to the research station.

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. Takes a deep breath and continues toward the research station.

INT. BANDVAGN 206 - MOMENTS LATER

Rick sets the first aid book on fire. He warms up. He suddenly sees something lumber by his window. He stares out. He catches a glimpse of the polar bear as it follows Ellie's scent toward the research station.

RICK

No, no, no.

He reaches over. Searches Sam's pockets. Pulls out a hunting knife from Sam's jacket. 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. Runs toward a small mountain of ice. Finds a small tunnel. Squeezes in.

The polar bear approaches. Roars. Then begins to crack 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 with every strike. Within moments, the polar bear is able to claw into Ellie's boot. The polar bear grabs it. Pulls. She scrambles to pull off the boot and succeeds just in time.

The polar bear claws her leg-

Begins to pull her out just as-

Rick slams the hunting knife into the polar bear's shoulder. The polar bear roars. Turns its attention to Rick.

ELLIE

Rick!

RICK

Fuckin run!

Ellie scrambles out of the tunnel and charges toward the research station.

Rick dashes in the opposite direction toward the ice.

The polar bear chases him.

Rick falls into a crevice but manages to dig his knife in the wall of ice. The polar bear looks down at him. Stares at him for a moment. Then walks away.

Rick breathes hard. Hears a boulder being pushed.

RICK (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you doing?

The polar bear pushes a boulder down that nearly hits Rick.

RICK (CONT'D)

Fuck you!

He hears the scraping of ice and snow again.

Again, the polar bear pushes an ice boulder down the crevice. The boulder slams into Rick. Rick nearly falls. He begins to climb up slowly as the polar bear nudges and pushes another ice boulder toward the crevice.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Ellie stares up at the star. She runs without boots toward the entrance. She trudges through the snow with the last of her energy.

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA - CREVICE - MOMENTS LATER

Rick's almost at the top.

The polar bear pushes a boulder down.

It hits Rick. He falls down a bit. Climbs back up. He stabilizes near the edge. Waits. Listens to the sound of the approaching boulder. Waits.

The boulder falls.

Rick evades and-

Leaps up toward the polar bear that sticks its head down to see if it nailed Rick. As it does-

Rick plunges the knife in its muzzle. It roars. Loses balance. Falls down-

DOWN!

SPLASH!

Rick sighs. It's over.

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?

ELLIE

Polar bear. He needs our help.

Mikey brings her in. Jack comes out. Helps Mikey carry Ellie. Lays her on the couch. Covers her frozen feet. Mikey rushes out of the room. A moment later Mikey returns with a gun.

MIKEY

Where?

ELLIE

I'm coming with you.

MIKEY

Where Ellie?

Ellie stands. Searches for shoes.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Where?

ELLIE

I'll take you.

Jack hands her a pair of boots.

MIKEY

You stay with Vance. I've got this.

Ellie shakes her head.

JACK

I'll stay with him.

ELLIE

He will. I need a gun, Mikey.

MIKEY

I got one.

ELLIE

Big bear.

MIKEY

How big?

ELLIE

Biggest I've ever seen. Angry, too.

MIKEY
Angriest you ever seen?

ELLIE
Angrier.

Mikey nods. Exits. Ellie puts on a pair of boots. Mikey returns with a rifle. Tosses it to her.

MIKEY
You still remember how to use one.

ELLIE
Still out-shoot you.

MIKEY
Lead the way.

Ellie leads the way. She opens the door to find Rick walking toward them.

They both rush out to help him inside.

ELLIE
The bear?

RICK
Killed it.

ELLIE
(incredulous)
You killed it?

RICK
Why you say it like that?

MIKEY
Guys. Shut up.

Rick walks in.

RICK
Warmth.

Rick smiles.

Mikey grabs Ellie's gun.

MIKEY
Won't be needing this.

Mikey exits.

DINING ROOM - LATER

Mikey brings Rick Shepherd's Pie.

RICK
Emmm. This is good.

Rick stares at Mikey for a moment.

MIKEY
What?

Rick smirks.

RICK
You're a talented kid.

MIKEY
Kid?

RICK
Yeah. Kid.

Ellie stares at Rick. Takes a bite of his shepherd's pie.

ELLIE
This kicks unholy ass.

Mikey laughs.

Rick stares at Mikey, admiring.

RICK
You teach me how to cook this?

MIKEY
If you want.

Rick nods.

RICK
I want.

MIKEY
You could just learn from my teacher.

RICK
Yeah. You're fine.

Rick continues to enjoy his meal.

MIKEY
Let's get a fire going.

Mikey goes to start the fire.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
Matches?

RICK
Jack's first aid kit.

JACK
You need to get your own matches.
I'll get them.

ELLIE
Stay with Vance. I'll get them.

Ellie exits.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - NIGHT

Ellie approaches the plane. Opens the door. Freezes. Turns. Narrows her gaze in the distance. Sees nothing. Then closes the door with 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 you couldn't.

ELLIE
It's that look.

She turns to face him.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
I'm glad you're okay.

Rick grabs some matches.

Ellie strikes one, and Rick, too.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
It was my match.

RICK
I don't think so.

MIKEY

It was both. I saw.

Rick places the rest of his matches in his pockets.

INFIRMARY - LATER

Ellie sits beside Jack.

ELLIE

How's he doing?

JACK

Better. I'm going to need to fly him in tomorrow. He needs to see a doctor.

Ellie nods.

JACK (CONT'D)

What happened over there?

ELLIE

Shit that shouldn't have happened.

Jack nods.

JACK

You get it on tape?

Ellie shakes her head.

Jack nods and shrugs.

JACK (CONT'D)

Mikey told me you're making movies. Real ones, too.

ELLIE

This was going to be my first. I figured the speed at which ice is melting is worth documenting and sharing...

JACK

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

ELLIE

Things rarely do. I'll be back.

JACK

I'm sure you will.

A silence.

JACK (CONT'D)
Would you come back to finish what
you started or...

ELLIE
Or?

JACK
Or...

ELLIE
Just to finish what I started.

JACK
Just asking.

Vance turns to look at Ellie. He smiles. He reaches out for her hand. Ellie hesitates for a moment. Then she takes his hand. Jack grins at this.

JACK (CONT'D)
I see. I'll leave you two.

Jack stands and exits.

VANCE
Thanks, Ellie.

ELLIE
Of course.

DINING ROOM - LATER

Rick stares at Sam's knife in the flickering firelight.

Jack reads a book and regards him.

JACK
There was nothing you could do.

RICK
Had I not been so fuckin scared...
maybe I coulda helped more...

JACK
Don't do that. You did the best you
could.

RICK
You weren't there.

JACK
That's true.

RICK
So you don't know.

JACK
I know you.

RICK
Want to play cards?

Jack shakes his head.

RICK (CONT'D)
Me neither. You think you could
maybe give me lessons?

JACK
Lessons? You don't want to just
fly. You want me to show you...

RICK
I want to go for my license.

JACK
Like for real this time.

RICK
For real.

JACK
If you're serious, I'm serious.

Jack stands.

JACK (CONT'D)
I gotta get my blanket. Forgot it.

RICK
That's not very good.

MIKEY
Gonna be cold tonight.

Rick stands. Approaches the fire. Adds a log. Embers and ash
crackle up from the fire.

RICK
Better keep this going then.

Power goes out.

RICK (CONT'D)

Shit.

MIKEY

Dude you go. I don't know. Took forever to get it started before.

Rick moves to the door. Exits without a jacket.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Jack and Rick walk out into the cold. Jack heads toward the plane. Rick to the-

STORAGE HANGAR

Rick approaches the generator. Grabs a can of kerosene. Fills the generator with fuel. Places the can down. Kicks the generator. Pulls the cord. Kicks the generator again. Pulls the cord. Walks out toward-

ARCTIC TERN

Rick spots the door open. He closes it. Then approaches the-

INT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Rick enters.

RICK

Teach! 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.

He exits.

Rick stares at the door for a long while.

Mikey comes back in.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
Nothing.

ELLIE
What's going on?

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

MIKEY
Shit.

Mikey leaves.

ELLIE
I'll go with you.

RICK
You 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 nods as he zips up the parka.

RICK
I saw her fall.

Rick turns to Ellie.

RICK (CONT'D)
I'm sure he just went for a piss.

ELLIE
There's a bathroom here.

RICK
He's a guy. Here. There. Doesn't
matter.

ELLIE
I hope you're right.

Mikey returns. Throws Rick a rifle and puts on his jacket.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

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

MIKEY
Jack!

Rick nudges Mikey.

RICK
Don't call out.

Mikey nods, then scans the area for Jack.

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 moonlit 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 moved. Suddenly-

From the mound he sees the silhouette of an arm rising against the moonlight, flagging both of them down with difficulty.

Rick gasps. Bolts toward him.

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

Mikey follows close behind.

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
It's still here.

Rick nods.

RICK
Check the area.

Rick crouches beside Jack.

RICK (CONT'D)
You're okay.

Jack shakes his head. Speaks with difficulty.

JACK
I don't feel okay... you 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 go to lift him but suddenly-

His innards spill out!

Rick is the first to notice.

RICK (CONT'D)
Stop!

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

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

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

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

JACK
Told you.

Rick grasps his hand.

RICK
It's...

Jack wheezes.

Dies.

Rick holds his hand for a long moment. Then he releases slowly and stands.

MIKEY
Is he dead?

Rick nods.

RICK
We gotta... I...

Rick loses his train of thought.

MIKEY
Maybe another bear? Same family.

Rick shakes his head.

RICK
Its family was butchered.

MIKEY
Then this is the same bear?

Rick nods.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
I thought you killed it.

RICK
I saw it fall.

Rick sighs.

RICK (CONT'D)
Let's get back.

Rick readies his rifle. Leads Mikey back to-

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. He enters the-

DINING ROOM

Ellie sits at the table.

ELLIE
Where is he?

Rick shakes his head.

RICK
Jack's dead.

Ellie's eyes widen in disbelief.

ELLIE
I thought you--

Rick interrupts.

RICK
We need to reinforce the door.

MIKEY
You think she gonna try to come in?

Rick nods.

RICK
I do. I don't think she'll stop
until someone stops her.

Mikey sighs.

MIKEY
Poor Jack.

RICK
We'll mourn him after. Let's block
the front and back door.

MIKEY
Windows, too?

Rick nods.

RICK
Yeah. If we can.

Rick pushes a couch in front of the front door.

BACK AREA

Mikey and Ellie push a stove in front of the back door. They
push it up close.

RICK'S BEDROOM

Mikey enters. He pushes a bunk-bed in front of the window
just as-

The polar bear tries to break through.

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.

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 polar bear muzzle leaks blood from a gaping hole.

Ellie stumbles back.

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.

BANG!

BANG!

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

Rick hears the bear retreating. Then-

Silence.

Ellie helps Mikey to his feet.

MIKEY

Let it bleed out.

Rick nods.

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

RICK

How's your leg?

MIKEY

I'll be okay.

RICK

Broken?

MIKEY
Don't think so.

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

ELLIE
What about you?

RICK
I'm going after it. She should be
dead.

ELLIE
We should wait... wait a bit more.

Rick shakes his head.

RICK
I don't want her to get away.

ELLIE
We should wait.

RICK
Move!

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 room.

Ellie comes up beside him with Mikey's rifle.

Rick turns to her.

RICK (CONT'D)
Go back.

Ellie doesn't budge.

ELLIE
Yeah, right.

Rick sighs. After a moment-

They enter the room.

They scan it.

Nothing but a trail of blood.

Rick walks up to the busted and splintered window. Stares at the black blood dripping from a splinter. He stares at the blood then turns and exits.

Ellie follows suit.

DINING ROOM

Rick stares at the door. They pull away the table in order to open it. Suddenly-

The generator powers down. Lights go off. Almost complete darkness.

RICK
Keep the fire going.

He hands Ellie a few bullets.

ELLIE
What are you doing?

RICK
Stay here.

ELLIE
I'm going with you.

RICK
No, you're not.

ELLIE
It's not your call.

Rick sighs his frustrations. It's like pulling teeth.

RICK
Ellie can you just fuckin listen
for once. God damn it I need
someone to stay with Mikey and
Vince.

Rick sighs, again.

RICK (CONT'D)
Believe me I'd send you out there
gladly if you knew how to get the
fuckin generator started...

Rick stares at her.

RICK (CONT'D)
As it is you won't get the
generator going again and we'll
fuckin freeze to death before the
bear ever gets to us... please...

Ellie peers at him.

RICK (CONT'D)
I gotta go... and I don't want to
leave my brother alone... so if you
want to help... then fuckin help...

ELLIE
Fix the generator but don't go
after her.

Rick nods. She narrows her gaze on him.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
You're not going after her?

RICK
No.

ELLIE
Just the generator.

Rick nods, again.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
You swear you're not going after
her?

RICK
Sure.

ELLIE
Fuck you. I know that 'sure.'

RICK
I ain't gonna be hunted like a god
damn possum anymore. Please. Just
take care of my brother. I know
what I'm doing.

Ellie stares at him for a long moment, then nods.

ELLIE
Alright.

Rick clambers over the table and squeezes through the door,
and he walks into the snowy moonlit 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-

Another thump.

Silence.

MIKEY

Rick!

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

Bang! Bang! Bang!

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

Ellie leaps to 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 the 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 and the polar bear retreats back through the door.

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

Rick emerges.

Ellie gasps, fires, and the bullet just misses him.

RICK
Hey, hey!

ELLIE
Shit, sorry!

Rick leans back into the gaping hole in the door.

RICK
Where?

ELLIE
Gone!

She suddenly hears a thud at the back door.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
In the back!

Rick nods.

Disappears.

The back door creaks and pounds.

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.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - NIGHT

Rick moves slowly toward the back. He rounds the corner of the research station. The polar bear pounds at the door. Again, and again. Stealthily, Rick creeps up to it.

INT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

The polar bear splinters the door.

Ellie pushes against the stove blocking the door.

ELLIE

Fuck you!

She pushes with all her might. Manages to close the door. Polar bear pounds again. Sends her flying forward.

EXT. RESEARCH STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Rick aims the rifle. Fires into the bear. Bear stops suddenly. Turns to face Rick.

Rick empties the gun into the bear, but the bear begins to limp toward him.

RICK
Why won't you go down! FUCK!

Rick thrusts his gun at the bear.

The lights shimmer on and off as the generator struggles to power on. Rick stares at the lights for a moment and makes a decision. He takes a deep breath and makes a mad dash for the-

EXT. STORAGE HANGAR - MOMENTS LATER

Rick runs. The polar bear limps toward him. Rick looks over his shoulder to make sure he's being followed. He is. He reaches the door. 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. The pounding stops all of a sudden.

Rick then pulls out the last of his matches. Stares at the front entrance. Nothing. Stares at the side entrance. Nothing.

RICK
Where are you... come on you fuckin
bitch!

Rick then approaches the front door. Opens it slightly. Sees nothing but falling snow. He drops his matches in a heap of snow that had been dragged into the hangar by boots. He crouches to pick the matches up and 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! Rolls over and over as the polar bear goes after him with an unparalleled fury.

Unwittingly Rick rolls into a pool of kerosene with his jacket. Gets up. Stumbles away as the polar bear suddenly gets distracted by the generator that suddenly begins to start then dies down again.

Rick runs 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 piece of plywood. Smashes the bear with it. Rushes back toward the front door where he dropped the matches. Reaches the door. Dives for the ground. Scrambles to find matches on the floor. Finds-

FOUR MATCHES!

Tries the first one. But the match is too wet. Rick 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.

Rick 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 and ignites the generator-

Ignites 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 entire hangar ablaze. He takes a deep calming breath when suddenly-

The burning and flaming polar bear rushes out after him-

It gets on its two feet just as-

A GUNSHOT!

A FLARE SOARS BY!

HITS THE POLAR BEAR SQUARE IN THE CHEST! AND THE POLAR BEAR FALLS DEAD OVER RICK.

Rick struggles out to see Ellie holding the flare gun from the Arctic Tern.

Rick scrambles away, disheveled and haggard. Then lies on his back in the snow, letting the snow fall over him. Breathes heavily.

Ellie approaches him slowly. She removes her jacket. Inches up to him. Gets behind him. Places her jacket around him.

Ellie sits beside him, and they both stare at the falling snowflakes sizzling as they hit the burning hangar.

After a long contemplative silence-

RICK

I don't think I'm cut out for this
shit anymore.

Ellie starts laughing. He starts laughing.

ELLIE

You never were.

RICK

No?

ELLIE

No.

RICK
I think I'll check out Paris.

ELLIE
I heard Paris is great this time of
year.

They stare at each other for a long moment.

RICK
We're still not friends.

Ellie kisses him. He pulls back. She stares at him. Screw it
all! He leans toward her. Kisses her.

They pull away and stare at each other. They turn to see
Lucky, sitting. Staring at them both.

Behind them, Mikey and Vance hobble toward them.

FADE OUT.

THE END